

MERDON WHITEBOARD

EDITOR GERRY WILLSMORE

APRIL 2011



Dates for your Diary

30 th April	Setting up field for Merdon Arrow 1:00 p.m.
1 st May	Merdon Arrow
14 th May	Yateley 2 way longbow Western Raven Archers Field Shoot
15 th May	Salisbury FITA Raven Archers Field Shoot
17 th -20 th May	SCAM
21 st May	FOBB Longbow
22 nd May	Andover Double FITA70
28 th -29 th May	Southampton Head 2 Head weekend
29 th May	AC Delco Hereford round
30 th May	Fun Shoot 2:00 p.m.
4 th June	Beginners Course 10:30 -12:00
5 th June	Waterside, Long Western round
8 th June	Guildford St George round
11 th June	Beginners Course 10:30 -12:00
12 th to 19 th June	Dunster Week
18 th June	Have a Go in aid of McMillan Charity 12:00 Beginners Course 10:30 -12:00 Yateley, Windsor round
19 th June	Grand National Archery Meeting
22 nd to 24 th June	Beginners Course 10:30 -12:00
25 th June	Lytchett Owl, Western round
26 th June	Independence Day shoot and American Supper. Wessex Albion, Southampton Archery Club
2 nd July	AC Delco Longbow
3 rd July	Wiltshire FITA *, Swindon
9 th July	Bournemouth Blue Lion
10 th July	Merdon Bowmen AGM Andover FITA *
17 th July	Andover FITA *
30 th July	Dorset & Wiltshire Double FITA 70 Petersfield Saint & Halo
31 st July	British Target Championships Lilleshall
7 th August	British Target Championships Lilleshall Chris Sherwood Memorial Shoot AC Delco
13 th August	Devizes Longbow and Clout
14 th August	Devizes York Devizes American Guildford Acorn
27 th August	Hampshire Target Championships
28 th August	Hampshire Longbow Championships
29 th August	Set up field for Agincourt Arrow 1 p.m. Agincourt Arrow
18 th September	
24 th September	
8 th October	
9 th October	

Merdon Arrow

Your assistance is requested in the donation of raffle prizes for the Merdon Arrow. Please let Ginny or any Committee Member have any donations or leave them in the club hut for collection.

Don't forget that your help is needed to set up the field for the Merdon Arrow on **Saturday 30th April at 1 o'clock**. Remember that the more people who help the quicker it gets finished.

Club Hut

In the interest of Health and Safety archers are asked to keep the floor of the club hut clear of bows and other equipment if you are setting up in the club hut. With the field gate now open and the weather improving archers are asked to set up in the field where possible.

St George's Day Fun Shoot

Fifteen club members turned out for Ken's annual St. George's Day Fun Shoot. In glorious weather we tried to hit Dragons whilst avoiding killing the good St. George, although in some cases you would have thought that the opposite was true. John McCrea voluntarily handicapped himself by shooting from his knees and also shooting

backwards (see below) but to no avail – he was still too good for the rest of us. The rest of us had so much fun that the number of rounds was increased from 2 to 3 by popular demand. Thank you Ken.

The winners were:

Archer Supreme	John McCrea
First Lady	Louise Willsmore
Second Lady	Dee Corlett
First Gent	Phil Sellwood
Second Gent	Mile O'Leary
Best Effort	Rob Norris



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Fun Shoot – 30th May

Some years ago, when I was with AC Delco, we were invited to Lychett for a fun shoot each year. The basis of the shoot was that archers shot at a normal target set at 50 yards but, after each end of shooting, one of the archers would be invited to select an envelope at random and the contents of the envelope would determine the arbitrary scoring for that end. As a result you could put six arrows in the gold and end up with less score than someone who missed all six shots. The scoring changes with each end so it is not possible to have any cunning scheme to maximise, or minimise, your points for the shoot. At the end of the shoot an archer would select one of two envelopes which in turn determined if the winner was the archer with the highest score or the lowest score (which could be a negative number!).

If enough archers would be interested in doing a fun shoot like this then I am prepared to organise a free fun shoot on Monday 30th May – I may even run to small prizes for the top (or bottom) three. If you are interested put your names on the whiteboard in the club hut or let me know when you see me on the field.

Archery around the world

When I was a lad I was interested in the “Wild West” and so, when I came across some old photos of “Red Indians” I had to include them in this section.



In reading historical documents and serious literature about America in the 19th Century I came across a curious fact that the European settlers crossing the prairies found that the Indians weren't very good shots with their bows. Apparently this was because they were so good as hunters and trackers that they could get within a few feet of their prey without it being aware so they only needed to be able to shoot a few feet to kill their target.

I came across this picture which seems to show the truth of this – an Indian chief being shown how to shoot by a little girl.



Target Is Not The Only Game In Town

This month – POPINJAY

The basis of popinjay is to knock “birds” off a 90 feet mast. As you will see from the following photos there are a number of variations but the one recognised by the GNAS has one “cock” bird, 4 hens and a minimum of 24 chicks arranged on a “roost”. The archers draw for the order of shooting and then shoot one blunt arrow in rotation, scoring 5 points for the cock, 3 for a hen and 1 for a chick. The length of the

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round is determined by time or number of arrows shot by each person. Church towers are often used for popinjay as it facilitates setting up the roost, but masts and walls are also used. As far as I am aware this type of archery is somewhat limited these days, being mainly up north and in Scotland, which is a shame as I have always fancied having a go at this type of archery. Sadly it is not the sort of archery where a club can think of having a go due to the specialised nature of the equipment required or I would have been pestering the Committee to put an event on for club members.



A perfect example of a fully set up roost ready to be hauled up a mast.



Another form of popinjay which shows the height of the mast



An archer taking aim up the mast. There is no hard and fast rule where you stand but the closer you get to the mast the more potential birds are in the line of the arrow flight path. You can see the blunt end on the arrow.

Korean Ladies Archery Team Selection Test part 6



And you thought it was difficult to get into the Hampshire squad!

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Awards and Successes

Dee Corlett has gained her 1st Class Badge shooting Barebow.
Louise Willsmore has set a new club record for the Ladies Compound Hereford round.
Colin Whysall, Louise Willsmore and myself have been selected to shoot for the Hampshire Archery Team – fortunately we only had to shoot a York/Hereford and not as above.

Archery Celebrations – continued from last month



.....you out your right leg in.....(well two of them do). Get in synch lads.

It's a Question of Faith



At least he won't see it coming! Don't try this at home – no honestly don't try this at home.

Archery Ninjas



Normally the first you know about them is when the arrow hits you!

Where did that one go?



Don looks dwarfed as he stands between the "Blues Brothers", looking to see where his last arrow landed!

Don't Shoot the Coach



I'll teach you to say I can't shoot – right in the #*%\$@.