

DCAS NEWSLETTER Spring 2003

FOR ARCHERS IN DEVON & CORNWALL

Issue #13

Please copy and circulate to other club members

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Thirteenth edition of the DCAS Newsletter. Don't forget we are always after your input, so send us your news items, wants & sales, articles etc.

Copy for the Summer issue (to be distributed at the County Champs) should be sent to one of the Editorial Team by 13th July 2003, please:

Marion Hutter, 33 Vivary Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3JW	Tel 01823-284270
Paul Callaway, 32 Trefusis Road, Redruth Cornwall TR15 2JH	Tel 01209-215537
Marj Smith, 3 Ash Close, Biscovey, Par, St Austell, Cornwall PL24 2HD	Tel 01726-813481
Tim Pratt, 1 Moor Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6PW	Tel 01395-442421

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS

Congratulations to Jan Martin and Bob Griffith-Bird who both won silver medals in the team event when they shot for England at Lilleshall in March.

Andy Baylis will shortly be shooting for Great Britain in the Arizona Gold Cup. We wish him all the best.

I am sure you will be pleased to know that Gwen Skipper is convalescing well after her heart operation. Gwen is walking every day, and regaining the weight she lost.

We wish 'Good Luck' to all our Archers who will be taking A level and GCSE exams in the next few months.

If you have any news or views from your Club which you feel would be of interest to Archers in Devon and Cornwall please let me know.

P.S. All entry forms for St. Austell Bay Archers tournaments should be forwarded to myself. We have the Longbow Double Stafford on the 26th October and the Double Portsmouth on November 16th.

Marj Smith – PRO
01726-813481

COACHING NEWS

On Saturday 12th April at Exeter University 9 candidates successfully gained their Assistant Coach Certificates. The new Assistant Coaches are:

Scott Wray	Bowmen of the Tors
Philip Brown	Bowmen of the Tors
Louis Phillips	Bowmen of the Tors
David Rees	Bowmen of the Tors
Mark Rhodes	Yelverton Bowmen
Jason Dale	Brixham Archers
Alan Tathan	Kyrton Archers
Keith Langmead	Exeter University
Peter Earle	Dunheved Archers

Congratulations to all !

Wendy Wheeler
County Coaching Organiser

COUNTY RECORDS

Firstly a reminder. Don't forget that if your Club is holding a tournament, once the results are produced, a copy should be forwarded to Wendy Wheeler, your County Records Officer.

Secondly, there seems to be some confusion over how County and Regional Records should be claimed. All record claims should be forwarded to Wendy as soon as possible after the tournament. Firstly Wendy will confirm that it is a County Record, in which case a Certificate will be issued. If the score also breaks a Regional Record, Wendy will forward the claim to the Regional Records Officer. To help speed up the process, we would be grateful if you could fill out two copies of the claim form before submitting your record.

Up to date copies of the DCAS records and Claim Forms can be found on the DCAS website. Paper copies of the DCAS records have also been sent to Club Secretaries. Copies of the GWAS records can be found on the GWAS web site.

GWAS COACHING GROUP REGIONAL CLUB TOURNAMENT

Due to only 5 Clubs entering, the Coaching Group have decided to cancel the tournament. However because Exeter Company of Archers have already booked their grounds for the finals on the 28th September, they have decided to hold a tournament of their own. They will be putting on the Western Rounds. Andrew Chitty will again be the Tournament Organiser, and Entry Forms will be available later in the year. Make a note in your diary. If last years 50th Anniversary tournament is anything to go by it should be a good event !

GWAS JUNIOR POSTAL LEAGUE

When Sylvia Baskett decided to move away from the region to be closer to her relatives, it meant that the Grand Western Junior Postal League would fall by the wayside if someone did not take over.

Most of the junior clubs only shoot for 1 hour, meaning that the 5 dozen Portsmouth was difficult to shoot. I decided to step in, providing it was run with the co-operation of GWAS. Luckily they agreed, and so 76 clubs were contacted within the region. Entries were slow to start, and I wondered if this was going to be worth the time, but by the 5th of December when the results were to be worked out we had some 185 entries, and things were going well, sorting them into groups, ages, styles & gender. When the 2nd month came in we found it difficult to find them quickly, so each division was given a letter. The biggest group was the U13 boys being 80 archers split into 6 divisions.

With archers being able to join the league at any time the final entry was 235, consisting of 25 clubs of which 12 were from Devon and Cornwall. The numbers from each club varied from just 1 archer to 43 archers.

Well done to all the winners, we hope that you will all enter again next year and that you will tell all your friends. With a bit of luck we can make it 300 entries next time.

Colin Holmes
DCAS Tournament Organiser.

JUNIOR NEWS

GWAS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The GWAS Junior Championships will be held at Burnham-on-Sea on Saturday 28th June this year. Don't forget you need to be seen at as many shoots as possible, achieving some good scores in the Bristol rounds, relevant to your age group, if you would like to be considered for selection in the County Team. Your club secretary will have entry forms for this tournament, so if they don't give you one please ask for one, so that you can get your entry form in as soon as possible.

JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Junior National Championships are being held at Lilleshall on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th July. The closing date for entries is Friday 13th June. Unfortunately no late entries will be accepted, so get your entries ASAP to: Mr Graham Potts, 37 Radnor Road, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 9FD.

GNAS JUNIOR AWARD SCHEME (JAWS)

A Reminder that this is a free scheme run by GNAS for all Junior archers whether shooting Field, Target, or a combination of both and whatever type of bow you shoot.

During the year you keep a record of all rounds you shoot, along with the scores, the final position you came if it was in a tournament, and other details (Like, did you gain a Rose Award, Arrow Award, set a new record, etc). These details will be used to work out the number of points you have obtained. Points are also acquired by entering the July Nationals, the November Challenge, AAS shoots, gaining AAS achievement badges and so on.

At the end of the year, these details are entered by the archer (with a little help from Mum or Dad, or someone at your Club) into a booklet provided by GNAS. The book is then sent in to reach GNAS by 31 December.

A ranking order is produced from the points you have gained, and the top 100 archers receive a special badge, along with a very nice certificate from GNAS. An added bonus is that reward vouchers are presented by DCAS to all Juniors from Devon & Cornwall who gain a place in the top 100 archers.

I would like to take this opportunity to say to all Junior archers and their parents, if you have anything archery related you would like to ask, discuss or moan about, I am only at the end of the telephone (or e-mail) and will be only too pleased to help in any way I can.

Good luck, and good shooting in this years outdoor season.

Brian Hardy

DCAS Junior Rep.

P.S. Don't forget the July Nationals !!

ARCHERY IN HONG KONG

As a result of a little arm twisting by Marj I have put pen to paper. I hope the result is of interest. These are my impressions of Hong Kong archery five years ago, though things may have changed since then.

I arrived in Hong Kong at Christmas 1992 hoping to carry on shooting (I shot recurve at that time). As I expected to be there for up to 2 years I took my gear with me. In the event we were there nearly 5 years working on the Tsing Ma Bridge which links the mainland with Lantau Island as part of the link to the new airport. We left just after the bridge was handed over to China.

Before I went GNAS gave me the name of a member of the YMCA Club, and in January I had located him and started shooting. One of the members was a British Army Officer who explained procedures, the others were students and Hong Kong residents, many of whom spoke some English. The ground was a grassy area surrounded by a wire fence bounded by tennis courts, a store for equipment and a bank behind the targets. Maximum shooting distance was 60 metres but as practice was after work most shooting was 50m or 30m with floodlights.

Darkness falls between 6.00 and 7.00 all year round. I was co-opted into the Club team for several tournaments but I found travelling on public transport after work was time consuming and very crowded so I decided to join a Club nearer our home in Sha Tin.

This Club was more Chinese in make up and they had their rules and despite having a 1200 FITA Star I was only accepted on condition I attended Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced courses. It was, in practice, sufficient that I went on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and I could practice, although at the same short distances as the beginners! This ground was long and narrow - 90m plus overshoot into long grass which was very boggy it must have contained a large number of lost arrows, including mine. Behind the targets was a high bank on which the railway ran to China. On the left was a driving school with a skid pan near the fence which was used with great

enthusiasm, and on the right was a football field and every so often a football would sail over the fence. The Club would use this field for our FITAs. Behind the archers was a dual carriageway and a high rise housing estate. The ground was only 5 targets wide. The store was two rusty corrugated iron containers roofed over about 10ft. covering the shooting line. Very useful when a sudden downpour occurred but then the slabbed floor flooded.

The Club members knew little English but someone usually managed to make me understand. I also made the Club team. Interestingly the Club AGM papers, accounts, etc. were always issued in English although proceedings were in Cantonese. This Club was one of the most successful in Hong Kong with several members in the Hong Kong squad. Beginners courses were held regularly. Just after I left the club grounds, the driving school and football field were all demolished to make way for a railway line. I was told the field was relocated but when we went back last year we could not find it.

Archery was introduced into Hong Kong by an English Doctor at Kowloon Hospital who wanted to keep shooting and so formed the Kowloon Archery Club.

Since then there has been an average of 11 clubs, including two of the Universities and a Police Club. Few of them have their own grounds, most shoot on sports grounds and school fields, even on top of a covered reservoir under the flight path of the airport. Parking is a big problem for most venues so travelling on crowded public transport is necessary. Bosses and stands are kept in containers or in a cupboard in the stadium grandstand. The governing body HKAA has a ground at Yuen Long up near the border with China. This was funded by the Hong Kong Jockey club which uses the profits gained from betting to support sports clubs with equipment and facilities. When I first arrived the field was just a muddy area full of weeds but as the years went on the grass eventually looked better as shown in a series of photos I have. There was a concrete block building with a club room, telephone, a store for bosses and a toilet block next door. The entry to the ground was through an industrial estate and onto a country track ending in a steep path down to the field. As the rains came they washed out big channels and eventually it was very difficult to negotiate.

There was no indoor shooting, all evening practice was under floodlights at short distances. Temperatures are such that shooting outside is possible all year (although very hot and humid in June, July and August). Longer distances are shot on Saturday afternoons (most people work Saturday mornings), and on Sundays.

Distance for overshoot is quite a problem at some locations, especially in the sports stadia. They have a so called Long Metric - 70/60, 50 and 30 (9 doz.) There are very few locations where a full FITA can be shot. Compounds were limited as to distance for this reason.

Classifications are different to U.K. and are as follows:

Beginners use a basic bow and shoot at 25m and 18m and have to win a medal at a beginners tournament to be upgraded to –

Elementary who can use any FITA permitted equipment and shoot at 50m, 40m and 30m and score 700 for 9 doz to be classed as

Intermediate here the score is up to 810 for 70/60m, 50m & 30m for 9 doz.

Advanced are allowed to shoot the full FITA and have to shoot over 810 for the so called Long Metric - 9 doz.

1st Class is used on some shoots and is over 864 for men and 792 for women for a FITA.

Some Tournaments cater for all classes, except Beginners although FITAs seem to be limited to Advanced archers.

The rest will be printed in the Summer Edition.