



# Somerset Archery News

April 1998

Issue No. 9

## EDITORIAL

### JON FISHER WINNER OF THE THE INAUGURAL MARGARET LEWIS MEMORIAL MEDAL

Last year it was decided that we (Somerset) would award a medal bearing Margaret Lewis's name to a junior archer who, in the opinion of the Committee, most deserved it for any reason that seemed suitable - such as special achievements, perseverance or whatever. All we asked was that the young archer's club sent in a recommendation as to why their chosen archer should be considered for this award before the end of the calendar year for the committee to discuss and vote on at the January Management Meeting. At the risk of embarrassing the young man I would like to quote in full the recommendation that Jon Fisher, of Puriton Gold Juniors, be considered for this award, as presented to the SCAA Management Committee by his club.

"Jon Fisher is 16 years old, has brittle bones which he has broken 16 times, and shoots a compound bow. Jon started archery two years ago and has done very well, he was 14 years old at the start of the beginner's course and started with a light recurve bow; he was also at that time still having to wear a body brace after a recent spine operation. Because of his age he needed to progress to a heavier bow to enable him to reach the necessary distance (for his age group) of 60 yards, it was suggested that he tried a compound. He has had his own bow for over a year now and at the Double Worcester at Hutton Moor last November he decided to shoot as a senior because there was no competition for him in the junior section.

Over the two years Jon has done well, reaching second class outdoors and "D" classification indoors; unfortunately Jon has broken his arm twice in these two years, but each time his interest in archery and the Club have not dissipated, he is at the club - in or out of plaster - as much as possible. When he returns to shooting he starts with his bow set a very light weight and is always keen to get back to what he was doing before breaking yet another bone. Jon's condition does not stop him from believing that, if he works hard at his archery, he can be the best junior compound in the county - or even the country - and he is determined to prove just that.

We believe that Jon deserves to win this award for his perseverance, his courage, his belief in himself and the ability to start again each time - he does not give up."

When one considers what Margaret Lewis had to contend with, how she carried on regardless, and what she achieved, I think that you will all agree that Jon is a great choice for the first recipient of an award in her memory. The presentation will be made at the Regional and County Junior Championships (incorporating the GWAS Junior Intercounty Tournament) at Ladymead School on Saturday June 27th. - details of which were in the last issue.

## NEW GWAS CHAIRMAN

At the Grand Western Archery Society AGM, Chris Vitali, who has been the chairman for the past three years, completed his term of office and we had to elect a new chairman. There were three proposals, all for our County Secretary, Ann Jackson; the voting was unanimous in her favour. Ann is not the first Somerset lady to hold this responsible position but I have a sneaky feeling that she is the youngest chairman Grand Western have ever had, certainly in the recent past. It has been remarked in the past that Somerset provide the "young blood" on GWAS Council (even with me there!) and I hope that some fresh ideas will appear under Ann's guidance; don't expect radical changes, Ann is Chairman - not policy maker. On behalf of you all may I offer her our commiserations congratulations and wish her a fruitful - and not too difficult - time in office. (I know the reason Ann agreed to be nominated - the lengths some people will go to to avoid making the tea once a year!)

Due to a sudden attack of literary diarrhoea - as oppose to the verbal kind of which I am an inveterate sufferer! - this issue of Somerset Archery News follows fairly hard on the heels of the last one. As No. 8 was late I am now back to roughly the right publication date.

One reason for wanting to get this out quickly was to correct a mistake in the last issue. I got the date of the Tockington Shoot wrong - it should be the 12th. July, not the 19th. as I had it down for - and as this is a County Selection Shoot I felt I ought to put things right as soon as possible. My apologies to Tockington - as usual I plead total insanity (plus the fact that last year it was a week later, on the 20th. July, and I just assumed it would be the same weekend this year.)

There were one or two other things that I felt needed saying sooner rather than later, one of which is the new scoring system imposed on us by FITA changing their rules. Although everyone should get a copy of Archery U.K. and the new scoring system will be published therein, I am not sure when the next issue is due out but as one has only just come out I suspect it will not be for another couple of months and you all should be aware of the changes. My own opinion is that the whole thing borders on the ridiculous - and deciding to change the rules regarding scoring without stating at the same time how it will be done on the score-cards is even more ridiculous - but no doubt we will all get used to it in time. (At which point it will probably all change again because this new system is for a two year trial period!)

I know there are number of "recent recruits" out there and I hope they will be encouraged to enter some of the tournaments put on in the county this year; I hope to see more of you "established" archers as well. I have to admit that I tend to regard shoots as social occasions where I can meet old friends - and hopefully make new ones - while at the same time enjoying shooting arrows. I do enjoy trying to better my personal bests - but I also enjoy the banter and exchange of (friendly) insults.

And, finally, one of my perennial moans. The County Annual General Meeting was held on the 25th. of March; about a dozen people were there and there were 6 apologies - representing less than half the clubs in the county. Where were the rest of you - or, at the very least, where were your apologies? Club Secretaries are elected, or so I believe, to deal with the running of the Club and this should involve attending County Meetings, getting someone else to do so, or sending apologies (as a last resort.) The people who run the County would all love to get rid of at least some of their jobs - so come and give a hand! (If you don't you may find us all shooting new bows next year - having voted County Funds to ourselves!)



## ON THE LINE

I have heard of one or two instances of archers on the shooting line being put off by other archers comments - even tips and criticism being offered. Please remember that Rule 104(k) states that "Whilst an archer is on the shooting line, he shall receive no information by word or otherwise from anyone except the Judge or Field Captain." Also, it is only good manners - something we archers pride ourselves on - to leave other archers in peace while they are shooting; and no-one should offer unsolicited coaching advice, on or off the shooting line!

If you see something that could be a danger, to an archer or anyone else, such as broken carbon on an ACC arrow or a limb so badly twisted that the string is in danger of coming off, then I think you should draw this to the archer's attention - but in a polite and unobtrusive way.

If you think your target companion has an awful forward loose, for example, you should refrain from saying so. If you do say something you could easily spoil their day's shooting. Even with archers that I know I very rarely make comments on their shooting during competition - and if they are strangers, I never do!

## THANKS FOR THE EPHEMERA

Following my appeal to bring items of archery bits and bobs to my attention may I thank those who have done so. One bow we are still trying to trace the maker of - an appeal has gone out to the other members of the Guild of Collectors of Archery Artefacts and Ephemera through their newsletter and I hope - in the fullness of time - to be able to provide the owner with some information as to the provenance of a very nice one piece bow.

## NEW SCORING SYSTEM

At FITA Congress last year the scoring system for the FITA outdoor rounds was altered (initially for a 2 year trial period) - the scoring system for the indoor rounds will stay the same except that misses will be recorded as "M". For the outdoor rounds, all shooters (olympic and compound) will now score the old ten ring as 10 and this will be recorded on the score-sheets as such. **All** shooters will now record the "inner ten" as "X" (still only 10 points!) - this is where the confusion could arise as in the past an "X" has indicated a miss which is now to be recorded as "M". Ties will now be worked out on hits, 10s and then inner tens; **please note that when calculating the number of "10s" an archers has scored you must count all the "10s" and the "Xs" as they are all "10", you must then count all the "Xs"**. To avoid confusion, when shooting the imperial and metric rounds, all misses should be recorded as "M" - but GNAS will still accept "Rose" award claims that are scored using an "X" to record misses for the two year trial period. As this could mean you redesigning your score sheets could I suggest that you follow the system as below which is the same as the GNAS "approved" version - it really does help if everyone lays the thing out in the same way. You will notice that a space has been allotted for judges to initial any alterations; I think this is a good idea as I have seen score sheets where there is virtually no room to sign for alterations - I'm sure most of the judges will approve!

The following are attempts to show how things should look; the first is for a FITA where six arrows are shot at the distance. The next one is how things could look at the shorter distance of the same round with "M"s and "X"s appearing next to each other which could cause confusion, and the last is using the same design of score sheet for an imperial round where the "X" column will be left blank. All this should be made clear to you by the judges before the start of any tournament but I would suggest you practice it in your club and get the hang of it and don't have to worry about it at shoots. If you have a query, give me a ring and I'll try to help!

1		Judge										ET		ET		S	H	G	Xs	RT
		X	10	9	7	5	M	41	10	8	7	5	3	2	35	76	11	3	1	76
2		X	X	10	9	6	4	49	X	8	5	4	3	M	30	79	11	4	3	155
3		Judge										ET		ET		S	H	G	Xs	RT
		X	10	M	X	9	5	44	X	9	5	X	8	7	49	93	11	5	4	83
		10	10	8	10	7	M	45	X	10	8	X	9	9	56	10 1	11	6	2	194
3		Judge										E1		E1		S	H	G	Xs	RT
		9	9	7	5	3	3	36	9	7	7	5	5	M	33	69	11	3		69
		9	7	7	5	1	M	29	9	9	5	3	3	M	29	58	10	3		127

## BROKEN ARROW

Sorry, not a piece about a great Red Indian chief but a plea for broken arrows. I have been asked by two coaches who run Leader Courses (the qualification for "non archers" to enable them to teach archery in outdoor pursuit centres, scout groups, etc.) if I can collect samples of the more unusual arrow types so they have examples to show their candidates. I don't want arrows that are completely smashed up, but if you have an ACE or a 2613 X7, or anything else, with just the point broken off that we can make look reasonable - though too short for you to use - I would be grateful.

## ALISON WILLIAMSON IN SOMERSET (OR WONDERLAND!)

Alison Williamson, the top lady archer in this country and one of the best in the world, was in Somerset on the 28th. and 29th. of March. Last year she came to the Senior Squad meeting in February and we were all impressed by her talks and demonstration so I asked her if she would come and do the same for the Juniors on a Saturday this year and, killing two birds with one stone as it were, give the Seniors the pleasure of her company on the Sunday. I, unfortunately, was unable to go to the junior session, (☹️\* work!) but Amanda, who had done most of the organising, did the honours and the afternoon went off very well. There were only about 10 juniors there - a bit disappointing - but this probably worked out to the advantage of those who did make the effort as they got more individual attention. Those that did go will long remember their afternoon - especially Mark, whose birthday it was!

Saturday was also my mother's birthday; Alison was staying with us and there was a squad dinner that night - so I took them both to it. Well, towards it at any rate - my car dropped dead on the M5 and we ended up arriving, in a breakdown truck, 20 minutes late! The next day my video recorder (which we use in conjunction with a video camera as a coaching aid) refused to replay the tape after Alison had videoed Dan. Alison must have wondered what she had done to deserve all this and I was looking for a big hole to disappear into. Have I got the nerve to invite her back next year? Has Alison got the nerve to come if I do? Watch this space!



## BOOK REVIEW

### BOWS AND ARROWS by JAMES DUFF

Following an ongoing series of conversations with a fellow club member at Puriton I lent him a copy of "The Archer's Craft" by Adrian Eliot Hodgkin and in return he lent me a copy of the above. This was first published in 1927 and this copy is a reprint by the Simon Archery Foundation - part of the Manchester Museum (having written that it seems like a good idea to say a few words about the Simon Archery Collection so there will be a short piece after this review - strange how one thing leads to another isn't it?) Anyway, back to James Duff . . .

Born in Edinburgh in 1870, at seventeen he was apprenticed to William Fergie who was the Bowyer to the Royal Company of Archers (remember the piece about them in issue no. 6 - July last year?) After eight years with the Royal Company he moved to London where he worked for James Buchanan - whose business he later bought and he also took over Highfield's (both well know makers of archery goods). In 1907 he emigrated to America where he again followed his trade as a bowyer and the revival of archery in the States was at least partly due to his enthusiasm and dedication to the sport. Shooting is obviously in the blood because his grand-daughter, Mickey, won the Rhode Island State Championship on her 16th. birthday; Mickey was born on the 9th. September 1929 - four days after her mother (James' daughter, May) had won the New Jersey State Championships!

From the book, it would appear that James was a man who had his own opinions and was prepared to say what he thought. He takes us through the process of making a longbow with a number of hints and tips and goes on to discuss arrows, bowstrings and accessories and there is a little bit about actually shooting. This I found interesting as he accepts that we don't all shoot the same way and after describing the stance he goes on to say, "while this may be the best form it is not absolutely demanded, as sometimes the best archers take the poorest position in shooting." (Ever watched a film of Rick McKinney shooting?) Another very interesting book - especially if you are into longbow - which can be obtained from the Manchester Museum (the address is in the following article) for £18 post free.

## The Simon Archery Foundation

The Manchester Museum is now an integral part of Manchester University but it can trace its beginnings to the foundation of the Manchester Society of Natural History in 1821. Today they have around nine million items organised under various headings:- Archaeology, Botany, Entomology, Ethnology, Geology, Numismatics, Zoology and, most important of all, the Simon Archery Collection!

Ingo Simon was an archer (he shot a world flight record of 462 yards in 1914, a record that stood until 1933) and researcher into the bow. His wife, Erna, was Lady World Champion in 1937; they lived in Sidmouth before moving to Sidbury and after her husband's death in 1964 Erna moved back to Sidmouth. The indoor rifle range at Sidbury was initially set up as a joint venture with the archery club - again with Erna Simon as a prime mover - and although the Sidmouth Archery Club is now defunct, the rifle range is still used for archery today - by Lacetown Archers.

In 1946 Ingo Simon donated his collection of archery ephemera to the Manchester Museum and this forms the nucleus of today's collection. In 1970 Erna endowed a Trust to conserve and develop the collection which is now housed in two Simon Archery rooms in a building adjacent to the museum although there are displays in the museum itself. The collection includes the "Brazilian Indian Archery Collection", cross-bows, composite bows, laminated bows, longbows, steel bows plus numerous other archery items such as quivers, thumb-rings, arrows etc.

The Foundation has published other works besides the one reviewed above and attached to the back of this newsletter you will find a leaflet detailing these - as well as other works of interest to archers that can be obtained through them. I particularly recommend the video "Archery - Its History and Forms" - I have watched it over and over and always find something new in it, (no, I'm not on commission!)

Anyone can visit the Simon Rooms, but only with prior arrangement with the Honorary Keeper of the Collection:- Mrs. A. Wendy Hodkinson, The Simon Archery Foundation, The Manchester Museum, The University, Manchester. M13 9PL. Guided tours can be arranged for interested groups or individuals with a special interest in the collection. (I have relatives who live just outside Manchester that I haven't been to see for a long time - it could be time to renew old acquaintances!)

## There's Always Something To Worry One

### A Poem by James Duff

I can tell a yew from lemonwood  
The belly from the back.  
I can spot the faintest crysal  
And varnish from shellac.  
When bows are overstrung  
And when limbs appear too weak;  
I'm the Admirable Crichton  
That all new archers seek.

I can tell a budding archer  
If his stance is not just right  
*I can see just how he looses  
When I watch the arrow's flight.  
If the shooter has no anchor  
Or draws not to his chin;  
I can tell it in a minute  
I'm as sharp as any pin.*

*I can tell a spine that's faulty  
Or when feathering is bad,  
When a shaft is badly balanced  
Or when something new's a fad.  
When nocks are not as they  
should be  
But :- will someone tell me this,  
When I stand before a target,  
How the Dickens do I miss?*

The above poem is reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. A. Wendy Hodkinson, the Honorary Keeper of the Simon Archery Collection.

(Before anyone gets on the phone to tell me I can't spell - the word at the end of the third line, "crysal", is in fact correct. "Crysal" or "chrysal" are compression fractures on the belly of the bow and have always been the bane of the longbowman; they show as hairline cracks and if your bow shows signs of these appearing I would suggest a visit to a good bowyer.)

So not only did the man make and shoot bows and arrows, he wrote poetry about them as well. I wonder if any other sport has as many participants who have felt the need to break into verse; remember the article about the discovery of the Song-Book of the Royal British Bowmen? Both the Royal British Bowmen and the Royal Kentish Bowmen had a number of members who wrote songs about archery and there is the odd verse that appears in the various archery magazines. A couple of original verses have appeared in this newsletter - so if you can write poetry . . .



## Tournaments

May 10	Bath Archers	Friendly FITA	Batheaston	
	Colin Fullalove, 25, Redhill Close, Derry Hill, Calne, Wilts. SN11 9NY			
May 17	D.W.A.A.	FITAs/Metrics	Salisbury	
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU			
May 24	Burnham CoA	Y/H/Bs	BASC, Burnham	
	Ann Bye, 43, Sheepphouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 0NL			
May 30/31 *	D.C.A.S.	Double FITA Star	Exmouth	
	Colin & Ann Holmes, 73, Okehampton Road, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon. EX4 1EP			
Jun 4	Coastal Archers	Single Clout	Berrow, Burnham	
	Alex Kerby, The Warren, South Road, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. TA8 2RF			
Jun 7	Burnham CoA	Friendly FITA	BASC, Burnham	
	Ann Bye, 43, Sheepphouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 0NL			
Jun 14 *	S.C.A.A.	York/Hereford	Dunster	<u>S.C.A.A.</u>
<b>Champs</b>	Paul Westlake, 23, Portland Road, Street, Somerset. BA16 9PX			
Jun 15/21	Dunster Week §§		Dunster	
	Monday	FITA		
	Tuesday	Albion or Field		
	Wednesday	Longbow (Two-way Western)		
	Thursday	Double Two-way Clout		
	Friday	Western		
	* Saturday/Sunday	Double York / Hereford		
	Janet Faralewski, 27, Sutherland Avenue, Broadstone, Dorset. BH18 9EB			
Jun 27	SCAA & GWAS	Y/H/Bs	Taunton	<u>Junior Champs</u>
	Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Avon. BS18 7LX			
Jun 28	Mid Somerset	Fun National	Langport	
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			
Jul 3	Civil Service	York/Hereford	Taunton	
	Hilary Collins, 6, Princess Road, Taunton, Somerset. TA1 4SY			
Jul 4/5	G.N.A.S.	FITA/Metrics - Y/H/Bs	Lilleshall	<u>Nat. Jun.</u>
<b>Champs</b>	Mark Davis, 44, Bramerton Road, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 3PB			
Jul 5 *	Sarum York	Y/H/Bs	Salisbury	
	Mr. C. Howard, 72, Russell Road, Salisbury, Wilts. SP2 7ZR			
Jul 12 *	Wilts FITA Star	FITAs/Metrics	Devizes	
	Andrew Pulleyblank, 95, Moore Avenue, Kinson, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 8AU			
Jul 12	Tockington	Y/H/Bs	Tockington	
	Mr. T. Camps, 8, Duchess Road, Clifton, Bristol. BS8 2LA			
Jul 19	S.C.A.A.	1st. yr archers D. Warwick	Langport	
	Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			
Jul 26 *	Coastal Archers	Y/H/Bs	Berrow, Burnham	
	Marion Kerby, The Warren, South Road, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2RF			
Aug 16	W.S. CoA	Y/H/Bs	West Somerset School, Minehead	
	Peter Conrad, 9, Windsor Close, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5HH			
Aug 16 *	Exeter CoA	FITAs/Metrics	Exeter School	
	Colin & Ann Holmes, 73, Okehampton Road, St. Thomas, Exeter, Devon. EX4 1EP			
Sep 13 *	S.C.A.A.	FITA	Taunton School	
	Tim Jackson, 15, Cheddarfields, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, North Somerset. BS27 3EB			
Sep 20	S.C.A.A.	Westerns	Puriton	<u>Interclub</u>
	Amanda Tompkins, 7, Rowan Close, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA7 8AL			

§§ Entries for Dunster - at the time of writing there is still space on all days, the Double York usually fills up well before the others so if you want to shoot you need to get an entry form in as soon as possible.

\* Rose Awards or FITA Stars may be claimed at these Tournaments