



THE ARROWHEAD

THE NEWSLETTER
OF LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB



ISSUE NO. 26 - FEBRUARY 1998

Dear Members,

Since our last newsletter, the indoor season is now well under way and we have already added to our on-going tally of medals. I had hoped to get this newsletter out sooner but due to major up-heavals at work and organising our recent Indoor Fita, I have now only found the time to get this issue released. I am pleased that some of you are now contributing to the newsletter which promises to have a varied content this month.

CLUB NEWS

CLASSIFICATIONS/HANDICAPS

Now that Andy has had time to get settled into his post as our new Records Officer, he has now compiled an up-to-date list for all our indoor classifications and handicaps. A copy of the list is attached to this newsletter.

OUTDOOR CLUB TROPHIES

As some of you will know we did not hold our own outdoor club championships in 1997 so the committee decided to award the trophies on the basis of outdoor scores gained by some of you. Once again, Andy had the task of sorting this out. The trophies were awarded as follows:-

<u>LADIES</u>	Muriel Kirkwood
<u>GENTS</u>	Paul Rennie
<u>COMPOUNDS</u>	Andy Robertson
<u>JUNIORS</u>	Barry Galbraith.

In addition, the Improvers Trophies were also awarded as follows:-

<u>LADIES</u>	Kelly Hoy
<u>GENTS</u>	Andy Robertson

Well done to you all.

THE CLUB TROPHY BOOK

I am gradually putting together a new trophy book for the club which involves photographing as many of the club trophies as possible. I would like to thank those of you who took the trouble to return them for this purpose. Once again Andy performed this task and I have to say that the photos came out well, even showing the details on their engraving plaques. Where necessary, he also cleaned them as well. Thanks again Andy.

CORPORATE SHOOTS

Recently, Bill C stood down as organiser for these shoots and I am sure many of us are grateful to him for doing this task so well. This means we now require some-one to take over. It goes without saying that these events have helped to keep the club solvent over the past few years so any volunteers please step forward now. Bill C can give you all the details if he survives the stampede of volunteers!

POSTAL SHOOTS

Can I remind you that our last shoot for the 1997/98 season will take place on Wednesday, 18th March. Can those of you still using club equipment please come early so we are not forced to run over time for the round. Ideally, we should start no later than 7.45pm.

PS. At last months postal I shot alongside Tina who put me down on our score-sheet as "Donald the Prune!"

It gives you some idea of how I shot. However, I may be a prune Tina but you ain't no peach yourself Honey! HA! HA!

THE INTERTOWN SHOOTS - WHAT ARE THEY?

For the benefit of our new members (or some of the older ones!), I think that I should explain what these shoots entail.

Every year we hold two events shooting against our good friends from Penicuik AC.

The Indoor round is the Portsmouth which you will now be familiar with. (5 dozen arrows at 20 yards on a 60cm face).

The Outdoor round is a Frostbite (3 dozen arrows at 30m on a 80cm face).

The Indoor round involves both clubs but the result is decided by the scores shot by pre-selected teams from each club usually, 2 ladies, 2 gents, 2 juniors and a compound where possible.

The Frostbite again involves both clubs with the 6 highest scores from each club being used to determine the winners. Trophies are awarded for both shoots and Penicuik currently hold both of them. The dates for this year are in the diary section of this newsletter.

INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 1998

This year the above event will take place on Friday 13th March. It will be the usual Portsmouth round, dress is optional and no target fee will be payable. However, so that we can have some idea of numbers can you please let me know by Wednesday, 11th if you intend to take part. This will enable me to compile a target list. We would like to start by 6.30pm so please arrive in good time. After the shoot there will be a presentation and refreshments, Aunty Joan permitting!

CLUB EQUIPMENT

I draw the attention of our newer members to the existence of club-owned equipment which can be made available to them. This includes:- arrow straighteners, fletching-jigs, string-making jig (and materials), powered arrow-cutter, bow scale, grain scale (for weighing shafts, points, nocks) and nock alignment jig. For the making of a Dacron string there is a charge of £1.50 and for a Fastflight one £2.50, preferably paid direct to our treasurer, the grasping Graeme. It costs the club about £5.00 to replace an arrow-cutting disc so I suggest a £1.00 charge for the use of the arrow-cutter again preferably paid direct to G.G.

Bill Carmichael
0131-663-8104

GNAS DRESS CODE

Those members who have read the autumn issue of "Scottish Archery" may have gathered there is being expressed a desire for the relaxation of the dress code. My personal wish is that it be terminated and clubs be allowed to have their own distinctive colour of dress. I would like to know what your opinions are. Do you want to retain the GNAS dress code? Do you want a relaxation of the code? Do you hanker to have our own distinctive club colours? Let me know how you feel about this matter and definitely long before the next S.A.A. AGM.

Bill Carmichael
0131-663-8104

RULES OF SHOOTING - PART 2

THE WHISTLE AND TIME CONTROL

So that everyone is aware of when to approach the line and when to shoot we make use of a whistle and a set of signals. The signals are different from a FITA round to that of a GNAS round and you should make yourself aware of these, they are:

FITA	two blasts	approach the shooting line (first detail)
	one blast	start shooting
	two blasts	approach the shooting line (second detail)
GNAS	one blast	start shooting
	two blasts	proceed to target and score your arrows
	three blasts	
GNAS	one blast	The first detail approaches the shooting line and starts to shoot. When the archer has shot his/her three arrows they retire from the line and the archer from the second detail takes up position and shoots their three arrows. When the line is clear the Judge will give:
	two blasts	proceed to target and score your arrows

Should you loose an arrow before the signal to start shooting or after the signal to stop shooting has been given, you will loose the value of your highest scoring arrow.

Timing.

Here again we have conflict with FITA and GNAS regarding the timing of ends. FITA states quite clearly that an archer will be allowed two minutes to shoot three arrows, this also applies to Record Status shoots under GNAS rules but at non status shoots the archer is allowed two minutes thirty seconds to shoot three arrows.

Watty Wyse

Next Edition: The Bouncer and The Pass Through

OTHER ITEMS

Bill C appears to be in "overdrive" this month. HA!HA!

Many of you may not be aware that he is also a member of the Civil Service Archery Association and the following two items appeared in a recent edition of their newsletter. Although not written by Bill he thought they would be of interest to our members.

CLICKERMANIA

The clicker! the biggest stumbling block to good shooting invented by man. Too often I have seen archers who are a few months into the sport with their bows sporting a piece of spring steel. They are convinced (and common sense would seem to dictate), that this wonderfully simple item of equipment is going to be the answer to all of their problems. After all, the clicker enables us to draw the same length of arrow every time, so exactly the same amount of energy is imparted to each shaft and therefore, must strike the target at the same height (you wish). The trouble is, that the archer who has not yet developed an ingrained shooting form without a clicker (and most haven't) is allowing the clicker to control the shot (with poor results).

Now I'm going to upset you all and say that unless you can shoot a 1000 Plus FITA, you shouldn't be using a clicker. Indeed the blasted thing has complete control of you and you can't shoot without it. One Portsdown Archer - Terry Clark has realised the damage being done by the clicker and has stopped using it. His draw length is settling down nicely, and I'm sure that the marvellous feeling of "shooting in the bow" will relegate this disruptive piece of metal to the bottom of his tackle box for a long time.

So don't be satisfied with the scores you are getting, and don't think that you have reached the limit of your shooting abilities. If you persevere without the d...d thing, all will improve. It won't happen overnight, but in the end your back and shoulder muscles will do the work that you are relying on the clicker to do and you will also achieve a lot more satisfaction and enjoyment from your shooting.

THE OLDEST BOW IN BRITAIN

Recently Alf Webb visited Edinburgh and whilst there was granted the privilege of seeing what is now identified as "the Oldest Bow in Britain"

I had the privilege of meeting Dr Alison Sheriden at the "closed" National Museum of Scotland and seeing the evocatively named Rotten Bottom bow recently dated to c.4040 - 3640 BC, the oldest bow in Britain. It was wonderful and time went too quickly. I have seen and been able to comment upon this bow probably two years before it can be put on public exhibition.

That Dr Sheriden could bind the time to spare me when the whole museum staff are hard at it packing all the museums collections ready to move to new premises in 1998/99, was so generous to this ancient toxophilist. She is also finding time to prepare a lecture on the bow and writing a definitive report on it.

My feelings and conclusions about the bow are herewith. I must emphasise that they are mine and should not be attributed to Dr Sheridan or any of the experts she has conferred with. Although it is being called a "flat" bow, to my mind it is an early form of the standard "D" section longbow, but as far as one can decide which is the heartwood and which is the sapwood, it seems that the rounded section is the back of the bow and the belly flat with a pronounced ridge which sits just below the base of one's thumb in the palm of the hand. Quite the reverse of normal practice.

Using this ridge its original length would have been circa 1.75 metres, with about a third of the bow missing, or in other words missing at the general break point of most longbows. It is lightweight with perhaps a draw weight of around 36 pounds, but has the suggestion it would have a fast cast even if it hadn't a very great range. It is the sort of weapon I would look at if wildfowling - its find location suggests to me that this would be a prime wild fowling area.

Steve Ralphs, for Border Archery, has made a replica and a member of the museum staff Fraser Hunter, an appropriate name, test shot it. I did handle it too but found it rather odd to be holding a bow back to front as the sapwood/heartwood identification of the original suggests.

Dating suggests the bow was in use at the start of farming (the Neolithic) and the replica arrow provided with the replica bow has been furnished with a leaf shaped head. I take the view that the bow was a hold-over from the Hunting and Gathering period (the Mesolithic) and perhaps the more appropriate would be the petit-tranchet (or chisel) so useful for cutting wing feathers and bringing down game.

Rotten Bottom doesn't refer to the condition of the bow but rather to a remote boggy plateau high in the Tweedsmuir Hills. A lot more research will be put in before the bow is displayed. A palaeoenvironmentalist Dr Richard Tipping has drawn up a research design to see if it can be discovered whether the plateau was covered with forest when the bow was in use, and the quarry being driven to the edge of the forest for shooting. He also wishes to try to find whether yew was growing locally near the find.

Please note that the land where find was made is private and prior permission is required before attempting to fieldwalk it.

Alf Webb

3 SPOT FITA AND HEAD TO HEAD COMPETITION
CLUNY CLAYS, FIFE - 1 FEBRUARY 1998

Well.....Hello club members.

I felt I just had to put pen to paper, so to speak, to tell you about one of the best competitions I have had the pleasure to shoot at in a long time. It all started on Sunday morning as I leisurely drove and daydreamed, just as usual, towards Kirkcaldy and missed the Cluny turn off, never mind, only five miles up the carriageway before I could turn back. Still driving at a leisurely pace, I arrived at the Cluny Clays Archery Centre in plenty of time.

The morning shoot was the 18m 3 spot Fita, and for those of you who do not know what a 3 spot Fita is, you shoot one arrow into three separate small targets. This was also the first time I had tried this competition, but I was still hopeful of doing well.

Lasswade was well appointed with our own Bill MacKay being one of the judges and five archers, George King coming 3rd in the gents recurve, the lovely Meg Wyse coming 5th in the ladies recurve, Billy Stewart 2nd, myself 4th and Ross Stewart 6th in the gents compound.

But the Piste de Resistance was still to come in the afternoon, and I do not mean Watty Wyse, who turned up in all his S.A.A. El Presidente regalia, but who nevertheless helped judge this nerve jangling competition.

The competition is basically the same as the morning shoot, only you're paired against an opponent shooting 12 arrows in 3 arrow ends, you shoot one he shoots one and so on.

The compound archers went first, with the ladies put in with the men. At least I can say I got into the quarterfinals, albeit there were only eight of us. I was paired against Jeff McKenzie of Colgrain and held him arrow for arrow until the last end, where I'm afraid I just bottled it, pressure? Boy what an adrenaline rush. Billy Stewart was also beaten in that round by Tim Goodwin of Cluny by only one point, but Ross Stewart beat Brian Price of Meddow to go through to the semi's, he was then paired against Claire Treneman of Colgrain and what a battle that turned out to be, he only needed to hit the target with his last arrow to go through to the final, but what did he do? you've guessed it - he missed, ask him about the pressure! He was also unfortunately beaten in the play off for third place by Tim Goodwin, but nevertheless gave an excellent account of himself considering he was the only compound on fingers.

George King was fortunate to get a bye in the first round of the gents recurve, but was beaten in the next round by Stuart Dunlop of Ayr.

And the lovely Meg didn't fair much better, being beaten by Elayne McLean of Penicuik in the first round.

But I'm sure, as all that shot would testify, it was a terrific competition, and I for one, can't wait to try another one.

Yes, a truly enjoyable day.

Andy Robertson

PS. At least I won something in the raffle.

5TH LASSWADE INDOOR OPEN FITA (BRS) (600)
LASSWADE - 8 FEBRUARY 1998

LORD PARAMOUNT: MR ANDY ROBERTSON
JUDGES: MR GEORGE GREEN (REGIONAL)
MR DEREK SANGSTER (COUNTY)
MR WALTER WYSE (COUNTY, JUNIOR GRADE)
ORGANISER: YOURS TRULY

This years shoot (my fourth as its organiser) was on its own again as it had been incorporated with the Eastern Area Championships in 1997. This was reflected in a lower turn-out as I had suspected. However, Watty, after twisting my arm, advised me to keep to the 2 sessions.

Sixteen clubs represented by 72 archers entered with only 7 of these as non-starters. The shoot itself progressed uneventfully save for a Robin Hood shot in the morning session. Eleven Lasswade members took part this year and their results were as follows:-

<u>LADIES</u>	4th	Meg Wyse	(522)
	plus the C Class medal		
	7th	Tina James	(509)
<u>GENTS</u>	7th	George King	(524)
	9th	Bill Carmichael	(513)
	24th	Ian Hunter	NEW PB(447)
<u>GENTS C/LTD</u>	1st	Athol Pirie	Boo! (519)
	2nd	Allen Sorbie	(495)
	3rd	Neil Fraser	(481)
<u>GENTS C/U/LTD</u>	1st	Billy Stewart	(557)
	7th	Andy Robertson	(115)
		retired due to problems with his peep-sight	
<u>JUNIOR BOYS C/U/LTD</u>	1st	Barry Galbraith	NEW PB(348)
<u>TEAM</u>	4th	Lasswade	(2068)
		George King, Meg Wyse, Bill Carmichael and Tina James	

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ALL EVENTS ARE AT LASSWADE UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE

1998

FEBRUARY

TOURNAMENT/ROUND

Friday, 27th

Intertown Shoot/
PORTSMOUTH, Penicuik

MARCH

Sunday, 1st

S.A.A. Indoor
Championships/FITA 18
Linwood

Sunday, 8th

D.N.A.A. Indoor
Championships/PORTSMOUTH
Killingworth

Friday, 13th

Indoor Club
Championships/PORTSMOUTH

Wednesday, 18th

Postal Shoot/PORTSMOUTH

Sunday, 22nd

Intertown Shoot/FROSTBITE

Sunday, 29th

S.A.A. U-21,
Junior and Novice
Championships/PORTSMOUTH
Details T.B.A.

Thus ends issue 26 of the newsletter.

Contributors for this issue:-

Bill Carmichael, Watty Wyse and Andy Robertson.

Any items for the next issue should be submitted to me
by Wednesday 4th March 1998.

DONALD