



SHROPSHIRE ARCHERY SOCIETY

Newsletter

www.shropshirearcherysociety.co.uk

September 2016.

It has been a busy summer – the 11 clubs in the County all active on their own club sessions with most of them also hosting a Heritage shoot and/or something similar. Sadly the evenings are drawing in and soon the weather will be cooler so once again most of our shooting will be indoors. While indoor shooting is certainly better than no shooting, it is definitely second best to shooting out of doors.

LONG MYND ARCHERS 70/50 x 2.

A total of 50 archers took part in this shoot which was held way back in April - under the heading of "Blow away the cobwebs". Once again the lure of Shropshire drew in Archers from far and wide - literally from all over England - only 19 of the participants were from the home county. If you've ever shot at Long Mynd Archers' home venue it is not difficult to see why archers will travel a long way to take part. Unusually, the winners are not those with the highest aggregate score but those with the highest score for a single round. Full results on the County Website.

WENLOCK OLYMPIANS SHOOT.

This is the Granddaddy of all the competitions shot in the County - 2016 marked the 130th holding of the Wenlock Olympian Games – which of course is intrinsically linked to the founding of the modern Olympic games in 1896. This year the venue was a new one - Attingham Park – a magnificent setting for a shoot of this stature. It is an extremely popular shoot – the entries were closed by late March, a full 3 months before the event although a few extras were accommodated by squeezing some additional targets on to the field. Only just over half of the archers are from within Shropshire. The round shot is a Western with all archers, irrespective of age or ability shooting the 60/50yard distances – no dispensation for juniors! Full results on the County website

HERITAGE SHOOT.

The Heritage shoots have been as popular as ever. A total of 8 shoots with 163 of the county's 700+ archers taking part. They are a wonderful institution for encouraging novices to try their first competition but also attractive to the more experienced archers. Congratulations to all those who have ended the season with personal bests and Heritage trophies. A full listing of all the season's heritage results can be seen on the County Web site.

CROESOSWALLT ARCHERS SILVER DOLLAR.

As most readers know, Croesoswallt (Welsh for Oswestry!) have only recently affiliated with Shropshire. Their Silver Dollar event is a well established shoot held at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen in early September and is quite a marathon day out. The "American" round is 2.5dozen arrows at each of 60,50 and 40yards. This event consists of a "Double American" – ie a total of 15dozen arrows!! This year it sadly clashed with the final

Heritage shoot so many Shropshire archers weren't there. A total of 33 archers took part, only 17 of these from within the County- others converged from a wide range of clubs outside Shropshire. Full results can be seen again on the Shropshire Archery Website. It should be noted that a total of 4 National records and one County record were set at this event this year – well done to all those who achieved this distinction.

BOWBROOK ARCHERS “SWORD OF SHREWSBURY”.

Another long established and marathon day out – for longbows only with participants coming from far and wide. A total of 36 archers assembled on a glorious September morning and, largely to BLBS rules, shot a double 2 way clout in the morning followed by a 2way National in the afternoon. The determining of the final results and positions is quirky to say the least but is entirely consistent every year and exactly as laid out on Bowbrook Archers' website. Full results again on the County Website.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

As usual, these were held in mid September – Sunday 18th to be exact and were once again hosted by Long Mynd Archers. It seems that once again, the thought of shooting the true Championship Round, a York/Hereford, deters many from taking part which is a pity. The day has options for almost all levels of experience and ability – some archers shoot a National Round alongside the longer distances. This year we had 20 Juniors and 21 seniors taking part. Full results can once again be seen on the County website but many congratulations go to Rhian Costall, Finlay Scott, Bela Booth, Tim Benbow, Paul Nelms and Andrew Shepherd who all ended up with Shropshire Archery Society Trophies

Congratulations to Audco Archers.

Lots of tables of results on the aforementioned County Archery Website. One thing stands out very clearly – Audco archers not only appear regularly in all the results but they also appear with remarkable frequency in the medals tables. Well done all at Audco!

SHROPSHIRE INDOOR ARCHERY LEAGUE.

Clearly this league is going places this year. But how many of our county's archers know anything about it's history? Below is a piece written by Ian Johnston who has been organising the league for many years.

With the reorganization of the Indoor League for this coming winter season and the 2015/16 season being the Leagues 20th year, I thought a little bit of history of the League might be in order.

The League was first introduced for the 1995/6 season to generate interest in the otherwise dull winter months with an inter club competition when very few other competitions are available for the average club archer.

From the start until the 2000/01 season there were just two multi discipline divisions, that could include juniors, with up to 14 teams competing. The competition ran from November until March, as it still does today, but back then in some months there were two rounds shot, A Junior division was introduced for the 2000/01 season, a third senior division in 2006/7 and with Longbows becoming more popular in the county the first 'Wooden Bow' division was introduced for the 2010/11 season.

Along with the increase of county members the number of archers entering scores for the league has, in most cases, steadily increased. Last season we had six divisions, 31 teams and 193 archers entering scores, the most significant increase over recent years being in the low tech Longbow and Barebow disciplines. Below is a table of the number of scores entered for the first season for which I have a full listing, the 1999/2000 season, and the 2015/16 season.

<i>Discipline</i>	<i>1999/2000 season</i>	<i>2015/16 season</i>
<i>Recurve, gents</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>70</i>
<i>“ ladies</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>“ junior gents</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>“ junior ladies</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Compound, gents</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>“ ladies</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>“ junior gents</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>“ junior ladies</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Longbow, gents</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>“ ladies</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>“ junior gents</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>“ junior ladies</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Barebow, gents</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>“ ladies</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>“ junior gents</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>“ junior ladies</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>totals</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>193</i>

The league's first organizer was Fred Dillow of Telford Archers who ran it for the first five years and also obtained sponsorship for the first two trophies, the division 1 Shropshire Star cup donated by the Midland News Association/Shropshire Star, and the division 2 Superfreight Shield donated by Superfreight Haulage that was managed by Fred's Son-in-law.

Mrs Karen Mather also of Telford Archers took over running the league from 2000/01 until the 2004/05 season and gained sponsorship for the junior trophy from Pentel Stationary, I then took over the league from the 2005/06 season.

The number of divisions each year is dependent on the teams entered. Last season we had three senior recurve/compound divisions, one longbow division, and two junior divisions, usually with six teams in each division.

Teams can progress up or down the divisions by a promotion/relegation system that is dependent on the team's average score for the previous season. At the end of a season not only are the teams' final positions published on the County web site but also the total scores submitted for each archer so they can see how they performed within the county.

This winter sees a reorganisation of the senior divisions with Recurve and Compound archers having their own divisions. For the first time, Barebow and Longbow archers will have their own divisions.

Finally I would just like to say that I hope to see your name in one of your club's teams for the new season.

Ian Johnston.

STOP PRESS.

Recently received from Ian Johnston are the provisional numbers of teams and archers in our Indoor League for the coming Winter season.

Indoor League update for 2016/17 season.

Well, the league's aim of getting archers shooting in the otherwise dull winter months by generating interest with friendly inter club competition has 'come of age' this season as the reorganization of the senior divisions has resulted in a significant increase in the number of teams entered.

A provisional overview of the league with 4 clubs still to enter teams as of Thursday 22 Sept. is:-

Discipline	No of Divisions	No of Teams	Archers competing
Recurve	3	18	72
Compound	1	6	12
Barebow	1	4	12
Longbow	2	8	24
Juniors	2	9	27
Totals	9	45	147

*I can only congratulate all the clubs for this marvellous effort, especially Audco who have entered eight teams, and wish all archers **good shooting** for the months ahead as we look forward to a very interesting competition.*

Ian Johnston.

“I AM TEAM GB”.

3 of our county's archery clubs opened their gates to the public as part of the National event held to welcome our Rio Athletes home on Saturday 27th August. No-one quite knew what the response would be – we were perhaps surprised at how busy we all were – there is clearly a lot of enthusiasm for our sport.

“SHROPSHIRE ARCHERY SOCIETY” MEDALS.

A considerable number of these have been produced, at SAS's expense - to be awarded at all County Competitions. They are worth winning - solid diecast medals with the front side in full 4 colour. They will be supplied, on demand, to every club that puts on a County shoot. At the moment, County shoots comprise the following; Indoors, Novices, Outdoor handicap, County champs and the County Clout. The host club will not be expected to pay for these medals. If you need medals, contact Jonathan Walton who is holding the stock. Any unused medals will be returned to Jonathan after the relevant shoot is over.

FIELD ARCHERY.

Field archery competitions, open to all ArcheryGB or NFAS affiliated archers, are held at Bowbrook's range at Dell Farm on the 2nd Sunday of most months from October through to May. All are welcome – for precise details please see “events diary” in Bowbrook Archers' website www.bowbrook-archers.co.uk.

Field archery practice sessions are held at the same venue, usually on the morning of the 4th Saturday of each month through the winter. Again, visit Bowbrook Archers' website for details.

If you are unfamiliar with this venue, a map and directions can be found on the abovementioned website.

CLOUT ARCHERY.

A practice session is being held at Bowbrook's field in Withington on Saturday 8th October, 10-1200am. Clout tuition will be offered at this session which is open to all Shropshire Archers. Everyone taking part in any clout competition is asked to sign on the entry form to confirm that they have received instruction in clout shooting – specifically the rule that outlaws all high trajectory shooting (except for longbows).

Don't forget the forthcoming Shropshire County and Open Clout competition at Longford Hall in Newport. This is a 2 way GNAS double clout – all clubs have already been sent entry forms which are also available on the County or Bowbrook Archers' website.

AND FINALLY.

A big thank you to all those in Shropshire's archery community who have laboured hard to assist in any aspect of the work involved in putting on a shoot this year. Without you our archery lives would be much duller.

AND REALLY FINALLY.

Thank you to Dave Baron who has rebuilt the County Website over the last year or so. It is now a comprehensive site for all Archery activities inside Shropshire with a full listing of all events to come (with entry forms) and full results of events that have been and gone. If you have any interesting facts or stories about Archery inside Shropshire – please let Dave have them for inclusion so that others can hear about them. He will also welcome any constructive comments about the site and any changes that might be suggested.

AND LAST OF ALL – JUST RECEIVED.

Saturday 17th September. A bright and sunny day heralded the Junior West Midlands Intercounty competition between Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. It was great to see fellow archers from my county all wearing our bright yellow and blue shirts. We certainly stood out! After a motivational team talk and warm up (involving a chain of high fives) we began practice and soon after that the scoring.

For much of the morning there was a strong crosswind which had most of us trying to adjust accordingly. Thankfully the wind dropped in the afternoon which meant that the scores most likely improved. Throughout the day, all the archers seemed to be enjoying themselves, but I found the delicious smell of frying bacon in a nearby tent behind the start line distracting at times! After the shooting had finished and the tents were all packed away, we all gathered for the results of the shoot. They were: 1st place Worcestershire, 2nd place Staffordshire and 3rd place Warwickshire. Shropshire came forth but only just and shot well with some good scores. We had 2 archers shooting 50/40/30/20 and a recurve bow. These included Charlotte Llewellyn-Smith with a score of 1224 and Rhian Costall with a score of 1043. Becky Chilcott shooting



the same distance but with a bare bow scored 956 and beat the 2 others in her category. Penney Healey was also shooting that distance even though she is U12 and scored a personal best of 1132. Well done to all Shropshire archers.

When asked if this shoot should be repeated next year, we were all in full agreement that it was worth doing again. Fingers crossed that the sun shines again next year!

Thank you to Liz and Gavin for organising the Shropshire Junior Team- it was a really enjoyable day.

Written by Charlotte Llewellyn Smith

Shropshire's Junior team in full uniform!

THE END (at last).