

Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter August 2011



Following this year's beginners' courses, we have had a really good influx of new members and it's nice to see a number of them shooting regularly at the Club and even nicer to see how well they are doing!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members. We wish you all a long and happy association with the Club and we look forward to seeing more of you on the shooting line.

Hopefully, all members, new and old, will enjoy this latest newsletter which focuses on recent activity and some important upcoming events.

AGM - Your Club needs you!!!



This year's **SCOA AGM** is to be held on **Monday 3 October 2011 at 7.30 pm** in the upstairs function room at the Somers Sports & Social Club. This is your opportunity to have a say in the way in which the Club is run. All senior members are entitled to vote on the election of the Committee for the coming twelve months, as well as any other motions proposed.

Jo Horner has already circulated details of Committee posts, together with an invitation for members to put forward any proposals or amendments for inclusion on the AGM Agenda.

Anyone wishing to stand for a Committee post (including existing Committee members) must advise Jo Horner in writing before 2 September 2011. Similarly, if you wish to put forward a proposal for discussion at the AGM, this must also be submitted in writing to Jo Horner by 2 September 2011, together with the name of the proposer and seconder. Please note that if you make a proposal, you must be prepared to stand up and support it at the AGM.

Please make a note of the date in your diary and if you want your views to be taken into account, **please make every effort to attend on 3 October 2011.**

Drowned Rats!

On Sunday 10 July 2011, we held our **annual Rat's Ashes tournament**, so called because some time ago in the dim and distant past, a rat got into the store hut and ate right through the centre of most of the Club's bosses. Legend has it that the offending rodent was found, beaten about the head with a shovel (obviously no animal rights activists in those days!) and ceremoniously chucked onto the fire. Some bright spark suggested holding a shoot to try and raise money to buy new bosses and hence, the Rat's Ashes shoot was born.

Numbers this year were slightly down on last year, possibly due to the far from perfect weather forecast, but nevertheless, we still had a good turnout, with 68 adult competitors and 9 juniors. As well as a good turnout from Worcestershire Clubs, Warwickshire and Staffordshire Clubs were also well represented and there were also a number of archers from Birmingham University, as well as one or two archers from further afield.

The day started promisingly enough, with sunny intervals during the morning set-up. The 60 yard session was shot amidst a mixture of sunshine and cloud; we had a few outbreaks of rain during the 50 yard ends and then all appeared well again at the start of the final 40 yard session. Little did we know what was to follow – on the last but one end, it started raining fairly heavily and by the time we went to collect our last half dozen arrows, it was torrential!

Keith had obviously come prepared, as he was spotted in the Clubhouse hastily changing into a spare set of clothes!

It's normal practice to announce the winners of the awards outside the Clubhouse, but due to the adverse conditions, we were forced to decant to the function room at the Somers Club – no bad thing for some, as this meant a well-earned trip to the bar!

We had a good turnout of Stourbridge archers taking part with 12 members shooting the American round (Alyson Smith, Brian Webster, Colin Dewis, Arvon Hutchinson, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Olwyn Wall, Phil Carter, Phil Wall, Roger Hanson, Steve Lines and Tony Carter).



A good turnout at the Rat's Ashes!

Stourbridge took the honours in the Ladies Compound, with Michelle retaining the Ladies Compound trophy she won last year. *(This was quite special for me, as the Rat's Ashes trophy was the first trophy I won with my compound and I really didn't want to give it back!! It was also nice to have a bit more competition this year with a healthy contingent of compound ladies shooting – unlike last year, when there were only two of us!).*

We also had a good turnout in the Gents Compound which was a hard fought contest with the top three of Dave Martel (Malvern), Chris Price (Droitwich) and our own Tony Carter slogging it out for the honours. Dave Martel eventually took first place and the winner's trophy with a near perfect score of 806 out of a maximum of 810, with Chris Price taking the second place medal with 804 and Tony, third place medal with 802. The pressure when shooting at this level must be immense - one slip out of the 9's and it's all over!

In the Gents Longbow, Keith finished second against some stiff opposition and Phil Carter was awarded a 3rd class medal in the Gents Recurve.

Thanks to everyone who participated and all of those who helped out on the day, particularly those who turned up early to set out the field and those who put all the gear away in the pouring rain. Bruce once again did a sterling job manning the refreshments counter, as did a number of other Stourbridge members who made invaluable contributions on the day. It was also nice to see a few of our newer members coming along to see how these things work – future recruits for "Team Stourbridge" we hope!

Stourbridge Albion – Sunday 14 August 2011

Our annual Albion was held on Sunday 14 August 2011 with seven Stourbridge archers taking part (Colin Dewis, Dave Johnson, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Phil Carter, Simon Lisseter and Tony Carter).

We had an enjoyable afternoon, despite numbers being a little down due to a clash with the British Target Championships at Lilleshall.

Stourbridge archers had a reasonably successful day - Keith won the Gents Longbow trophy, with Simon coming second in only his second open competition; Michelle was awarded the Ladies Compound trophy and Tony was awarded a second place medal in the Gents Compound.



Lady Paramount, Kay Jeffs, presenting Keith with the Gents Longbow trophy

Thanks to all those who helped out on the day – without your assistance, we would not be able to hold these competitions.

Our next Open shoot is the Sheriff's Western on Sunday 4 September 2011. Why not come along and take part in what will be our last outdoor open tournament this year. Sighters at 2.00 pm. If you don't fancy taking part in the tournament itself, we also need volunteers to help out on the day – to help set up the field, sell raffle tickets, run the leader board, find arrows, help out with refreshments etc. We would also appreciate cakes, biscuits etc. for the refreshment counter.

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 1.00 pm at the latest).



Archers on the line at the Stourbridge Albion

Kay Jeffs did an excellent job as lady paramount (and official photographer!) and our own Clive Freeman was on hand to keep everyone in line wearing his Judge's hat (or by the looks of the picture below, it looks like Keith was trying to give Clive a few pointers!).



Keith giving Clive a few pointers!

Michelle

“Team Stourbridge”

As well as taking part in our own open tournaments, Stourbridge archers have also been in action at a number of other open competitions during the last few weeks.

Malvern Nationals – Sunday 24 July 2011

On Sunday 24 July 2011, six Stourbridge archers (Alyson Smith, Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Roger Hanson, Steve Lines and Tony Carter) headed to Malvern for their annual Nationals tournament.



Tony collecting the Malvern Gents Compound Trophy

Tony was once again up against one of his main rivals, Dave Martel of Malvern, in the Gents Compound, together with a number of other strong compound contenders. However, this time, it was Tony's turn to take the silverware, with a convincing win.

Colin Dewis also had a really good day. Colin shot the National round (rather than the Long National), so that he was eligible for the CWAA Novice Awards

Not only did he win the CWAA Novices Championship Gents Recurve trophy, but he also took first place in the Malvern Gents Recurve competition for gentlemen archers shooting the National round, as well as being awarded a medal for joint first in the Malvern handicap adjusted competition.



Colin with the CWAA Novice Trophy

Some of us didn't fare so well, but at least there was the consolation of a nice sunny afternoon and some enjoyable company!

Redditch Windsor – Sunday 31 July 2011

We had an excellent turnout of Stourbridge archers for Redditch's Windsor on Sunday 31 July 2011 with nine Stourbridge archers (Alyson Smith, Brian Webster, Colin Dewis, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Phil Carter, Steve Lines and Tony Carter) taking part.

Unfortunately, it was a day of mixed fortunes for "Team Stourbridge", as despite doing a fantastic job in the Gents Compound, Tony's day was brought to an abrupt end when his arrow rest failed with just two ends to go whilst he was vying for the lead with Droitwich's Chris Price. Had he been able to finish, Tony would almost certainly have taken second place and may well have taken the win! Still he didn't seem too disappointed – had it been anyone else, they would have been gutted! A small consolation was that Michelle was awarded the third place medal in the Ladies Compound.



Keith posing for the camera with the Redditch Gents Longbow trophy!

Fortunately, our longbowers had a far better day with Keith and Brian having a close fought competition in the Gents Longbow category. At one stage, it looked like Brian was on for a convincing win, but Keith crept up on the inside and pipped Brian at the post to take the winner's trophy; Brian taking the second place medal.

Alyson took the Ladies Longbow trophy and Colin was awarded a class medal in the Gents Recurve, shooting well above his handicap!

CWAA Outdoor Championships – Sunday 7 August 2011

"Team Stourbridge" numbers were somewhat depleted for this one due to a combination of holidays and other commitments, but Colin Dewis and Keith Raybould carried the flag, both shooting the York round (6 dozen at 100 yards; 4 dozen at 80 yards; 2 dozen at 60 yards). Despite his protestations to the contrary, Colin actually shot well, once again shooting above his handicap, despite only shooting 100 yards for the first time the week before and having had a long drive back from Hampshire on the day to arrive just 20 minutes before the 10.00 am start! Keith took second place in the Gents Longbow.

Becky Simonds joined Colin and Keith for the afternoon session, shooting a National round.

Michelle

Worcester Summer Cup

The Worcester Cup that runs through the summer is based on 7 shoots run throughout the County, of which 6 can be chosen to be shot. Of course, if less than the 6 are shot, it lowers the Club's ability to figure, but still we are seen around the County shooting and this encourages other Clubs to attend our shoots.

Clive Freeman

Forthcoming Away Shoots

Our next two Away Shoots are the **Trent Valley Westerns on Sunday 28 August 2011** and **Quantum Archers' Open Competition on Monday 29 August 2011**. Full details can be found on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse. Unfortunately, both of these fall over the August Bank Holiday period, so once again, we are down on numbers.

Michelle

"Team Pennell"

Congratulations to Luke Pennell who has been busy representing Great Britain in the GB Junior Squad. Luke has recently returned from the European Junior Cup, 2nd Leg in Cyprus and is currently in Poland for the Junior World Target Championships. Luke, along with Mum Sharon, has also been selected to represent Great Britain in the GB Field Archery squad. We wish both Luke and Sharon the best of luck in their forthcoming endeavours and no doubt they will update us on their activities in future newsletters.

Arley Roving Mark (by Kay & Bernie Jeffs)

It was with trepidation we set off for Arley Arboretum on the morning of Sunday August 7th. We had been invited to our first roving mark and we were rather apprehensive to say the least.

By the time we arrived most people were there with their bows ready.

We were all brought together to the sound of what can only be described as a cow in pain. It was John, the organiser, with his horn, and it wouldn't be the last time we heard it during the day!

He proceeded to tell us some tales (tall or otherwise) about the use of the longbow during the French wars.

Our first mark was to shoot over the dried up moat. Could we make the distance? But with some encouragement from other experienced participants around us, we managed to shoot further than we needed to. Now the search was on to retrieve those arrows!

We had to overcome many obstacles on our way round the course. Attempting to, and sometimes succeeding in, shooting over, through and even around trees to get close to seen and more often unseen targets. It was great fun!

Other entertainment was provided by John shooting away disgruntled sheep (much to the disgust of those owning transport large enough to accommodate something for the freezer!).

We were told that we would enjoy the day. We certainly did. And the company was excellent.

For those longbowers who are stressing about their scores, join the next roving mark and those handicap points will just fade away.

Kay & Bernie Jeffs

Records Officer's Report / New Club Records

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

Gents Compound

Long National - Tony Carter 618

Ladies Compound

Albion - Michelle Hall 824
Windsor - Michelle Hall 918

Boys Recurve Under 16

Half Metric III - Luke Cutler 82

Gents Longbow

Long Metric
Gents - Dave Johnson 262

Ladies Longbow

Windsor - Alyson Smith 336

Dave Johnson

BA Postal League

Results and Awards:-

League Medallion 2010/2011 – Won by Luke Pennell for Boy Compound Frostbite, the highest boy's score for the whole of the season.

SCOA Division Positions:-

In the Compound Frostbite League Division No 5, SCOA was 3rd. Outstanding scores: Tony Carter (348 and 349).

In the Compound Portsmouth, we were 2nd in Division 18.

In the Frostbite, we were 2nd in Division 16.



In the Portsmouth, SCOA was first in Division 39 and got division medals. Outstanding scores: Colin Stratton (553) and Steve Lines (545).

All in all not too bad.

With the Summer Postal League, we have struggled to get people to attend and shoot.

Why is this when we have a good number in the Club? Half of the scores are handicapped.

If we only have a small number attending, the choice of scores is limited, so the company does not do very well - so what's the trouble, it's only 4 rounds over 4 months, so not a lot to do.

So next Summer, let's see you on the line – it's your Club, so why not come out in the sun for an hour - fresh air and exercise at no extra cost! **Put SCOA on the map!**

Dave Johnson

Dates for your Diary!

Just a reminder of upcoming SCOA events:-

- 4 Sept 2011 - Sheriff's Western (Open to all)
- 11 Sept 2011 - All-Comers Warwick (Club Members only; handicap adjusted)
- 18 Sept 2011 - Derek Peacock Memorial Shoot (Club members only)
- 3 Oct 2011 - AGM
- 6 Nov 2011 - Annual Worcester (Indoor) (Open to all)
- 8 Jan 2012 - Annual FITA 25m (Indoor) (Open to all)

The All-Comers Warwick on 11 September 2011 is an ideal opportunity for our newer members to dip their toe into the water of competition. Not only is this competition handicap adjusted, but the normal Warwick round (2 dozen at 60 yards and 2 dozen at 50 yards) is adjusted depending on ability, with shorter distances being shot by those with higher handicaps and more experienced archers shooting longer distances.

Also, please note that the Derek Peacock Memorial Shoot on 18 September 2011 is not a longbow shoot (as stated in the last Newsletter), but a two way primitive bow shoot. The round will be a two way Western. Please note that no other shooting will be possible on this date, as the entire field will be used for this shoot.

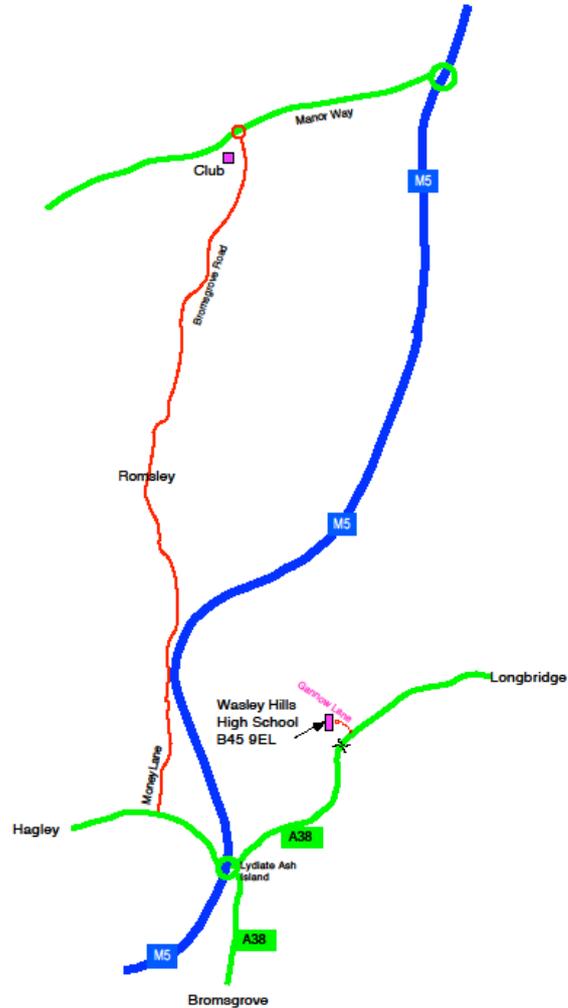
Indoor Season

Without wishing to be too pessimistic as we don't seem to have had much in the way of a summer as yet, the indoor season will be upon us before we know it and this year, we have a new venue for our indoor practice sessions, **Waseley Hills High School & Sixth Form Centre, School Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9EL.**

Unlike our previous indoor venue, Waseley has good lighting, heating and toilet facilities. However, there does seem to be a perception amongst some members that it is further away than it actually is.

A location map and brief directions are shown here and in terms of travelling time from our outdoor venue at the Somers Club, there is probably little difference between this and our previous indoor venue, Perryfields.

The first session will be on Friday 7 October 2011, commencing at 8.00 pm – why not come along and try it – hopefully, you will be pleasantly surprised!



Housekeeping

Can members please note that permission should be sought from the Committee before storing large items in the Clubhouse, as we only have a limited amount of space available. Your co-operation would be appreciated. Thank you.

Also, just a reminder that when setting out the field, please ensure that the first target is not too close to the Clubhouse. We think that the red and white marker post in the hedge is too near the corner of the field, so the first target needs to be at least five yards further into the field, away from the Clubhouse.

SCOA Committee

Future Newsletter Contributions

If you have anything that you would like to see included in future Newsletters, please let me know either by e-mailing me on michelle@eitmail.co.uk or have a word with me when I am down at the Club.

Michelle

Thoughts from the Shooting Line

My bow can shoot itself – I just go along to stop it winning competitions!!