

Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter July 2011



There seems to be quite a bit of activity in the Club at the moment, hence we have another Newsletter – happy reading!!

Welcome!

As many of you will have seen, we have been running two beginners courses concurrently on a Tuesday and Friday evening and as a result, we hope to welcome a number of new members to the Club shortly. No doubt we will all do our best to help them out and make them feel at home. We wish them a long and happy association with SCOA.

It was good to see a number of potential junior members on this year's beginners courses – no doubt Tom Woodhouse, Meg Bowen and Amy Cole will be glad of some new shooting buddies, not to mention some company closer to their own age!

On a similar note, it was good to see Kay Jeffs back on the shooting line following her illness. Welcome back, Kay!

Luke qualifies for Team GB!

Congratulations to Luke Pennell who recently attended the GB trials and successfully qualified to become a member of the GB Junior Team.

As part of his international duties, Luke will be travelling to Cyprus to take part in the Europa Cup in July 2011 and he will be off to Poland for the Junior World Target Championships in August 2011.



Luke and Mum Sharon have also met the qualifying criteria for selection for the GB Field Archery Team. They will find out later this month whether they will be representing Great Britain at the European Field Archery Championships in Italy in September 2011.

We wish Luke every success in his forthcoming tournaments and hope he is able to add to his ever increasing collection of silverware! Well done, Luke (and Sharon)!

The Pennell family have asked that we include the following note of thanks to SCOA members who contributed to Luke's sponsorship for his forthcoming trip to Cyprus

Thank you!!

A huge thank you to everyone at SCOA who helped Luke raise the sponsorship funds to go to Cyprus for the Europa Cup later this month. The support and encouragement afforded him was absolutely great. He is training hard and really looking forward to representing Great Britain over the coming months.

Your support, generosity and interest in Luke's achievements is much appreciated.

Andrew, Sharon & Luke Pennell

"Team Stourbridge" (Tournaments)

Stourbridge members have been in action at various outdoor tournaments since the beginning of April 2011 and we now have a number of enthusiastic members representing the Club in external competitions.

On Sunday 17 April 2011, seven Stourbridge archers (Alyson Smith, Arvon Hutchinson, Becky Simonds, Brian Webster, Colin Dewis, Keith Raybould and Steve Lines) took part in the **26th Meriden Open American**.

On a glorious sunny day, our "three wise men" had the Gents Longbow category virtually sewn up, with Keith and Brian taking first and second places respectively and Hutch fourth. Becky was awarded her first classification medal in the Ladies Recurve – hopefully, the first of many!

The May Day Bank Holiday weekend was a busy one for Stourbridge, with a number of our archers involved in tournaments over the three day period.

Luke and Andy Pennell were in action against some of the top archers in the country at the two day **WMAS / Walsall Double FITA Star** at Lilleshall on Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May 2011. Despite extremely windy conditions with one of the bosses actually being blown over at one point resulting in a number of damaged arrows and calls for the shoot to be stopped, Luke managed to overcome the elements and win the Junior Gents Compound trophy with a cumulative score of 2,570 over the two days.

On Sunday 1 May 2011, two of our novice archers from last year's beginners courses (Becky Simonds and Phil Carter) took part in the **West Midlands Archery Society Regional and Open Novices Tournament** at Leamington. Becky did well to take second place in the Ladies Recurve and Phil gave a good account of himself to finish a respectable sixth in the Gents Recurve.

"Team Stourbridge" were well represented at the **Redhill Archers 38th Open American** tournament on Monday 2 May 2011, with seven Stourbridge archers (Alyson Smith, Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Roger Hanson, Steve Lines and Tony Carter) battling against the elements and what at times were almost gale force winds!

The American round was quite slow going, as it took a considerable amount of time between ends retrieving the many arrows that had gone astray due to the gusty conditions. Scopes had to be tethered down to prevent them from blowing over and chairs generally spent most of the afternoon on their sides, unless someone was sitting on them. Usually when we say "just one more end!", we mean just one more go, but at Redhill, it was a case of "just one more end!" meaning "thank goodness, only one more end to go!!".

Despite the conditions, however, it turned out to be not such a bad afternoon for "Team Stourbridge", with Tony taking second and a nice piece of glassware in the Gents Compound (losing out to the winner, Chris Price, by just 4 points!); against a strong field, Michelle took second and a rather nice Goblet in the Ladies Compound and Alyson (in one of her first ventures into external competition with her longbow), took first place in the Ladies Longbow and again, was awarded a Glass Goblet. (We also won three bottles of wine in the raffle – one for each of our trophies!) Alyson scored 50 hits which bearing in mind the strong winds, was pretty good going with a longbow!

Birmingham University were well represented at Redhill and obviously spend too much time on the archery field, rather than studying, as they romped away with the team trophy! However, the Stourbridge team (Tony, Roger, Michelle and Steve Lines) came a very creditable third, missing out on second place to Redditch by only 16 points.

Roger also deserves a special mention, as he did extremely well in very difficult conditions to finish 11th in the Gents Recurve out of over 40 participants in this category.

Sunday 15 May 2011 saw four hardy Stourbridge souls (Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid and Steve Lines) make their way to Herefordshire for the **Bromyard 11th FITA 900**. Alyson was down to attend, but was unable to make it, as she had enjoyed herself a bit too much the night before (or was it that she knew something about the weather that we didn't)!

Weather conditions once again weren't good, with a combination of prolonged periods of rain and blustery winds and Stourbridge's prize haul was limited to a third place medal in the Ladies Compound (Michelle) and a bottle of wine in the raffle.

"Team Stourbridge" had a good turnout at the **Wyre Forest 25th Open Western** on Sunday 5 June 2011, with nine Stourbridge archers taking part (Alyson Smith, Arvon Hutchinson, Brian Webster, Colin Dewis, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Roger Hanson and Tony Carter). Yet again, the weather conditions left a lot to be desired with showers throughout the afternoon – some of our longbowers were particularly vociferous in their protests about the poor conditions, threatening on numerous occasions to throw in the towel and retire to the pub!

Nevertheless, it was a fairly successful day for Stourbridge archers, with Keith taking the Gents Longbow trophy; Michelle, the Ladies Compound trophy and Roger Hanson, a Classification Medal (First-Class) for Gents Recurve (only narrowly missing out on third place by 8 points).

Keith gets the horn!

Seven Stourbridge archers (Becky Simonds, Colin Dewis, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Mick Woodhall, Peter Langmaid and Tony Carter) attended the **Droitwich Summer Albion Tournament** on Sunday 26 June 2011, with Keith Raybould coming away with a superb trophy for first place in the Gents Longbow category – The St Hubert's Trophy donated by Patti & Dave Vukomanovic.



All in all, it was a pretty successful day for Stourbridge, with Tony fending off strong competition in the Gents Compound category to take the winner's trophy; Michelle took first place and the winner's trophy for Ladies Compound and congratulations to Colin Dewis who was awarded a Third Class Medal for Gents Recurve – his first of hopefully many! Our submitted team of Tony, Michelle, Peter and Colin also came third in the team competition.

It was nice to see Mick taking part (wearing his Droitwich hat) and also, Becky who made the trip to Droitwich to shoot the Windsor, despite this not being eligible for any of the awards. Becky had an enjoyable day's shoot and shot a personal best which just goes to show it's the taking part that counts! Our own Clive Freeman was also in attendance in his new role as a Candidate Judge.

The weather at Droitwich was fantastic, although there was a bit of a breeze which did pick up as the day progressed. Let's hope the weather is as good for our next outing to the **Malvern Open Nationals** on Sunday 24 July 2011. This competition also incorporates the **County of Worcestershire Archery Association Novices Championships** which are open to Worcestershire archers who started shooting after 1 January 2010 and as such, all of last year's beginners are eligible. If you fancy having a bash at this, let either Dave or Michelle know or if you can't make this one, why not come along to the **Redditch Open Windsor** on Sunday 31 July 2011. Again, Dave or Michelle can give you the details.

Michelle

County Squad

Three "Team Stourbridge" archers attended the **County of Worcestershire Archery Association Trials** at Evesham on Sunday 3 April 2011 (myself, Keith Raybould and Tony Carter).

Over 50 of the County's finest archers were assembled to shoot a Gents or Ladies FITA to decide who would be representing the County at forthcoming inter-county matches.

The weather forecast wasn't promising, but we managed to get through the morning without the threatened heavy downpours, although it was quite windy. Unfortunately, just before the end of the lunchbreak, our luck ran out and we had a good downpour.

At the beginning of the afternoon session, I thought my competition was over due to an equipment failure, as a result of which, I accidentally caught my release aid, shooting an arrow randomly across the field – not even in the direction of my own boss! (If only I could get out of having these random mishaps, I might be quite good!!).

I took some consolation from the fact that Evesham don't share their field with any other sports and so it wouldn't matter if I couldn't find the arrow (unlike at the Somers Club where I might face a civil suit from some claims conscious footballer if it were left in the grass - especially when it's a bit difficult to deny it's your arrow when it has your name on it!). Fortunately, one of the Evesham field party kindly went in search of it and managed to find it – thank goodness for bright pink fletchings!

After a mostly dry afternoon, we hurriedly shot our last arrows just as the heavens opened and we had a thunder storm. We were like drowned rats by the time we had packed up our stuff and retired to the bar to dry off and await the announcement of the teams for the first County match at Warrington.

Having not been looking at the leader board (as I was not expecting to be on it!), I was amazed to discover that I had taken second place in the Ladies Compound - outscoring the County's established No 2 Compound lady and scoring only 14 points less than the County No 1 – she was obviously not having a good day!

Tony had his work cut out with some stiff competition in the Gents Compound category, but he managed to hold his own, outscoring some pretty good opposition in the process.

Not sure whether Keith enjoyed the day's shooting, but he did seem to enjoy Evesham's liquid refreshment facilities, being on first name terms with the bar staff by the end of the afternoon – good job I was driving back!

Following the Trials, Tony and I were part of the Worcestershire squad that travelled to Warrington on Sunday 17 April 2011 for Worcestershire's first inter-county match of the season, a **three counties match between Cheshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire** (York / Hereford rounds).

This was my first time shooting for the County and I was extremely apprehensive. Not being used to shooting these long rounds (6 dozen at 80 yards; 4 dozen at 60 yards and 2 dozen at 50 yards) and being a comparative novice (having been shooting compound for less than 12 months), I just thought it would be a case of how far behind the other competitors I finished – hopefully, not so far behind as to be too embarrassing!! However, I actually had a really good day, acquitting myself well against the other Counties' lady compounds, all of whom were experienced archers with many years of compound experience. I finished in front of all three Cheshire lady compounds and was beaten only by Worcestershire's No 1, Sheila Harris and Jane Harper-Otner from Staffordshire.

I made the Worcestershire team and we finished with a comfortable lead over the other two Counties. (1st Worcestershire – 16,094 points; 2nd Cheshire – 15,541 points; 3rd Staffordshire – 14,517 points).

However, what made the day even more perfect for me was that I shot my third "Bowman" score which officially moved me up to this classification.

Our next County outing was to Wyre Forest on Sunday 29 May 2011 for a match between **Worcestershire and Gloucestershire**, where Tony and I were joined in the County squad by fellow Stourbridge archer, Luke Pennell. Again, this was a York / Hereford round.

Weather conditions weren't good, with strong blustery winds which changed direction frequently throughout the day. However, despite this, Luke's performance was outstanding, scoring 1,264 with a stunning 129 golds out of 144 arrows! Even more remarkable was that I was on the target next to him and can confirm that a lot of his golds would have been in the 10 ring, had we been 10 zone scoring!

Worcestershire came out eventual winners with a score of 16,305 against Gloucestershire's 15,320 – Worcestershire coming out on top in the Gents Recurve, Ladies Recurve, Ladies Compound and Junior Compound categories.

Michelle

Club Competitions

The **Hagley National**, the first of our annual Club competitions (open to Club members only) was held at the field on Sunday 22 May 2011. 23 Stourbridge archers shot a National round, with scores handicap adjusted to encourage newer members. Julian Lorimer took the Gents trophy, with Becky Simonds taking the Ladies trophy.

There were also two President's trophies for highest outright scores on the day. The cut glass bowl donated by former Club President, Sam Green, for the Highest Outright Compound Score was won by Luke Pennell and the cut glass decanter donated by former Club President, Trevor Gill, for the Highest Outright Recurve Score was awarded to Andy Pennell. There was also a new trophy this year, kindly donated by Jo Horner, for Highest Outright Longbow Score and this went to Keith Raybould.

Well done to the winners and everyone else who took part!

Our annual **Breakfast Shoot** took place on Sunday 19 June 2011, with 14 archers rising at the crack of dawn for the 5.30 am start! Peter Langmaid won the Gents Recurve trophy and Olwyn Wall, the Ladies Recurve. An enjoyable couple of hours shooting were followed by a hearty cooked breakfast kindly prepared by Janice Cross.

Our "**Club Champs**" competition was held on Sunday 3 July 2011 in ideal conditions – we basked in wonderful sunshine and balmy temperatures throughout the day. Thanks to Tony's encouragement, most participants shot the Hereford round (6 dozen at 80 yards; 4 dozen at 60 yards and 2 dozen at 50 yards), with those who didn't fancy shooting the full Hereford joining us at lunchtime for the afternoon session to shoot a National (4 dozen at 60 yards; 2 dozen at 50 yards).

An enjoyable day was had by all, with Tony Carter winning the Gents Compound trophy; Michelle Hall, the Ladies Compound; Keith Raybould, Gents Longbow and Colin Dewis collecting his first trophy for Gents Recurve. Congratulations Colin – a well-deserved win!

Michelle

New Records Officer

As some of you may have noticed, your score sheets are no longer being dealt with by Bob Graham. Due to other commitments, Bob has decided to stand down as Records Officer and Dave Johnson will be picking up the baton and taking on this post until the AGM, when all Committee posts will be up for re-election. No doubt you will bear with Dave whilst he gets up to speed in this new role.

I will be helping Dave out with Away Shoots until the AGM, just in case you wonder why I suddenly start badgering you to attend future competitions!

Michelle

Records Officer's Report / New Club Records

A number of Stourbridge archers have been busy breaking Club records since the last Newsletter:-

Gents Compound

FITA Gentlemen	-	Tony Carter	1296
Half FITA Gents	-	Tony Carter	624
Long Western	-	Tony Carter	828

Boys Compound Under 18

National	-	Luke Pennell	626
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Ladies Compound

Albion	-	Michelle Hall	822
FITA 70	-	Michelle Hall	617
FITA 900	-	Michelle Hall	750
Half FITA Ladies	-	Michelle Hall	593
Long Warwick	-	Michelle Hall	352

Gents Barebow

National	-	Andy Pennell	550*
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Gents Longbow

FITA 900	-	Keith Raybould	424
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Ladies Barebow

FITA 70	-	Sharon Pennell	385
Western	-	Lisa Falaschi	372

Ladies Longbow

FITA 900	-	Alyson Smith	173
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*Andy's score of 550 for Gents Barebow National is also a County record.

Please note that members should not update the Records boards in the Clubhouse. This should only be done by the Records Officer for consistency and to avoid confusion. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

Dave

Dates for your Diary!

Just a reminder of upcoming SCOA events:-

- 10 July 2011 - Rat's Ashes (American) (Open to all)
- 17 July 2011 - Long Metrics (Postal) (Club Members only)
- 14 Aug 2011 - Stourbridge Albion (Open to all)
- 21 Aug 2011 - Nationals (Postal) (Club Members only)
- 4 Sept 2011 - Sherriff's Western (Open to all)
- 11 Sept 2011 - All-Comers Warwick (Club Members only; handicap adjusted)
- 18 Sept 2011 - Derek Peacock Memorial Longbow Shoot (Club members only)
- Oct 2011 - AGM *
- 6 Nov 2011 - Annual Worcester (Indoor) (Open to all)
- 8 Jan 2012 - Annual FITA 25m (Indoor) (Open to all)

* Date to be advised

Don't forget, our next Open Tournament is the Rat's Ashes this Sunday 10 July 2011. Hopefully, we will have a good turnout from "Team Stourbridge". We will also need volunteers for the field party to help set up the field, sell raffle tickets, run the leader board and find arrows and someone to man the refreshments counter (Bruce). If you are a dab hand in the Kitchen, we would also appreciate cakes, biscuits etc. for the refreshment counter (shop bought items also welcome – we're not proud!). If you wish to participate or are able to help out on the day, please let Tournament Organiser, Peter Langmaid, know as soon as possible. (Don't forget, you are still required to help set up the field, even if you are shooting. Please be at the field by 11.30 am).

Etiquette

Can you please remember that there is certain etiquette involved on the shooting field. Please ask before joining a target (it is highly unlikely anyone will say no, but it is nice to be asked!). Also, please put your targets away when you have finished with them – don't assume that someone else will use them, unless there is a prior agreement. Finally, make sure you pick up all wooden splinters from the field.

Posh Night Out!



Recognise any of these faces? Bob & Margaret Hanson kindly organised an evening out at The Chateau Impney on Saturday 25 June 2011 for Club members and their other halves. It was an enjoyable evening and if there is sufficient interest, we may try and organise something similar or even resurrect our annual President's Dinner. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

Have a Go!

SCOA once again manned a "have a go" stand at Avoncroft over the Easter weekend which raised over £200 for Club funds. Thanks to all those who helped out over the two days or helped in moving bosses, equipment etc.

We have also manned "have a go" stands for a couple of worthy causes of late – Maidensbridge Primary School's Annual Fayre and Stourbridge & Halesowen Age Concern's Gala Day at Mary Stevens Day Centre in Oldswinford. Thanks also to those who kindly helped out with these.

Clubhouse Spring Clean / Housekeeping

Thanks to those members who kindly gave up their time to tidy up the Clubhouse on Saturday 30 April 2011 and a special thank you to Conrad for repainting the outside of the pavilion.

Subscriptions

You should have received a letter from Steve Knight regarding your annual subscriptions. Please note these are due before 1 August 2011.

Raffle Prizes

Just a reminder that Clive is still looking for raffle prizes for our forthcoming summer tournaments. If you have any unwanted gifts or would just like to donate a prize, please let Clive know. Contributions before our summer open tournaments would be particularly welcome, although obviously, Clive will be happy to receive items for the raffle at any time during the year.

Air Ambulance

Similarly, as mentioned in our previous Newsletter, Jo Horner is looking for books in good condition to raise funds for the Air Ambulance. If you have anything suitable, please let Jo know and she can arrange to collect from the Clubhouse. This is a very worthy cause, so please help if you can. Jo's efforts have raised £575 since January 2011.

Joe Public!

We have experienced a number of instances of late of members of the public using the field as a right of way whilst SCOA members have been shooting. Hopefully, this has been largely eradicated now that the gate at the other end of the field has been fixed, although there was a problem the other night with some lads kicking a football around close to the beginners course. If you do experience any such problems, please keep Bob informed or mention it to Ian or Jo at the Somers Club, so that we can monitor the situation.

Future Newsletters

Our aim going forward is to bring out a Club Newsletter on a more regular basis. Therefore, if you have any contributions that you would like to put forward for inclusion in forthcoming issues, please e-mail them to michelle.hall@fsmail.net or leave them at the Clubhouse for me. Remember, this is your Newsletter, so if there is anything you would like to see included, please let us know. I am particularly conscious that whilst I am pretty aware of what is going on as regards Stourbridge participation in target competitions, I don't know much about what the longbowers are up to (do I really want to, I hear you ask!!) or the field shoots that Dave Johnson and others take part in. Also, if you would like to see a section for items you wish to sell (archery related only, please), let us have details and we will include them in the next issue.

Michelle

Thoughts from the Shooting Line *It's never too late to be the archer you think you could have been!*