

THE ARROWHEAD

THE NEWSLETTER OF LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB

Issue No. 63

March 2001

Dear Members,

After my statement about cancelling the "And Finally" section of "The Arrowhead" I have received quite a few contributions which should keep us going for a while. Before we get to this months contributions, let's get through this months news first...

CLUB NEWS



Indoor Club Championships – Saturday March 10th 2001

A final reminder to you all about the above shoot. I have decided against doing a target list, as some of you do not seem to know if you will be attending. At the end of the shoot, all score sheets should be given to me. As I do not know who will be attending, can you ensure that your full names are put on your score sheets, as the club has 2

Bills, 2 Ian's and 2 Daniel's. This will save any confusion when I am working out the results.

SAA Postal League Team Format

One of the members recently asked me who is entered in the teams each month we do a postal shoot. The short answer is anyone! For those of you who are unfamiliar with the 2000/2001 season, Lasswade have 2 recurve teams, A and B. The top 4 recurve scores form the A team and the next 4 highest the B team. So it may not always be, that any individual member is in the A or B teams if their score is not in the top 8 overall. Any member, be it a lady, gent or junior forms a team.

For those of us who shoot the compound bow, A, B and C teams are entered this season, although only 2 archers form a team. So any of us who do not shoot a top 6 score is not in the team for that month.

I hope this clarifies the situation for you.
P.S. Thanks for the enquiry. This is one reason why we have a newsletter, although

Sadly most members do not make use of this facility.

Target Fees



I would like to make it known to senior club members that I appreciate their acquiescence to the target fee jump from £2 to £3. It was a pretty hefty hike, but we were not meeting the hall hire of £34 per session, indeed we were some £200 in the red for this indoor season. The junior fee remained unchanged, as I was desperate to curie favour of Mike Rogers. The first 5 weeks at the new rate has yielded us an income or profit if you prefer, of £71, which will just about cover the cost of a new boss. So thank you one and all, but remember, we require more than one such replacement, as it is necessary to keep a stock of sound bosses for tournaments.

Bill C.

Corporate Shoots

Keeping to the subject of finances, I for one would be delighted if we could return to the time when we had frequent corporate days, earning the club anything from £10 to £200 per event, keeping the treasurers purse strings quite elastic.

This however, requires maximum involvement by club members giving up some of your time for the benefit of the club, and more important still, for the benefit of Archery itself. In the past we have been to the Peebles Hydro, Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, Arniston House, Dalhousie Castle, Mavis Hall Park by Humble, plus local Fetes and Galadays. Last summer we had to turn down Gorebridge Galaday (17-6-2000) because of lack of helpers. Can we have at least 5 senior members to take care of this years Galaday? the date of which is Saturday 16th of June.

Bill C.

Lasswade V Assheton Archers

On 22nd and 23rd of August 1992, in North Manchester, several of our members met up with members of Assheton Archers to do a friendly battle in the first inter club Flodden Tournament. Won that year by the host club, after having discovered that the mathematical skills of the scorer (Watty Wyse of Lasswade) had been too generous in the totting up of Lasswades score. Assheton came to us the following August 1993, Lasswade to them in 1994, and Assheton to us in August 1995. Sadly, that was the last year we played host to them due to

lack of support. I think we visited them in 96 and 97, after which this most fun generating tournament died a death. The Assheton members always came up in large numbers, social gathering on the Saturday, bloodless battle on the Sunday forenoon and homeward bound late afternoon or evening. I most certainly would like to see this annual get together on the go again, but before you all shout Yes-Yes, there has to be some thought put into it, and then a sharing of the work. The social evening, venue and cost have to be considered for the Saturday. The nature of the competition for Sunday forenoon has to be arrived at, also the venue (previously Arniston Estate), then a light meal in the afternoon to send them on their way home, replete and happy. The pounds and pence have to be considered. Off the top of my head our social evening at the now defunct Chester's Hotel cost us £250 or so in 1993. Then in 1995 at Dalhousie Court it was £175 for the Saturday and £65 for the Sunday. Assheton has the advantage of having their own club premises to do their hosting, and provision of home cooking and dancing. Club members, who are interested, please get together and try to come up with a workable package, especially as to how it can be costed. If the social side proves too costly then perhaps everyone can do their own thing on the Saturday, then gather on the Sunday for battle and light meal, but please do try and get this very worthwhile event back on the calendar.

Bill C.

Cancelled Club Sessions

A last minute item, which I have written just as we are experiencing one of our worst spells of winter weather for some time. As I mentioned back in issue 58 of "The Arrowhead", if a session, (indoor), looks like it may be affected by bad weather, industrial action etc. then I suggested that you should contact the Sports Centre direct in the first instance, as they will have the most up to date information.

The phone number is 0131 660 1033. Keep a note of the number, as it does not appear to be listed in the phone book.

A Look Back in Time

"It's not as easy as it looks" (The story of an old geezer shooting arrows) by Jim Gorrie, a "new" club member

My story starts in 1947, so that makes me thirty-something, (it's that "something" that worries me!), I'll say no more on the subject, My association with archery began in April 1970, when I purchased a wooden (Digame) flat-bow along with a few (probably 6) wooden arrows which had "real feather" fletchings! and crimped-on metal piles. I can't clearly remember, but I think the nocks were merely grooves cut in the end of the shafts. Having not a clue (nothing changes!) about where I could shoot, I also bought a 24inch straw boss which had a canvas face fitted. For the first couple of months, this target, along with a cobbled up stand, accompanied me with my bow and arrows whenever I

went shooting at the playing fields of Pinkie School in Musselburgh. This was about a mile from home; on most occasions I would walk the distance, but a few times I collected some attention by hopping on the bus loaded with all that clobber!

A couple of months on and the groundkeeper allowed me the use of the schools "proper" 48-inch target and stand, so my own target became virtually redundant. By this time I had redeemed the Embassy cigarette coupons I had saved in exchange for a set of 8 Silver Streak aluminium arrows.. WOW .. real arrows at last! As soon as I was able to hit the target with some consistency, I started shooting rounds and recorded some scores, although realistically, that bow could only get the arrows 60 yards, so, I restricted myself to rounds with that as the maximum distance. Some months on, around October, and I was about to upgrade from that flat bow, which wasn't flat any more, it had followed the string and now had it's own curve. My new bow, a Challenger 300 by Kings of Kelso (now Border Archery) cost all of £36-7-6 (£36-37) from Quick's (then D. G. Quick), and at that time I had to pay it over 6 months! As was the trend at the time, it was a one-piece bow, since takedowns weren't as yet "the business." I still have that bow, and, at over 30 years old, it's probably older than about half of the club members!

In the east of Scotland, during the early 70's, it was as though I was in an archery wilderness. At times I felt that I was the only archer on the planet,

and that, coupled with the arrival of parenthood, are probably the main reasons I drifted away from the sport after 2 - 3 years.

I'm a bit of a hoarder ... you know the type ... never throws away anything of practical or sentimental value (whether real or imagined) ... so, I'm hugely frustrated that I can't find my old score sheets which dated back to 1970. I just "know" that I couldn't have thrown them out?? If only I could lay my hands on them I could accurately chart my "in and out" years of doing this archery thing. Anyhow, the following is the best my memory can do in recalling these "archery years".

Back into the sport sometime mid-to-late 70's for another stint of about 2-3 years and then it was drift away time again.

Have you ever been asked "what made you take up archery?" ... well ... I've never been able to give a very conclusive answer to that question except to say something like "I just do it because I like it!" (Is this linked to that mountaineer's syndrome ... I climbed it because it was there??)

Anyway, whatever the reason, it pulled me back in sometime in the early 80's. Some snooping around at MacKenzie's Sports Shop (at that time located "up the Bridges") revealed that there was an archery club at Lasswade ... so, I was sorted ... at least I could join a real archery club just a few miles "up the road"! It was time to do some serious upgrading. A Hoyt Pro Medallist with Border limbs arrived along with 8 Easton X7's ... the top arrow at that time. With my previous bow I had "manufactured" my own V-bar, stabilisers and even devised a pair of

TFC's! (If necessity is the mother of invention, then poverty is it's father!) With my new Hoyt I went for the bells and whistles ...

"properly manufactured" V-bar, stabilisers, pressure button, clicker, bowsling, real leather quiver! and on and on and ... such opulence!! Here then, more than ten years since I had let my first wooden arrow fly, I was able to do this stuff regularly along with like-minded people.

So what happened around 1996/98 that caused me to drift away again? I don't have a satisfactory answer for that, except to say that there had been a couple of abysmal "summers" for the outdoor seasons around that time and I just seemed to lose the desire to shoot. That desire seemed gone to the extent that I eventually gave up all my equipment for sale through MacKenzie's shop.

October 2000 ... and one night I happened by Lasswade Archery Club's web-site, e-mailed Andy Robertson and looked in at Lasswade the following evening just to see what was happening at the club.

So here I am again. It would simply be a case of having a few practice evenings, get myself some decent equipment, get up to the club and shoot a few ends and I would be back shooting just "like what I used to shoot like" ... yeah ... right! I soon realised that I have gained about 14 years since I last shot, and then I remembered something I learned a long time ago ... "It's not as easy as it looks!"

Jim Gorrie.

TOURNAMENTS



Eastern Area Indoor Championships (SRS) (600) Lasswade 21-1-2001

A low turn out this year, with just 40 archers shooting this Fita 18m round over an afternoon session only, with Derek as the senior judge. Tina and Muriel represented us, and I was in my usual capacity as Area Trophy Officer. I also assisted the Edinburgh University archers who were hosting the event, to get the range set up. Many of their members shooting or non-shooting helped, so that we had the whole range set up in just over half an hour. It proved to be a good day for Muriel, who was also Lady Paramount, as her score of 524 equalled the winning ladies score, but Muriel had to settle for runner-up as she had 4 gold's less! A score of 501 gave Tina sixth place and both of them retained the same places as the only lady visitor finished seventh overall.

Lasswade Indoor Open Fita 18m (BRS) (600) Lasswade 11-2-2001

Some of you may remember that back in issue 60 of "The Arrowhead" I reported that our Open Portsmouth round had a shortfall of 18 archers when it is usually full. I said it may be a sign of the times and the Area shoot report preceding this report appears to have borne

this out. I hoped that we could have had at least an afternoon session for our Open Fita, but due to an even lower number of entries, and due to the fact we would have made a loss, it was regretful that we had to cancel the shoot for the first time since it's inception in 1994.

Our next tournament will be our Outdoor Albion round in June, so we will need one of you to volunteer to organise it. I will also remind you nearer the time.

SAA Postal League 2000-2001

Hear is the latest news...

Recurve Div. 1 (9 Teams)

Our 'A' team remains in 8th place after 3 rounds. Tina's score of 573 remains the highest ladies score to date.

Recurve Div. 2 (9 Teams)

Muriel, shooting for Laureston, has shot a 571, which makes her the best lady this month. Her December score of 572 is still the best to date.

Recurve Div. 4 (8 Teams)

The 'B' team has managed to move up to second place, but are still some way behind the division leaders, Linwood. Joan's score of 477 has been surpassed by a 502, again from Linwood.

Compound (One Div. Only) (8 Teams)

The compound 'A' team continues in 2nd place, while the 'B' and 'C' teams retain their 6th and 8th positions. Young Bernie, sorry Billy's score of 561 was the best gents score for January. Bill C / Myself.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2001



All events are at Lasswade unless indicated otherwise.

March

Saturday 10th - Indoor Club Championships - Portsmouth.

Wednesday 14th - SAA Indoor Postal Shoot - Portsmouth.

Wednesday 28th - Indoor Super League - 3 dozen at 18m.

Thursday 29th - Club Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

April

Sunday 1st - First Outdoor Sunday Session.

Sunday 22nd - Outdoor Fita Venue - Falkirk.

Wednesday 25th - Last Indoor Club Session.

Saturday 28th - Kate Kennedy Silver Arrow Shoot - St. George - Albion Windsor's - Venue - St. Andrews.

This edition is duly terminated.

Contributors for this issue:

Bill Charmichael and Jim Gorrie.

And Finally

I have provided one and Jim has provided another. I will not say which of us submitted which item!

And Finally 1

Those of you who follow the showbiz world will have read or seen last year that Victoria Beckham (Posh Spice) lost some of her luggage at Heathrow Airport, which was later returned to her. Jeremy Clarkson wrote the following snippet in his motoring column in "The Sun" newspaper. It reads as follows...

And so, the newly re-clothed Mrs. Beckham say's she once had intimate relations with David in the back seat of her Mercedes SLK. Mr. Clarkson ends as follows ... Well; they must be cleverer than we thought because the last time I looked, the SLK has no back seat! Or as David would say, "Fick or Wot?" (I added that bit!)

PS On the 16th of February Mrs. Beckham's knicker nicker was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. Mrs. Beckham's mother was delighted. David added, Doh, 'ow many fingers make 15?

And Finally 2

Some "English language" signs seen in foreign countries: -

- In a Tokyo bar: -
"Complimentary snacks for ladies with nuts."
- At an airline desk at Copenhagen Airport: -
"We take your bags and send them in all directions."
- In a tailor's shop in Hong Kong: - "Ladies can have a fit upstairs."

- At a Hong Kong dentist: - "Extractions done by modern Methodists."
- A "Keep of the grass" sign in Spain read: -
"Don't keep the grass."