

Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter November 2011



It's been a little while since the last Newsletter, hence we have a bit of a bumper issue! Thanks to those who have contributed to this edition and remember, if you have anything that you would like to put forward for inclusion in future newsletters, please let me know. Happy reading!!

Michelle

Good News – Club Shooting Times extended!

Up until now, the Club has been permitted to use the facilities at Somers for outdoor shooting on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sunday afternoons. However, following discussions at this year's AGM, Paul Hill, the Chairman of The Somers Sports & Social Club, has been contacted, as a result of which, we now have permission to use the field on a Saturday when it is not being used by AFC Somers, the football team who play their home matches there on a Saturday. This effectively means that we will be able to use the field for shooting when they have away games during the winter, but providing there are no problems and we can demonstrate that this arrangement works, we should be able to use the field every Saturday, once the football season has finished.

Fixtures are planned on a monthly basis and Michelle will liaise with AFC Somers on a regular basis and advise members in advance of the Saturdays when the field will be available for shooting during the winter months. She will also advise when this season's football fixtures are due to finish, following which, the field can hopefully be used every Saturday during the close season.

Please don't abuse this concession by shooting on Saturdays other than those advised. It has been decided that it is not practical for us to use the field on the days when the footballers have home matches, both from a health and safety point of view and also, due to the danger that their kick-offs could be delayed due to the field not being cleared promptly or problems with lost arrows. Also, their cup matches have earlier kick-offs which would limit shooting time in any event.

In practice, there are probably not that many members who will want to use the Saturday facility during the winter months and it would be a shame if we were to lose the opportunity to have the use of the field all day every Saturday during the summer due to some foolish actions alienating the footballers, resulting in the withdrawal of Saturdays for archery use.

Of course, the normal rules of shooting will apply on Saturdays including at least two people being present whilst any shooting is taking place. It is also essential that the field is properly set up (no matter how few people are shooting) including the erection of the safety rope and warning signs.

Saturday shooting can commence as soon as Michelle is advised of the dates of AFC Somers' away games for December - available dates will be circulated shortly.

Stop Press: The field will be available for shooting on Saturday 10 December, Saturday 24 December, Saturday 31 December 2011 and Saturday 7 January 2012. Archery can take place at any time throughout the day on these dates. Available dates for the rest of January 2012 will be circulated nearer the time.

AGM – Monday 3 October 2011

As you will be aware, our AGM was held on Monday 3 October 2011 and it was nice to see a reasonable turnout of members.

Sadly, the AGM also marked Jo Horner's retirement after many years as SCOA's Club Secretary. Jo had decided to step down due to personal commitments that prevented her from getting down to the Club as much as she would like. SCOA owes her an enormous debt for all of her hard work over the last 20 years – she will be a hard act to follow. Thank you, Jo.

For those of you that didn't manage to get along to the AGM, the main points were:-

- **Two new Officers of the Club were elected - Michelle Hall** is the Club's new **Secretary** and **Tony Carter** has taken over from Michelle as **Away Shoots Officer**.
- The office of "**Additional Member**" currently held by Jeremy Wakefield has been **redesignated "Child Protection, Safety and Welfare Officer"** and will encompass various duties in relation to these areas which are becoming more and more prevalent in today's ever more bureaucratic Society.
- **Two further amendments to the Club's Constitution were agreed;** the first relating to GNAS qualified coaches being automatically co-opted onto the SCOA Executive Committee to comply with insurance requirements (coaches being represented thereon by the elected Coaching Officer) and the second regarding advance notification of any proposed change in subscriptions, giving members an opportunity to consider any change and draw up any relevant questions to be answered by the Treasurer at the AGM. (An amended copy of the Constitution will be circulated to all SCOA members shortly).
- It was agreed that there would be **no increase in Club subscriptions this year**.
- Bearing in mind the healthy state of Club funds, **it was agreed that we would have a designated indoor evening at Waseley which would be free to all Club members wishing to attend** (normal cost is £3.00 per session for those who have not managed to get along as yet) – ***more on this later in the Newsletter!***
- **It was agreed that additional shooting time on a Saturday would be pursued** and as can be seen from the previous item, **this has been actioned with a positive result**.
- It was agreed that a series of shoots to select a **Victor Ludorum** archer **would be organised by Clive Freeman and Dave Johnson**. This would consist of 3 or 4 nominated shoots over a 12 month period. The shoots would be varied and would probably consist of a field shoot, indoor and outdoor target shoots and a clout. **The first of these shoots has subsequently been organised for Sunday 4 December 2011. Unfortunately, the original venue of March Hare is no longer able to accommodate us due to problems with the owners of the land, but Frankley Bowmen have stepped in and the shoot will now be held there. Please speak to Clive or Dave, if you need more information.**
- The various discussions and reports presented at the AGM demonstrated that the Club is in good shape, both financially and in terms of numbers (membership had increased by 9% on the previous year). It was noted that we had a number of archers representing the Club reasonably successfully in competition and our open shoots were continuing to attract a good number of archers from other Clubs. All in all, a good year for the Club.

Indoor shooting at Waseley Hills High School

Our indoor practice sessions on Friday evenings at Waseley Hills High School are being well attended by Club members and even one or two visitors! For those of you that haven't yet tried it, the venue is warm, light and has ample parking and toilet facilities.



Shooting takes place on Friday evenings from 8.00 pm 'till 10.00 pm, but please note that as previously advised, due to the School's exam timetable and Christmas closure, the venue will not be available on the following dates:-

- Friday 9 December 2011
- Friday 16 December 2011
- Friday 23 December 2011
- Friday 30 December 2011

It was agreed at the AGM that we would have a designated indoor session where the normal fee of £3.00 would be waived for any SCOA member wishing to attend. It was originally the intention that this would take the form of a "Christmas fun shoot". However, since the venue will not be available in the run up to Christmas, it has been agreed that **Friday 2 December 2011 will be the designated "free" session and there will be no charge for any SCOA member shooting at Waseley on that evening.** You will be able to shoot whatever indoor round you wish or just ping a few arrows for practice. If you haven't sampled the facilities yet – why not come along and give it a try - **shooting starts at 8.00 pm.**

Our next open tournament will be our FITA 25m which will be held at Waseley on Sunday 8 January 2012. Club members will have the rare opportunity of being able to practice at 25m at the indoor session immediately prior to this on Friday 6 January 2012, when the shooting line will be moved back to accommodate the 25m distance. Of course, those who wish to shoot 18m on that evening will still be able to do so by bringing their targets closer to the shooting line.

Christmas "Frostbite"

Thanks to all those who put in scores for the November "Frostbite". **The date for the December "Frostbite" is Sunday 18 December 2011.**

It has been decided to make this a Christmas themed "Frostbite" and although we will be shooting the usual three dozen arrows at 30 metres for the postal, we will treat it as a "fun shoot", with prizes awarded on the basis of the best backwards scores, e.g. 299 would become 992. As we have done in the past at our Christmas indoor "fun shoots", we would ask all those taking part to bring along a wrapped present (approximately £3.00 in value) and those with the best backwards scores will then get first pick of these as their prize, with the worst backwards score ending up with the last present on the table! Club members are also asked to bring along some food and Margaret will post a list on the board in the Clubhouse, so that members can put their name against what they intend to bring, so that we get a selection of food, rather than nothing but mince pies!!

Garrington Cup

The Garrington Cup is an inter-club indoor competition for Worcestershire Clubs that takes place over the winter season. Over the winter months, there are six nominated open tournaments and after each one, points are allocated depending on each Worcestershire Club's overall team score (maximum of three compound archers per team including one lady or junior and four recurve archers per team including one lady or junior). Last season, our compound team won the Compound Garrington Cup and our recurve team was third in the Recurve Garrington Cup. It would be nice if we could repeat this success in the coming season, so please make a note of the dates in your diary and if you would like to take part in any of the rounds (dates below), please let our Away Shoots Officer, Tony Carter, know – either when you see him or by e-mailing him on tony@eitmail.co.uk.

- **Sunday 13 November 2011** - **Evesham FITA 18m**
- **Sunday 27 November 2011** - **Redditch Stafford**
- **Sunday 11 December 2011** - **Droitwich Double Worcester**
- **Sunday 8 January 2012** - **Stourbridge FITA 25m**
- **Sunday 12 February 2012** - **Wyre Forest Portsmouth**
- **Sunday 4 March 2012** - **WMAS & CWAA Indoor Archery Championships**

A summer with the GB team *(by Andrew Pennell)*

Sharon, Luke and myself would like to thank all of the archers at Stourbridge for their support of Luke both financially and through the encouragement that was given.

Luke's first tournament of the summer was the Europa Cup second leg which was to be shot as a warm-up to the World Championships in Poland. Warm was the best way of putting it with the team being greeted by 40 degrees (105 degrees in old money), so the advantage went to the teams from the warm countries. Luke was one of a three man cadet team (u17) who did well, as it was the first international outing with GNAS for two of them, Luke and Jordan. The ranking round was a 50m round and for much of the round Luke was in the top four until a twitch of the elbow and a missed arrow dropped him down 20 odd places, but still above the cut. The first round was against the person one place above and led to an easy win. Unfortunately, the position in the ranking round meant the next round was against the number one seed. Due to live scoring, myself and Sharon were watching the Internet early doors and thinking it was the last head to head for Luke. You ought to have heard the shout when the results showed that Luke had won and was through to the next round. Luke was drawn against a fellow GB team member. Luke bowed out gracefully, having cleared the way for his team mate to go for the medals.

Next stop was Legnica Poland for the Youth World Championships. Myself and Sharon went over to support the GB team and have a holiday. Poland is worth a visit, a real contrast of the old and the new, with dilapidated buildings rubbing shoulders with new shopping centres. Poland was unusually warm for the time of year and Luke did not get properly into gear in the ranking rounds, but the team was always the real chance for the cadets. The team beat Russia and the Ukraine to get to the medal matches and a head to head with the USA. They missed out with the USA going on to win Gold and came up against Denmark for the Bronze medal. GB shot well, but lost to an on form Danish team, but their fourth was the highest place of any of the GB teams at the competition.

Next stop Italy for the FITA European Field Championships, where Sharon joined Luke as a member of the GB team. Luke, the seasoned campaigner, was one of two juniors to make all three internationals this year. Both Sharon and Luke made the 16th cut with Luke setting a new GB record for the marked round on what was an extremely hot and difficult course. In the next round, Sharon hit some problems and could not seem to maintain form and distance. From an initially brilliant start, the scores dropped and the cut was missed. On our return and a review with a helpful friend, it was pointed out that the wood core limbs Sharon was shooting with were not the best for the 40 degree heat of Italy, so it's new limbs for next season. Luke went into the next round and shot some of his best shots of the season, coming through the round in fifth place and ahead of his fellow team mate - good for a cadet shooting in an under 21 competition. Medals were out of reach, but as a first field outing with the GB team, lots of friends were made by both Sharon and Luke - now it's time to work on qualifying for the World Championships in France 2012.

Andrew Pennell

Sheriff's Western – Sunday 4 September 2011

Our annual Sheriff's Western (so called because one of our former Presidents, Trevor Gill, was part of the local Sheriff's Office) was held on Sunday 4 September 2011, with over 40 archers taking part, 16 of them from Stourbridge!

The weather was reasonably kind, albeit a bit breezy.

Stourbridge archers had a fairly successful afternoon – in the Gents Recurve, Roger Hanson gained a very creditable third place and Martin Woodhouse, a 3rd class medal; Tony Carter took the first place trophy in the Gents Compound and Michelle Hall took second place in the Ladies Compound; Keith Raybould was second in the Gents Longbow.



Unfortunately, our Ladies Compound trophy went south to Hampshire, as did the silver medal in the Gents Recurve, as we had a couple of very experienced archers who, being up here on holiday, had decided to take part in a local competition!

We had three juniors taking part, Tom Woodhouse, Jake Jancso and Luke Cutler and it was pleasing to see that all three of them were from Stourbridge – a good sign for the future! All three did extremely well, with it being both Jake and Luke's first experience of competition, both of them being novices from our summer beginners' courses. On the day, Tom being the more experienced of the three, took the honours, although Jake was a very close second, with Luke being awarded a third place medal.

Conrad Lowe, another Stourbridge novice, also deserves a special mention – as it was also his first competition. He won the Stourbridge Novice trophy jointly with Jake Jancso, very generously foregoing his claim to the trophy in favour of the youngster.

Barbara Hall was our lady paramount for the day.

All-comers' Warwick – Sunday 11 September 2011

This year's All-comers' Warwick was held on Sunday 11 September 2011. Unfortunately, we were in the throes of the tail of Hurricane Katia and so it was a blustery day to say the least!

Despite the conditions, we had a good turn out with 21 Stourbridge archers taking part. Being both handicap and distance adjusted, our less experienced archers had a good opportunity to win some silverware.

Lisa Falaschi shooting barebow won the Ladies trophy, with Becky Simonds shooting recurve being awarded the silver medal and Kay Jeffs, longbow, the third place medal.

The Gents trophy was won by Steve Lines who had decided to give his compound another go (good news, as we were a man short for our Garrington Cup team for the indoor season!); Tony Carter shooting longbow was awarded the silver medal (is there nothing he can't shoot well!) and Mick Southall, recurve, the third place medal.

In the juniors, our three junior musketeers (Tom Woodhouse, Jake Jancso and Luke Cutler) were vying for the honours, with Luke coming out on top this time to take the trophy, followed by Jake in second place and Tom, third – Tom's experience not paying off on this occasion due to the handicap adjustment.

Derek Peacock Memorial Shoot – Sunday 18 September 2011

The Derek Peacock Memorial Shoot was held on Sunday 18 September 2011. This shoot for traditional bows now seems to have an established place on the Club calendar and is held in memory of our former Records Officer, Derek Peacock who sadly passed away unexpectedly at the end of 2009.

A 2 way Western round was shot under BLBS rules which meant that hits, rather than overall score, decided the placings.

All of the 22 archers who took part entered into the spirit of the competition by shooting longbows and a special thanks goes to "Hutch" who very kindly procured a number of spare bows for those that didn't have their own.

It was an enjoyable afternoon (although somewhat frustrating if you're used to shooting compound!) and the two-way Western round was followed by a fun shoot where we all got to have a go at a knight – French, of course! It was a great sight seeing a whole line of archers taking aim as they would have done in olden times. Once again, special thanks go to "Hutch" for organising this.

“Team Stourbridge”

Meriden Open Windsors – Sunday 2 October 2011

The tail end of the season saw “Team Stourbridge” take part in their final outdoor shoot, the **Meriden Open Windsors**, held on Sunday 2 October 2011. Eight Stourbridge archers (Alyson Smith, Becky Simonds, Colin Dewis, Keith Raybould, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Steve Lines and Tony Carter) enjoyed a good day’s shooting in scorching temperatures, as we made the most of the last of the Indian summer we had been experiencing.

There was a strong field of competitors, no doubt all making the most of the fine weather and one of the last opportunities to shoot outdoors competitively this year, so our trophy haul was somewhat limited. However, Alyson did come away with a Ladies Longbow trophy, Keith was awarded a silver medal in the Gents Longbow and Steve Lines shot well and was awarded an Unclassified Medal in the Gents Compound. All in all, a good day was had by all, rounded off by a few beers outside at the Somers Club on what was quite a balmy evening!

Evesham Stafford – Sunday 16 October 2011

Colin Dewis was our lone representative at Evesham’s Stafford Round on Sunday 16 October 2011. However, despite thinking he was turning up for their 18m FITA, Colin acquitted himself well and apparently, earned himself a reputation as Stourbridge’s pulling machine!

SCOA Annual Worcester – Sunday 6 November 2011

We held our first open indoor shoot of the season at Waseley on Sunday 6 November 2011 and had what must be a record attendance for recent years with nearly 60 archers taking part.

The highlight of the day must surely have been Luke Pennell scoring a perfect 300 in the Junior Gents Compound – well done, Luke! Luke took the Junior trophy, but had he been shooting as an adult, he would have won the Gents trophy, outscoring all of the adult competitors!

Brian Webster, Keith Raybould and Steve Knight were first, second and third respectively in the Gents Longbow; Sharon Pennell was first in the Ladies Barebow; Michelle Hall was third in the Ladies Compound and Jake Jancso was third in the Junior Recurve.

Evesham FITA 18m World Record Status Tournament – Sunday 13 November 2011

Six Stourbridge archers (Colin Dewis, Michelle Hall, Peter Langmaid, Philip Carter, Steve Lines and Tony Carter) took part in the World Record Status FITA 18 competition at Evesham on Sunday 13 November 2011. Unfortunately, with some of the top archers in the country taking part, we didn’t manage to bring back any trophies, but our compound team of Tony Carter, Michelle Hall and new member, Steve Lines, made a good start to our defence of the Garrington Cup.

County

Two Stourbridge archers, Michelle Hall (Compound) and Keith Raybould (Longbow) were part of the County of Worcestershire squad that took part in the WMAS Regional Inter-County Match at Lilleshall on Sunday 9 October 2011.

Once again, Worcestershire took first place – making it a clean sweep in all four of the inter-county competitions they have participated in this year. During the course of the year, four Stourbridge archers (Michelle Hall, Luke Pennell, Tony Carter and Keith Raybould) have represented the County. Hopefully, with a number of members shooting well at the moment, we may get one or two more that meet the qualification criteria for the County trials next year.

Sword of Shrewsbury

The Sword of Shrewsbury was an all day event for longbow, with a Clout in the morning, followed by a National.

This was the first clout we had attended, which began in a very civilised manner with glasses of mead all round. The only complaint was that the glasses were not big enough! (And we're still not sure how many Keith had!)

The whole event was a very relaxed affair in the company of some interesting and friendly archers.

On several occasions, the dark clouds threatened to soak us, but the wild wind kept them at bay. It also threw arrows in the opposite direction to that in which they were intended to fly!

I still fail to see how I could hit an 18 inch target at 120 yards and totally miss a target of 48 inches at 60 yards. But that's archery for you!

Kay Jeffs

How Steady are You?? (A Coaching Item - by Roger Hanson)

At a recent coaching conference, the issue of archers standing steady while drawing and at aim cropped up. The physiotherapist giving the talk mentioned two items – firstly, "The Powerband" and secondly, the effect of mobile phones when carried and switched on.

For those who haven't seen them, the "Powerband" is a recent new item, worn by sports people, and features two hologram discs on a plastic band worn on the wrist (see right).



The physio demonstrated their effect on an archer when worn - for more than half of the people used in the demo we saw, this had a positive effect, making the wearer more stable.

The second item mentioned was the effect of the radio waves/force field given out from a mobile phone, when carried on the archer. This appeared to have a detrimental effect, making the carrier of the phone unstable more quickly!

I hope this gives you some food for thought - you might want to experiment with these things yourself - it just might work to improve scores for you!!

Roger Hanson

Records Officer's Report / New Club Records

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

Boys Compound Under 18

Portsmouth	-	Luke Pennell	584
Worcester	-	Luke Pennell	300

Boys Recurve Under 16

Portsmouth	-	Luke Cutler	387
Short Metric III	-	Luke Cutler	248

Gents Compound

FITA Ladies	-	Tony Carter	1324
Western	-	Tony Carter	862

Gents Longbow

FITA 70	-	Keith Raybould	280
---------	---	----------------	-----

Ladies Barebow

Portsmouth	-	Sharon Pennell	547
Windsor	-	Barbara Hall	447
Worcester	-	Sharon Pennell	259

Ladies Longbow

Short National	-	Becky Simonds	139
----------------	---	---------------	-----

SCOA Juniors

As can be seen from elsewhere in this Newsletter, we now have a number of new junior members shooting regularly at the Club and also, in open competition! Our Junior Section Leader, Janice Cross, has circulated details of the Archery GB Progress Award Scheme to all of our junior members and three of these, Jake Jancso, Luke Cutler and Tom Woodhouse, have been enthusiastically trialling the scheme. If you are one of the juniors that has not yet given it a try, why not come along to the Club and have a go. Qualifying scores can be achieved both indoors and outdoors, so if you don't fancy standing outside in the cold, you can always come along to the indoor sessions at Waseley on a Friday evening. Janice will no doubt keep us up to date of the juniors' progress in future newsletters.

Diary Dates (excluding Garrington Cup rounds listed previously)

- Friday 2 December 2011 - Free Indoor Session at Waseley
- Sunday 4 December 2011 - Victor Ludorum Field Shoot

Outdoor Postals ("Frostbite")

- Sunday 18 December 2011 ("Christmas Fun Shoot")
- Sunday 15 January 2012
- Sunday 5 February 2012
- Sunday 11 March 2012

Indoor Postals (Portsmouth)

- Friday 13 January 2012
- Friday 3 February 2012
- Friday 9 March 2012

Please try to put a score in for the postals if you can, as the more archers we can get to shoot the postal rounds, the better chance we have of improving our position in the leagues. For our newer members, the outdoor "Frostbite" rounds are not too daunting - three dozen arrows shot at an 80 cm face at 30 metres and the indoor rounds are five dozen arrows shot at a Portsmouth face at 18 metres. Everyone stands a chance of making the team, as best handicap adjusted scores count, as well as the best straight scores.

Club Merchandise

Margaret has a couple of surplus items of Club clothing in stock that she wishes to clear:-

1 x Medium White T-Shirt - Bargain price of £11.00

1 x Small Green Sweat Shirt - Price £17.00.

If you are interested, let her know.

Other items of Club clothing are also available (see poster in the Clubhouse) or have a word with Margaret.

We also have Club badges available and these can be obtained from our Club Secretary, Michelle. Both cloth and metal pin badges are available at a cost of £2.50 each, although new Club members are given a cloth badge free of charge, when they have submitted three rounds to our Records Officer, Dave Johnson.

What goes on at SCOA's Committee Meetings?

Some of you have probably wondered what goes on at the Club's monthly Committee Meetings and to give you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes, going forward, a copy of the Minutes of these Meetings will be posted on the board in the Clubhouse, so that anyone who is interested can have a look. The Minutes will, of course, be one month behind, as they cannot be posted on the board until they have been signed off as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

Thoughts from the Shooting Line

It's very uncommon for two archers to have the same score – everyone knows bow ties went out of style years ago!

* * * * *