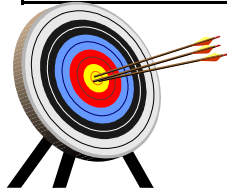




Somerset Archery News

August 1999

Issue No. 13



RECORD BREAKERS



I'm always pleased to hear about County Records being broken and just recently I've been well pleased. Following an accident in her car a couple of years ago (not her fault!) Ann Jackson decided to have a go at compound this year and has taken to it like a fish to a bicycle (well, perhaps not quite!) and has broken the Ladies FITA and Long Metric records on more than one occasion (it was getting so I dreaded the phone ringing on a Monday morning in case I had to change the records again!) The record for the Ladies FITA (as I write!) is now 1298, the Ladies Long Metric is 643 and the Ladies Double FITA (no previous record) has been established at 2551. Well done, Ann! (I didn't really dread the phone going, honest!)

I realise that February is now long gone, but at the GWAS Indoor Championships at Hutton Moor Mark Tottle (Puriton Gold) broke the Junior Boy's FITA 18 record with 539 - less than 3 weeks after I had claimed the record on behalf of one of my own club's juniors! (Joshua Lowe - Mid Somerset Bowmen.)

Even further in the past, Sonia Ward, of Ballands Bowmen, broke the record for the Windsor (Ladies recurve) with a score of 920 at Bournemouth in August 1998. Dave Simpson, also from Ballands, has claimed a number of Gents Barebow Field Archery Records going back to 1997 following a decision at a recent SCAA Management Meeting to accept record claims for field rounds.

I hope to get the Records right up to date and in some semblance of order to go out to all clubs with the next issue of Somerset Archery News - give you all something to aim for in the new year!

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS NEWS

Since the last Somerset Archery News the World Outdoor Target Championships have been held in France and we won some medals. Alison Williamson (Ladies Recurve) and Steve Gooden (Gents Compound - Unlimited as FITA do not recognise "Limited") both won silver medals and the Gents Compound Team won bronze.

Alison's medal winning performance will, I'm sure, please a lot of people in Somerset as Alison has been a regular visitor to the County and is scheduled for another visit next month to come and talk to - and help - the Juniors. (For those of you with long memories - Alison is not staying with me this time!)

EUROPEAN FIELD CHAMPS

This is another event that happened this summer. Jane Rees (Ballands again!) represented her country but had to pay her own way (Somerset have made a donation to help her out but Jane is still well out of pocket.) My personal view is that this is a very poor state of affairs; if we are only to send archers who the powers that be feel are potential medal winners (and did they honestly think that Simon Terry would pick up a bronze at the Barcelona Olympics?) (incidentally, our men won a team bronze at Barcelona - as they had done four years previously in Seoul - but as only two men were sent to Atlanta we weren't even in with a shout); if we ever host a world event in this country will the organisers be surprised when only a handful of archers turn up as they are the only ones who are likely to win medals because everyone else has adopted the same policy as our team selectors? I am aware that sending teams to these events costs money but I do think it needs a serious review.

Right! That's the politics out of the way - for the moment anyway! So how did Jane get on? Considering that this was her first (hopefully of many) international

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EDITORIAL

Once again I have fallen behind my intended publication date; the time seems to be going past so quickly that before I know it another month - or three - has gone and I haven't done half the things I wanted to do (the World Athletics was the last delay!). I have managed to go to most of the shoots in the county and it was nice to see a bigger entry for the Dunster Horn than there has been over the past few years; unfortunately the reverse was true for the Bath Hereford which had to be cancelled through lack of entries. The weather generally has been kind to us this summer - almost too hot on occasions - but the attendance at shoots has been patchy, even more so than in recent years I think. I don't know what the answer is - though I do think it would help if we speeded things up a bit; starting at 10.00 a.m. (getting there by 9.00 a.m.) and not getting away until as late as 8.00 p.m. - and still having to drive home - makes it a long day and perhaps one that only the dedicated archer feels he or she can commit themselves to.

I'd like to remind you that the Somerset Inter-Club Shoot is on the 19th. September - this is a social shoot (an even more social shoot than the others!) and we are shooting the Somerset Round again this year - six dozen arrows at the first distance, four dozen at the second. Amanda would like to have entries as early as possible please - she gets worried when there are only three or four targets full a week before the shoot! (By the time you read this it will probably be too late for this reminder - sorry Amanda!)

At the Somerset County Management Meeting it was again pointed out that the "Battle of Britain" shoot is a 'County' event and as much help as possible is required to set it up and run it - if you can help in any way (I think the organiser is now getting desperate!) please give Tim Jackson a ring on 01934 733682 and offer your services - most of the proceeds from this shoot go to the RAFA Benevolent Fund - so do a good deed!

(My apologies to my fellow club members who will (hopefully!) have read the last two paragraphs elsewhere!)



GOING TO TOURNAMENTS

The following first appeared in issue 4 of Somerset Archery News but I thought it would bear repeating - especially the last bit!

Many 'new' archers are worried about going to tournaments - "Will I make a fool of myself?", "What will the other archers think if I miss the target?" and "Will I remember what I am supposed to be doing?" (Yes. Idiot! and No.) Seriously though - if you follow the instructions given in the club situation, read the "Rules of Shooting" and use a bit of common sense you will have no problem. Unless you are the super-confident type I would recommend you start with local 'club' shoots rather than FITA Star or Rose Award events. The first tournament I went to was to watch a club member shoot in the Somerset Championships at the start of Dunster Week, I had only been shooting for about six months and didn't think I was fit for competition. There seemed to be quite a few arrows going into the grass and I thought, "I can do that", so I went and saw the organisers and shot the last three days and really enjoyed myself (I even won a prize - hidden score in the Western Round) - to the extent that now I am usually at a tournament somewhere on Sundays from April through to the end of September.

I can't say that **all** the archers I have shot with have been good company; but those that have been a bit of a pain have been in a very small minority, the vast majority have been great - a better percentage than you would probably find in life in general! And that same majority have been helpful in many ways, from pointing out that I should be on the shooting line rather than talking (lots of my target companions do this for me!) to technical advice and problem solving.

Aim to get to the shoot well before the time stated for assembly and on arriving try to remember the last part of the GNAS motto (Union - True Heart - Courtesie). Not all shoots book you in but it is only polite to find out if this is being done and tell them that you are present. Everyone likes to set up as near to the shooting line as possible, but, at a big shoot this is often difficult; please try to leave gangways so everyone can get from their tent to the shooting line without too much difficulty; you will undoubtedly come across the dipstick who parks himself in the gap you have considerably left for others to use as access - this is when you have to remind yourself of the 'Courtesie' again instead of just kicking seven bells out of him or her.

If you have given yourself plenty of time you can set about putting your gear together in a relaxed state rather than rushing around like a headless chicken, this means less mistakes, or at any rate gives you time to check things out and correct if necessary. It also starts you off in a better frame of mind so your shooting will (probably) be better. Find out which detail you are shooting and which side you will be standing; if you can, find out who your target companions are and introduce yourself (once you have been to a few tournaments you will be surprised how many people you recognise).

Make sure scores are filled in correctly - any alterations to arrow values should be made, and signed, by a judge - **THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE ARROWS ARE REMOVED FROM THE TARGET** - (you can alter the end totals, hits, score and golds but only a judge can alter the arrow values) - if arrow values are altered by anyone other than a judge it could jeopardise a claim for a Rose Award or a FITA Star (and it will probably be someone else's claim!) Also, remember that you should do all the scoring before going behind the target to look for arrows - and if you find other archer's arrows behind the target don't just collect them, many archers like to know where their arrows land (particularly longbow shooters!) so pick them up and stand them up vertically but don't take them back to the archer unless you have asked him or her if it is O. K. to do so. Make sure you do your share of the work involved in scoring, pulling arrows, moving targets, etc., don't forget to thank your companions for making your day so pleasant and remember to sign the score sheet (you would be amazed at the number of score sheets that are added up incorrectly - and signed for! - if you record your own score in your personal score-book and check it regularly against the score sheet you should spot, and correct, mistakes very easily; one little tip when shooting imperial rounds is that if you have an even number of hits you must have an even total, an odd number of hits gives an odd total - if you've got an even number of hits and an odd total, or vice versa, there is something wrong!) **Remember, for results (and target list) send stamped, self-addressed envelope(s) - approximately 9" x 6" is a good size as it save too much folding of paper by the organiser - and preferably self-sealing. No s.a.e. - no results!**

The prize giving is part of the shoot and it is my personal belief that archers should make every effort to stay for it - I know it is not always possible and there may be good reasons for getting away quickly; but if everyone did this there would be no-one to applaud the winners - and one day this may be you! If you do win a trophy please return it in a fit state to be presented - tournament organisers have enough to do without having to clean trophies before the presentation. I have on occasion been amazed at the state a trophy has been returned in - I've been tempted to suggest leaving it in it's dirty state and presenting it along with an apology to the effect that "we're sorry the trophy is in such a state but - - - - (insert previous winner's name here) returned it like this" but this would not be fair to the recipient. One other point, gentlemen going up to receive a prize from the Lady Paramount should remove their hats.

EUROPEAN FIELD CHAMPS (continued from page 1)

appearance I think she did very well to come 7th. in the Ladies Barebow section. I had hoped to be able to do an "interview" with Jane and give you her personal view of this event but time has been my problem yet again; however, I would still like to do this so will try for the next edition (I haven't asked Jane yet!) All I will say is that the British team won a number of medals (including Alison Williamson getting an individual bronze and a team silver) and I hope that there will be a report in the Archery U.K. as a follow up to the team photo and caption (2½" x 3") in the current edition - I'll be charitable and assume there was not enough time to get the report into print!

SNIPPET

Reading an article on Turkish archery I came across this "Hadith" (a traditional saying attributed to the prophet Mohammed) - "The one who makes the arrow, the one who presents the arrow, and the one who shoots the arrow are destined for paradise." Isn't that a nice comforting thought!



SIR ASHTON LEVER - TOXOPHILITE

While writing an article for my Club Newsletter I was looking through an article from one of the Journals of the Archer-Antiquaries and found the picture below and thought "ARTICLE!" (Does this ever happen to you? If it does, why not send me the result; I'm finding it harder and harder to find the time to produce the Somerset Archery News and could use all the help I can get!)

Many people regard Horace Ford as the father of modern archery; I wonder where we would all be if it wasn't for Sir Ashton Lever. Following the development of guns the bow went into a severe decline; a few archery societies were started but none lasted very long. Around 1775 Sir Ashton opened a museum in Leicester House - in Leicester Square - where his secretary was one Thomas Waring. Waring took up archery to try to cure an "oppression of the chest" and was

so successful, and impressed his boss so much, that Sir Ashton got together a group of friends to shoot in the grounds of Leicester House. In 1781 they formed the Toxophilite Society (now the Royal Toxophilite Society and still going strong) and this sparked a renewed interest in bows and arrows that has lasted ever since.

Thomas Waring became the society's bowyer - a trade he had learned as a young man - and from this sprang a successful business. He wrote, and published, a treatise entitled "The Art Of Shooting With The Longbow" which was recognised as being 'the' book on archery both here and in America. (I would love to see a copy of this - it ran to nine editions so there must be some around somewhere!)

Sir Ashton Lever became the first President of the Toxophilite Society and was an active member with other archery societies of his day. (This was a fairly standard practice as virtually all archers of the time were from the "upper crust" and a lot of them spent a fair amount of time visiting each other at their country houses.)

I have no idea why the portrait of Sir Ashton has the picture of ostriches (?) underneath it. Anyone out there know? If you do please let me know or that will be something else to put on my 'to do' list -



Top left : Pete Smith demonstrating how comfortable the chairs were at the Somerset Indoors and top right : Rachel Dring wearing her GWAS Club Team Champions sweat shirt with pride. The lower picture is my mate (ex mate after this!) Pat Wright - any offers of a caption?

FOR SALE

SET OF 8 arrows, X7 1714s, 26½" with Beiter nocks - £25. Chris - 01823 413624

TD01 BOW - R/H 66", 24lb @ 28" in Dunster case with silver Arten R10 sight, medium A&F tab, bracer, quiver, stringer, set of six 1516 E75 (26") arrows and set of eight 28" Hornet arrows - £80 ono. Chris - 01823 413624

COMPOUND - L/H red 25/35lb. 26/28" Pearson 'Renegade' with Summit II sight, Tollgate and 'Pod' bowstands, longrod, left-hand quiver, release aid, arrow puller and three sets of arrows all in a soft case. £150 ono. Chris Hassall - 01823 413624

HOYT Gold Medalist. R/H black, 68" with 40lb @ 28" Hoyt Wood/Glass limbs - £150. Also, 54" umbrella with bivouac canopy - £30. Contact Kerry Morgan on 01278 684799 - evenings only.

WANTED

Books on Robin Hood - from comics to serious treatise. (Also anything else with an archery theme!) Chris - 01823 413624



Tournaments

Sep12	*	S.C.A.A.	FITA Star	BASC Ground, Burnham	
		Tim Jackson, 15, Cheddarfields, Wedmore Road, Cheddar, North Somerset. BS27 3EB			
Sep 19		S.C.A.A.	Somerset(!)	Puriton	<u>Interclub</u>
		Amanda Tompkins, 7, Rowan Close, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA7 8AL			
Oct 10		Burnham CoA	Albion	BASC Ground, Burnham	
		Ann Bye, 43, Sheepphouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset. BS20 0NL			
Oct 10		Bath Archers	Traditional Longbow	Batheaston	
		Richard Head, 405, The Spa, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 6QL			
Nov 14		Bath Archers	Field Shoot	Hunstrete	
		Mrs. S. Simmons, 121, Ringwell Gardens, Grosvenor, Bath, Somerset. BA1 6BW			
Nov 21		Bowmen of Mendip	Double Worcester	Hutton Moor, Weston-s-Mare	
		Sheila Scott, 38, Pennycress, Locking Castle, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. BS22 8QH			

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Feb 13		G.W.A.S.	To be decided	Hutton Moor	<u>GWAS Champs</u>
		Ann Bye, 43, Sheepphouse Park, Easton-in-Gordano, Somerset. BS20 0NL			
Mar 12		S.C.A.A.	Portsmouth	Langport	<u>SCAA Champs</u>
		Chris Hassall, 38, Acacia Gardens, Taunton, Somerset. TA2 8TA			

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

PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO HELP THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

Suggestion to Tournament Organisers :- Send a few copies of your entry form to the local archery dealers, they will be happy to put them on display and you might get some more entries - even one entry will more than compensate you for the cost

MORE SNIPPETS

You will probably have realised by now - those of you who read this newsletter regularly - that I tend to collect all sorts of bits and pieces to do with archery. I have quite a few books on various aspects of archery, some only have brief bits whereas others are solely about archery, some are old and others are recent publications; the one thing that they have in common - as far as I am concerned - is that they all have interesting articles on archery or archery related matters. As I am desperate to fill space I thought I would share some of my recent finds with you :-

Zeno of Elea (circa. 490 - circa. 430 BC) - Greek philosopher who pointed out several paradoxes that raised 'modern' problems of space and time. For example, motion is an illusion, since an arrow in flight must occupy a determinate space at each instant, and therefore must be at rest. (Terry Pratchett fans - 'Pyramids' - will be familiar with this theory.)

Henry Longfellow - The Song of Hiawatha. "As unto the bow the cord is, / So unto the man is woman; / Though she bends him, she obeys him, / Though she draws him, yet she follows; / Useless each without the other!"

An old proverb - "Speak well of archers, for your father shot in a bow."

From an article in Archery Focus by Lisa Franseen, an American sports psychology consultant, writing about focus and concentration, three quotes : 1) If your mind wanders in practice, it will wander in competition. If you allow your mind to wander in practice, it will wander against your will in competition. 2) It's simpler to concentrate when you're fresh than when you're tired. That's why you must practice focusing when you're tired. 3) The question is not whether we're focusing or not. We are always focused on something all of the time! The question then becomes what we're focused on.

Chris Jones of Merlin Bows in an article about paper testing in the latest edition of the 'Glade' - "The bow could be suffering from thrombosis; a clot behind the string." (It was worth buying the 'Glade' just for this one comment!)

If you have any little gems please let me know so I can share them with everybody - my address and phone number is at the bottom of page 1. If you're phoning - after 8.00 p.m. please and not Tuesday or Friday 'cos I'll be out!