

Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter

July 2015



Welcome!

Welcome to a long overdue edition of SCOA's Newsletter. Welcome also to a number of new members who have joined the Club recently. We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to them and to wish them a long and happy association with SCOA!

A Message from the Club Captain

Hi folks

I just thought that you might like to know that our "Rat's Ashes" tournament which was held on Sunday 12 July 2015 was a great success. We had twenty three targets out, with around eighty people shooting. The raffle and catering exceeded expectations, raising in the region of £300.

I would like to thank all of you who gave up your time to help – the field party who assembled the targets, score collectors, raffle ticket sellers, arrow finders, people who put the field back after the shoot and last but not least the catering crew.

Some new volunteers would be more than welcome to spread the load on those who regularly help. Why not have a go - you may enjoy it!

The crucial element is from 11.00 to 13.00 to assemble the field, lugging the targets out etc. and once the shoot starts, there are short bursts of activity (arrow finding, score collecting and selling and folding raffle tickets), so you don't have to stay all day - a couple of hours is fine, and if we have enough volunteers, we can cover the whole day.

The more people who come and help, the less everyone has to do and every little bit helps.

We have two more outdoor open competitions this year - the Albion on 9 August and the Sheriff's Western on 6 September.

With your help, we can make them run as smoothly and successfully as the "Rat's Ashes". Just contact me by e-mail, phone or speak to me personally before the event, as I need to know the strength of my work party.

Thank you!

Bob Hanson
Club Captain

Coaching

Congratulations to Andy Stanford and Jeremy Wakefield who have both passed their Level 1 Coaching assessments in recent months. Well done guys!

Now that we have more coaches, we are looking at the possibility of organising a duty coach rota, so that there will be someone to offer help and advice to anyone who would like it on Club shooting days.

Watch this space for further details

Birthday Celebrations

SCOA will be celebrating its 60th Birthday in 2016 and the Committee is currently looking at ways in which we can mark this auspicious occasion. More details will follow as we near this milestone in the Club's history!

BA Winter Postal League

The results of the BA Winter Postal League were recently published, with SCOA achieving some excellent results.

We were **winners of Compound Frostbite Division 4**, with a number of our archers having highest scores for the Division during the course of the season – Tony Carter, highest Gents' score for November and February and Michelle Hall, highest Ladies' score for November, January and March 2015.

We were **winners of Compound Portsmouth Division 10** – Chris Price having highest Gents' score for November, December and January and Tony Carter, highest Gents' score for February and March 2015 – a clean sweep for SCOA gents!

We were **winners of Recurve Frostbite Division 13** – Roger Hanson having highest Gents' score for November and January and Reg Paget, highest Gents' score for March 2015 and we were **second in Division 22 of Recurve Portsmouth**, with Reg Paget having highest Gents' score for January 2015.

Badges have just arrived and the Records Officer is currently in the process of distributing these to those who made the winning teams during the course of the season.

Summer Postal – Sunday 26 July 2015

Unfortunately, SCOA are not faring so well in the West Midlands Archery Society and Worcestershire Summer Postal Leagues and so **we need as many members as possible to shoot the next round which is scheduled for this Sunday, 26 July 2015.**

Round 3 is Nationals and archers are required to shoot the appropriate round for their age and gender as follows:-

Gents		Long National
Ladies/Junior 1	(Junior Boys Under 18)	National
Junior 2	(Junior Boys Under 16/Girls Under 18)	Short National
Junior 3	(Junior Boys Under 14/Girls Under 16)	Junior National
Junior 4	(Junior Boys Under 12/Girls Under 14)	Short Junior National

Unlike the BA Postal League which is based on made scores, we have to put in two teams for the West Midlands and Worcestershire Leagues – one based on highest scores and one based on handicap adjusted scores, so no matter what your ability, your contribution could still count, as those with higher handicaps are more likely to achieve good handicap adjusted scores!

After Round 2, in the West Midlands League, SCOA are lying bottom of Division 1 and in the Worcestershire Summer Postal League, we are third from bottom! Despite having good made scores, our handicap adjusted scores are the lowest in the Division by a considerable margin, so we really need more of our archers to turn out and shoot the postal rounds including those with higher handicaps who have a better chance of getting good handicap adjusted scores.

Therefore, please try to come along on Sunday and shoot a National for the postal if you can – 1.00 pm onwards.

Thank you.

Tony Carter
Records Officer

Away Shoots

Sadly, SCOA representation at Away Shoots is currently very poor, with Peter Langmaid being our sole representative at last week's Malvern Nationals which was a round of the Worcester Summer Cup.

Attending Away Shoots provides an opportunity to meet archers from other Clubs and maybe even come back with some silverware, as well as helping to raise the Club's profile and encourage archers from other Clubs to take part in our own open tournaments.

There are still several rounds of the Worcester Summer Cup left, the dates of which are as follows:-

- **County of Worcester Archery Association County & Open Championship – Sunday 2 August 2015.** York, Hereford, National, Bristols 1-5. Hosted by Wyre Forest Company of Archers.
- **SCOA Albion – Sunday 9 August 2015.** Albion and Windsor rounds. *(Not strictly an Away Shoot, but a round of the Worcester Cup nonetheless).*
- **Redditch Open Windsor – Sunday 16 August 2015.**
- **WMAS CWAA & Open Junior Championships – Saturday 12 September 2015.** Bristol Rounds for all ages. Hosted by Redhill Archers.

Full details (including links to entry forms) can be found on the SCOA Calendar on the Club website www.scoa.org.uk.

Club members who have attended the Worcester Summer Cup rounds to date have achieved some good results including Tony Carter (Gents' Compound trophy winner at Wyre Forest Western and Droitwich Albion and second place tankard at Redhill American); Michelle Hall (Ladies' Compound trophy winner at Droitwich Albion); Andy Stanford (First Class medal at Wyre Forest); Rachel Turner (Junior Lady Recurve trophy winner at Wyre Forest and third place medal at Redhill) and James Johnson (Junior Boy Barebow plaque at Redhill). Well done, guys!

Don't forget that in addition to the aforementioned shoots, there are numerous other tournaments that you can enter – see your Archery UK magazine for further details.

More Congratulations!

Well done to SCOA Junior, Rachel Turner who has been accepted onto the Archery GB Talent Development Programme which commences in August 2015. This is an excellent opportunity, with access to first-class coaching and facilities at Lilleshall – you never know, Rachel could progress to become a future GB squad member or even an Olympian of the future!

Calling SCOA Juniors!

Our Junior Section Leader, Andy Stanford, is happy to offer help and guidance to all of our junior members and if he's not around, there are usually other experienced archers at the field, should juniors need advice or help with equipment.



Old Codgers Longbow Shoot!

At the other end of the spectrum, one for our older members

Redhill Archers will be holding a Pensioners' Portsmouth Longbow Shoot on Wednesday 2 September 2015 at their indoor range at Wythall Park. This will be an open invitation shoot for Redhill members and members of other local Clubs, with entry limited to those who are 60+.

The entry fee is £6.00 and cheques should be made payable to "Redhill Archers" and returned to Gordon Phillips. Alternatively, payment can be made by bank transfer. Closing date for entries is 25 August 2015.

Beginners' Courses

Our 2015 beginners' courses are well under way, with two courses already complete and the third due to finish on Tuesday 28 July 2015. Demand has once again been very high which necessitated the third overspill course and we already have people on the waiting list for next year's courses! Thank you to all those who have given up their time to help with the beginners' courses. Hopefully, all of this activity will result in an influx of new members.

And then there were two!

The Club hasn't been able to count a Master Bowman amongst its membership for many years, but now we have two - Compound archers Tony Carter and Chris Price who joined us from Droitwich last October.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Tony hasn't been able to shoot any WA1440 (formerly Gents FITA) or York Record Status tournaments this season (which is a shame, as he shot a GMB score at his last one), but Chris has been busy flying the SCOA banner all over the country, competing in a host of tournaments including the National Series and achieving some good results.

Judge Stanford!

Another Stourbridge archer who is making his presence felt further afield is Andy Stanford who has followed in the footsteps of Clive Freeman and decided to become a Judge. Andy has been officiating at tournaments all over the Midlands and of course, you can see him in action at our own open tournaments.

Somers Family Fun Day

Club members organised a "have a go" as part of Somers Family Fun Day on Sunday 24 May 2015 and despite the weather being pretty miserable, we raised £58.00 which was donated to Somers Sports & Social Club. A big thank you to those who gave up their time to help out during the afternoon.

Avoncroft Museum

On the subject of "have a go's", if anyone has any friends or family who would like to try their hand at archery, there will be an archery "have a go" stand at Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove on Thursdays throughout the School Summer holidays (6 arrows for £2.00). Of course, you'll have to pay the entry fee to Avoncroft in order to get in, but if you're looking for a way to entertain the kids during the holidays or are looking for an interesting day out, Avoncroft might be worth a visit.

Where is everyone?!

Whilst our recent Open shoot, the Rat's Ashes, was very successful and our Club shoots have been reasonably well attended, there have been some ideal shooting days of late, but very few SCOA archers down at the Somers field on the shooting line! Similarly, our representation at Away Shoots is very poor for a Club with over 80 members!

Other commitments seriously curtail the amount of spare time that most of us have, but if you haven't been down to the field for a while, why not come down and say "hello"!

The Somers field is available for shooting on Tuesdays and Fridays (lunchtime until dusk); Saturdays (anytime) and Sunday afternoons (from 12.30 / 1.00pm onwards) - so there are plenty of opportunities to dust off that equipment and make your bow feel loved again!

If you're a newer member or someone who hasn't been down for a while, please don't hesitate to ask for help or advice if you need it – someone will always be happy to try to sort out any problems for you – although we can't shoot your bow for you!!

We also have a number of upcoming events including:-

- **Postal – Sunday 26 July 2015**
(Club members only)
- **SCOA Albion – Sunday 9 August 2015**
(Open Tournament)
- **Sheriff's Western – Sunday 6 Sept 2015** (Open Tournament)
- **Clout – Bowflights – Sunday 13 Sept 2015** (Victor Ludorum)
- **All-Comers' Warwick – Sunday 20 Sept 2015** (Club members only)
- **Derek Peacock Memorial Longbow Shoot – Sunday 27 Sept 2015**
(Club members only)

Club competitions (and Postals) are open to Club members only. They are a very relaxed introduction to competition and some are handicap adjusted, so they are geared to encouraging less experienced archers and of course, they are an excellent way of meeting up and getting to know fellow Club members.



Also, whilst the field is currently available on Saturdays, this could change at any time, should Somers find a football team who wish to use the pitch on Saturdays. Therefore why not make the most of the opportunity to shoot on Saturdays whilst you can – although please remember to adhere to all of the normal safety protocol including ensuring that the field is properly set out and roped off, with the warning signs erected and of course, no shooting should take place unless there are at least two people present – one to act as look-out, although this does not necessarily have to be an archer.

Of course, if you have any ideas or suggestions as to how the Club can encourage members to come down and shoot, please let Michelle or one of the other Committee members know. The Club belongs to us all, whether we enjoy competition or just pinging a few arrows at the field for relaxation and ideas and suggestions for ways in which it can be improved are always welcome.

Thank you

A big thank you to Rachel Turner's parents, Jane and Paul who got up at an unearthly hour to cook breakfast at our recent Breakfast Shoot and provided sandwiches and cream teas at our Club Champs. Jane and Paul went well beyond the call of duty, particularly as they are not archers or Club members themselves. Thanks guys!

Clout

The County of Warwick Archery Association and Bowflights Archery Club **Double One-Way Clout** will be held on **Sunday 13 September 2015** at Waseley Hills High School, Rubery, Birmingham. Full details can be found on the CWAA website <http://www.cwaa.org.uk>. This shoot will be used as the **Clout round of the Victor Ludorum** competition which is being organised by Clive Freeman and Dave Johnson who can give you more information.

Somers Sports & Social Club

Just a reminder that it is a condition of our use of the facilities at Somers that SCOA members join Somers Sports & Social Club. (In the case of families or couples, only one person needs to be a member). If you haven't yet sampled the facilities, there is a well stocked bar with reasonable prices, very pleasant outdoor seating areas, a children's playground, regular events and of course, you also get access to the toilet facilities!

Sponsorship

SCOA Junior, Rachel Turner, will be raising funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital at our Sheriff's Western Open Tournament on Sunday 6 September 2015. Details have yet to be finalised, but Rachel will be looking for sponsorship and hopefully, Club members will support her efforts to raise money for this very worthy cause. The Club will also be donating the proceeds from the sale of cakes and refreshments at this shoot to the Children's Hospital.

Mandatory Club Rules

Just a reminder of a few simple Mandatory Club Rules:-

1. As we are only insured for recognised shooting days, you may only use the field on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays and on pre-notified Saturdays (currently every Saturday, although this could change at any time).
2. Prior to shooting, the field must be roped off and the warning signs put out, following the diagram in the Clubhouse.
3. There must be a minimum of two people present - one to act as a responsible lookout (who need not be an archer).
4. All-carbon arrows are not allowed to be shot on the field.
5. Every attempt must be made to find lost arrows. A Committee member must be notified at the earliest opportunity if lost arrows cannot be found.

These rules are essential for the protection of both the public and fellow Club members and it is essential that all Club members adhere to them.

And Finally

Hopefully, you will have found this Newsletter of interest and perhaps it may have whetted your appetite to get down to the Somers field and do some shooting!

Of course, if you have anything that you would like to see included in future Newsletters, please let me know, either in person at the Club or by emailing me.

See you on the shooting line!

Michelle Hall
Club Secretary