

The Nock – Issue Two – May 2015

The Alternative Newsletter of Lasswade Archers

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 15th August – No shooting due to another event taking place.

Saturday 29th August – Club Challenge vs Penicuik – more details to follow.

Stands

Some of you will have noticed that the stands have been fitted with a series of para-cord loops on the back cross bar, which are intended to have footer-pins slipped in when the stands are being brought in and out. These slightly reduce the amount of stuff that needs to be carried about, and should ensure that every stand has the right number of pins right there when pegging them down. On that note, we have found that it is best to put the boss onto the stand before pegging down, as the weight of the boss helps to settle the stand down into the rather soft ground. If you put the pins in before the boss is on, they are getting bent by the weight, and are much harder to pull out.

We all hit the woodwork from time to time, especially outdoors, but could I ask you to please report any damage to the stands, such as big splinters. We have wood glue available, which should extend the life of the stands, and also reduce the number of splinters that go in peoples skin.

Toolboxes

At Lasswade and Grove, you may come across a range of tools and toolboxes. Firstly, there is an orange box, with “Lasswade Archery Club” badly stencilled on the back. No prizes for guessing that this one belongs to the club itself, and all its contents are available for anyone who needs them. To make things easier, most of the tools have been marked with yellow/green striped electrical tape, as has the handle of the tool box.

There is a toolbox that is dark blue all over, which belong to Derek, and a black box with orange flaps on the top, with MJB stencilled on it (again not very well done!) which belongs to me. Derek and I are usually happy to help anyone, but please don't help yourself to anything from these two boxes without asking first.

There are also a variety of hammers and other tools hanging around, or in the drawers. These generally belong to the club, but please try and make sure they go back where you found them.

Etiquette

I did have a whole piece written about the need for everyone to pitch in and help with setting up the range each time, and of course packing away at the end, but I'm glad to say that recently pretty much everyone has done their bit, which is much appreciated.

Safety

An accident book ~~should be appearing shortly~~ is now stored within the 'workbench' – I don't think I need to explain further, do I?

You may have noticed that there is now an easier route onto the field, by turning right just past the toilet. The entrance is roughly in line with the shooting line, which is not exactly ideal! There should be a rope run out from the corner of the container as a barrier – you **MUST NOT** cross this line while the session is in progress, please go around the North and East sides of the container so that you don't cross the equipment line, or even worse: the shooting line itself. Use of this entrance was anticipated when the field was first approved, and was accepted back then, subject to 'appropriate' measures.

Newbie Corner

There are four basic kinds of arrow in use today. The cheapest, which you all used during your beginners course, is basically an aluminium tube. More expensive arrows wrap a thinner aluminium tube with carbon fibre, for a lighter overall arrow. The heaviest arrows you can buy, generally only used by longbow archers, have wooden shafts, and usually a brass tip. The very lightest arrows are made purely from carbon fibre, though they still have either a steel or tungsten 'point'. Unfortunately, that tip is the first thing to enter the ground when you miss the target, and likely to bury itself deepest. This brings me round to what I really wanted to talk about, which is “lost arrows”. There are many variables, but sometimes even the best of us find that an arrow doesn't go where we had hoped. Normal practice is for you and your target companions to do a visual sweep of the area for a few minutes, paying close attention to the stand itself – you will be amazed how often an arrow manages to hide in the woodwork! If a visual search fails, then we would normally return to the line, shoot another end, then grab the metal detectors for another attempt. They are great for finding arrows with metal or composite shafts, but if it turns out that yours are all-carbon, you can expect lots of mumbling and groaning – many clubs actually ban the use of all-carbon shafts when shooting outdoors. If you are lucky, then the tip will be detected, but if it has gone too deep then it will be necessary to leave a note in the container, describing the arrow and noting the owner for when it eventually turns up.

Finally

Donald: a physical soapbox will appear not long after I get a full specification, until then:



Happy Shooting,
Mike