

# Allington Castle Archers

## Nocking Point

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*January 2012*



**'APPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR  
MEMBERS**

**Dates for your diary**

**Frostbite Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**BA Indoors Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

**Indoor Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January**

## Captains Corner

Hi all

New Year and new Club Captain, well not really - more a recycled one.

As I said in last month's newsletter I had a dream, hopefully I can deliver in the coming year.

### Henry V

As you have probably heard Barry and I have managed to get onto the set of a BBC production of Henry V as extras. An eye opener to the production of a film, you can see were £10,000,000 goes. There are people all over the place, costume, makeup, camera setters, sound riggers, directors, assistant directors, cameramen, sound men, actors and of course the extras. One scene can consist of 4 camera placements. This requires platforms built, the rails for the camera trolley, the camera trolley, the camera, and all the cables for the hi-tech wide screen HD digital camera to be moved.

Some actors are great and are friendly, chatting to everyone, including extras, others do not even see you, their loss. The thing that comes over from the extras is that they are there because they are enthusiastic about the re-enactment side of things and want to be involved. Some of them are members of re-enactment clubs from all over the country. Some are full time extra's and some are budding actors. But what comes over most strongly in the re-enactors is their commitment to their period, the skills they have acquired over the years and their knowledge. Some very interesting people, and that is what is making this so enjoyable, even standing in a field with mud up to your ankles, and the temperature dropping to 3 deg C. The long hours were a bit of a shock. First day

started at 9:00am in costume, makeup, then on the set, 12 ½ hours later hearing that immortal phrase "cut , print that's a rap, thank you everyone".

Luckily they do feed you well. A full cooked breakfast (anything you want), tea and coffee late morning, then a late hot lunch, Lasagne was good, then tea and coffee mid/late afternoon, then if after 8:00pm hot chocolate and sandwiches. All consumed with gusto by the extras. Standing around is the main job of extras so it seems.

I did manage to get into two scenes, as a soldier, first when the French Herald comes into the English camp at the eve of the battle, I am soldier trudging past him. Second as Henry (Harry as we call him) tours the camp that evening and speaks to Fluellen the Welshman, I'm the third soldier on the right.

I have not shot an arrow yet. Currently we are only organic props to be placed around the scenes. The second week we will start shooting the battle scenes - that should be more interesting.

Just had a text that I am required three days next week starting the 19<sup>th</sup>. as an archer. Maybe I will get to shoot an arrow this time.

Well I did shoot a few arrows in the battle. Our big scene is the advance from our starting position to moving forward taking our stakes with us, maybe the origins of "up-stakes and move on". I missed the famous speech by Harry "us small band of brothers" but the other extras said it was very good. Our final scene was shooting from behind our stakes on command of **Stretch – Loose**. The final day of shooting was the most work we did,

shooting arrow after arrow at the French cavalry. Sad for it to come to an end but

**we were there, for ENGLAND, HARRY and St. GEORGE!!!**

Some photos from our Henry V outing



Me as English soldier less coif and helmet, plus dirt and boils.



Barry as an English Archer



Me as an English Archer the mud is stage type except on our boots



Barry and I in the tea tent. We spent a lot of time in here.

**Geoff B**

## Twig and Stick

### Longbow – All of a quiver

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and are going to have a “good shooting” New Year. The New Year brings with it another season of archery, resolutions (which you are sure to break by the 2<sup>nd</sup> January), new bits of equipment to try, (that you got from Father Christmas... What, you don't believe in Santa!!!) new things and aims to achieve for the New Year.

I am new to Longbow (around 18 months) but have always wanted to “have a go”! I had met a wall, no, not a wall (so they tell me) a plateau, using my Recurve.

I managed to persuade Geoff, after using Barry Ruck's Longbow for a short while (many thanks Barry), to make me a Longbow (for a fee) and then continued archery using both Recurve and Longbow. This didn't work for me so I decided to concentrate on Longbow for a year, which is what I did for the 2010 / 2011 season. Although many people thought I was going for a Master Bowman, it wasn't on my mind and I still had a lot to learn about Longbow, I did have an aim, to get over 300 in a York round, I managed it once but not at a record status round.

Anyway, I shot at many tournaments during the 2011 season and was lucky enough to achieve, sometimes, a placed position, i.e. I won a few medals. It was fascinating to meet, at the tournaments, so many people who have an interest in the sport of Archery, I found them, almost without exception, so very helpful, with that and the help I received at Allington Castle Archers, I learnt a lot during the season. One reason for mentioning this, I didn't see as many ACA members supporting other archery clubs as I

expected. I know this is a personal thing but supporting other clubs as well as they support ACA will keep Archery, alive and kicking...

It is worth “having a go” at tournaments, not only do you gain experience doing tournaments but you hear different ideas about how to do it. Longbow is still archery, even if Recurve members etc think of it differently; there are many aspects of archery that don't change, whatever you are shooting. Stance, hand position, the draw, aiming, the loose, follow through and relaxing are a selection, everybody has different ideas but the basics are (nearly) always the same.

I have been fortunate to know a few of the Longbow archers ,on the circuit, Bob Gawler, Clinton Hill, Chris Ellis, Geoff Chenery and our own Geoff Barker and Ken Bearman, all have their own way of shooting and are willing to help. These ‘named people’ are good at what they do, they have been doing it for ages or practising many times each week, whatever they do, THEY ENJOY ARCHERY. At tournaments, whatever type, Field, Clout, Target and many others that Longbows participate in, there are rules and regulations as well as traditions but the FUN they have doing it, is noticeable. There are, of course, other Longbow men in the club who have enjoyed the sport for many years, having fun. I hope, if I have Longbow men that don't mind sharing their experiences and contacting me, to write about some of the more humorous aspects of the sport. I have had a few which I hope to share with you over the next few months.

I didn't get much chance to speak fuller to our own ‘Film Stars’ yet, Geoff and Barry, to get some idea of what they were doing.

Most of you will know that they have been chosen as extras in a BBC2 film of Shakespeare's "Henry V". Both Bill Lyons and I also went to the castings but obviously were too young to take part.....

☺ I did grab a few moments with Geoff who said he will be an English Archer, English Foot Soldier and a French Foot Soldier who, as I heard 'on the field', will probably be killing himself during filming... I'm sure that Geoff will explain how and what they did during filming, the little I heard during our Christmas 'Frostbite' was fascinating.

A few facts you might be interested in, Henry V is a historical play by William Shakespeare, believed to be written in approximately 1599. Its full titles are The Chronicle History of Henry the Fifth and The Life of Henry the Fifth. It tells the story of King Henry V of England, focusing on events immediately before and after the Battle of Agincourt (1415) during the Hundred Years War. In Henry V, he has become a mature man and embarks on a successful conquest of France. At the siege of Harfleur, Henry utters one of Shakespeare's best-known speeches, beginning "Once more unto the breach, dear friends..." Then it continues to the Battle of Agincourt (which I hope next month to discuss in more detail), after the French defeat he gets to Paris and woos a French princess, Katherine. Shakespeare always adds a bit of comedy to his plays, whether romantic or tragedy, during this play I believe the comedy is supplied by an English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh archer. (The original Englishman, Scotsman & Irishman joke...) Henry V was possibly first played at the Globe Theatre in 1600, two hundred years after the battle. There are two already well known films of Henry V, in 1944 with Laurence Olivier and 1989 with Kenneth

Branagh, the 2012 film, believe to be released in July will have (unless they are edited out) Geoff Barker & Barry Ruck from Allington Castle Archers. (Queue audience – applause.....)

I am hoping to talk to all the Longbow men over future months about what they would like to see under "Twig & Stick", the 'all of a quiver' was because this will be my first (and possibly, my last) try at writing for a magazine so I need some ideas from you people. Would hints & tips help? A bit of humour, what is going on, tournament wise and where, anything you would like to see, let's hear from you, on the field, by e-mail, snail mail (Pony Express) whatever is easier for you...

Something worth mentioning, Longbow is a very varied sport. There are so many types of Longbow shoot with some quite strange names. I am hoping to mention these in future 'Nocking Point's, what they are about, why they did them and some of the traditions involved. Some of the types are, Clout, Popinjay, Beursault, wand and others, all interesting ways of shooting at a target.

On a personal note, I was walking up the field to collect my arrows and over heard three elderly archers talking (like we all do, politics, last night's meal, sometimes personal stuff) as they went to get their arrows.

*"Sixty is the worst age to be," said the 60-year-old, "You always feel like you have to pee and most of the time nothing happens."*

*"Ah, that's nothing," said the 70-year-old. "When you're 70, you don't have a bowel movement anymore. You take laxatives, eat bran, you sit on the toilet all day and nothing happens."*

*"Actually," said the 80-year-old, "Eighty is the worst age of all."*

*"Do you have trouble peeing too?" asked the 60-year-old.*

*"No, I pee every morning at 6.00 am. I pee like a racehorse; no problem at all".*

*"Do you have trouble having a bowel movement"?*

*"No, I have one every morning at 6.30 am".*

*Puzzled with this the 60-year-old said, "Let's get this straight. You pee every morning at 6.00 am and poop every morning at 6.30 am. So what's so tough about being 80?"*

*"I don't wake up until seven"..... 😊*

The Christmas Frostbite was attended by, among others, 4 Longbow archers. Most of us were dressed more like Father Christmas than Robin Hood but everybody enjoyed themselves. Lawrence did well, especially as he hasn't done Longbow very much. Towards the end of the shoot he was hitting the target much more often. On the other hand, Bill was having a not such good day, something was making sure he was 'in the green' for most of it. Better luck next time Bill... 😊 The snacks, drinks and warm room afterwards was most welcome, the Christmas cheer, welcoming company was enjoyed by everybody and doesn't Christmas bring the best out in people...

I hear that one of our ladies is giving Longbow a try, well done Pamela.

This is my first try at publishing and I have mainly talked about myself. From now on

I'm hoping that I get enough information from you guys & girls that I won't have to do that again.... 😊

I've just received the BL-BS Year book for 2011 and I wanted to add that.

On Sat 1st Oct. 2011 the British Longbow Society (BLBS) had their South Eastern Target Meeting at Newhaven Archery Club. It was a very hot day but our congratulations should go to Christine Bearman for gaining 'Most Hits' at the Ladies Double National round. Tied with another lady but achieved a higher score. Remember BL\_BS rules are 1st, highest hits, 2nd, highest score and 3rd, most gold's. If, for instance, the hits were the same, then the score counts. Also, they are inseparable for obvious reasons, Ken Bearman gained 'most gold's' in the gentleman's York round.

Well done to you both.

**Don't forget, enjoy yourselves and have fun....**

Alf.



From Roger