

## WOKING ARCHERY CLUB NEWSLETTER – MAY 2005

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**F**irst of all, I think we should start by saying welcome to all of our new members, many of whom are joining us straight from the winter beginners course held at Apps Court, and are shooting outside for the first time this season. I'm sure we all wish you good shooting, and hope you have a good time at WAC.

On the subject of new members. It probably goes without saying, but if any of the established members see a new person struggling with something please don't be shy, introduce yourself and give them a hand. We are, after all, a part of the same club.

**I**t has been noticed in recent weeks that now we are all shooting at the field on a more regular basis there is a small issue developing with regards to putting equipment away when you have finished using it. This applies to not only targets, bosses and stands, but also to bow stands and ground quivers. If you are the last person using something, and you are finished with it, please put it away in the proper place.

Having said that, it is probably appropriate to say thank you here to the relatively small number of people who time and time again find themselves taking up the slack by putting away targets and other club equipment which has been left on the field by other, less responsible members. I am sure you know who you are, so I will say simply "Thank you."

**T**arget Bosses! Just a note to tell members that the club will have 10 straw bosses for sale after the up coming Surrey Longbow event (held at our ground on 7<sup>th</sup> May). Anybody interested in purchasing one of these bosses, perhaps for the luxury of practicing at home, should have a word with Peter or Brenda Champion.

**A**s astute members will notice the excellent finished surface on the club's drive ends rather abruptly some distance after the sheds, and before the end of the motorway bridge, and we would really like to extend this good surface to the end of the drive. The previous work on the road was made possible by the generous help of several members in providing time and materials to get the work done, which leads us to the point at hand. If anyone could help, particularly with the provision of materials, such as road scalplings etc

please let us know. Any help of suggestions would be much appreciated. Thank you.

**W**hilst on the subject of the road etc, it seems the appropriate time to mention that we are getting new gates. Wisley are going to fit two new gates at either end of our road, one inside the existing deer gate, and another at the foot of the motorway bridge. These gates, like the existing gate, are to be kept closed at all times, whether there are people shooting or not. We hope that this will help to keep the number of walkers who stray from the footpaths to a minimum and so help to maintain and indeed reinforce our status as a 'closed' field.

**E**lectricity! Yes, you read it right; electricity is coming to the WAC ground in the form of a new generator. Some of you may have noticed that we now have a large new diesel powered generator situated behind the right-hand equipment shed. Realistically this is going to make a tremendous positive difference to the club, as it will mean lighting in and around the buildings, hot water in the washbasins, and the possibility of using domestic appliances (a microwave for example) in the kitchen.

**W**orking archery club is blessed with a number of members, who, without being asked directly often go above and beyond what is expected of them, be it through work they do within the club, or their provision of equipment which the club would certainly otherwise have to go without. Modesty, as is so often the way, forbids that these people should seek any public praise for what they do, but one hopes that they realise the level of appreciation we all feel for their efforts, from which *we all benefit*.

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## RESULTS

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Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April saw the first of 2005's monthly club shoots.

It is good to see new members taking part in these shoots, and nice to see them taking home the occasional trophy as well.

I feel some attention should be drawn to a few of the scores.

Eleanor and David Symes, both new archers, got aggregate scores of 1591 and 1510 respectively, and both took the Recurve on H/C awards.

Harry Taylor, still on a constant quest to make his Dad, James look silly took the 1<sup>st</sup> Overall Junior Recurve over 9, and 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Recurve Over 9 on Handicap, finishing with an aggregate score of 1697!

And so, on to the results in full: -

<b>Award</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Score</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Senior Gent Recurve	Andrew Beech	464
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Senior Lady Recurve	Lesley Biggs	449
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Junior Recurve over 9	Harry Taylor	366
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Junior Recurve under 9	Jack Biggs	386
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Senior Gent Compound	John Wilkins	554
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Senior Lady Compound	Andrea Gales	574
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Junior Compound	Jon Down	490
1 <sup>st</sup> O/All Gent Longbow	Tony Down	102
1 <sup>st</sup> Lady Recurve on Handicap	Eleanor Symes	1591
1 <sup>st</sup> Gent Recurve on Handicap	David Symes	1510
1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Recurve Over 9 on H/C	Harry Taylor	1697
1 <sup>st</sup> Junior Recurve Under 9 on H/C	Jack Biggs	1466
1 <sup>st</sup> Gent Compound on Handicap	John Wilkins	1421
1 <sup>st</sup> Longbow on Handicap	Andrew Jennings	1454
1 <sup>st</sup> Black Badge (unrewarded)	Sam Hess	1469
2 <sup>nd</sup> Black Badge (unrewarded)	James Taylor	1457
3 <sup>rd</sup> Black Badge (unrewarded)	Georgina Baglow	1457
4 <sup>th</sup> Black Badge (unrewarded)	David Moore	1428
5 <sup>th</sup> Black Badge (unrewarded)	Peter Turner	1388
Wooden Spoon	John Scott	-

Remember, when you are looking at the H/C scores that 1440 is the target...

... so lots of Handicaps broken this time. Good shooting all.

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## YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

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**Y**es you! In the past, the WAC newsletter contained many and varied articles, regarding the club, archery equipment, technique, anything that related to archery or would at least raise a smile. In fact we won an award for the newsletter, but you would have to ask some of the really long-standing members about that.

So, this is where you come in. We would be delighted, honoured even to receive, from you, anything you think could be included in the newsletter.

We will accept whatever you would like to submit for consideration; your comments on the sport of archery, or on WAC itself. A good joke, or more usefully, a good archery excuse.

If you attend an outside shoot, a short report on the day would be a nice addition, especially if it is accompanied by some results with Woking archers at the top of the list!

We could perhaps use the newsletter to carry a questions and answers section regarding equipment or technique.

Technical guides to common tasks such as fletching or string making are also a possibility.

So there you have it, an open invitation to submit whatever you like for inclusion in the newsletter, or to ask for something specific you would like to see printed. If you feel you have something to say, or to share with us all, anonymously if you must, then you should speak to Richard Tapley, or e-mail it to [tapley@btinternet.com](mailto:tapley@btinternet.com) with Newsletter somewhere in the title.

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## FROM THE VAULT

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**A**s mentioned earlier, this newsletter used to carry a number of interesting articles, something which we would like to be able to do again with help from our members.

In the spirit of this type of content, and lacking any new submissions at this point we are running a few selected articles from passed editions.

First in this series is an article which I know has been re printed once and appears again here as testimony to it's strength. Originally written by Peter Champion, and something those of us who have had the great benefit of Pete's help and advice will have heard him say on more than one occasion...

### .... **CONFIDENCE**

The basic mechanical movements, to enable you to shoot well, are not difficult. However the "Confidence" required to supplement the mechanical side, sometimes needs a lot of training.

The first step in building confidence, is knowing that all parts of your archery equipment are in good order and functioning as they should.

Having made sure that, knocking point, bracing height, string, arrows, fletchings, arrow rest and sight etc are all in a good state of repair and operating correctly, you should obtain a comprehensive list of sight marks for every distance you will shoot. These should continually be updated throughout the year as your technique changes.

Make sure that you know what to do with your sight. Be aware that moving your sight along its extension, can correct for height as well as, by moving your sight up and down.

Make sure that you know that by increasing or decreasing the spring tension in your pressure button, you can modify your arrow flight, in the same way as by altering the windage on the sight.

All these points, and a good few more, lead to confidence.

Why do your arrows fly like a windmill, when the arrows of the bloke next door, fly so well?

Does it matter that you can see your arrows fly from loose, to point of impact?

What causes a left hand bias for a right handed archer and visa versa?

How important is the 2-degree slope on your fletchings and should it be different for left or right-handed archers?

Should the distance between string and riser/limb intersection marry at top and bottom of riser?

If you can answer All, or at least Some of these, then you are on the way to "Knowing" that your equipment is right.

Confidence is "Knowing" that when you change from 70m to 50m during a FITA, your first arrow "Will" hit the boss.

This "Knowing or Confidence" will increase your scores and give you more enjoyment, which, will in turn give you better scores and even more enjoyment, and still more confidence.

Remember, confidence comes from being aware of problems as soon as they occur, or even before and being able to correct for them, without loosing any score, which could jeopardize your final total.

Confidence, is being able to address the target, shoot an arrow, and tell the judge that his target is at 82yards and not 80yards because your arrow has gone low – "AND BE RIGHT"

Good Shooting

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## PARTING SHOTS

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Just a few bits and pieces to close out the newsletter...

Firstly, a joke.

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King Harold was inspecting his troops on the eve of the Battle of Hastings, chatting with them a bit, trying to raise their morale, that sort of thing.

He went to the swordsmen first, choosing a soldier at random from amongst the ranks. "Do you feel ready for the battle tomorrow?" he asked.

"Oh yes, sire," the swordsman responded eagerly.

"Handy with that thing are you?" Harold asked, indicating the man's sword.

"Reasonably so, sire," the man replied. "Watch." He bent down, picked up a handful of grass, flung it in the air, and waved his sword about. When the grass fell down again, it had been cut into a neat line of soldier figures.

"Good work, man," said Harold, impressed, "and good luck in the battle."

"Thank you, sire," said the soldier.

King Harold proceeded to inspect the spearmen. "Are you looking forward to the battle?" he asked one of their number.

"Yes, sire," the man replied.

"Good with your spear, are you?" the King asked.

"Not bad," the spearman said. "See that flock of birds?" Harold nodded, and the spear flashed in the soldier's hand. It went sailing through the air, right through the centre of the flock, and when it came down five birds were skewered on it.

"Well done," said Harold, "and good luck in the battle tomorrow."

He then went to the archers, who stood proudly with their longbows, looking intimidating even to someone on their side. "Are you ready for tomorrow's battle?" King Harold asked one bowman.

The man squinted at him a bit, and then said, "Good Lord, it's the King! Um, yes I'm ready."

"What can you do with that bow, then?" Harold asked him.

"What? Oh, this thing? I dunno. Someone gave me it yesterday and told me to stay with these people here."

"Well... do you see that barn over there, about twenty yards away?"

The archer peered in the direction of Harold's pointing finger. "Oh yes, I see it," he said at last.

"Do you think you could hit that?"

"I think so." He lined himself up with the barn, grunting with the effort of drawing the bow, and loosed the arrow. It sailed past the barn, five feet too high and ten feet to the left.

"Did I hit it?" he asked.

"Err, yes," said Harold, clapping him on the back. "Well done, and good luck."

Then the king turned to the captain of archery and said: "Watch out for that man tomorrow, will you? He'll have somebody's eye out with that thing."

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**O**K so when the groans die down I think we would all agree that archery jokes seem a little few and far between, so if you know a good joke, let us have it and we will print it in the next newsletter.

**U**pcoming events. Being early in the season there isn't a huge amount happening right now, but give it a couple of months and there will be lots going on. The main event on the horizon as I type this is the Surrey Longbow shoot, which is held at our ground on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Julia Madelin is the person to see if you are looking to get involved in any way, and I know they are always looking for people to help set up the targets etc.

I know we have probably all seen this before, possibly in membership packs or another newsletter, but I think it bears repeating here.

## **THINGS THAT ALL ARCHERS SHOULD KNOW**

### **A Good Archer**

- (A) Does not talk in a loud voice whilst others are shooting
- (B) Does not talk to another competitor who obviously prefers to be silent
- (C) Does not make any exclamation on the shooting line that might disconcert a neighbour in the act of shooting
- (D) Does not pull any arrows from the target before all arrows have been scored
- (E) Does not go behind the target before all arrows have been scored
- (F) Does not walk up and down the shooting line comparing scores
- (G) Does not leave the shooting line whilst the archer either side are at full draw
- (H) Does not touch anyone else's equipment without permission
- (I) Does not leave litter
- (J) When calling scores does so in groups of three, for example 7-7-5 pause 5-5-3 by pointing at the nock end of the arrows without touching them
- (K) If he breaks another's arrow through his own carelessness pays for it in cash on the spot
- (L) Thanks the Target Captain at the end of each round for work on his behalf
- (M) If an Archer wishes to join another Target they must ask and not just barge in
- (N) When returning from the target should not dawdle and keep everybody else waiting
- (O) Does not stand and watch everybody else get out and put away targets

(P) Does not watch everybody else pull the arrows and do the scoring

We will leave you (finally) with this:

The G.N.A.S, governing body for archery in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to whom we are all officially affiliated through WAC, has a Society motto, which is not some modern win, win, win, cliché but rather simply this:

“Union, Trueheart and Courtesie.”

I think that just about sums up the greatest aspects of our ancient sport, and of the people in it.