

"THE ARROWHEAD"
THE NEWSLETTER OF LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB

ISSUE NOS.210/211 - JUNE/JULY 2013

Greetings My Fellow Club Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the warm weather we are experiencing at the moment. Those of you who have only recently joined us or those of you with short memories will not realise that during the summer there is not usually much news to report so I tend to do the odd double issue. However, there is some important news for you to digest in this issue.

CLUB NEWS

THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB

As you will be aware there has been a major upheaval for us this year, moving to the new complex. Here are the details you should know for this new facility:

The Lasswade Centre (The rest of the address remains the same as for the old building)
Tel. 0131 271 4533

Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday - 06.30 - 21.00
Friday - 06.30 - 20.00
Saturday and Sunday - 09.00 - 18.00

Our Club sessions will take place on the following days and times: Saturdays from 2 to 4 pm
and Wednesdays from 7 to 9pm.

The new venue is easy to find, it's right next to the one being demolished! When you arrive go through the doors of the main entrance and you will see to your right the Costa Coffee Bar, Reception straight ahead and to your left, the corridor that takes you to the Games Hall about 30 metres along from reception. This building is colour coded in sections and the Games Hall is in the green area of the building! How appropriate for archery!

The Centre opened for business on the first of this month but I assume there may be an official opening sometime in the near future. Oh! Nearly forgot! Those of you who drive up the main street to the centre should be aware that the road you turn into that takes you to Eskdale Drive is now controlled by traffic lights. A roundabout was considered but was not practical.

A MEETING BETWEEN MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL AND LASSWADE ARCHERY CLUB.

Both Derek and myself along with reps from other clubs were taken on a tour of the new facility last month and it is impressive and incorporates the school, public library, swimming pool and of course the games hall where archery will hopefully take place.

The new games hall is not unlike the old hall but, from an archery point of view, is causing problems for us that will need to be rectified ASAP if we are to re-start next month.

Let me now take you back to 2010 when a decision had been made to build the new complex. All clubs were asked to send 2 representatives from each club to attend 3 meetings into 2011. After the first meeting all clubs were asked to send in a "wish-list" of what they wanted with regard to their own particular club. Ours was prepared by Derek.

At the second meeting we were advised that if all the clubs' requirements were granted then there would be no room for the playing fields which would replace the old buildings when they were demolished. In addition, all the facilities in the old building were photographed etc. so they could perhaps be carried over to the new complex. In other words, a "like for like".

The final meeting was held at the Midlothian Council Chambers where we saw the floor-plans for the new complex and a short virtual reality video giving us an idea of what the new entrance area would be like. The completion date for the new complex was to be October 2013 with the new playing fields ready by December 2013. However, as you will now be aware, the opening date was 3 months ahead of schedule as the new playing fields should be. To sum up, the powers that be knew or should have known what we required.

During our tour we noticed the following omissions:

1- Imagine, if you will, the old hall. At tournaments, we shot down the hall long-wise and there was a green net curtain (white in the new hall) which is behind the targets and that is OK. But remember, on Club nights we shoot across a half-hall with this curtain along the back of the targets. Just one teensy weensy problem. The curtain and its track are too short! They only cover one half of the Club session target range! The builders, Bam Construction, have signed the job off as completed.

2 - There are no floor-markings whatsoever for archery!

3 - The storage area in the new hall was to contain other equipment as well as the archery equipment. Now there will possibly be no space! During construction plans were revised as the council anticipates an increase in the number of pupils who may need to be educated at the school in the future. To that end, storage space was cut to allow an extension in the future should this be needed.

This week, a meeting was arranged between 3 council reps with Derek, Tina and myself representing the Club. The main topics discussed were the above and a frightening letter I received!

They are going to see what can be done about the curtain and its rail and if this was an oversight then the builders will have to rectify this. Remember, this new hall was supposed to be "like for like". They will get the floor markings down based on a letter/plan that Derek has kindly prepared for them and Derek will, if required, supervise this work. If storage is non-existent it has already been decided that storage containers will be provided near to the exterior of the building.

Now, on to that letter! A nice letter, which advised us that our hall hire fees will be increased but as an established Club the new fees would be phased in between now and the

end of March 2014. Before we left the old building we paid around £50 for each 2 hour session but by the end of March 2014 that will have increased to nearly £100 for a 2 hour session!

On this matter the council regretted that they could not compromise on these fees. I asked, on what criteria these fees were based? This seems to be the recommendation of sporting bodies including Sports Scotland. I thought it was their job to promote sport at reasonable costs! A potential increase in the Club fees will have to be discussed by the committee in the near future. The current system of Club fees came into effect in 2006 so it has been 7 years since the fees changed.

Another financial matter which was talked about was that of the fees for running our tournaments. Until recently, a tournament cost us about £460. The proposal was to increase this to £90 an hour taking us to £720! This was where Tina came into her own and explained that this would make running tournaments impossible as the entry fees would be out of the reach of most archers. We also explained that we cater for archers from all over Scotland, the North of England and anywhere else. She suggested £70 would be more achievable and after the meeting they came back to us with a counter proposal of £57.00! Result!

Another issue for us was the new outdoor venue. Derek worked out that we would have to hire most of the new field and there are potential safety issues including a house. In addition, we would have to get the equipment to the field which would take up a lot of our shooting time. I think the hire of the field was about £60 per session, no way could we afford that and also consider that when we go outdoors the club membership drops by about 80% anyway.

To that end, we are looking at a new outdoor venue which may fit the bill. However, it is not in Bonnyrigg and we still have to get a look at it but we would officially not need it till next May at the earliest. You will be up-dated as and when on the potential outdoor venue.

As Derek and Tina will confirm it was a very productive meeting and the council representatives appeared to be willing to help us as much as possible.

CLUB EQUIPMENT

As we could not simply move our equipment from the old building to the new one we have had to store our equipment off sight. So my thanks to David N whose place of work offered us a secure area where the equipment still awaits its return to Lasswade.

At the beginning of last month after some pre-planning we split into 2 teams. One team which loaded the gear at Lasswade and the other team which off-loaded each trailer load of gear a process which took 3 hours and 3 return trips.

My thanks to Ian L who provided the 4x4, Billy who provided the trailer and to the following members in no particular order:-

Adele, Gareth, Will, Ian H, Richard P, Mike, Mike's other half Diane, Mike's wee girl Stephanie with the big earlobes, David R, David's not so wee boy Stuart a former member and Joan. Apologies if I have missed anybody.

PS. I dropped one L from your name Adele. My spell checker likes all the other names except yours if you spell it with two Ls! I will re-instate it next time round!

CLUB RE-START DATE

You may remember that I proposed and booked Saturday, August the 3rd as our re-start date. If you have read the first item of this issue you will be aware that we have barely 3 weeks to get the equipment back.

I now officially notify you all that this will now be a provisional date only. If the remedial work is not completed and storage containers not available then we cannot run our Club whose equipment currently resides in another part of the district!

I therefore advise you to keep checking your emails for an up-date on this situation.

AND FINALLY

My seasonal reminder to those of you who may be travelling to far off locations.

- 1 - Don't drink the water.
- 2 - Take clean underwear in case you get run over.
- 3 - Never take a stranger's luggage through customs if they ask you.

Have a wonderful summer and remember to check your emails for up-dates on the subjects of this month's newsletter.