



LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB

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NEWSLETTER NO.22 - OCTOBER 1997

Dear Members,

Welcome to the next chapter of our club's newsletter.

CLUB NEWS

WINTER POSTAL LEAGUES 1997/98

Wednesday the 5th of November will be our first monthly shoot which will also provide us with an ideal opportunity to hone our shooting skills for those of us who will be entering the Lasswade Open on Sunday the 9th. Can you please get to the postal shoot on time as we do not want to be held up by late-comers!

**LASSWADE OPEN PORTSMOUTH (BRS)
SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 1997**

If you have read the previous item you will know about this shoot. As it is not possible to get the range set-up on the day, can some of you come along on Saturday the 8th for 8.30pm to get the range set-up?

Watty, who is the organiser will probably be very grateful!

As this is normally a well attended shoot, we hope to make some extra money by holding a raffle so, if you can, any donations for prizes will be most welcome.

Watty will probably be very grateful!

**SCOTTISH INDOOR DISABLED CHAMPIONSHIPS, LASSWADE
SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 1997**

Our own Kelly Hoy, who is organiser for this shoot, approached the club committee some time ago with a view to holding this year's shoot at Lasswade. We have agreed and Kelly has booked the shoot for the above date.

She intends the shoot to start at 1.30pm. This means that we would like Lasswade members to come along for 12.30pm to get the range set-up if you can make it.

As many of the archers are not able to go back and forward to the targets, we would also like some of you to act as scorers as well. The proceedings should be finished by 5.30pm. The shoot itself will be a Portsmouth round. If you can help I am sure Kelly would be most grateful!

NEW MEMBERS

I hope you will all give a great big welcome to Alan Marshall who has now joined our happy little band. Alan will be known to most of you as he has often shot with us and helped us with some of our tournaments without having to be asked! (A subtle hint!).

Tonight (October 8th) saw the conclusion of our 6 week beginners course. Several adults and quite a few children (18 in total) completed their basic training and it looks like we have picked up at least 6 new members. I will up-date you on the new intake next month.

Before I forget, I would also like to thank our coaches and those club members who took the time and trouble to help run these classes.

SEPTEMBER WEEKEND AT OTTERBURN

On Friday night I travelled to Otterburn and pitched my caravan beside Brian and Ann Imrie who were also there for the fourth Otterburn Field Shoot. After a good meal and a small drink (just to make me sleep, you know) I turned in for a good nights rest, ready for the hard slog around the field course the next day. Up at the crack of dawn, hearty breakfast and my kit all packed, it was off to the practice area and registration. This being my first proper field shoot I must say I was very impressed by the way it was organised.

Saturday was a round of 28 unmarked targets, this was a little bit of a problem to start with but I soon got my eye in and made a respectful score of 211, even although the wind tried it's best to divert my arrows away from the targets. Meg arrived at 1900hrs and with Brian and Ann Imrie we head for our dinner at a local restaurant, the fayre was excellent and the company first class. A few pints and a crack with "The Boys from Cleadon" and it was off to bed.

Sunday morning saw the arrival of Bill and Margaret MacKay. The weather was a bit overcast and there was a strong wind blowing which played havoc with my projectiles when out in the open field area. The distances were marked at each target and this helped, and I returned a score of 215. Meg's score of 185 was a PB, come to think of it my scores were PB's.

Congratulations must go to the organisers for providing such a wonderful and relaxing weekend for us. We will certainly make every effort to return next year.

Watty Wyse

PS. Bill scored a 276. I don't know Margaret's score but I am sure it was brilliant!

ARCHERY LEADERS COURSE, LAGGANLIA CENTRE, NEAR AVIEMORE
3,4 & 5 OCTOBER 1997

Bill M had asked me some time ago if I would attend this course that he was running. So I said yes. Bill and Margaret had arranged to collect me from home at 4pm on the Friday afternoon and Bill seemed confident that he could find my home. However, he got slightly lost but eventually found me at 4.30pm. This meant that we hit the worst of the traffic heading into Fife.

After crossing the bridge we encountered another delay on the A9 caused by a very nasty traffic accident. We finally arrived at about 7.30pm not having had time for a meal on the way up. We un-packed and met our fellow candidates and after introducing ourselves, Bill began going over the course-work. Our main topics for the evening were safety, details of equipment with reference to beginners and juniors and tests which can be used to check for eye dominance.

After the session finished at about 10pm Bill, Margaret and myself made the short trip to Aviemore for a meal. We arrived back about an hour later and retired for the night.

The accommodation was very good with the centre split into several self-contained lodges. As there were only six of us staying over-night, we all had a separate room each. Our lodge was called Hillend, small world is it not? Everything we needed was provided for each lodge had its own kitchen etc. All we had to do was to collect any hot meals from the kitchen block if they were not delivered to us.

Saturday, as Bill had promised, proved to be a long day. After breakfast at 8am we made our way down to the range only a short walk away to get it set up. As there is already a fixed frame assembled, all we had to do was to place 8 light-weight stramat butts within the frame itself. After going through the safety we then got ourselves kitted out with training bows, arrows, bracers and finger tabs. We then spent most of the morning shooting from 10 yards and using the techniques explained by Bill. The main purpose was to make sure we could all hit the target. Needless to say Margaret and myself did not have any problems!

After lunch it was back to the range where we were split into groups of two. We then had to go through the whole process of meeting our partner, to getting him shooting an arrow within 15 minutes.

We then swapped roles with our partners with us as the beginners and them as the instructors. We then had a stroke of luck when an attractive young lady approached us and asked us if herself and some friends could try archery. They were at the centre doing other activities. Bill asked them to come back for about 3pm so us potential leaders had some raw talent to work with. To make things more interesting for them we put some balloons on the target faces. My pupil took to the sport very quickly and succeeded in bursting the balloon which was not easy as it was windy with light showers on the Saturday. After about an hour they thanked us and left. Several of them had expressed an interest in archery so we informed them about the archery classes at Meadowbank. The lesson here: Never miss an opportunity to enlist a potential new archer!

After our evening meal Bill then went over the subjects of equipment maintenance, string-making, arrow fletching and arrow straightening plus a briefing for Sunday's programme. We finished at about 10pm. Needless to say we slept well that night!

Sunday began eventfully. There we were getting stuck into our breakfast when 2 of the centre staff came over to inform us that the fire alarm had gone off but we did not hear it as the detector in our lodge appeared to have a fault.

It was later found out that it may have been caused by our toaster. I can't remember who made the toast but the initials MM spring to mind! On a serious note it was just as well as it was a false alarm!

After breakfast it was back to the range for our final shooting/role-playing session. Derek arrived about 11am. After a short break it was back to the range to convince Derek we could all teach complete beginners on safety and shooting while also demonstrating that we could all hit the target at 20 yards!

Derek tried to catch us out by standing on the wrong side of the shooting-line and the odd in-correct whistle signal. Come to think of it, Bill did a lot of that! After lunch Derek then went over all the subjects covered by Bill to test our knowledge. After this session he told us we had all passed and we were awarded our leaders' badges.

We left the centre at about 4.30pm to end an interesting and rewarding weekend.

ARCHERY - A BRIEF HISTORY

Some authorities date the origin of archery as early as the Aurignacian period, about 25,000 years before the modern era. The earliest people known to have used the bow and arrow were the ancient Egyptians, who adopted the weapon at least 5000 years ago. In the time of the earliest pharaohs, the Egyptians practised archery in hunting, as well as in warfare against the ancient Persians, who were then equipped only with spears and slingshots. Soon after, however, the bow and arrow was used extensively in the ancient world. The Assyrians and Babylonians depended on the weapon, and the Old Testament refers several times to archery as a characteristic skill of the ancient Hebrews. In China, archery dates back to the Shang dynasty (1766?-1027? BC). A war chariot of that time carried a three-man team; driver, lancer and archer. During the ensuing Zhou (Chou) dynasty (1027?-256 BC), nobles at court attended sport archery tournaments that were accompanied by music and interspersed with elegant salutations.

The Romans owed much of their military superiority to armies of skilled archers. At the beginning of the medieval period the Romans were in turn defeated by the more highly skilled archers of the **Goths, Huns and Vandals**. During the **Middle Ages** the most notable European archers were the English. Medieval ballads celebrate their feats in hunting, fighting and sport. Outside **Europe**, in the same period, peoples of the **Middle East** excelled in archery. Archery also played a role in the folklore of the Middle Ages. According to legend, 14th-century Swiss marksman **William Tell** was ordered by an Austrian governor to shoot an apple off his own son's head with a bow and arrow. In addition, the story of **Robin Hood**, the heroic outlaw, originated in the late 14th or early 15th century. Robin Hood, glorified for stealing from the rich and giving to the poor, wielded a bow and arrow. He was famous for his accurate marksmanship, including the ability to split one arrow with another.

Accounts of European travellers during the **Renaissance** indicate that the bow and arrow was the most important weapon used in East Asia, the Americas, Central Africa and the Arctic regions. However, the introduction of gunpowder gradually made the bow and arrow obsolete, especially in western Europe. In the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the English in 1588, for example, 10,000 English troops were experimentally equipped with firearms, while the Spanish relied on archers; the success of the English forces played a major role in convincing military theorists that archery had become a relatively inefficient method of waging war. Nevertheless, peoples of East Asia employed archers in warfare as recently as the 19th century, and the use of the bow and arrow in hunting and intertribal fighting continues in central **Africa** and **South America** to the present day.

Andy Robertson

PS. "ARCHERY AS A SPORT " will be featured in the next newsletter.

OTHER NEWS

Due to repairs in the main hall, we will be shooting in the gymnasium on Wednesday evenings. We will return to the main hall on Wednesday 5th November.

ITEMS FOR SALE

HOYT RADIAN 66" BOW, metallic red, carbon limbs 32-36lbs @ 28"	£400.00	o.n.o.
SCORPIO carbon long rod, metallic red	£ 25.00	
SCORPIO carbon twin rods, metallic red	£ 25.00	the pair
ARTEN V BAR for the above	£ 10.00	
AIR BOW training aid, fits to the bow in seconds, fires 22 darts or pellets	£ 20.00	o.n.o.
ARTEN MIDAS compound sight with scope	£ 60.00	o.n.o.
Various pressure buttons, arrow rests, tabs, clickers etc. Please enquire.		

All the above prices are open to negotiation. Ask for Andy Robertson or Tel. 01501-730414.

This list will also appear on the club's notice board.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1997

NOVEMBER

TOURNAMENT/ROUND (OR EVENT)

Wednesday, 5th	Postal Shoot/Portsmouth
Sunday, 9th	Lasswade Indoor Open/ Portsmouth (BRS)
Saturday, 15th	Scottish Indoor Disabled Championships/Portsmouth
Wednesday, 26th	19th Lasswade AC AGM at 7.30pm Venue: TBA (no club session)

That wraps up newsletter 22.

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