

MERDON WHITEBOARD

EDITOR GERRY WILLSMORE

OCTOBER 2013



CLUB NEWS

Club Diary

Oct 5	14:00 Handicap Shoot - FITA 70
Oct 6	10:00 Long National
Oct 12	1:00 Set up field for Agincourt Arrow
Oct 13	AGINCOURT ARROW
Oct 20	09:30 Committee Meeting 10:00 Frostbite
Oct 27	10:00 Short FITA
Nov 2	14:00 Handicap Shoot - Warwick
Nov 3	10:00 Short Metric
Nov 10	09:30 Committee Meeting 10:00 Frostbite
Nov 17	10:00 Warwick
Nov 24	10:00 Warwick
Dec 1	10:00 National
Dec 7	14:00 Handicap Shoot - Warwick
Dec 8	09:30 Committee Meeting 10:00 Frostbite
Dec 15	10:00 Short Metric
Dec 20	Probable Xmas Meal
Dec 21	14:00 Christmas Fun Shoot
Dec 22	10:00 St Nicholas
Dec 29	10:00 Warwick

WANTED

With the Agincourt Arrow just around the corner we need the following:

- 1. Bodies to turn up on Saturday 12th October at 1:00 p.m. To help set up the field for the shoot*
- 2. Prizes for the raffle - this brings a lot of money into the club so, if you want to keep club fees low, the more prizes we have means we sell more tickets*
- 3. Bodies on the day to do some of the jobs that need doing - looking for lost arrows, selling raffle tickets, selling tea and coffee in the club hut, and the like.*

Tournament Diary

Oct 5/6	Hampshire Clout Championships
Oct 13	Agincourt Arrow
Nov 3	FOBB Crookhorn Indoor
Nov 10	AC Delco Indoor Tournament
Nov 29	Southampton AC Floodlit Frostbite and BBQ
Dec 8	National Indoor Championships - Coventry
Jan 12	Guildford FITA 25
Feb 8/9	Hampshire Indoor Championships
May 13/16	Southern Counties Archery Meeting



Winter Championships

The first qualifying shoot for the Winter Championships takes place on Sunday, 20th October, starting at 11:00 a.m.

As usual the round is a Frostbite, 3 dozen arrows at 30 metres on an 80 cm face. Remember that you have to take part in three qualifying rounds to be eligible to win the Championship.

The rest of the qualifying rounds are:

Sunday 10th November

Sunday 8th December

Sunday 12th January

Sunday 9th February

With the Championship being shot on:

Sunday 9th March.



Beginners Training Course

The next beginners training course takes place on the following Saturday mornings:

October 19th & 26th

November 2nd & 9th

Members may shoot on those mornings but remember that the field is under the control of the coach.

Achievements

Louise Willsmore - new club record - longbow Columbia round
Gerry Willsmore - new club record - recurve Columbia round
Gerry Willsmore - new club record - longbow Long National round
Gerry Willsmore - longbow three gold badge.

Summer Championships - 15th September

We obviously held the "summer" championships a week too late as the weather went from summer to winter, completely by-passing autumn which went off in a sulk because winter arrived too soon.

Still eight members convened to try and win the championship shield although only seven finished the Western round as Rob Norris had to quit on health grounds.

As only two members, Louise and I, had actually shot the three qualifying rounds it was decided that this year the result would be decided on the archers overall handicap. Actually Bill Tubbs had shot most qualifying rounds, 4, but, in true Tubbs style, shot two with his compound and two with his barebow.

Along with the cold we also had to cope with a strong trailing wind which veered occasionally, just to make it more interesting for us. I think the wind gods had it in for me as it always seemed to get stronger as soon as I stepped on the line - well that's my excuse.

When all the allowances were added to our made scores the overall winner, for the second time in three years, was John Martin - great shooting John.

Results based on adjusted scores

John Martin	longbow	79	6	342	1148	1490
Ed Mickelwright	recurve	93	19	587	862	1449
Bill Tubbs	barebow	94	14	564	879	1443
Gerry Willsmore	longbow	91	7	477	915	1392
Mike O'Leary	longbow	56	6	222	1169	1391
Louise Willsmore	longbow	77	9	348	1038	1386
Roger Minors	recurve	93	9	473	879	1352
Rob Norris	recurve	Rtd				

Sunday Shoot - 22nd September

No less than eight members turned up to shoot a National round on a day when the wind had decided to have a day off.

Scores

	Hits	Gold	Score
Jon Dawkins - recurve	72	17	434
Matt Collins - recurve	69	13	399
Gerry Willsmore - longbow	70	10	396
Bill Tubbs - longbow	62	8	373
Roger Minors - recurve	65	12	365
Louise Willsmore - longbow	58	5	250
Mike O'Leary - longbow	37	0	161
Margaret Bunyard - longbow	34	5	152

Sunday Shoot - 29th September

Listening to the rain hitting the verandah roof as I ate my breakfast I thought "there goes the Sunday shoot" but no, as George Formby used to say, it "turned out nice again" enabling six of us to shoot a Columbia round.

The Columbia is an old round which went out of fashion some time in the early 20th Century which is a shame as I believe it is a useful club round because:

1. At only six dozen arrows it can fit into a morning or afternoon session.
2. With two changes of distance it gives archers a chance to practice finding a new sight mark quickly. You can drop quite a few points in the first end of a new distance if you can't find the sight mark quickly.
3. As the distances are short it minimises the difference in the scores of archers of different abilities/experience.
4. If the weather turns bad you can abandon it at the end of the second distance and score it as a Short Warwick.

For "Team Willsmore" it was a good day as both Louise and I set new club records, even though it was only by two points in both cases.

Scores were:

	Hits	Gold	Score	
Gerry Willsmore - recurve	72	47	596	club record
Ed Mickelwright - recurve	72	34	544	
Rob Norris - recurve	71	27	513	
Bill Tubbs - barebow	72	18	460	
Louise Willsmore - longbow	67	10	411	club record
Roger Minors - recurve	70	7	382	



Handicap Shoot - 5th October

Five of the usual faces were joined by new member, Paul Eggett, to shoot a FITA 70 on a somewhat dull but still Saturday afternoon.

The afternoon started well for Louise and myself when we were handed a couple of compound arrows that we had lost in the past - result.

However, the recurves on target one got off to an "oops" start when they inadvertently used imperial scoring on the first end. Unfortunately I only reminded them when they were on their way back to the shooting line - better late than never.

Ed Mickelwright recorded yet another win as he continues to improve and Roger Minors put up another good performance in finishing second. Roger was shooting with some new arrows with pink and white fletchings - I guess Roger is in touch with his feminine side.

Full Results

	Hits	Golds	Score	Adjusted
Ed Mickelwright - recurve	70	2	415	1533
Roger Minors - recurve	65	0	345	1481
Gerry Willsmore - longbow	57	1	251	1423
Louise Willsmore - longbow	29	2	136	1411
Mike O'Leary - longbow	8	0	31	1383
Paul Eggett - recurve	18	0	72	n/a



New boy Paul Eggett shooting with Ed and Roger



Sunday Shoot - 6th October

A splendid turnout saw ten archers turn up to shoot a Long National round on a sunny autumn morning.

For the second day running we welcomed a new member to a club shoot as we were joined by Mark Warwick.

The number of archers was further swelled to eleven when Paul Eggett turned up in time to shoot a Long Warwick round.

The shoot also saw Jon Dawkins make his compound debut and, like many of us before him, discovered that shooting a compound isn't a guarantee to put every arrow in the gold.

After many years of trying I finally achieved my final archery goal when I put three arrows into the gold at 80 yards to win one of those coveted gold badges. After an enjoyable mornings good natured banter the scores on the doors were:

	Hits	Golds	Score
Matt Collins - recurve	67	17	403
Mark Warwick - recurve	66	9	366
Ed Mickelwright - recurve	66	8	358
Rob Norris - recurve	67	9	355
Bill Tubbs - barebow	59	4	328
Jon Dawkins - compound	66	10	324
Gerry Willsmore - longbow	62	10	308
Roger Minors - recurve	59	6	295
John Martin - barebow	35	2	131
Louise Willsmore - longbow	29	1	101

Long Warwick

Paul Eggett - compound	44	8	256
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Archery Trivia

Climate Change Bonanza

Climate change is thought to be the reason that the snow melt in the Norwegian mountains has been greater than usual.

Fortunately for the history of archery the increased melt revealed a Neolithic bow and arrows thought to be up to 6,000 years old. The arrows were fitted with heavy slate points and had shorter shafts than the Mesolithic arrows that have previously been found in Europe.

They're not yours are they Ken?



Neolithic find in Spain - couldn't find a photo of the Norwegian find, sorry.

Give and Take?

You might have noticed in the Winter edition of Archery UK that the GNAS have done away with the £15 levy that they put onto the cost of record status tournaments. The levy was introduced to subsidise the costs of the new judges uniforms that were introduced in 2011 but they have now recovered the initial outlay so the fees have reverted to the previous levels.

Sounds great until you discover that the GNAS are now carrying out a cost analysis on record status tournaments. As the levy didn't stop clubs organising record status tournaments, nor did it discourage archers from entering those tournaments the GNAS probably feel that a permanent rise in costs would have little or no impact.

Anyone want to bet that the fees go up by £15?



Editorial - On The Box

Thanks to a message from my son I managed to catch the finals of the Archery World Cup from Paris on Sunday 22nd September.

The visual coverage was superb with close up shots of 16 of the world's top archers giving us a chance to see how it should be done.

With the close up shots of the targets you could usually see exactly how they were scoring, even to the extent of being able to correctly call line cutters most of the time.

Best of all were the slow motion shots of the arrows leaving the bow which, not only showed how much the arrows bend on release, but also the forces going through the bow itself with the bow sight twisting and bending far more than I would have expected. No wonder bits come loose.

The three arrow set format is ideal for televising archery and, in the majority of cases, the head to head matches could have gone either way. There were, as you would expect with the calibre of archers, a number of the matches went down to the dreaded "one arrow, nearest to the centre" format. It was encouraging to see that even the best in the world can be affected by nerves. Interestingly at the Archery GB National Series finals in Nottingham the tie-breaker consisted of archers being allowed to shoot as many arrows as they wanted in one minute, nearest to the centre winning as usual. Would you go slow and careful or shoot as many as you could in the hope that one gets in the centre?

Sadly, however, the commentary failed to live up to the visual offering with the presenter referring to the "bull" and the "yellow", and even renamed Brady Ellison as "Bradley". As Louise pointed out he also failed to explain the technicalities of the equipment which might have been useful to non-archers. Hopefully I will pick up some more archery on Eurosport in the future because it was a hundred times more exciting than the Singapore Grand Prix which was on at the same time.

In My Time

Over the years I have picked up a number of historical "Rules of Shooting" and "Classification Tables" and so, being an anorak, I thought it might be interesting to compare the classification thresholds between when I started archery and today.

I decided that it could be a good way to demonstrate the improvements in equipment, technique and coaching over the last forty years. Whilst it did demonstrate this I had forgotten that the Bowman class had been introduced between Master Bowman and First Class which made comparison of the lower classes more problematical.

Below are the gents and ladies recurve threshold scores for the York/Hereford rounds. I felt that this would be the only realistic comparison as compound, barebow and longbow were very little used back in the 1960's.

Gents York

	1970	1981	2002	Difference
GMB	1000	1085	1146	+14.6%
MB	850	1000	1065	+25.5%
B	n/a	n/a	913	n/a
1	650	798	698	+7.4%
2	500	560	511	+2.2%
3	400	342	283	-29.3%

Ladies Hereford

	1970	1981	2002	Difference
GMB	1000	1112	1165	+16.5%
MB	850	1033	1091	+28.4%
B	n/a	n/a	952	n/a
1	650	843	723	+11.2%
2	500	606	508	+1.6%
3	400	378	280	-30%

The two things which jump out at me are:

- 1 Ladies scores have got significantly tougher over the years
- 2 The decline of the 3rd class from 40% of the GMB score in 1970 to 24% today.

Makes me feel better about only being a third class archer back in the 1960's!

