



Write on Target!

Stourbridge Company of Archers Newsletter

Anniversary Edition – September 2016



Welcome!

Welcome to this special Anniversary Edition of SCOA's Newsletter. This contains a look back at the summer's events in this, the Club's 60th year, as well as a look forward to events due to take place over the coming weeks and months - so hopefully, there'll be something to interest everyone.

The Club continues to attract new members and we would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to those who have joined recently - we wish them a long and happy association with SCOA!

Happy Birthday SCOA!

As most of you will be aware, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Club's formation and we have been celebrating this milestone in the Club's history with a series of special events.

Our official birthday shoot was the Club's annual "Rat's Ashes" Open American tournament which was held on Sunday 10 July 2016, with over 80 archers from all over the Midlands taking part.



Archers on the shooting line at the Rat's Ashes

As well as toasting the Club's 60th birthday, all archers were given a small memento of the Club's Diamond Jubilee and the winners in each category were awarded special commemorative glassware.



From Left to Right: Club Chairman, Martin Woodhouse; Club Captain, Bob Hanson; founder member, Gary Sykes and Tournaments Officer, Peter Langmaid

Founder member Gary Sykes (a former British and England Team Manager, National Champion, County co-founder and one of the first half dozen men to qualify as GMB – the highest classification in British Archery!) returned to the Club to make the presentations which included a special award to Bob Hanson, in recognition of his 40 years' service as Club Captain!

Club Chairman, Martin Woodhouse and Club Safeguarding Officer, Jeremy Wakefield, donned their aprons to run a barbecue throughout the afternoon, with proceeds going to Midlands Air Ambulance.



Archers on the shooting line at the Rat's Ashes

Several Stourbridge archers took part in the competition including Tony Carter who did well to finish second in the close fought Gents Compound competition, missing out on first place by two points. Other notable SCOA performances were Darren Coleman who was first in the Gents Barebow category and Rachel Turner who was first Junior Girl Recurve shooting the St Nicholas round.

As well as the official birthday open shoot, the Club has also held a number of other anniversary events in its 60th year.

To kick things off, we held a Social Evening at Somers Sports & Social Club on Saturday 16 April 2016. We had a good turnout with nearly 60 Club members, family and friends in attendance and hopefully, all those who came along had a good evening. It was particularly good to see some members who don't normally come down to the field at this event (including some that I'd never seen in the six years I've been in the Club!) and it was also good that former President, Sam Green and his wife, Margaret, were able to come along.



Martin Woodhouse, Gary Sykes and Peter Langmaid

Thanks to Michelle Hall for making the arrangements for the function and organising the anniversary glassware; Janice Cross for baking us a fantastic birthday cake, complete with anniversary logo; Sue Billingham for lending us her cake stand; Andy Stanford for procuring the anniversary pens; Jeremy Wakefield for designing the anniversary logo; Bob Hanson for sorting out the quiz master who was very good and everyone who came along and helped make it an enjoyable evening. The winning quiz team was Team 4 (Bob Walton, Keeley Walton, Stephen Rudge, Michelle Hall, Tony Carter, Martin Woodhouse, Joe Wooldridge and Keith Raybould) - thanks in no small part to Bob "The Oracle" Walton!



SCOA Birthday Cake – courtesy of Janice Cross



SCOA Social Evening

Feedback on the Social Evening has been so positive that the Committee has decided that **we will make this a yearly event going forward, so if you have any suggestions for next year's Social Evening which will take place in March / April, please let us know.**

As part of the anniversary celebrations, we also held a Barbecue Shoot on Saturday 18 June 2016. This replaced our traditional breakfast shoot, with Club members shooting a Western round, commencing late afternoon and into the evening. Club Chairman, Martin Woodhouse, manned the barbecue and Paul and Jayne Turner brought along a selection of other snacks and goodies – thanks guys!

It was a relaxed and enjoyable evening and the winners in the various categories for the Western round were Tony Carter (Gents Compound); Alan Broadley (Gents Recurve); Michelle Hall (Ladies Compound); Keely Walton (Ladies Recurve); Darren Coleman (Gents Barebow) and Bruce Turley (Gents Longbow). Winners for the Short Western round were Bob Walton (Gents Recurve) and Julia Tromans (Ladies Barebow) and Rachel Turner (Junior Girl Recurve) shooting the Junior Western round.

At 60 years old, SCOA is one of the oldest Clubs in the County of Worcester (second only to Malvern who can trace its history back over 100 years!). This longevity is due in no small part to the enthusiasm and hard work of Club members (both old and new) and long may this continue!

Here's to the next 60 years

SCOA Annual Albion – Sunday 14 August 2016

Nearly sixty archers took part in SCOA's Open Albion competition on Sunday 14 August 2016 which was a round of the Worcester Summer Cup and this year, SCOA actually had enough archers taking part to put in a team! Several SCOA archers did well - Tony Carter won the Gents Compound Trophy with a score of 956 – not bad for an 80 yard round where the maximum score is 964! Rachel Turner also did well – first Girl Recurve shooting the Junior Windsor Round. SCOA also won the Team Trophy (Tony Carter, Michelle Hall, Steve Kelly and Rachel Turner).



From Left to Right: Rachel, Steve, Tony, Michelle

SCOA Annual Sheriff's Western – Sunday 4 September 2016

There was another good turnout for our annual Sherriff's Western on Sunday 4 September 2016, again with nearly sixty archers enjoying a relaxed afternoon's shooting – apart from Tony Carter that is who had a number of equipment issues – three broken arrows and his release aid fell apart during the latter part of the afternoon! However, despite this, after being ahead for much of the competition, he still managed to hang on to take joint first place in the Gents Compound.

Other SCOA successes were Keith Raybould who was awarded the first class medal in the Gents Longbow and Stourbridge juniors Rachel Turner and Joe Woodridge who were both awarded medals in their respective categories.

A special mention also to Elaine Archer and Wayne Barrass. This was their first open shoot and they both acquitted themselves well – Elaine gaining her second class classification and Wayne who only started shooting after this year's beginners' courses, was awarded the SCOA Novice Trophy. Well done, guys!

Associate member Alan Broadley of Stafford also took part and was awarded the first class medal in the Gents Recurve.

A big thank you to all those who have given up their time to help at our open competitions this year and a special thank you to Bruce Turley who has once again manned the tea and cake stand at all of our outdoor open shoots, ably assisted by Cath Wakefield. Thanks also to the Wakefields (Jeremy, Cath and Emma) for donning their pinnies to run the barbecue at the Sheriff's Western which proved extremely popular.

Finally, thank you to Peter "Hop-along" Langmaid who has diligently carried out his duties as Tournaments Officer throughout the summer, despite being handicapped by a cast and crutches, having suffered a broken ankle earlier in the summer – not an archery injury, I hasten to add!

Upcoming Club Shoots (Club Members only)

September is a busy month for Club shoots with the **All-Comers' Warwick** on **Sunday 18 September 2016** and the **Derek Peacock Memorial Longbow Shoot** the following **Sunday, 25 September 2016**.

The All-comers' Warwick is designed to encourage newer members and those with larger handicaps. It's handicap adjusted (for newer members, this means that each archer is given an allowance at the beginning of the shoot, based on their handicap – the larger your handicap, the bigger the allowance you have to start with and just for good measure, we sometimes make more experienced archers shoot longer distances too!). As it says on the tin, the round is Warwicks and sighters will be at 2.00 pm – although please try to arrive at around 1.30 pm to help set out the field.

The Derek Peacock Memorial Shoot is the Club's annual longbow shoot which is held in memory of longstanding Club member and former Records Officer, Derek Peacock. It's a two way Western and all archers must shoot longbows. (Don't worry if you don't have one, as hopefully, you'll be able to borrow one from someone that has). Placings are decided using BLBS rules (British Longbow Society), with the winner being the archer with the highest number of hits; the archer in second place will be the one with the highest score and third place will be awarded to the archer with most golds. Again, sighters will be at 2.00 pm, but please arrive early to help set out the field.

If you don't have a longbow and would like to take part in the Derek Peacock shoot, please let Peter Langmaid know (peter.langmaid@tiscali.co.uk) and similarly, if you have any spare longbows that you are able to loan to a Club member for the afternoon, again, please let Peter know.

If you go down to the woods today

A small group of SCOA archers took part in the Club's annual field shoot at March Hare, Throckmorton on Saturday 7 May 2016.

I don't normally go to this particular shoot, but thought that I would give it a go this year and I'm really glad that I did, as I really enjoyed it. Of course, this may have been partly due to the warm sunny weather (I think that was Summer 2016!), but even so, it was good fun and it was nice to try my hand at a different type of shooting – don't think I would have felt the same had it been raining and the woods been wet and slippery though!

Mind you, after I'd carried my compound twice round the woods, I was starting to hanker after a nice light longbow!

If you fancy having a go at field shooting and don't want to go the whole hog of joining the NFAS, **the County of Worcester FITA Field Championships will be held at March Hare on Saturday 1 October 2016. Details can be found on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse, but places are limited, so if you are interested in taking part, you'll need to get your entry in quickly.**

Michelle Hall, Club Secretary

Equipment Night – Tuesday 4 October 2016

We will be holding an **Equipment Maintenance Night** on **Tuesday 4 October 2016**, where I will demonstrate string making, arrow fletching, nocking etc. and offer general advice on equipment maintenance.

The evening will be held in the **Clubhouse** and will commence **at 7.30 pm**.

This session will be particularly useful for those with new equipment, although it could be equally useful for those who've been shooting a while, but would like to know more about maintaining and taking care of their equipment. Everyone welcome!

Bob Hanson, Club Captain

Indoor Shooting

Sadly, we're approaching the end of the outdoor shooting season and **indoor shooting sessions will commence at Waseley Hills High School** (School Road, Rubery Birmingham B45 9EL) on **Friday 7 October 2016**. Sessions will run from **7.30 pm to 9.30 pm** every Friday evening throughout the winter, apart from the Christmas school closure. There is a weekly fee for indoor shooting of £3.00 for adults and £1.50 for juniors, although a season ticket will be available for advance purchase for those who intend to use the facilities regularly – keep an eye on your emails for further details.

Of course, the Somers field remains open for outdoor shooting throughout the winter – ground conditions permitting and we will continue to take part in the BA Winter Frostbite League – again keep an eye on your emails for further details.

Annual General Meeting – Monday 10 October 2016

Hopefully, you will have already seen the Notice of the Club's forthcoming **AGM** on **Monday 10 October 2016** which will be held in the **upstairs function room at Somers Sports & Social Club, commencing at 7.30 pm**. For those who haven't attended an AGM before, this is your opportunity to learn more about how the Club is run and have your say on any issues which concern you. You may also fancy a go at serving on the Committee and if you would like to stand for a Committee post, please let the Club Secretary, Michelle, know before 24 September 2016 michelle@eitmail.co.uk. Similarly, if you wish to put any proposals to the AGM, again let Michelle know before 24 September 2016. An Agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting.

WhatsApp

Some members have already been taking advantage of the Club's WhatsApp group to find out when other Club members will be shooting, thus saving them a wasted trip to Somers, only to find there's no-one there! If you haven't yet signed up and would like to join the group, text Martin Woodhouse on 07970 625448 and ask him to add you to the SCOA "What's App" Group.

Recent New Classifications

- Elaine Archer – Second (and Third Class) – Ladies Recurve
- Wayne Barrass – Third Class – Gentlemen Recurve
- Matthew Dingley – Third Class – Gentlemen Under 18 Recurve
- Stephen Dingley – Second Class – Gentlemen Recurve
- Ben James – First Class – Gentlemen Under 12 Barebow
- Peter Langmaid – Second Class – Gentlemen Compound

Full details of Handicaps, Classifications and Club Records can be found on the SCOA website.

Tony Carter, Records Officer

Handicap Improvement Trophy

Don't forget that the Club awards a Handicap Improvement Trophy for the archer with the most improved outdoor handicap each year. To be eligible for this, you must have had a handicap on 1 January and submit scores for 8 outdoor rounds to the Records Officer before 31 December. (Rounds must be shot at the appropriate distance for age / gender, with one end of sighters and only one score can be submitted per day).

This year's trophy will be awarded in early 2017 and so if you would like to emulate last year's joint winners, Jeremy Wakefield and Rachel Turner (pictured left), get shooting!!



Note from the Records Officer

Please ensure that you fill in your score sheets correctly including your name (yes, I do sometimes get anonymous sheets!), date, bow type, round and distances. Please also ensure that you add up your scores including hits and golds, please! (See example in Clubhouse).

Thank you.

Tony Carter, Records Officer

Victor Ludorum

The Club's Victor Ludorum competition organised by Clive Freeman is coming to a close, with the final indoor round being the Club's first winter postal (date to be advised). After the three rounds to date (Club field shoot; Hagley National and Bowflights Clout) things are pretty close at the top. Reg Paget has been the winner for the last two years, but who will be this year's winner? Watch this space

Club Champs

This year's Club Champs was held on Sunday 3 July 2016, but unfortunately, due to holidays and other commitments, only Bob Hanson, Steve Kelly and Reg Paget shot the Hereford round! Reg Paget was Gents Recurve Champion and Bob Hanson, Gents Compound. A few more archers turned up to keep them company in the afternoon, with a further half dozen shooting the second half of the round (a National).

Lost Arrows

Just a reminder that the Somers field is a multi-sport facility and any lost arrows **MUST** be found.

In the unfortunate event that you lose an arrow on the field, please make every effort to find it – there are plenty of metal detectors, rakes etc. in the Clubhouse.

If after an exhaustive search you really can't locate the missing arrow, please inform Bob Hanson or another Committee member, so that a sweep of the field can be organised.

Arrows left on the field could pose a significant hazard for the footballers which could result in injury and in these days of blame culture, a potential claim against the Club or you as an individual!

Also, please remember that all carbon arrows must not be used at Somers.

SCOA Committee

Away Shoots

During the Summer, the County of Worcester runs an inter-club competition with seven nominated local open tournaments. Clubs submit their team scores from each of these and the best five are used to compile a league table - the Club with the most points taking the trophy. Last year, we failed to have enough archers for a team at some of the competitions (the only bright spot being that Tony Carter was joint winner of the individual Gents Trophy across all bow types which was not bad going, since he was only able to shoot the first three rounds of the Summer Cup, though he took maximum points from the rounds he did shoot).

Unfortunately this trend of poor attendance at away shoots has continued into 2016 and at some shoots, there has been little or no SCOAA representation. However, those that have taken part have achieved some success and this can be summarised as follows.

Redhill Archers Open American – Monday 2 May 2016

Four Stourbridge archers (Peter Langmaid, Mark Johnson, Reg Paget and Rachel Turner) took part in Redhill's 43rd Open American and despite the field turning into a bit of quagmire at one stage, Mark Johnson did really well to get the third class Gents Compound medal (particularly as he finished in fifth place overall and had a higher score than both the first and second class medal winners!). Rachel Turner also did well - first in the Junior Ladies' Recurve category for the Junior American. Well done guys!

Wyre Forest Company of Archers – Open Western – Sunday 5 June 2016

Three Stourbridge archers (Tony Carter, Michelle Hall and Rachel Turner) had an enjoyable day at Wyre Forest's Open Western, enjoying some warm and sunny conditions, despite a bit of a breeze. This was Tony's first away shoot following a long absence due to ill-health and he did extremely well, finishing joint first in the Gents Compound.

Droitwich Archery Society Summer Tournament – Sunday 26 June 2016

Tony Carter and Michelle Hall were the Club's only representatives at Droitwich's Summer Tournament. Shooting the Albion round was quite challenging in the extremely blustery conditions, but despite this, Tony took the second place medal in the Gents Compound and Michelle came home with the Ladies Compound Trophy.

CWAA County & Open Championships – Sunday 7 August 2016

SCOAA's representation was further depleted at the County Championships, with only Rachel Turner carrying the flag for SCOAA! Rachel shot the Bristol 3 round for Girls Under 16 Recurve and did well to bring home a gold medal.

Redditch Company of Archers Open Windsor – Sunday 21 August 2016

Tony Carter and Michelle Hall were once again SCOAA's only representatives at Redditch's Open Windsor. Conditions were extremely difficult with strong winds, but despite this, Tony did well to take the Gents Compound second place medal, having led for much of the competition. Stafford member Alan Broadley who is an Associate member of SCOAA also did well to take the third place medal in the Gents Recurve.

Hopefully, we will have better attendance at indoor away shoots over the coming winter, so that we can have a good showing in the Garrington Cup – an inter-club competition for the winter season run by the County.

Forthcoming dates for this season's local indoor competitions are as follows:-

- Wednesday 12 October 2016 - Redhill Archers Pensioners' Portsmouth Longbow Shoot (Open invitation for aged 60+ longbow archers), Redhill Archers Indoor Range, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, Nr. Birmingham
- Sunday 23 October 2016 - Droitwich Archery Society Winter Tournament (Double Worcester), Royal Grammar School, Worcester **(Garrington Cup round)**
- Sunday 13 November 2016 - Evesham 27th WA18m, Prince Henry's Sports Hall, Evesham **(Garrington Cup round)**
- Sunday 20 November 2016 - SCOA Annual Worcester, Waseley Hills High School, Rednal
- Sunday 27 November 2016 - Redditch Stafford **(Garrington Cup round)**
- Sunday 8 January 2017 - SCOA Annual WA25m, Waseley Hills High School, Rednal **(Garrington Cup round)**
- Sunday 15 January 2017 - Droitwich Archery Society Combined FITA, Royal Grammar School, Worcester
- Sunday 26 February 2017 - Redhill Archers 1st Open Vegas Tournament, Redhill Range, Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, Nr. Birmingham

Further details will be posted on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse shortly or details can be found on the relevant Club's website. Details of other local indoor shoots will be announced shortly, so watch this space for further details!

Redhill Archers 3rd Double Frostbite Tournament

For those of you who are still happy to shoot outside during the winter, Redhill will be holding their 3rd Double Frostbite Tournament on Sunday 9 October 2016 at their outdoor field at Wythall Park, Silver Street, Wythall, Nr. Birmingham. Further details can be found on their website www.redhill-archers.org.uk

Dunster Archery Week

Congratulations to Stourbridge's intrepid longbow archer Keith Raybould for winning the field competition at Dunster Archery Week.

As some of you will be aware, Dunster Archery Week is a festival of archery with archers from all over the country competing. Competitions take place each day including a WA1440, two York / Hereford Rounds, an Albion, a Western, a Longbow Two-Way Western, a Double Two-Way Clout and of course, a field shoot and archers can choose to enter as many or as few of these as they wish.

Next year's dates are 11 to 18 June 2017.

Keith and his grandson, Joe Wooldridge, have also been busy shooting at lots of other field shoots and Bowflights clout and Joe, in particular, now has quite a healthy medal haul! Keep up the good work!

UK Flight Championships

Talking of different types of shooting, well done to SCOA archer Paul Hadley who took part in the UK Flight Championships recently and finished in 3rd place in the unlimited class. Well done, Paul!

Chris Price

We've not seen much of Chris over the summer as he has been travelling to tournaments all over the country including the Archery GB National Series where he's currently lying in 28th place in the standings in the Men's Compound. Well done, Chris!

Subscriptions

Hopefully, you have already paid your Club subscriptions for membership year commencing 1 October 2016. However, if you haven't yet done so, please contact our Membership Secretary, Steve Knight, as a matter of urgency.

Subscriptions for 2016 / 17 are £102.00 for Senior Members (aged 25 years and over); £35.00 for Senior Members (aged 18 to 24 years inclusive) and £20.00 for Juniors (Under 18's). All of the above include all affiliation fees, i.e. Archery GB, WMAS and CWAA.

As you will see, we now have two classes of Senior membership – Senior (aged 25 years and over) and Senior (aged 18 to 24 years inclusive) which reflects changes which Archery GB will be making to their membership structure with effect from 1 October 2016.

Please note that anyone who has not paid their membership fees will not be permitted to shoot either at Somers or at our indoor sessions at Waseley after 30 September 2016.

Associate Members who pay their affiliations via another Club will need to send a copy of their Archery GB card to the Club Secretary (michelle@eitmail.co.uk) before 1 October 2016 and will not be permitted to shoot at Somers or our indoor sessions until they have produced proof that their Archery GB affiliations have been paid.

And Finally



Hopefully, this Newsletter has captured what members have been up to on the archery front over the last few months, but of course, I can only include information that I'm aware of, so if you have anything you would like to see in future issues, please let me know, either in person at the Club or by email michelle@eitmail.co.uk

Thanks to those who've provided information and photographs for this edition including Lisa Coleman who was our "official photographer" at the Rat's Ashes.

Of course, we don't know the exact date of the Club's formation – just that it was some time in 1956, so if anyone has any ideas for continuing the anniversary theme during the remainder of the year, please let me or a fellow Committee member know.

See you on the shooting line!

**Michelle Hall
Club Secretary / Editor**