



Newsletter February 2013

Special points of interest:

- First 2013 edition of the club newsletter.
- Update on events our members have been taking part in.
- Secretary Update.
- Junior Secretary Update.

Welcome!

Welcome the first edition of the club's newsletter in 2013, although a little later than planned due to a hectic schedule.

It has been a fairly quiet couple of months with Christmas festivities. We've had a few Robin Hoods at the club. Also enjoyed was the traditional Christmas shoot.

Saying quiet one

area of the club that has definitely been busy is the beginners courses. Welcome to those who have recently come off these courses and joined us. An update on the current member numbers can be found in the secretary update.

We also held our traditional Christmas shoot slightly later than normal due to the way

Christmas day fell last year. Thanks to Viv for organizing us all this time.

Also you will find a small section on Archery Etiquette with the full guidelines on our website in the documents section.

Finally welcome back to Mark Bathgate who re-joined the club last month.



Alli Mawhinney—PR Officer

Ever wondered where the phrase "Highly strung" comes from?

It's a bow that has been over-strung with too short a string and therefore on the verge of breaking .

Website reminder

Hopefully you will have had a chance to have a look at the website, but if you haven't it's address is

www.nestonarchers.org.uk.

There are a number of useful documents already loaded, with a couple of coach-

ing aids, committee meeting minutes, old newsletters and a reminder about archery etiquette.

So how do you get access to this area? There is a small link just at the bottom of the menu bar called "login", this will take you to a

log in screen, if you then click on the "Register" link fill in the 3 details and hit the "create user" button. In a few days at most, I'll add you as a member and you'll have access to additional pages.

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Club member update

We had our annual Christmas Club shoot at the end of December with a good turnout of members on the day. Viv put together some very festive targets and a good scoring system. On the day Steve Povey won Compound, Len Creswell won Recurve and Huw won Barebow.



Malcolm shooting at the field (above)

Last weekend our members were found at the Cheshire Indoor shoot in Chester on the Individual and Team days.

On the Individual day, Saturday, Graeme came first in the gents compound, Steve Povey placing 6th and Keith Gray placed 16th. Scott Gibson came 29th in Gents

recurve, Graham Gibson came 2nd in Gents Barebow. Helen came in 4th in the Ladies Compound. Congratulations to all.

On the Team day, Sunday, Neston Compound A, Carol Morris-Lewis, Malcolm Lewis, Graeme Steele and Steve Povey were awarded the highest un-reward Cheshire team and placed 4th on the day.

Helen Porter and Mark Bathgate both won highest number of golds on the day.

There was a mix up in results so Neston Re-

curve were placed 27th on the day.

There is a detailed report on Viv's day at the Roving Clout. If this sort of competition interests you please talk to Viv at the club.

Graeme's robin hood at CBB Feb 2013



Roving Clout at Boreatton Park Shrewsbury by Viv Guthrie

The Roving Clout is still alive. It is probably the oldest form of archery and some marks or stones that were used in the past are still part of the landscape or have been preserved. You now need special insurance for holding a Roving Clout as both BLBS and GNAS have unfortunately stopped covering this form of archery. For archers who have never shot a roving clout I will try to explain what it is. You have an overall field captain who makes the archers line up in one solid line facing the next roving mark which for men can be as far as 200X or slightly more or

for ladies 160x or thereabouts. Mostly you all shoot together but for the longer marks, ladies are allowed closer after the men have finished shooting. This goes for the juniors as well. The marks are traditional emblems – boar's head or Prince of Wales feathers and are on long poles about 6ft high so that you can see them at a distance. The scoring is usually 3 zone with a bonus if you hit the mark and scored like ordinary clout by dragging a 3 coloured rope round the pole. The trajectory is always a high one and there can be trees and bushes and roads (blocked off) in the way. Great fun and a great chal-

lenge as you do not know the distance. I have competed in all weather conditions. Snow rain and brilliant sunshine even though it is always held at the beginning of January. All archers either shoot long-bow or traditional bows all shot with wooden arrows.

In the past in Victorian and Edwardian times, the winner would chose the next mark and the winner was the one who got closest to the chosen mark which would have been some obvious landmark – a bush, tree or stone. The distance away from the mark and hence the winner was measured by each archer's bow - so it definitely paid to own a long, long bow!



Pictures from the day (above and below)





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Secretary Update

Just a brief update from me this time.

Membership:

We now have a membership of
49 seniors
4 disabled
12 juniors.

All new members are very welcome to the Club.

Although still dark and chilly outside it won't be too long until we will be shooting outside. The last day for shooting indoors at

Pensby is Wednesday 10th April.

Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will be held in April. The Committee will be agreeing the date at its February meeting and I will then provide further information to members by emails and on the website. This is an opportunity to contribute to how your Club is run.

New Archer Development Framework

This is still under development and I hope to have the first version for new compound archers at the AGM.

Cheshire Archery Association.

The minutes from the January meeting are available on the Neston Company of Archers website.

Cheshire Archery Association Annual General Meeting.

10am, Sunday 3rd May.
Northgate Arena, Chester.

Followed by the CAA Annual Indoor Championships. To be eligible to shoot you must attend the AGM. Further information is available on our website.



Helen Porter (above)

Junior Secretary Update

Junior Tournaments 2013

Indoor

Cheshire County Bowmen Portsmouth 2nd February (individual), 3rd February (team). Open to juniors and seniors

North Wales Portsmouth around same time. Might be at Connahs' Quay College. Open to juniors and seniors

Outdoor

Bunny Shoot (not real bunnies) at Corus in Deeside. Normally around Easter time. Western rounds (8 dozen distances according to age group).

Open to juniors and seniors

FITA Clout held by us on our field in Thornton Hough. 6th May. Distance according to age group. You'll need practice and tuition from us before you can enter. Open to juniors and seniors

Cheshire County Bowmen nationals 18th May, Chester. National round (6 dozen) at distances according to age group. Juniors only

Bebington Archers – Oxton 19th May. Western rounds according to age

group (8 dozen). Open to juniors and seniors

Bowmen of Bruntwood early in June. Bit further away near Manchester Airport. Good junior shoot run by the Cheshire Junior Squad Manager. Rounds are Bristol (12 dozen) and National (6 dozen) according to age group

One to go and watch, although you can enter if you wish. The junior National Championships at Lilleshall near Telford. All the top jun-

iors will be there along with those wanting to make squad selection. It's normally the first or second weekend in July and on both days.

Should parents want any more details I will be more than happy to help.

Andy Mara

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Introducing the Junior Handicap Competition

Running from February we are introducing a new competition purely for the juniors shooting recurve or compound. It will be a monthly competition where three dozen rounds are shot on a ten zone scoring basis. Indoors you can shoot on a Portsmouth target face and outdoors can be shot on a target face and distance according to the age of the junior. I will try and set out a chart to illustrate this clearly.

It should be a simple process! Shoot at least one round and score it properly and have the score verified and signed by another member of the club (this

will give new juniors the experience of scoring properly in a manner they would in a competition – and lead to part of our proposed Club development). Once the score sheet is signed, pass it to me and I will collate the results. The juniors with the best handicap each month will be awarded a monthly trophy (one each for compound and recurve). At the end of the year, the junior with the best overall handicap score will be awarded an overall handicap trophy which can be engraved with the juniors name.

For ease during the competition season. If a junior

shoots an event away from the Club where ten zone scoring is carried out (an open Portsmouth event, a Metric round – Metric IV, III, II etc.), the first three dozen arrows scored can be used as the ‘monthly’ score as long as a final official results sheet is produced.

Please note: I’m not aware of any juniors shooting any other bowstyles.

If you have any questions and I’m sure there will be, or I’ve missed something, please grab me at the Club or by email –

j.mara@btinternet.com