

The Nock

Alternative Newsletter of Lasswade Archers

Unfortunately, the latest President's newsletter was released a little prematurely, so your friendly Equipment Officer is sending this out separately, to correct some misunderstandings and to include a couple of items that did not make it in time.

Firstly, I need to thank Adelle and Gareth for volunteering to help set out our outdoor facility at Grove Farm, last Sunday. I also need to thank Diane and Steph who were press-ganged into helping out too, and of course to Reuben for allowing us on the field to do so, without needing to take up precious shooting time.

The field has been set out very slightly differently to last year – there is a line of stakes down the left hand side of the field, marking the left side of the main shooting area. Targets must not be placed to the left of the line that they form. On the other hand (literally) there are a small number of stakes placed in a line towards the right hand side. Since we have a tall wall on that side, we are free to extend the field past this line, if necessary, these stakes are merely there as distance markers. Speaking of which, most of the stakes on the left have a tag attached, denoting the distance from the shooting line. Since we rarely shoot 10m or 15m, these have not (yet) been put out, but if any of our junior members want to shoot these then just speak to one of the adults, and we'll be more than happy to put them out for you. This goes for adults too – most people tend to shoot metric distances, but if you need to get sight-marks for an imperial distance that is fine – just look out for the pink tags on the stakes, which range from 30 yards all the way up to 100 yards. (Metric distances have white tags, and go from 20m up to 90m.)

If the field needs to be set out again, for whatever reason, there is a one-page guide on the inside of the container door, and a step-by-step guide in a folder on the table.

Well done everyone who made it out to Grove on Saturday, those who weren't there missed a surprisingly nice shoot for the time of year. Particular congratulations to two juniors that shot well at 20m, and kudos to one of our novices who had a go at 30 metres, and seemed to enjoy it.

Thanks to Joan for supplying us with “Baked Goods”, and ensuring that we all missed a complete end while stuffing our faces.

First Aid

A little overdue perhaps, but since the range runs independantly, we can't rely on anyone else for First Aid, like we do at Lasswade, so I have donated a new kit, which will be getting stuck on the back of the container door next time I'm out. Please let me know as and when anything gets used, so that it can be replaced.

Hints & Tips

For those who want to shoot outdoors in the future, here's a few handy tips:
Bring a chair – the folding, camping type is best. This helps to keep your kit organised, dry, and free from mud. There are a couple of deckchairs in the container if you forget.

Bring wellies if it's been wet, and strong walking boots any other time – access to the field tends to be a bit muddy, and it's not much fun shooting with wet feet.

The owner of the field has a few chickens, and a couple of pigs. They are all quite friendly, but the pigs can be a little forceful if they smell food. We expect that the pigs will be kept away from the field this year, but do keep an eye open for them, just in case.

When the weather is nicer, you will want to think about bringing sun-screen on Saturdays, and midge-repellant on Wednesday nights. Be careful with the latter though – don't let it get onto any of your kit, as it can eat into certain types of plastic.

Club Equipment

Those of you who are using club equipment may have been told that you need to buy your own kit before September. In fact, the next beginners course is not until November. It's already been said, but please speak to (at least) one of the senior club members before you buy anything, as it is all too easy to buy unsuitable equipment, especially arrows. Extra care has to be paid with Juniors, so that they have “room to grow”, but even an adult will find that they will be able to handle a much heavier bow in a year's time...

Thank you to Derek, for sourcing not one but three different rain shelters. More on this one once the committee has had a chance to discuss.

Safety

Finally, please be aware that at the longer distances, it is easy for people to be hidden behind a boss, particularly if they have lost an arrow, so please look twice before you start to shoot.

Talking of lost arrows, when you have drawn your arrows, please check that everyone else has all of their arrows, and if any have been lost *everyone* should pitch in and help to look – after all, the sooner all lost arrows are found the sooner we can all start shooting again. On the other hand, please don't dawdle when walking back from the longer distances!

Happy Shooting,
Mike

PS

If you aren't shooting, keep your eyes open for the local wildlife – last year we had frequent visits from a pair of buzzards, a couple of visits from a heron following the stream that runs alongside the field, and on one occasion a dalmation dog went flying by. Bonus points to anyone who can explain the last one!

PPS

My apologies to anyone that I have forgotten to thank – it's been a very busy week or two for me, so no offence intended.