

DCAS NEWSLETTER Autumn 2003

FOR ARCHERS IN DEVON & CORNWALL

Issue #15

Please copy and circulate to other club members

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Fifteenth 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 Winter issue (to be distributed at the DCAS Indoor Champs at the Kitto Centre) should be sent to one of the Editorial Team by 1st February 2004, please:

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GWAS SENIOR INTER-COUNTIES

On Sunday 21st September the annual Grand Western Archery Society Intercounties tournament was held at Exeter School.



Pictured are the members of the DCAS County Team for 2003: *(left to right)*

Tim Pratt (R), Peter Smith (R), Glenn Wilde (R), Allan Temple (R), Estelle Kent (R), Gary Wilde (R), Chris Rothwell (C), Margaret Byrnes (LB), James Hardy (C), Bob Griffith-Bird (C), Sue Hawkesford (C), Bob Young (R), Andy Baylis (R), Emma-Jayne Young (R), Mike Brown (C), Gillian Bedford (C), Chris Bedford (C), Caroline Perry (R), Charlotte Brown (R), John Sperling (LB)

The weather was good to us but unfortunately Devon and Cornwall came last. We missed 3rd place by some 250 points. Surprisingly we came second for the Centenary Challenge Trophy and the GWAS Challenge silver bugle. The latter was missed by only 22 points ! Well done all those who shot. The full results can be found on the GWAS web site.

JUDGING AT THE ISLAND GAMES PART 2 (by Colin Holmes)

Sunday was practice day for the archers; this was not only for them, it was also for me as I was Director of Shooting. This means I operate the traffic lights in addition to other duties. The automatic traffic light system had only arrived from China the Wednesday before, and was damaged, so we only had a small insight into what they would do. We found they were set for one detail shooting only, the archers soon got used to extra bleeps (instead of whistles) and all went well.

Monday arrived dry and sunny for the long distance of the FITA and a shower came only after all was finished. Tuesday the short distance was shot. The medal ceremony was held for the FITA round straight afterwards for Individual and Team winners. Each competitor received a medal, a bunch of flowers and a beanie Daniel the Donkey.

On Wednesday we held the Individual Head to Head, having used the 2 day FITA for the eliminations. Due to difficulties with the automatic traffic light sound signals, I had to resort to the whistle for the finals of the Head to Head.

Thursday it was the turn of the Teams. They had not experienced a team head to head, but with the help of the Faroes' team giving a demonstration the previous Sunday afternoon practice all was set. There are 3 archers in each team in a marked box on the ground behind the line and a small box for the coach. The coach may help at any time with advice only. The teams shoot 3 ends of 3 arrows each and all 9 arrows must be shot in 3 minutes. Only 1 archer may shoot at one time, 1 to 3 arrows. The next archer cannot go up to the line until the first has returned to the box. Arrows may not be nocked until on the line. Most archers shot 2 then changed. No equipment failure allowed. Archers may have substitutes but can only change during scoring time. As a Judge, it was fast shooting and also fast judging, any infringement meant a time penalty. It was very good. Maybe we could base a team shoot for our clubs on it. The final was between Guernsey and the Faroes. After the first end the Faroes had a lead of 10 points. The second end was shot and Guernsey had pulled 2 points back, after the last end was shot we all waited to the scores to go up. Guernsey had 187 and the Faroes had 212. There were handshakes all round.

Our job over, we waited for the award ceremony. All the Head to Head individuals and teams were cheered and given medals and flowers and donkeys. The judges were each given a replica engraved medal and the club were thanked for all their work, goodbyes were said and they hoped to see each other at the next games in Shetland in 2005 (All the Judges volunteered).

COACHING NEWS

Next years GWAS Coaching Conference will take place at Wellington on the 3rd April. It is hoped that one of the subjects to be covered will be the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy. It is advisable that all Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Club Child Protection Officers attend if possible. Make a note in your diaries; more details will follow nearer the time.

FOR SALE

Exmouth Archers have more target faces than they know what to do with. If you are after some second hand faces please see me. We have 122cm, 80cm and 4 spot 80cm faces. Most of which are from the last few years FITA Stars, so they don't have many arrow holes in them. Price negotiable !

Tim Pratt
Exmouth Archers.

IN THE GOLD

When I was young I thought it would
be great to be like Robin Hood,
so later on when things looked right,
I became a Toxophilite.

I joined a club to learn the ropes
and started off with highest hopes,
I learned the things I had to know,
like all about the recurved bow
and how to nock, to aim, to sight,
to loose off arrows in straight flight
and how to stand the same each time,
so arrows took the proper line.

I brought a bow and all the kit
and thought that now this would be it.
I knew it all; I'd learned enough
and now was time to do my stuff.

I stepped up to the shooting line
and as I'd learned, I took my time,
I shot my arrows, six all told,
and knew I'd find them in the gold.
(It must be said that, adversely,
the target's too far off to see
exactly just what path they took,
you have to wait to go and look.)

So up I walked to pull them out,
of where they'd be I had no doubt
and thus it was, as I'd foretold,
I found the arrow – In the gold!
But only one! I saw instead
the next one only hit the red,
the third one also, sad but true,
only made it to the blue.
The fourth one clearly missed its track
and landed somewhere in the black,
and number five, which wasn't right,
was only just inside the white.
Number six I couldn't see,
I thought it isn't still with me.
It missed the target! Hit the ground!
And sad to say was never found.

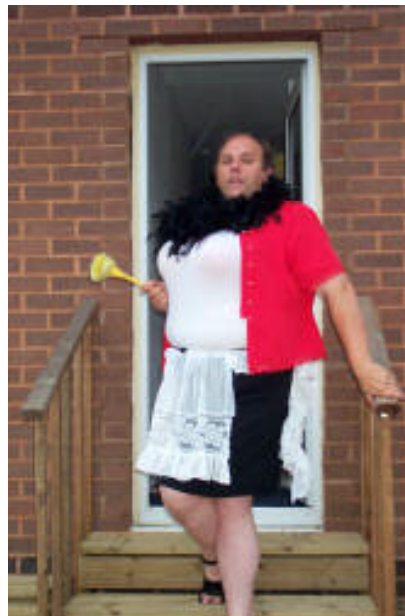
So back I went, much chastened by
the results of my fruitless try
and saw there is no easy way
and that there is a price to pay.
That practice is the only route
to have some hope that when you shoot,
you will succeed, and then behold.
All your arrows – In the GOLD.

Alan Hughes, Exmouth Archers

COLOUR SECTION



Our Chairman, Paul, Polishing the Silver at Dunster 2003



Exeter's Steve and Ben Glover getting ready for the Exmouth Lunatic Shoot, June 2003.



Jan Martin with her 5 trophies
GNAM June 2003

MY ROAD TO ST. GEORGE

I started archery ten years ago whilst on holiday in Australia, I watched my brother David shooting and he asked me if I wanted to *have a go*. He taught me how to shoot and during that five week holiday I *had a go* nearly every day and took part in three outdoor target tournaments, a clout and a field round in the bush. I returned to England with a compound bow and a set of old aluminium arrows which I had borrowed.

At the Public Library in Plymouth, I obtained details of three local archery clubs and I eagerly contacted the first one on the list but I was told that I couldn't just join the club and shoot, particularly with a compound bow. It seemed I would have to do a beginners course first and the next one would be in a few months time. I was disappointed, I wanted to shoot right away, I didn't want to wait, I nearly gave up on archery but decided to contact the second club, I was told to bring my bow and arrows to their next club night. I can remember how nervous I was when they asked me to demonstrate that I could shoot safely and hit a target at 20 yards with all six arrows. The members of Yelverton Bowmen were a friendly lot and over the following weeks they offered me advice about etiquette, equipment and technique and I soon began to enjoy my shooting. I bought some new arrows and replaced my pin with a proper sight. Probably the biggest improvement came after one of the senior coaches lent me a release aid and taught me how to shoot with it. I started shooting two or three dozen arrows at 15 yards at home every day and soon it began to pay off. I began to get some good scores and started breaking club records; I was Bowman class within two years.

I shot my first full tournament at the Bowmen of the Tors Open Shoot in Plymouth. Success came at the DCAS Grand Day in 1997 when I finished second by two points. It was a serious event but everyone was friendly and I got to know a lot more archers. The following year I gained two second places at tournaments and scored the highest Portsmouth score of 581 in the DCAS Indoor Postal League. In 1999, I became DCAS Outdoor Champion for the first time and have held the title for four years running, adding the Indoor title in 2002. I also became Champion of the West at Dunster in 2002 and now hold a number of County and Regional Records.

Master Bowman status came in 1999 and this brought me an invitation to the UK Masters shoot at Lilleshall; I've also taken part in the outdoor British Target Championships where I met more archers, some ranked in the world top ten. To put something back into the sport and to obtain a better understanding of archery, I qualified as a coach this year but I consider my greatest achievement is being selected to shoot for England at the British Indoor Target Championships. My nerves got the better of me at my first shoot for my country but it was an experience I will never forget. It was my dream come true.

This has been my road to St. George and my advice to any archer is to set realistic goals, listen to your senior club coaches, pay attention to detail, practise and above all, don't be put off, believe in yourself; your dream may just come true.

by Bob Griffith-Bird.
Yelverton Bowmen.

*Ed – Bob also shot for England outdoors at the British Target Championships and was the highest scoring Gent Compound for England – see Marj's report under **Recent Achievements**. Well done!!!*

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Bob Griffith-Bird shooting for England was in the victorious compound team at the British Target Championships during August. Bob was in 4th place and hoping to overtake the opposition, when electrical storms in the area on the second day of the competition caused the cancellation of the shoot for safety reasons.

The following were winners at the DWAA County & Open Championship shoot at Devizes over the August Bank Holiday weekend: Sue and Richard Hawkesford (Hereford & York Compound on Sunday and American on Monday), Richard Hawkesford (Bristol 2 & American Compound) and Nick Hawkesford (Bristol 4 Compound).

Paddy Johnson won the competition for disabled archers at the Bath & West Showground. Paddy keeps the record he scored 2 years ago.

Ed – It's good to see results from our archers getting out and about a bit in other counties.

The County Senior Team did not do very well at the Inter-counties shoot this year, but, hopefully, with the introduction of squad training during the Autumn and Spring, scores will improve next year.

Ed – Let's give each County Squad member all the encouragement we can for next season.

Marj Smith.

PRO

Ed – I am indebted to Wendy Wheeler for supplying the following whimsy:

BONES

The body of every organization is structured from four kinds of bones.

There are the wishbones who spend their time wishing someone would do the work.

There are the jawbones who do all the talking but very little else.

There are the knucklebones who criticize everything everybody else tries to do.

Fortunately, in every organization, there are also the backbones who get under the load and do most of the work.

Recognise anyone?

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Fancy filling it with something ?

Why not put pen to paper and submit it to the editorial team.

We will accept anything that's relevant to Archery in Devon and Cornwall, or indeed outside our Counties, including photos.