

Hello! Welcome to the 42nd edition of the Devon and Cornwall Archery Society Newsletter! It has been a wet and windy summer so far, but hopefully the weather will cheer up for the next few weekends! For those of you that haven't entered – there are still places available at DCAS/Redruth FITA and Autumn Gold. Please support our DCAS shoots and the clubs that host them – without them we cannot hold DCAS Shoots!



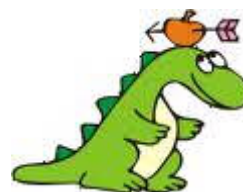
Those of you beady eyed archers that keep a close eye on the website (or Facebook), will know that I am stepping down as DCAS TO at the AGM. This is due to a mix of issues, including both my health, and also the way that I have been treated. Being a tournament organiser is very rarely a thanked job, and it is a lot of hard work. Saying this, it is a very enjoyable job, and you can gain so much satisfaction out of doing it, and seeing a job well done. This is sometimes overshadowed by the actions of certain members of our community that don't appreciate the organisation and timing of running a shoot, especially on a county stage. Most county shoot preparations start taking place 8-9 months before it actually takes place, and organising the return of trophies can be another major mission on top when people do not complete the trophy receipts properly. Although it sounds like I don't like the job, I do. I love doing it. However, I have decided that it is time I step aside and let someone else take on the role. I will, of course, be there to advise as much as I can, but I wish to start shooting again - and with other personal commitments, I have to make some time in my diary somehow! I would like to thank the majority for their continued support throughout some troubled times, and hope to see you on the field in the very near future.

Best wishes,

Sami xx

.....FLASH message....

To: MAW (Missionary Archers in Wales)
Mission: Exmouth FITA Star.
Operative: NILSEN. T.



Dear Mam;

Mission went well. Locals appear to have adopted the 'shoot and have fun at all costs' message that Missionaries have been bringing to this region from the Motherland for some time now.

DCAS appear to have also adopted the 'never mind the weather, as long as we're together' doctrine, but neighbouring regions appear to require an update:

See note regarding sissy archers in Evesham stopping festivities due to standard Welsh weather for archery tournaments being too much for the 'pro's'*

Quite windy throughout, but generally dry (note to self, thanks to Welsh Met. Office for only sending back the empties after torrential rain at base). Atmosphere nonetheless very good, all archers enjoying the days as per instructions. Some good scores attained, considering weather. All very well fed...(note to self, eat here again!) throughout the weekend as a result of sterling efforts by mother and daughter

crew working in complete harmony.....great breakfast....well presented, complete with 24/7 smiles and jolly demeanour. Tea excellent, although general apathy noted amongst target companions to 'get 'em in'...perhaps more work required here.

Camping very good, pleasant atmosphere on site, perhaps only marred by S.S.'s (see separate file re. Pixie Insurgents) failed attempt to destroy the site using an incendiary device built into a camping kettle.

Judging very good, well behaved yet omnipresent, able to converse with archers on subjects other than line cutters and be a generally joyful troop, there to help (note to self, use this as a training example when shooting back in Motherland).

Tournament organiser somewhat bossy and a little scary at times, but did a good job, very able and flexible, delegates well. (But still scares me just a little....) ((ED – this is so not true @!!))

Very honoured to be invited to be LP. Admit it felt a little different to be handing out awards rather than collecting them (note to self, Dammitt!!), but a great honour, which I enjoyed immensely....further thanks to T.O. and crew for that.

Overall, a very enjoyable weekend. Much fun and laughter. Team have got 'the formula' just right....needs more folk to experience this, so suggest promote this shoot (and others in the region) to the Motherland archers and encourage them to venture over the water more often. Well worth the drive. (And the £5:70 to get back to the Motherland!)

Message ends
lach I Dda
TN

A fantastic archer in the making...

Praise and well done to Steven Cox; a junior recurve archer from Kenwith Company of Archers who tries his best with whatever he does and his archery is no different .

Steven has been an archer for 4/5 years now and has earned his Bowmen classification award, and also most improved archer! Steven has started entering competitions and is doing very well.

His latest competition was at Newquay on the 17th July where Steven shot a score of 624 and 16 Gold's in weather which was extremely windy and challenging!! And as we all know the weather and wind at Newquay usually comes with a set of teeth !!! ☺

Also thanks must go to Steven's Mum & Dad for their continued support of Steven's shooting and their dedication in taking him to competitions. Parents are the unsung heroes of the archery world as they do so much to make sure the Juniors compete and that everything is hassle free for the Juniors.



On the same note – as I senior archer I would love to turn up at a shoot after being chauffeur driven, having had my tent put up for me and my equipment set up for me, and then handed a tin of coke while I sit down and relax!! All I would have to worry about was waiting for the whistle of the Judges for assembly call.....

Ok, so maybe you don't all get that, but it's not a bad life being a junior archer is it! Best of luck to all of the juniors in Devon and Cornwall - I hope you all shoot well and enjoy your archery ☺

Paulette Mills

GAME-STATION

Time to occupy the big squishy thing in your skull!

	-		X		+		-1
+		/		-		X	
	/		-		+		10
+		+		X		+	
	-		X		-		-84
+		-		-		-	
	X		+		-		75
42		5		-84		60	

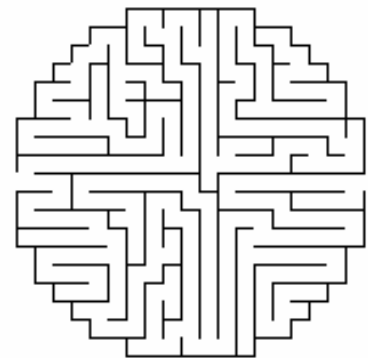
Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.



Why is Ten scared of Seven??

Because 7, 8, 9!!

There are 2 cowboys in the kitchen. Which one is the real cowboy?

The one on the range!

What is invisible and smells like carrots?

Rabbit farts.

What's the difference between a woman with PMS and a Pitt Bull?

Lipstick

And now for something completely different!!!!
Observations from a well travelled but no wiser archer,

Whenever I am at a shoot I can guarantee that sometime during the day on at least one occasion and usually more, the following syndromes can be observed.

Archery is Fun???

A	Aiming, why is it impossible to hold the sight still?
R	Result, that's not where I was aiming, but I'll take a GOLD!!
C	Calling, why is it that the score called is written down as something different?
H	Head shaking, many, many brain cells must be destroyed during a days' shooting!
E	Error, everything felt right, why did the arrow do that?
R	Result # 2, everything was right, and the arrow went in the middle, Do it AGAIN!
Y	Yes, at last!! Final arrow of the day, pick up kit, collapse and go home.

I	Is that really my score?? My sheet adds up to something completely different.
S	School report, could do better, must apply more effort!

F	Friends, no matter how bad the shooting is, smiley happy faces are always evident.
U	Understatement, That's not the best round of the season!
N	Never, that can't be my arrow on the wrong target!

?	Why am I here??
?	Where are we next week!! Can't wait. See you there!!

At the recent Exmouth Open, the Lord Paramount for the day, Malcolm Grant, made reference to archers enjoying their shooting. The above is I think an indication of some of the frustrations and moments of joy all within one day on the shooting field. But to borrow a well used phrase, enjoy your shooting, good scores are not everything, but Good Company and Good Friends go a long way to making a Good Day.

First impressions of a candidate judge

My wife Sarah and I came rather late in life to Archery, and, having done a beginners course about 3 years ago, having tried all bow styles, we both settled on longbows. Unfortunately being rather ancient?!, I am now suffering with arthritis in both hands, which has rather curtailed my shooting abilities. (not that they were ever brilliant!) I

thought to myself, what can I do that will still involve me in archery without shooting. I decided then that I might go down the judging route and I must admit I have not regretted it, **so far!!**

It was a surprisingly simple process to begin, but I must admit there is a lot to learn. I have now got my first indoor season and quite a bit of my first outdoor season under my belt and I am enjoying it a great deal. My fellow judges have been brilliant, and a great help to me, for which I thank them, and I must admit all you archers have been very friendly and considerate towards me.

Judging is a vital part of any sport, this is particularly true of archery, as it takes in all aspects of the sport, not just judging at tournaments but things like checking the set up of the shooting area for a competition, distances and measurements of bosses, and of course the overall safety of shooting at competitions.

As I have said before, we have not been involved with archery for very long, we wish we had taken it up long ago, as we think it is a brilliant sport, and I think it true to say we have not yet met any archers that we would not be very happy to meet again. Maybe we are looking at things through 'rose tinted glasses', but I don't think so.

So to sum up, if any of you are thinking of cutting down on your shooting for any reason, but still want to be involved, you could do a lot worse than going down the judging route, and I look forward to seeing you all, judges, archers, tournament organisers, field crews and all other helpers for many years to come. Happy shooting.....

Peter Conisbee

Devon and Cornwall Intercounties Archery Team 2011

- Sunday 2nd October 2011
- Exeter School

Further to the previous two newsletters, we are now entering the busy stage of the outdoor archery season, and scores are beginning to filter back to Bob Young to collate, in order to identify who has qualified to represent Devon and Cornwall Senior squad at this years Intercounties. Many good scores have been achieved to date and with 10 weeks left to get the qualifying scores, the pace is bound to "hot up"!!



Remember that all scores must be with Bob by **Monday 19th September 2011**. There will be no excuses for extensions, so please make sure that before that date, you agree with Bob the scores that he has recorded for you.

As always, no one is preselected for the team, so everybody has a chance of shooting at the Intercounties. I suspect that there may well be some new faces in the team

again this year, competition for places will again as last year, go right up the last qualifying shoot before the deadline.

In a season that has seen far from ideal shooting conditions, scores have been as good as previous years, so make sure that you make the end of the outdoor season a good one for yourself by qualifying for the county team, perhaps for the first time.

We as a team have been so close to winning the event in the last few years, let's see if we can cross the finish line in first place this time.

Good shooting.

Steve Glover, Senior Team Manager

A trip to the European Grand Prix, 2nd leg – Boé, France
by Estelle Edwick



Following a new ruling introduced by FITA this year, it is now possible for club archers to enter the European Grand Prix events as individuals (providing that they have achieved the required qualifying scores). Previously, these events were only open to those selected to represent their national team.

The location, Boé is near the town of Agen in the South of France between Bordeaux and Toulouse, and the competition was during the last week of May. My husband, Dave, decided

to come with me and we also extended the trip by a couple of days in order to enjoy the weather and the location.

Having decided to go, a busy couple of weeks then followed getting approval of my scores, registering, sorting accommodation, booking flights and figuring out how to make international payments to France, but before we knew it, everything fell into place and it was time to go.

We signed up for the package deal, so stayed in the same accommodation as the other competitors and had all our food and transport included so we didn't have to worry about anything. The venue was pretty good, with a practice field available at all times as well as the main competition field and a stand along side for spectator viewing. There were also several stalls selling archery equipment, food and drink and event merchandise, although ordering/purchasing in my very rusty school French was a challenge. Archers from over 20 different countries were competing, including a number of other club archers like myself. Thankfully, all the scoring and official announcements were in English.

It was much the same as any major competition in the UK, but with the shooting spread out over several days.

Day 1 – Registration, Practice and Equipment Inspection

Day 2 – FITA round for ranking the archers

Day 3 – Head to head eliminations, both individual and team, up to Semifinals

Day 4 – Bronze and Gold final matches, both team and individual, and medal ceremonies.

In total contrast to the weather conditions we had in the UK during May, the FITA ranking day was calm, sunny and very hot, approx. 33°C. I scored 1222 on the FITA round which ranked me in 40th place.

The head to head matches started the next day. The weather was a little cooler (around 21°C), with some cloud, occasional showers and breezy at times (more like being back at home, only the rain was warm!). In the first round of the head to head eliminations I was against a French club archer from Nice, Svetlana Roudeva, and despite losing the first 2 sets, I went on to win the match 6-4. In the next round (1/16th eliminations) I didn't manage so well and lost the match 6-0 to Elena Mousikou, the number 8 seed from Cyprus, resulting in finishing in =17th place.

During the team eliminations and on the finals day we took the opportunity to watch the matches and enjoy the experience. The individual finals were broadcast live on French TV and the whole setup was very much like I imagine the Olympics will be next summer and great fun to watch.

I would thoroughly recommend the experience to any archers who are good enough to take part and fancy a holiday with a bit of a difference and I think that it is great that FITA have made the decision to open up this level of competition to club archers and hope this continues in future years.

Bowmen of the Tors celebrate St George's day with their annual Agincourt shoot.

On the 17th of April Bowmen of the Tors held their annual Agincourt shoot to celebrate all things English. St George, the battle of Agincourt and the English Longbow. The day started off with a Western round for senior archers and a short and junior western for younger participants. All categories were well attended with a few archers being persuaded to put down their trusty recurves



and take up the call to arms with a longbow, this set the theme of the day with the emphasis on fun rather than the seriousness of target shooting. The morning's competition was won by Neil Bancroft from the Torquay Company of Archers in the Gentleman's Longbow category, Penny Crane from Bowmen of the Tors in the Ladies longbow, Heidi Wakeley from Plymouth Archers with a massive score of 417 in the short junior western and Harry Wakeley from Plymouth Archers won the junior western.

After the morning's competition the range was set with cardboard figurines representing the King of France, French knights, Foot soldiers and crossbowmen. Many hours of work had gone into making these figurines by Peter Fleet our equipment officer, and it felt a shame to put holes in them after all his sterling work but after all this was war. Archers donned costumes and draped themselves in George crosses and hailed a volley of arrows after arrow at the French lines until finally the French were defeated. Points were awarded for killing the king, head shots and the lower points awarded for hitting anywhere on the body that would cause injury. The king's champion for the afternoon was Dave Burry of



Plymouth Archers who won the Kings Gold Cup and a campaign medal. It was a good fun day which was well supported we would like to thank all those who attended and made it a success and look forward to a bigger and better event next year. For further details pictures and videos please visit our website www.bowmenofthetors.co.uk . Article by Andy, Bowmen of the Tors

Don't let Devon (and Cornwall) go to waste

As archers we value our environment and the time we spend outdoors. However, when it comes to protecting our resources and dealing with the waste we generate each and every competition weekend we could do so much better.

I am amazed by the number of bottles, cans and other recyclable materials that are disposed of each and every weekend at every tournament and will end up, unnecessarily, in the ever decreasing landfill space that we have. Devon in particular is reported to be one of the best counties in the country for recycling and yet there is plenty more we can do.

Aluminium does not degrade and can be recycled indefinitely, saving 80% of the energy and resources when recycled rather than being refined from ore. Plastics are a main stay of our modern lives, but do not decompose in landfill. Recycling paper is easy and results in energy and water savings. Find out more at www.recyclenow.com

Tournament Organisers please think about providing recycling bins for the collection of recyclable items. Archers - how about taking recyclable items home with you and placing in your household recycling if no facilities for recycling are provided.

Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

How to design the perfect field course – fun and challenging!

With the upcoming DCAS ad GWAS field championships being held at Exmouth on the 15th and 16th of October I have been asked to give you an insight into what goes into designing and building the course.

The first, and perhaps most important aspect, is deciding what round you are going to run. Once this is done its time to start doing the fun bit; finding the shots. It's important to have in mind the round, logistics and who is going to be shooting the course when you do this, along with overshoots and safety. Its advisable to set the course in a series of loops, normally 3 with 8 – 12 (ish) targets in for FITA, as this allows people to more frequently pass the centre point for a break.

While selecting the shots you need to bear in mind the lay of the land, as well as the distance and face size of the previous few shots. Repeating similar distances, or slope sizes, isn't advisable as this enables the archer to get used to it, making the course repetitive and reducing the challenge. Placement of the pegs is the real art to laying a field course, and can easily transform an average course into something varied and challenging. It is advisable to not have the pegs in lines, or on the same angles, this makes it harder for the archer to judge the unmarked shots. Having the pegs set on

land sloping perpendicular to the line of the target can help cause problems for recurves and longbows in particular, tricking the eye into incorrectly identifying vertical. Steep slopes from the pegs to the targets can make the range hard to judge, but don't ignore the gentle slopes, especially at long distance, as a well placed long half way down the shot can make the shot very difficult to judge due to lost ground behind the obstruction. Flat shots are also an important part of a course, and actually can give the course setter the best opportunity to be creative, especially in woodland, where avenues of trees can be used to line the shot, taking advantage of tunnel vision effects, and making it hard to judge 60 and 80 cm faces. If room permits, having shots in the middle of fields can be the hardest to shoot of the lot, due to the lack of items along the shot that allows for intermediate judging of distance.

Having done all the work its worth taking a step back and thinking about the shots, checking if the blend is right; Is there too much downhill?, Are there too many long shots?, Will your likely entrants enjoy the course or is it too challenging?. This last question is quite important for this event as we have to make sure all you target archers can easily shoot the course with minimal worry about losing your arrows. This course has always been designed to be friendly for everyone, and so there is no excuse for target archers to not enter, as long as you get sight marks then you are very unlikely to miss the boss.

Once the shots have all been selected, its time to carry in the bosses, and start clearing the shot. It is ideal to only clear as little terrain as needed, in case you want to vary the shot in the future. Care should be taken about checking overshoots and pathways, and it is also advisable to not have people walking back on themselves, it allows the course to flow better if the archers can leave the shot from the target end, and move onto the next shot.

It is important to bear in mind left and right handed archers, of all bow styles, to ensure the all have clearance to the target. This is especially important with long, woodland shots where the trajectory of longbow arrows can be a problem. As a rough guide the highest point of flight for a longbow arrow is around $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the shot distance, and so you need to imagine the rough height an arrow will be at once it reaches the point and ensure that it can get to the point, and then onto the target.

Hopefully this have given you an insight into the job of preparing this tournament and I can't wait to see you all in mid October supporting our first record status event, whether you are a field or target archer.

Ben Glover

WANTED! ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be going out at the AGM in November, so if you feel like putting a pen to paper or fingers to keyboard then please do not hesitate to contact on toptoxgal@hotmail.co.uk or 07514 341042

Maybe you have taken an awesome photo? Shot a cracking shot? Know the perfect set up for a bow...!? Let everyone know!!!