

THE ARROWHEAD

THE NEWSLETTER OF LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB



Issue No. 100



April 2004

Dear Members,

Welcome to a bumper 100th edition of "The Arrowhead".

Club News

"THE ARROWHEAD"

As you may have gathered by now this is the 100th edition of your favourite Club Newsletter. Some of our longer serving members may remember this item from the 50th edition but for the benefit of our newer members I have adapted the item to bring us right up to date. It's hard to believe that I first proposed doing this newsletter as far back as the 1995 AGM and here we are over 8 years later.



LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB

One of my main objectives for the Newsletter was to keep the membership, particularly those members who did not attend regularly, informed of what was happening both inside and outside the Club, and I would like to think that I have successfully achieved this. For the first two years the Newsletter was produced on headed Club notepaper.



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Then in January 1998 (issue 25) "The Arrowhead" was adopted along with some

appropriate graphics as the title of the Newsletter.



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The next inclusion of graphics throughout the Newsletter in issue No. 40 (April 1999) and from edition 42 (June 1999), when Graeme took over preparing the Newsletter, we moved on to coloured computer graphics and the "column format" for the text.

Then from issue 49 (January 2000) Andy became my publisher and he also designed the current Arrowhead logo which is still used today.

Eventually due to other commitments, Andy had to give up so a former member, Fiona Boath, then put issues 74 to 77 together. Fiona then left us to travel the world so Billy's other half Gwen then took up the mantle from issue 78 (June 2002) and a cracking job she's doing as well!

I would like to thank all those people who have assisted me over the years and to those of you who have made contributions to the newsletter over the same time. I would like to conclude this item by reminding all members, particularly newer members, that this is your newsletter and not my own personal soap-box..

In other words if any of you wish to contribute items or have any suggestions for future editions then please speak to me. Here's to the next 100!

AN APOLOGY

For the second month running another apology is due to David R. You may remember the "AND FINALLY" item about Kermit Jagger the Frog from last month's edition. This was incorrectly published with my name at the end when it should have been David's. Gwen will receive a slap on the wrist for this error! Hal Hal

David has decided not to take legal proceedings on condition that I give him my secret formula for hair-restorer! It's no fun trying to get pigeon droppings David!



OUTDOOR SHOOTING

A reminder now for all members and new members especially to remember the safety rules for shooting outdoors. They are the same as indoors but there may be occasions when somebody may walk onto the outdoor field where we are shooting. If you see anyone on the wrong side of our boundary poles and tape then please remember what 'FAST' means. New members should also be alert for arrows which have fallen short of a target when they are going up to collect their arrows. If for example a member shoots 6 arrows make sure you bring 6 back with you. If any arrows are lost due to overshoots or indeed have dropped short of a target then let us know so that we can look for it as we have a metal detector to assist us. Most arrows are usually found but should any be lost we have to report any losses to the Sports Centre as the field is used for other activities. Juniors be warned! We will check at the end of each session that you have all your arrows before you leave.

LASSWADE OUTDOOR EUROPEAN LEAGUE 2004

Once again Andy will be running this tournament. Weather permitting, the round will be shot on the 3rd Wednesday of each month so we need members to arrive in good time as we have to set up the range ourselves. The round shot will be a Short Metric which is 3 dozen arrows shot at 50m then 3 dozen shot at 30m on an 80cm target face. One round will be shot each month from May to August inclusive. Team formats will be decided on how many members enter the first round in May.

EVENTS LIST

By now David R will have given each member a copy of all Club activities and tournament dates for the 2004 outdoor season. In the past very few members shot at outdoor events so please keep your list handy as only specific events at Lasswade are normally listed in the Diary Section of "The Arrowhead". You can obtain a lot of useful information as well if you log onto the S.A.A. website www.scottisharchery.org.uk.

CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

The attendance of all the committee members is respectfully requested on Thursday 29th April at 7.30pm

PROFILE ON A CLUB MEMBER



Subject: Donald Cameron - Gent Compound Un-limited (a.k.a EL Presidenti Numero Uno, God's Gift to the non-shooting side of archery!)

ALERT

Those of a nervous disposition or weak stomachs are advised to proceed to the next item. Should you choose to read this item then Lasswade AC and it's Committee accept no responsibility whatsoever!

Now that we have reached the 100th edition of "The Arrowhead" what better way to celebrate this achievement with a profile on myself.

Once upon a time in 1992 I read an article on archery which aroused my interest so my first point of contact was GNAS who advised me that my nearest club was Lauriston Castle Archers. After a non-start there I then made contact with Derek who advised me to go to the Meadowbank Sports Centre in Edinburgh where a former member, Bill Mackay, was the archery coach.

This was also where I first met Billy, Ross and Tina. After spending some months there Bill suggested I should join the Lasswade Club which I duly did in late 1992.

By then I had also purchased my first compound bow.

Unlike new members today who are made to feel welcome there was a tendency for some

of the members back then to be rather stand-offish especially if you shot a compound bow! However, I soon overcame this problem as even in those days myself and a few other members carried out the tasks of running the Club which left the selfish members to add to their shooting honours. Some things never change!

In 1994 I entered my first outdoor shoot held by the Eastern Area and was lucky enough to take the title for the Compound Limited Gents Class and before you ask, yes I did have some competition! That year I also organised my first tournament, a Double FITA Star held in Penicuik. At the 1994 AGM I was elected President/Chairman of the committee and at the 1995 AGM I proposed that a Club newsletter should be published which I continue to edit to the present day, in addition I also put together the first new members information pack.

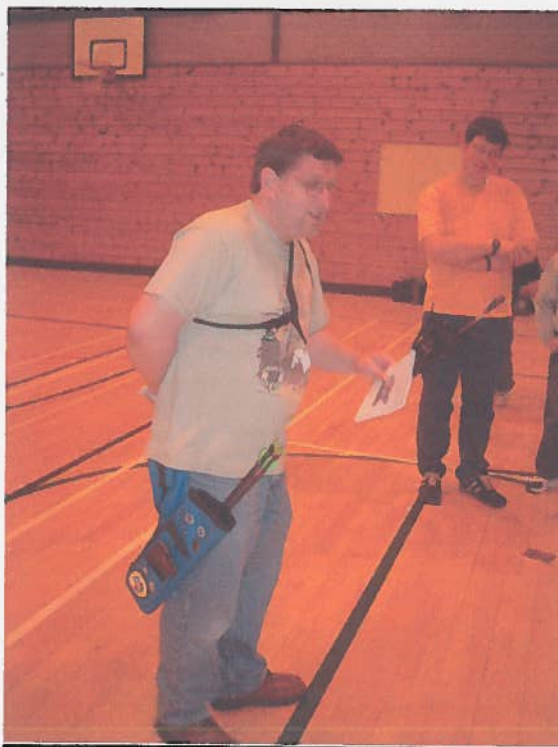
As well as continuing to serve on the Club Committee I have also been active as a tournament organiser and this year's Lasswade Albion will be my 17th shoot which does not include the numerous indoor and outdoor Club Championship rounds I have also run.

During the 1990's I was also involved in corporate and come and try shoots which provided some good income for the Clubs funds and in 1997 I passed my GNAS Leaders Course.

In addition to our own committee I also served on the Eastern Area Committee as their first proper Trophy Officer a post I held for 4 years. After serving 3 years as our Club secretary, I again stepped up to Club President where I currently remain. As you may have gathered by now and as with a previous profile, Derek, I have sacrificed quite a bit of my shooting time so my list of successes is also somewhat modest.

- Eastern Area Outdoor Champion 1994***
- Lasswade Open Portsmouth - 1998***
- Allan Smith (Club) Trophy 1993* (November)**
- Gents Improver Trophy 2000***
- Jim Coull (Club) Trophy - 1997, 02**

*All awards were gained when I was shooting the limited style.



TOURNAMENT REPORTS

LASSWADE INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS (600) - 27 March 2004

This year's shoot in our 25th Anniversary year was attended by 23 members. The round shot was a Portsmouth with Elise acting as Target Captain. She still has a lot to learn! HA!HA!

Top lady this year was Joan taking the title for the fifth time with David R retaining the gents and the gent compound trophy was also retained by Billy. John G's score earned him his first indoor club title.

It was also good to see some of our newer members taking part especially David S who shot a 522 to take the novice gent award. (Thanks to Mrs Stewart for letting him out for the night!)

After the shoot we retired to the cafeteria for the raffle, refreshments and the presentation. I would like to thank those of you who took part and thanks to our Gentlemen Patron, Andy, Joan for providing they refreshments (except the sandwiches!) and Elise for her chocolate creation.

The results read as follows:-

LADIES

1 st	Joan	(543)
2 nd	Ann	(483)
3 rd	Diane	(415)
4 th	Leonie	(295)
5 th	Pat	(175)

(shooting a Mongolian, a bow that is, not a Mongolian!)

GENTS

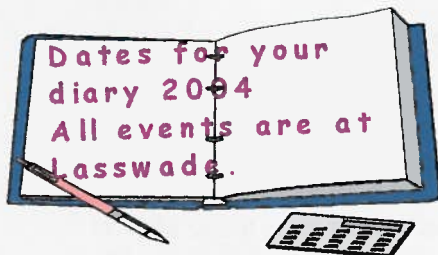
1 st	David R(570)	
2 nd	Frank	(531) New P.B.
3 rd	Derek	(526)
4 th	David S(522)	New P.B. plus the Novice Gent's Medal.
5 th	Alistair	(503) New P.B.
6 th	Russell	(500) New P.B.
7 th	Mark	(475)
8 th	Stefan	(453)

JUNIORS

1 st	John G	(517)
2 nd	Dean	(460)
3 rd	Ambar	(376) New P.B.
4 th	Jakub	(236) 1 st U14 Boy
5 th	Rosie	(223)
6 th	Grigor	(141)

COMPOUNDS

1 st	Billy	(570)
2 nd	Ross	(556)
3 rd	Andy	(539)
4 th	Donald	(475)



DATE	TOURNAMENT ROUND OR EVENT
All events are at Lasswade unless indicated otherwise.	
APRIL	
Wed 28 th	Last Indoor Wednesday session
Thurs 29 th	Club Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
MAY	
Wed 5 th	First outdoor Wednesday session
Wed 19 th	Round one of the Lasswade European League/ Short Metric
JUNE	
Sun 6 th	Lasswade Outdoor Open/Albion and Windsors No Club Session
Wed 16 th	Round Two of the Lasswade European League/ Short Metric

AND FINALLY

To celebrate the 100th edition there now follows 4 items, which have appeared over the years in "The Arrowhead". The first two talk about some "finger gestures" and their supposed connection with archery.

From Issue 80 August 2002

"THE FINGER"

I was asked by a friend recently if the gesture of "Giving the finger" had anything to do with archery, so I told him a story I heard a few years back.

Before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, the French, anticipating victory over the English, proposed to cut off the middle finger of all captured English soldiers. Without the middle finger it would be impossible to draw the renowned English longbow, and therefore be incapable of fighting in the future.

This famous weapon was made of the native English Yew tree, and the act of drawing the longbow was known as "plucking the yew" (or "pluck yew")

Much to the bewilderment of the French, the English won a major upset and began mocking the French by waving their middle fingers at the defeated French, saying "See we can still pluck yew!"

PLUCK YEW! Over the years some 'folk etymologies' have grown up around this symbolic gesture. Since 'pluck yew' is rather difficult to say, (like "pleasant mother pheasant plucker", which is who you had to go to for the feathers used on the arrows for the longbow), the difficult consonant cluster at the beginning has gradually changed to a labiodental fricative 'F', and thus words often used in conjunction with the one-fingered salute are mistakenly thought to have something to do with an intimate encounter.

It is also because of the pheasant feathers on the arrows that the symbolic gesture is known as "giving the bird".

And yew thought yew knew everything!

ANDY ROBERTSON

From Issue ?

V for Victory

I read the enclosed clipping in the latest edition of the Readers Digest – sorry it's in such a sad state – I have a bad habit of reading in the bath and yes it fell in. It may be old news to everyone else but I had never heard of this, so if you don't include it in Scottish Archery I won't go in the huff. Keep up the good work.

Joan Smith, Lasswade Archery Club

Editor: Scottish Archery

You can trust me not to share your personal habits with the rest of the archery community in Scotland – you may however now be inundated with offers from people offering to read you in the bath.

'In the United States it signifies 'Victory', or 'Peace' but here in Britain if the palm faces inwards, it's a taunt especially if the gesture is executed with an upward jerk of the fingers.

More than 650 years ago the French are said to have disabled the English archers they captured in battle by cutting off their middle and forefingers. In the aftermath of Agincourt and Crecy, where the French were heavily defeated triumphant English soldiers gloated over French prisoners by holding up their hands, first two fingers upright, palm inwards, to show both fingers fully intact.

Editor: The Arrowhead

As President, I will be taking entries from anybody in the Club who would like to read Joan in the bath! (rubber ducks not provided)

P.S. Scottish Archery is long defunct.

From Issue 81 September 2002

AND FINALLY

There once was a blind man who decided to visit Texas.

When he arrived on the plane, he felt the seats and said, "Wow, these seats are big!" The person next to him answered "Everything is big in Texas."

When he finally arrived in Texas, he'd decided to visit a restaurant. Upon arriving he ordered a drink and got a mug placed between his hands. He exclaimed, "Wow, these mugs are big!" The bartender replied, "Everything is big in Texas."

After a couple of drinks, the blind man asked the bartender where the bathroom was located. The bartender replied, "Second door on the right." The blind man headed for the bathroom, but accidentally tripped over and skipped the second door. Instead he entered the third door, which lead to the swimming pool, and fell into the pool by accident.



Scared to death, the blind man started shouting, "Don't flush, don't flush!"



AND FINALLY 2

Two guys are walking through the woods and come across this big deep hole.

"Wow... that looks deep" "Sure does... Toss a few pebbles in there and see how deep it is."

They pick up a few pebbles and throw them in and wait No noise, "Jeez.... That is REALLY deep... here... throw one of those great big rocks down there, those should make a noise." They pick up a couple of football-sized rocks and toss them into the hole and wait..... and wait....nothing.

They look at each other in amazement. One gets a determined look on his face and says, "Hey ...over here in the weeds, there's a railway sleeper, help me carry it over here. When we toss that sucker in, it's GOTTA make some noise." The two drag the heavy sleeper over to the hole and toss it in. Not a sound comes from the hole. Suddenly, out of the nearby woods, a goat appears, running like the wind. It rushes toward the two men, and then right past them, running as fast as its legs will carry it. Suddenly it leaps in the air and into the hole.

The two men are astonished with what they've just seen ... Then; out of the woods comes a farmer who spots the men and ambles over.

"Hey ... you two guys see my goat out here?" "You bet we did! Craziest thing I ever seen! It came running like crazy and just jumped into this hole!"

"Nah." Says the farmer, "That couldn't have been MY goat. My goat was chained to a railway sleeper."

So that concludes the first 100 editions of "The Arrowhead".

Contributors for this issue:

Andy Robertson (N-50) and Joan Smith (U-50)

Clip art by Serif & Microsoft

Photography by a David Bailey imposter

Donald

