



Somerset Archery News

September 1998

Issue No. 10

THE YEAR SO FAR

As is often in this country the weather has been the main protagonist at many of the shoots, although, in typical English fashion, it has been fairly contrary. Everyone knows that the Coastal York / Hereford suffers from wind, rain and just about anything else; this year the weather was really good - while the Tockington shoot a couple of weeks earlier (which I didn't go to as I was chasing my next FITA Star at Devizes) was terrible weather (as it was at Devizes - where all I got was wet!) All this proves is that our climate is not ideal for archery - if you are looking for flat calm days to shoot high scores; while this is all very nice I feel that we should be able to shoot in any conditions and so I just go out to enjoy myself (I even enjoyed Devizes in a funny sort of way - no comments please!)

This year was the 125th. time that the Grand Western Archery Meeting has been held and there were various commemorative souvenirs available - I think the only things left now are the booklets, if you haven't got one and would like a copy get in touch with me and I will check and see if they are still on sale. It was generally agreed that the meeting was a

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JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

I was not able to get to these County and Regional Championships this year but I understand that Vikki did her usual great job - assisted of course by her "team". I think a special mention should go to her Mum and Dad who willingly lend a hand every year - and they are not even archers themselves!

While I am not in favour of "pot hunting" I do think it's a pity when trophies do not get awarded because nobody entered for a particular round - and this year there were a few of these. Congratulations to those who did win and are therefore the current Somerset Junior Champions at their distances :- Tom Howe of Burnham Company of Archers (York), Mark Tottle of Puriton Gold Juniors (Bristol I), Joshua Lowe of Mid Somerset Bowmen (Bristol II), Pamela Custance-Baker from Bowmen of Ina, Neil Tottle (Bristol III) and Rachel Dring (Bristol IV) both from Puriton Gold Juniors. Rachel was also the Regional Champion in her age group with Mark and Joshua both second in their respective age groups.

Included in this tournament for the second time was the Junior Inter-Counties; we did have a bit of difficulty with the selection but in the end results proved us to have picked the right team. Mark Tottle, Jon Fisher (Puriton Gold Juniors), Joshua Lowe, Tim Jarvis (Bath Archers), Pamela Custance-Baker, Neil Tottle and Rachel Dring all did well for the county and earned us a second place behind Devon & Cornwall; on the day they were presented with a special County baseball cap and will receive their County badge and / or "bar" at the Inter Club shoot on the 20th. September at Puriton.

In the last issue of the Newsletter the winner of the first Margaret Lewis Memorial Medal was announced and, as Margaret was a great supporter of this tournament, it was felt this was the right place to make the presentation and so Jon Fisher was duly presented with his medal. I was pleased to note that Jon was fit enough to take part in the shoot - well done that man! - and well done to all the other juniors who took part (and thanks to all the parents and others who helped in various ways.)

EDITORIAL

In the last issue I asked for broken arrows that could be made into something that looked like the real thing to show to people new to the sport - my thanks to those of you who responded (it also cheered me up to have proof that this newsletter is read!)

Something that didn't cheer me up was the cancelling of two shoots. Both the Mid Somerset Bowmen's Fun National and the First Year Archers Tournament were cancelled again this year because not one single entry was received. Unless someone else is prepared to take these shoots on they will not be on the calendar again next year - which I think is a great pity because both shoots were aimed at the newer archers and those who cannot commit a whole day to a shoot.

I would be really like to have some feedback as to why no-one was interested in these shoots. Too expensive, wrong round, didn't know they were on, worried about making a fool of yourself? My address and phone number is on the bottom of this page - and I really would like to hear from you!

On very much the same ground - it was very disappointing to see such a low turn out at the Coastal Archer's Rose Award Shoot at the end of July. This is (was!) the only Rose Tournament put on by a club in the county (the Somerset and the Regional Championships, both at "Dunster", are the only other Rose shoots held within Somerset)* and as such your chance to get a "Rose" without having to travel too far. Because of the cost (£60 to obtain Rose Status) next year's shoot at Coastal will not be a Rose Award Tournament but will still be Record Status. I think losing a Rose shoot is a pity because if this is repeated all over the country it could lead to the Rose Awards being cancelled - and I'm still collecting!

I hope you will all make an effort to come to the Inter Club Shoot at Puriton on the 20th. September - details on page 4 - and will make an effort to support shoots within the county in the future. I would add one other thing - if you don't support shoots at other clubs why should they support shoots that you put on?

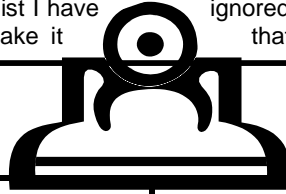
* The Junior Regional Championships is also a Rose Tournament - but is for Juniors only.

STOP PRESS I had written the above before going to the Bath Hereford which I am sad to report was another poorly supported tournament. The first time I went to this shoot, in 1993 there were about 30 targets - this year it was down to 10 and I suspect it may have been the last time it will be held at the Civil Service Ground and, therefore, the last time it will be Record Status.



TOP SOMERSET SCORES

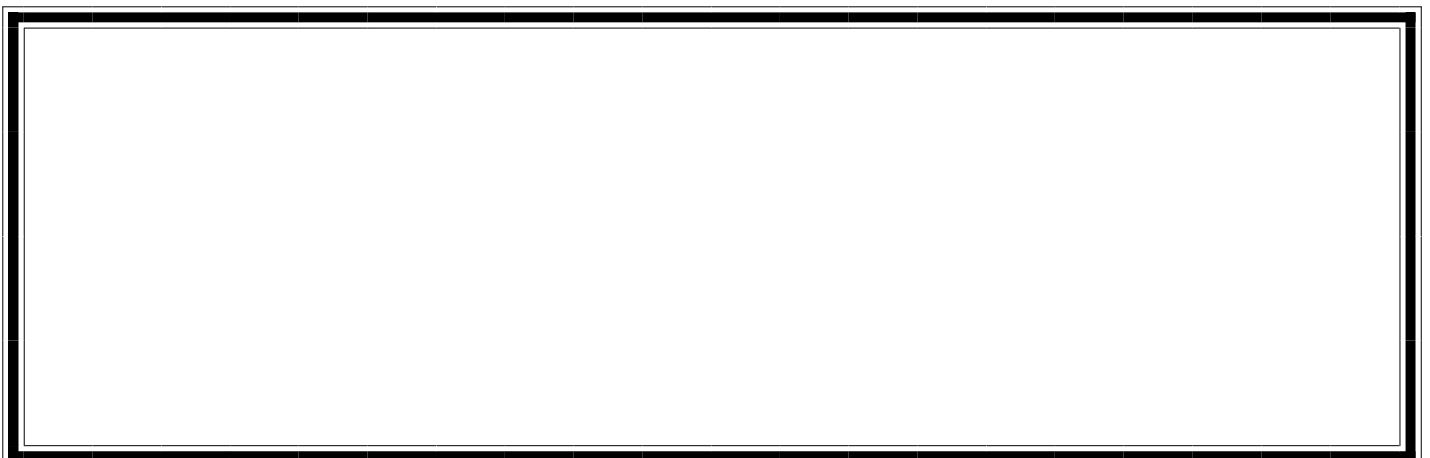
My clipboard tells me that the following scores have been shot by Somerset archers at selection shoots this year. The "selection" shoots were :- the Bath Friendly FITA, the Salisbury FITA, Burnham's York / Hereford, the Somerset Championships at Dunster, the Tockington York / Hereford and Coastal's York / Hereford. I didn't go to Tockington and so haven't seen the results - so if the scores don't look right to you that could be the reason (the other reason could be me!) I am aware that some people have shot better scores at other tournaments but as I haven't a full list I have ignored them as far as putting "scores on the board" goes - so just because your name appears here don't take it that you will be in the team, that has yet to be selected.



<u>RECURVE</u>	<u>HEREFORD</u>	<u>FITA</u>	<u>RECURVE</u>	<u>YORK</u>	<u>FITA</u>
Ann Jackson *	1080	1160	Tim Jackson *	1023	
Vikki Gallop *		1105	Stephen C-Baker	990	
Lesley Passey	1038		Tony Usher	986	
Ann Bye	1006		Matt Yeates	938	
Fiona Bull	1000		Pat Wright	933	1118
Joan Holton	931		Pete Smith	892	1022
Dot Rockett	927		Colin Fullalove	877	991
Barbara Warr	880		Kerry Morgan	848	864
			Tim Yeates	858	
			Andrew Rees	825	989
			Alan Loxton	828	919
			John Holton	869	
			Joshua Lowe	851	894
<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>HEREFORD</u>	<u>FITA</u>	<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>YORK</u>	<u>FITA</u>
Mary Smith *	1110	1114	Paul Atkins *	1102	1228
Judith Martin *	1112	1101	Alan Hale *	1136	1227
Joyce Hale	1051	1093	Chris Hassall *	1120	1101

* denotes those archers who have achieved a qualifying score for the County Team -
i.e. 1015 / 1070 for York / Hereford or 1150 for a FITA

**NO CONNECTION WITH ARCHERY - I JUST THOUGHT THIS WAS WAS FUNNY
(probably tells you a lot about me)**





SCAA MANAGEMENT MEETING (JULY 1998)

Yet another disappointing turnout - I know meetings may seem boring but they are vital to the running of the county. If your club does not send a representative to these meetings I don't see that any member of your club has the right to complain about things within the county. Only six clubs were represented at the July meeting, with apologies received from two others, and once again I have to say that I was not impressed. It would have been courteous (and "Courtesie" is part of the GNAS motto!) for those clubs not sending reps to have at least sent apologies. If reps from Ballands (and Andrew actually lives in Wiltshire!) and South Wansdyke can make it - and it was great to see new faces, thanks for coming, folks - there can be little excuse from other clubs. (I was talking to a netball coach in Taunton after a previous management meeting - and bemoaning the lack of attendance at our County Management Meetings - and she told me that, in her sport, clubs not sending representatives to meetings are fined!)

Your rep does not have to be the club secretary; nor does it have to be the same person all the time - though for the sake of continuity it does help! - so it could be shared out. Grand Western is currently looking at ways to revitalise our sport in the region - one of the problems, as I see it, is that clubs and societies do not change their management committee from one year (or decade!) to the next and so no new ideas are forthcoming - or if they are they are voted down by the "old brigade" on the basis that "we've done it this way for the last hundred years" I tried writing into my club's Constitution that Officers could only serve for three years and then had to have at least a year off the Committee, this would have spread the running of the club about a bit and given more people an insight into its running; I had to amend it by saying that the period of office could be extended if no-one else was prepared to take on the job - so now we are back to where we were.

Archery clubs are not run on the same lines as golf clubs; how many of you pay fees in the hundreds of pounds? Golf clubs, because they generate a big income are able to employ full time staff so that members can just turn up, play a game and go home. In our sport we rely on the club members to do the work and from discussions with archers from all over the south west (and some from beyond!) it is apparent that most clubs operate under the same kind of regime - two or three people do all the work and the others expect to just turn up and shoot (do you have archers who turn up just after the targets have been put up and disappear just before you pack up?) In this day and age we all rush round saving time by driving fast, using (so called) labour saving devices and so on, but what do we do with all this spare time? It would be nice to see some of it put into our sport and perhaps, in a way, put back some of the pleasure we get from shooting arrows (or why do it?) into the smooth running of the sport - at all levels.

S.C.A.A. LIBRARY - FREE USE OF BOOKS & VIDEOS

At the last management meeting it was decided that the items in the SCAA library should be available to all SCAA members free of charge. The following is a list of items held by the SCAA librarian (me!) - if you want to borrow any item, get in touch with me (see bottom of page), all we ask is that you only keep an item for one month (I'll deliver items at shoots - if I'm going - or post them to you but you'll have to cover the cost, and the same applies to their return.)

Videos (with very brief description) :-

- 'Secrets of the Shot' (approx. 120 mins) - a top American coach, Len Cardinale, talking about all styles of shooting and how to improve.
- 'Target Panic: Its Causes & Cures' (Approx. 60 mins) - the second part of Len's seminar.
- 'Why We Miss' (approx. 30 mins) - two "good old boys" talking about, and showing, the effects of heavy and light arrows and the results of misjudging distances.
- 'The Winning Edge' (approx. 22 mins) - Jay Barrs setting up a bow. Some arrow flight and limb movement sequences.
- 'The Barcelona Olympics' (approx. 30 mins) - Exactly that! 30 minutes of shooting - plus that famous 'flaming arrow'
- 'The Release' (approx. 40mins) - Jim Pickering (finger) and Dee Wilde (mechanical) talking about, and demonstrating, the release.
- 'The Bow Mechanic' (approx. 45 mins) - Larry Wise on compound bow adjustments, repairs, etc.
- 'Professional Arrow Assembly' (approx. 50 mins) - how to make a matched set of arrows, (aluminium and carbon arrows), some repetition.
- 'Supertuning Your Bow' (approx. 55 mins) - step by step tuning of the compound bow.
- 'Shooting Form & Problem Solving' (approx. 50 mins) - based around compound shooting but there are bits that apply to recurve bows (sorry - Olympic!)

The last three are a series with the covering title of "Secret of the Pros" and are by Frank Pearson; the first five minutes (roughly) are the same on each video-advertising the series; they also have little "out-takes" - in the manner of "It'll Be Alright on the Night" - interspersed with the credits at the end. Many of these videos may be a bit 'slow' and you will probably know at least some of the information on them but they all contain good bits. There is no magic powder we can sprinkle on to make you all GMB, (fortunately - if there was things would be very boring!) To improve you have to practice and learn; there are many sources of information such as other archers, coaches, seminars, books and videos - if you really want to succeed you have to put in the time and try some of the ideas offered, and if this means watching a 50 minute video to get two or three little ideas it could be worth it and you may learn something which in turn leads to better scores and hence to more enjoyment of our sport.

The books are Robert Hardy's "Longbow" which is recognised as being the definitive book on the subject - and, yes, it is Robert Hardy the well known actor. "The Third Invention" by Steve Hayes is about the development of bows and arrows from earliest times told in story form."Archery : Steps to Success" (Haywood and Lewis) takes you through all aspects from fitting out with basic equipment to tournament shooting and upgrading of equipment and "Shooting Stars" by John Holden is a profile of Mark Blenkarne, Steve Hallard and Philip van Buren with their comments on how they shoot.



Tournaments

Sep13	*	S.C.A.A.	FITA	Taunton School	
		Tim Jackson, 15, Cheddarfields, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, North Somerset. BS27 3EB			
Sep 20		S.C.A.A.	Somerset Round(\$)	Puriton	<u>Interclub</u>
		Amanda Tompkins, 7, Rowan Close, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA7 8AL			
Sep 27		G.W.A.S. Intercounties	York/ Hereford	Exeter School	<u>Intercounties</u>
		By invite only			
Oct 11		Bath Archers	Traditional Longbow	Batheaston	
		Richard Head, 405, The Spa, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 6QL			
Oct 11		Burnham CoA	Albion	BASC, Burnham	
		Ann Bye, 43, Sheephouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Bristol. BS20 0NL			
Oct 25		Ballands Bowmen	Field Shoot	Penselwood (Nr. Wincanton)	
		Nikki Cox, La Tache, Pen Selwood, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8LT			
Nov 8		Bath Archers	Field Shoot		
		Ian Bentley, 39, Upper Bloomfield Road, Odd Down, Bath, Somerset. BA2 2RY			

(\$) Yes - our own round (6 dozen @ 60 yards and 4 dozen @ 50 yards- shorter distances for Juniors)

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

INDOOR TOURNAMENTS

Nov 22		Bowmen of Mendip	Double Worcester	Hutton Moor	
		Joan Holton, Flat2, 33, South Road, Weston-super-Mare, N. Somerset. BS23 2HD			
Feb 14		G.W.A.S.	FITA 18m	Hutton Moor	<u>Regional Champs</u>
		Vikki Gallop, 21, The Glebe, Wrington, Somerset. BS18 7LX			
Mar 14		S.C.A.A.	Portsmouth	Langport	<u>County</u>
		<u>Champs</u> Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			

BALLANDS FIELD SHOOT - 25TH. OCTOBER

I don't often pick on a shoot to "advertise" and if I do it is because it is something a bit out of the ordinary - like the Clout at Coastal. Most of the GNAS clubs in Somerset shoot mainly target so many of you will never have shot "field". The atmosphere is generally more relaxed than at target shoots - you can wear what you like for one thing, and the brighter the better as you shoot in woods and fields where it is advisable to announce your presence! There are also many more styles or classes than in target shooting, almost any type of bow with any type of arrows can be accommodated! As the pegs (you have to shoot with your foot against a peg and you could find a tree in between the peg and the target so you have to alter your stance to give you a sight of the target) are often at unmarked distances (as they will be at Ballands) you have to judge the distance and then set your sight (or point of aim) before taking the shot - a set of old arrows that you don't mind damaging or losing is probably a good idea for the inexperienced! Field courses are a bit like golf courses in that you move round shooting at different targets, (in this case two times 20 3Ds) - so you don't need a tent or chair, just sensible clothes and shoes or boots. If you are interested give Nikki a ring on 01747 841245 and tell her that you are new to field shooting and she will put you with experienced field shooters.

On the subject of experienced field archers - Ballands member Dave Simpson is the current British and Open Field Champion (Mens Barebow), a title he will be defending the third weekend in September (he is also the English Champion.) Less experienced (she has only been shooting a couple of years) but doing extremely well is Jane Rees who is looking to get a place on the National Squad. I look forward to hearing how they both fared.

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great success; considering the variable weather this year we did very well - one day was so hot that one person collapsed and an ambulance was called (when it appeared many of us were looking for Mary Smith - 8½ months pregnant at the time - but she was sitting serenely in the tent oblivious to all the excitement and it wasn't until a couple of weeks later that she produced a little boy.) Mary had shot the Somerset Championships the previous weekend and won the Ladies Compound, Vikki Gallop won the Ladies Recurve; Paul Atkins won the Gents Compound and Simon Woolston (Wells City Archers) stopped a clean sweep by Bowmen of Hatch by winning the Gents Recurve - well done all of you.

The 18th. of October is the final of the postal competition run by the GWAS Coaching Group; you should have had a flyer by now advertising it. The format is to be a ranking shoot in the morning and a head-to-head in the afternoon, coaches will be available for you to talk to all day and there will be a car boot sale (of archery kit only) starting at 11.45