



BOWMEN OF GLEN ARCHERY SOCIETY

Est.1959

Affiliated to GNAS, EMAS & L&RCAA

March 2007

WORK WEEKEND

As you should all know from the club calendar next weekend is the Work Weekend. Accordingly the field will be closed for shooting whilst essential maintenance is carried out. All members are expected to lend a hand, so we'll see you there. A list will be in the clubhouse so pick whatever suits your skills and get stuck in.

GLEN FITA

Our open FITA is only a couple of months away so my thoughts are beginning to turn towards it. I'll start my usual plea for helpers now. If you're able to lend a hand on either/both Saturday 12th or Sunday 13th May please let me know. You can phone me on 0116 2884405 or email at mjweldon@bowmenofglen.com.

OPEN DAY

The bank holiday on the 7th May will be our usual Open Day. This is a chance for people to come and give archery a go and sign up for a beginner's course if they enjoy it. As such, feel free to come and lend a hand or head for the other end of the field and show off your skills with a bow.

COUNTY SHOOTS

The club has agreed to host both the County FITA on Sunday 27th May and the County Champs on Sunday 5th August. Members should be aware that the field will be closed on these 2 days.

AGM

The clubs AGM will take place on Saturday 12th May. A separate notice regarding this is included with this newsletter. Please turn up and vote on issues concerning the running of the club. You can't complain about the decisions made if you didn't turn up to vote! A number of positions will become vacant at this years AGM so please consider if you can spare some time to help run the club during the coming year.

As a bonus the FITA takes place the day after so please stay and lend a hand getting the field set up.

BOWLING

Bob Jennings is in the process of organising a bowling night at the Meridian Leisure complex. Cost is expected to be £8 per person for 2 games; we'll be meeting at 730pm on Monday 23rd April. If you'd like to attend please make contact with Bob by the end of this month.

OLD NEWS

Terry Jobson came across the following article about archery from way back in December 1969:

There may appear to be a world of difference between the tough bowmen of England, whose skill at Crécy and Agincourt became a legend, and those who practise archery today, yet the second are the direct descendants of the first. What is perhaps even more surprising is that many of these peaceable, modern archers are probably better marksmen than their forebears. Also, the bows they use certainly have more penetrating power and are thus more lethal weapons than the old longbow.

However, do not let this dissuade you from trying your skill at this fascinating sport. Safety is of paramount importance, and both archery practise and competitions are subject to the most stringent safety regulations.

Basically, the sport consists of shooting a set number of arrows from set distances, known as 'rounds', at a standard 4ft circular target. This target is divided into five concentric scoring zones; the outer white circle counts one point, followed by black (three points), blue (five points), red (seven points), and, finally, the gold centre circle which counts nine points. Incidentally, this centre circle is always known as the 'gold' and never the 'bull's eye'!

In Britain, there are ten main rounds, which bear names such as York, Hereford, St. George, Long Western, Long National, and so on. A York Round, for instance, consists of 72 arrows at 100yd, 48 arrows at 80yd and 24 arrows at 60yd. A Long National Round is much shorter, requiring one to shoot only 48 arrows at 60yd and 24 arrows at 50yd.

How to start: *There are only two really satisfactory ways of starting: either attend a course run by a body, such as the Central Council of Physical Recreation, or join your nearest archery club. The club's address can usually be obtained for a local sports dealer or from your local Education Office. Alternatively, you can write for information to Mr J J Bray, Secretary of the Grand National Archery Society, at 20 Broomfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex.*

Equipment and cost: *The basic equipment consists of a bow light enough to handle easily, a set of eight arrows, a leather bracer or armguard (which protects the inside of the forearm holding the bow from blows from the string, when the bow is shot) and a small leather tab to prevent the fingers that draw back the string from becoming sore.*

The cost of suitable equipment for the beginner can be well under £10. Club membership fees vary according to the size of club and facilities provided. Smaller clubs usually charge about 2 to 3gns a year; this entitles the member to the use of the targets and the ground. Most clubs have a few beginners' bows that they are prepared to lend to new members for the first few weeks.

An excellent little book which will provide most of the other information you need is Archery, 'Know the Game' series (Educational Productions, 3s 6d).

£10 for all the equipment to get you started? I wish!!

Take care,

Mark Weldon