

THE ARROWHEAD

THE NEWSLETTER OF LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB

ISSUE NO. 51

MARCH 2000

Dear Members,

It seems to be a quiet time, hence this slim-line newsletter which has a "Tina theme" this month. Perhaps it's just as well it is shorter! Ha! Ha!

CLUB NEWS



Committee Meeting

All Committee members are reminded that the next meeting will take place on Thursday, 30th March at 7-30pm in room B4 of the High School.

Outdoor Club Sessions

The first outdoor Club session will take place on Sunday, 2nd April from 10am till 12 noon. However, during April we will continue to shoot indoors on Wednesday evenings.

Archery UK

As Club secretary, I normally receive extra editions of Archery UK surplus to requirements. So if any of you want a copy then please see me by the end of the month. I have copies of the following: - Autumn and Winter 1999 and the latest, Spring 2000.

Dear All,

Joan would like copies of Archery UK, to send to the European Clubs who entered the Postal League. So if you have a copy of the Spring issue you do not wish to keep, please give it to Joan to send to Europe.

Newspaper Article

Richard who read it in a recent edition of the "Scotsman" gave the following item to me. All recurve and compound archers please take note.

Open season on Welsh, if you take a longbow

How to kill a Welshman in five easy steps:

1. Take up a position exactly 12 yards from your quarry.

2. Check your calendar and make sure it is Sunday.
3. Put your arrow in your longbow.
4. Fire.
5. Retreat in an orderly manner, whistling nonchalantly (optional).

If approached by a constable, you do not even have to say it was the society's fault, or plead insanity, or say a big boy did it. It would have been perfectly legal, as long as the above steps were followed, and as long as the slaying took place within the precincts of Hereford's Cathedral Close.

The poor old Welsh suffer casual English prejudice even more than the Scots, but this is taking things a bit far. The recently discovered legal dispensation came to light in 1000-year-old documents.

It applies only in the cathedral close, only on a Sunday and only with a longbow from 12 yards. The law dates back to the days when Hereford had to defend itself against attacks from heroic Welsh marauders.

A police spokesman in Hereford said; "Years ago, I remember people used to

Talk about it. I never knew there was any truth in it, or whether it was an old wives' tale, but now we know it really does exist."

However, he added: "We are not bracing ourselves for a flood of attacks on Welshmen in Cathedral Close every Sunday, though."

In the Marcher border counties of England – Cheshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire – there were frequent battles and skirmishes around the massive castles built by the invading Norman's. Two other border cities, Shrewsbury and Chester, had similar laws making it legal to hurl Welshmen off the ramparts.

Sue Embery, of the Hereford Cathedral Trust, said: "The law is actually part of the original documents of the city of Hereford. And it does say something like you also have to shoot from exactly 12 yards away."

Catrin Harries, of the Wales Tourist Board, appealed for the law to be scrapped. She said: "I would think it would be in the best interests of the Hereford Tourist Board to change this law, as this rule would definitely make Welsh tourists think twice about going there."

"We would like to think of our near-neighbours in Hereford as friends, not foes. But if we are attacked we should have a right to defend ourselves."

TOURNAMENTS



West of Scotland Indoor Championships (600) Wishaw – 6th February

Tina was our sole representative for this



Portsmouth round and her score of 551 made her the first lady visitor and fourth overall lady.

The Lasswade Indoor Open Fita 18 (BRS) (600) Lasswade – 13th February

As with last year's shoot, a lack of entries meant that we held an afternoon session only.

The shoot progressed well with the only problem being a smell of burning from behind the targets. My first thought was that the electric's for the traffic lights were playing up, but after notifying the centre staff, they informed me that someone had set fire to some paper outside the building, and the smoke was being drawn into the building by the air conditioning system. So no fire drill was necessary! Four of our ladies shot this year and the ladies section was a close finish with only



4 points between first and third places.

Tina made our best achievement.

Whose score, a new personal best, earned her 1st lady recurve to add to the title she won at our November Portsmouth tournament. It was also good to see the first longbow archer to enter this

shoot, and the gentleman from Eden Archers, was only 3 points short of a new British record.

The final placings for our members were as follows: -

Ladies: -

1st Tina (544) New P.B.



4th Elayne (531) plus the B Class medal.

7th Muriel (509)

10th Joan (481)

I would like to thank the following for all their help on the day, Bill C, Joan, Barry, Elayne, Muriel, Muriel's man (?) Bob "The Blob" McGonigle, the non club members and the lady paramount. Lastly, an honourable mention for Tina,



for printing up the entry form and the score sheets, and her help with the scoring at the end of the shoot.

The raffle raised £40, although I was disappointed with the lack of donations and lack of help from some of you. It is a poor show when we have to rely on archers from other clubs to help us.

As a result of this, I am now standing down as organiser for this shoot, and I also feel after running it since 1995, that someone else should take over.

S.A.A. Postal League 1999/2000 Up-Date

Bill C. has provided me with the current placings for our teams, up to and including January.

Recurve Division One

Out of 9 teams in this division, Lasswade are currently in 7th place, with the best ladies score to date, a 571 from Tina.



Compound Division

There are 12 teams in this division, and our "A" team are in 5th place and our "B" team in 11th.

Bill Carmichael / Donald

Dates for Your Diary - 2000

All events are at Lasswade unless indicated otherwise.

March

Saturday 11th – Indoor Club Champs – Portsmouth

Sunday 19th - Links and Lochside Open Shoot – Portsmouth.
Venue – Montrose.

Wednesday 22nd – Lasswade European Postal Shoot – FITA18.

Thursday 30th – Club Committee Meeting – 7-30pm.

April

Sunday 2nd – First Sunday Outdoor Club Session.

Sunday 16th – Annual Open Tournament – FITA
Venue – Falkirk

Sunday 23rd – Kate Kennedy Silver Arrow Shoot – St. George / Albion and Windsors.
Venue – St. Andrews.

Wednesday 26th – Last Indoor Club Session.

That concludes a "Tina packed" edition of the newsletter.

Contributions for this issue:
Bill Carmichael and
Richard Vallis.

Donald.