



Allington Castle Archers

Rocking Point

January 2011



New Year Dinner at the Bull Inn

Friday 14th January 2011

Dates for your diary –

BA Portsmouth :- Friday 7th January 7:00pm for 7:30

BA Frostbite :- Friday 9th January 10:30 for 11:00



Captains Corner

Hi all, hope you all had a fantastic time over the holidays. Nothing much has happened on the shooting front. The Frostbite and prize giving have come and gone. Well done to Pam, Dan and David for taking the respective trophies home.

Speaking of trophies, with agreement from the committee after some discussion, we are going to do things a bit different next year. It struck me as I was giving away the trophies that, judging by the look on most peoples faces, very few people actually remembered that they won a trophy, so, we are going to be giving the trophies away on the day they are won.

The details are still to be decided, but we will still have the frostbite day, where we have mulled wine and nibbles, but we will just be giving out the winter trophies, Frostbite, Portsmouth and Worcester. The awards decided throughout the year will be given at the Christmas dinner, so the Handicap Improvement badge etc

There are also a number of trophies that are missing. I will be producing a list of them and circulating it by email, if anybody knows the whereabouts of any of them, please let me know, or just bring them to me on the field.

I also have several trophies for archers that weren't at the prize giving. I will have them in my car on most club days. If I see you, I'll get you to sign for them. If you see me first do collar me and I'll hand them over. If you won a trophy but I didn't present it on the day, please speak to me. I may have it in the car.

I have trophies for Christine, Deryck, Elaine, George and Keith.

I will be updating the website in the next couple of weeks, removing the 2010 results and adding them as an attachment at the bottom of each competition page. I am also in the process of updating the presentation page. Please do check the website out, any comments and suggestions would be great.

That's it, the next indoor shoot is on the 7th of January, it's also the BA shoot, so please try and make it. We want to move up to the next division if we can. The 9th is the Frostbite.

See you on the field

Charles

Changes from the Committee

BA Indoor – there will now be a charge of £3.00 per archer.

14th January – there will not be any shooting as the Dinner has been changed to this date.

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Twig & Stick

Hi all. You may have noticed that I got it wrong on the Woodstock Field shoot date. Not the 17th BUT the **30th of Jan**. The inserted page was from the 2010 calendar not the 2010/2011 one. Sorry about that.

This gives you more time to get those sight marks, in metres, from 5 to 60. Currently there are 6 people that are going. Come and join us for some fun in the woods.

Fun Field Shoot

I am looking at the practicalities of holding a Field type shoot on our field. Shooting from inside the wooded area at the bottom of our field, out into the clear field. I estimate that we can shoot 8 targets ranging from 5m to 50m. Weather permitting in Feb/March time. When I have sorted it out I will let you know the date, it will be on a Sunday, a.m. for sight marks & p.m. for the shoot.

Indoor

A bit disappointed at the turnout for the BA Portsmouth in December. Not enough for two teams that we had entered for. No compounds, so no scores for them, and not many recurves, low scores for them.

This makes it very hard to compete in this National League, something we have done for the past 30 years.

The only bright note in this was that **Neil Barebow had the top score on the night.**

This won't do recurves. Unite and put some high scores in to counter this.

The following is my response to the article in Archery UK about the 150th anniversary Events.

Hi Peter

the current weather has brought on a serious case of cabin fever, coupled with withdrawal symptoms. I can't shoot so I feel I must have a good rant.

I've just received the latest Archery UK magazine, and as usual I read it cover to cover. One or two comments come to mind

1. Great that we have our champions in the Commonwealth Games, World Cup, World Games and Paralympics. All have put in a great deal of work, dedication and effort to achieve their medals. Combined with their coaches and many other people who supported them.

2. Unsung Hero's awards

Great to see that the contributions by many at grass roots level is to be recognised. Their work underpins the success at the top of our sport.

3. Not one item on Longbows! Has the Longbow stopped being shot, made or recognised by the new custodians of archery? I assume because of room constraints, and so much to write about as the year comes to an end? Hopefully this imbalance will be corrected in the coming year.

4. The 150th anniversary Special Events Planned article

Again no mention of Longbows, just a reminder that 150 years ago ONLY Longbows were shot. None of these new fangled recurves or compounds. How about holding the Longbow World Championship in this celebratory year. It could consist of three events, Target, Clout and Field to give the definitive National Longbow champion. This event could bring together all the longbows including GMB's and M.B's to fight it out for the National and International Medals. Maybe the 150th Anniversary President's Medals.

5. The Anniversary Badge

Anyone who knows me will agree that I like my badges, I have collected many over the years. Some, just because I like them, BLBS, Kent Archery, G.N.A.S. Some I have earned, including County, BA League, FITA Field arrowheads and Rose awards. All of them are high quality badges illustrating good design.

BUT the one I will not be sporting is the offering via the Archery GB shop.

The badge is NAFFFF. £1.50 for this load of plastic. If this is the quality of the celebration of the G.N.A.S. 150th anniversary then the coming year will have been wasted.

Who designed this lop-sided chunk of plastic? It has the style of a "I am 5" from a birthday card.

The illustration in the article, top left, looks as cheap as it is. On the top right there is a design that should have been used.

A simple bronze relief design would look a lot better, so the cost would have been higher. I I would have paid, say, £5 for this badge. We will only do this once in our lifetime so let us get it right.

It is a basic rule of marketing. Always aim high with quality, as this represents the organisation it sets out to promote. Please reconsider the design of this badge. Ahhh, that's better

Regards Geoff Barker (Alias Victor Meldrew)

Allington Castle Archer

This is the reply I received from the editor,
Peter Jones

Geoff, I love it. This was a rant that was sincere, from the heart, non malicious and polite - and that's the kind of rant that I treat with total respect, because I know how much you care.

I can answer a few of the points...

1. You're right about the support staff, and the archers are the first to acknowledge that. But we are planning to feature the various people who work around the elite archers to explain what they do and why, such as dieticians. I find this fascinating, and I hope others will too.

3. Longbows. It's simple: if people send in news, it will get published. If nobody tells me anything, I'm none the wiser. But I am very conscious of the longbow archers and I would really encourage news items, or feature ideas.

By the way, I'm having a longbow lesson next year, with a view to taking part in a tournament. Now THAT will be worth watching!!!!

4. We have done a special feature on longbows, but totally agree about its relevance to the 150th anniversary, and will bring this up in a future conversation about planning to mark the occasion. Good point!

Other points I will send on to HQ, and ask them for comment.

And so it just leaves me to wish you compliments of the season, and a very Happy New Year!

Oh, and I'm sure you're nowhere near as grumpy as Victor Meldrew!!!

Best Wishes,

Peter Jones

Secretary's Sidelines

I hope you all enjoyed the Presentation ceremony and the Frostbite shoot.

The mulled wine was very welcome as it was a bit chilly outside. Those of you who couldn't come missed a very pleasant event; and some of you who came forgot to pick up your Christmas cards.

So, Christmas cards for the following are in the shed:

Deryk Leach, Elaine Smith, Bill Linton,
George Bright, Keith Harding, Wayne Powell
Kevin Brooks, Rod Fletcher

I did try to email a message to you but failed. I still haven't got the hang of all the things to do on this website yet.

I hope to go to North Wales if the weather improves so I will see you all in the new year. Meanwhile you can practice what I told you in the last Newsletter. Put on your wellies and six jumpers and you will be fine. Which means that serious shooting is not possible if you are cold!!

Official Notice

Your Committee for next year are:-

Chairman - Neil Richardson
Vice Chair - Sandra Punton
Secretary - Colin Bowen
Treasurer - Pamela Peake
Captain - Charles Van Rensburg
Vice Captain - Clive Jeffery
Equipment Officer - Roger Oehl
Records Officer - Warwick Drew
Ordinary Members
Chris Punton and Sally Robinson
Social Secretary - Jean Barker

Happy shooting in the new year

Colin

Social Secretary

Happy new year to you all!

Xmas Dinner – sadly it had to be postponed because of the snow. However it is now on the 14th January, 7:00 for 7:30 at the Bull Inn, East Farleigh. There are still a few seats available so if you're interested please contact me by the 10th and give me your choice of food.

Xmas frostbite – always a popular one because of the mulled wine and nibbles at the end. Not to mention the award of the trophies. It was really good to see so many Members there.

If any Member wishes to contribute to the next Newsletter please email us at geoff@fleur-de-lys-designs.co.uk putting ACA in the subject or send hard copy to 33 Ash Grove, Allington, Maidstone, ME16 0AA. Moans, groans, suggestions – anything at all. We ask that any articles are with us by the 25th of each month.

We are grateful to Ken Garrett for the following:-

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our long time member, Pat Smith aged 76. Pat joined the Club in 1980 and was immediately a most active member, supporting all the Club shoots, Mid Kent Leagues and others. He was soon joined by his wife Margaret, and children Anne and Phillip. The two youngsters were part of a formidable Junior team we had in the 1980s. Pat was always ready to help newer archers and a number had much to thank him for.

He was often accompanied by his appropriately named dog, Dash. The animal appeared to be totally without a sense of direction and would dash about without any apparent purpose except perhaps to exasperate his master.

One memory of Pat concerns one of our Family Days when we organised all manner of games and daft things on the old field. Pat, a burly chap and wearing a flashy Disco Dazzler, was taking part in the Treasure Hunt and was espied by some folk in the adjacent lane. They asked if he was alright, to which he replied that it was great 'in here' and he even got butter on his bread. They left.

Pat had been at sea in the Merchant Navy in his early days and later worked for Securicor and other security companies. Any spare time he had out on the road he spent in second hand bookshops and built up a large collection of books on archery. In one of these, an American book, we read about the start of the Worcester round and also the devilish Metropolitan round. This was used for several years as a replacement activity for the Family Day. It provided a pretty stern test of an archer's ability and stamina. He had an imposing presence and frequently acted as the car parking attendant when we held big tournaments. Although a very kindly man he certainly had a way with those visitors with antisocial parking tendencies.

In recent years Pat and Margaret's main contact with the Club have been social visits to one or other of the tournaments and the Christmas Party.

Our thoughts go out to Margaret, Anne and Phillip at this sad time.



Christmas Frostbite