



# GOLD

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**GAC Magazine – Spring 2009**

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## CHOCKS AWAY! IT'S THE OPENING SHOOT



On a beautiful sunny day (with no wind) on 5 April 2009, the Opening Shoot took place.

This gave everyone a rude awakening to shooting 9 dozen arrows at 80/60/50 yards having spend the winter season shooting a mere 20 yards! I say it gave everyone a rude awakening, except however, for Miss Clare Kinsey, who shot not one arrow throughout the winter season, but still managed to smash the Club record for an Albion! Extremely well done Clare. The day proved an eventful one, with a fantastic turnout of around 30 odd members all raring to go and in high spirits throughout the day.

John (Biggles) Lockett spotted a spitfire flying over during the shoot, to which all were made aware of – lucky it did not fly any lower as it may have been bombarded with arrows!

Everyone managed to survive to the end and hoped this was to be the beginning of a hot, dry summer season.

Report by Nikki Stolarski

## Guildford At The Top

Guildford Archery Club, pictured here at their Manor Farm field in Normandy, has just been declared winner of the Surrey County outdoor winter league for longbow. Shooting against five other clubs from Surrey, the squad A-team won all five of their postal matches and topped the league with maximum points.



The teams shoot at distances of 50 and 60 yards on their outdoor range, through the winter in all weathers. Robin

Brophy (rear row, centre right) and Jane Readings (rear row, centre left) were consistently in the A-team – Robin was the top-scorer in all matches.

The deciding match in March saw the team competing against Malden, unbeaten until then, but Guildford triumphed by 537 points to 454 to clinch the title. Other surrey teams represented were Woking, Rivernook of Walton on Thames, CMO of Croydon and Surrey Bowmen of Epsom.

*Read more about it on page 2*

## Talent At Shalford

Report by Kevin Malloy

The Shalford Show on Easter Monday was a great opportunity for Guildford Archery Club to promote the sport to the local community. The weather the week before was dull and grey but the sun came out and guaranteed a good show.



Just as we were about to pack away these delightful ladies asked if they could have a go.

Of course we said yes. The one I had showed the most talent and scored well but they all enjoyed themselves.

In the main arena were the dog agility shows and motorcycle stunt shows. Skirting around the outside were the sideshows and tucked nicely between the tug-o-war and the bouncy castles was the archery have-a-go.

It was quiet in the morning but in the afternoon the sun shone and there was a steady stream of punters. Some of them couldn't hit a barn door at ten yards but most got the hang of it pretty quickly. Boys had to beat their girlfriend who just got a couple of golds. Children were encouraged by their parents to get a bulls eye, many enjoying it so much they returned later for another go.

In six arrows you cannot make a champion archer but everyone left with a smile on their faces. In the end the Club made some money, we generated some interest for our beginner's classes and more people in Guildford found out they had an archery club.

## THE LONG COLUMN

REPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE CLUB LONGBOW SQUAD  
By Rodney Morrison



With Guildford "A" team and Malden both winning their 4<sup>th</sup> winter league match in February, the scene was set for a head to head decider in March, to see who would win the Surrey County Winter Outdoor League. Shooting on a postal basis of course you never know until the month end what score has been entered by the other side, and whether your own score will be enough. We shot quite early in the month, and, after an initial stutter, good scores were achieved by Robin and Jane with myself making a lesser contribution, to give us a team total of 537. We then had to wait till the month end to find that Malden were well behind on 454, to give our "A" team the title. Appearances for the "A" team were Robin and Jane (all 5 shoots) myself 3 and John Proctor and Paul Wragg 1 each. Robin top scored in all 5 matches and his improvement through the winter has been quite remarkable. The "B" team sadly were without a win but with all summer to improve we hope for a better performance next winter.

The BLBS postal Portsmouth competition we shot again through the winter finished with the teams finishing a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> out of 10, whilst individually Jane led the squad with 359 hits out of 360 and Robin just 1 behind in his first year in the competition.

We welcome back Rebecca Southey to shoot with us through the summer and new member Mike Hayward who has joined from Yateley, and who looked useful until he injured

his shoulder overdoing it with his compound bow! (stick with the stick in future Mike). To all those squad members who shoot recurve/compound as well as longbow, I would say do not be embarrassed to try with the longbow more often in mixed club shoots as well as the flag competition. Jeff and I, who shoot longbow exclusively, would welcome you joining us on the shooting line and, as normally happens, at the bottom of the score sheet!! If we are to convince the non-believers that we are a force to be reckoned with in the club we need to start having more of a presence, including on club nights, so don't be afraid to get your weapon out in company and wave it about a bit!!!

On the subject of club nights, there will hopefully usually be 1 or 2 longbows in attendance on Tuesday evenings, so if any others of you would like to try proper archery, by no means be afraid to ask to have a go, and if you should make the offer of a glass of sherry in exchange you will find us most accommodating.

We kicked off our summer round of tournaments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May with the Surrey Spring Longbow Shoot, a two-way Western at Woking's ground. Despite having sore feet, not as you may have thought from having to kick Gary's a--- to get the chores done, Jane started exactly as she had finished the winter, with an excellent performance to win the Surrey Ladies competition for the third time in succession. It was Val and I who dragged our heels with scores that you would not really want to know about, suffice to say that as a team we fell from 4<sup>th</sup> place this time last year to 11<sup>th</sup>, but I hope that we have now both bottomed out

and the only way from here is up!

Tomorrow (as I write) we start our monthly summer postal league matches shooting a National round, with the popular Winchester shoot following shortly, so the moral is, do not worry if you cock up one day – tomorrow you can go out and do it all over again. !!

## DONATIONS & GIFT AID



From the  
honorary Auditor:  
Jeff Bayton

As a Community Amateur Sports Club, GAC is able to claim Gift Aid on donations where a member has previously signed the Gift Aid Certificate included with the membership or re-subscription form. Can I encourage all members to sign and return this form as part of your re-subscription for 2009/10; it costs you nothing and may allow the Club to claim a tax re-imbusement.

Some members have been "donating" their 200 Club winnings by simply not cashing the cheque. This is admirable, but ineffective; we have to register an actual receipt of money in the Club main bank account to be able to claim the Gift Aid. If you wish to donate in this way, please pay in the cheque from the 200 Club (which has a separate bank account for legal reasons) and then give the Honorary Treasurer cash or a cheque for the sum you want to donate.

Thank you for your co-operation.

# Whiteleaf Team Shoot Report



Held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
At High Wycombe

Report by Mick Brown

After a 07:30 early start from home, 8 Guildford members arrived at the shoot with 4 being a wee bit early, at least this gave them pole position for choosing targets and setting up tents, scopes etc. As the weather forecast was for a bright sunny day Mick

thought, he would get his lily white legs out on display. At least he was not alone.

The weather was dry and sunny, the forecast was for light winds, and as the ground sits on top of a hill the wind was a bit more than light, but not too bad.

Guildford did well during the day. Neil kept us in touch with how much we were in front of Reading and that we were neck and neck with Greenwood Osterley at the 80 yards, only to lose out in the end. We came away with 1<sup>st</sup> place compound pairs, well done to Claire Lloyd and Don Burgess.

Recurve team Clare Kinsey, Neil Bentley, Nick Sparrowhawk, Gary Readings, Steve Lingwood and Mick Brown came a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place 224 points behind Greenwood Osterley, G.O. must have had a good 60 & 50 yards. Still there is always a next time.

## What's in a name?

### NEW HOUSE NAMES AND WHO THEY WERE

The new Club Houses were named after four illustrious former Club members. Since many newer members will have no recollection of the individuals, I have been asked to raid the archives for short histories of each person. Following the previous articles about Dr Godfrey Wotton, Lilian May Taylor and Peter Church, the last is about two of our earliest members, Gordon Bruce and his wife Alice.

Gordon and Alice were members from the very earliest days of the Club. During the 1960's Gordon held the position of Social Secretary - which in those days included organising the Club tournaments such as the Opening and Midsummer Shoots, for which a booking had to be made and a fee paid! Alice meanwhile was the Club "Recorder" which seemed to consist of various secretarial jobs without actually being the Secretary, as well as catering at Club tournaments.

Gordon and Alice shot longbows for the Club on both target and field events, with some success. Gordon, always smartly dressed and often wearing a cravat, also provided trophies and medals for the Club competitions as well as for SCAS and Surrey County competitions,

some of which still grace the prize tables at current events. An interesting one for Guildford is the Bruce Trophy, intended to be awarded annually to the Junior member who "has shown the greatest interest, enthusiasm and helpfulness during the (outdoor) season" irrespective of any scores recorded...

In his professional life, Gordon was a partner in Minear and Bruce Motorcycles, who had a showroom in the area of the lower end of North Street, which has long since disappeared under the Friary Centre, and he was the first person to bring Honda motorcycles into this country. The business was disrupted more than once by floods during the 1950s when the Wey burst its banks.

Alice and Gordon traveled far and wide to international archery events, including the post-war Olympic Games, which Gordon recorded on cine film for display to Club members on their return - another element of the Social Secretary function. They both regularly attended county and regional meetings, as well as other popular shoots, until Gordon's death in the early 70's. Even then, Alice continued shooting for several years, mainly with the longbow; her last recorded event was the Laleham

Albion in October 1981. Despite failing health in her later years her support for archery never waned and she would quite often be seen behind the waiting line at tournaments, selling raffle tickets and renewing old acquaintances, but this also became more difficult for her as the years took their toll. Her last tournament appearance was as Lady Paramount at the 40<sup>th</sup> Guildford Acorn Shoot in 1993; she died in 1995.

Contributed by Jeff Bayton, with thanks to notes from the late Eric Smith.

## What's on?

**Mick Brown's 'Take A Break' shoot on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 10am assembly. Contact Mick if you want to play.**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June - Mid Summer Shoot Warm Up! 10am assembly. Hereford/Bristol rounds. ALL WELCOME.**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Little Acorn Shoot. Help required throughout the day, as much or as little as you can give please. Contact Mick.**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Mid Summer Shoot. 10am assembly.**

**4<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> July - Beginners Course. Contact Val if you can help on any or all dates.**

**12<sup>th</sup> July - Burgess & Hill Shoot. 10am assembly. FITA/Metric round.**

# Winchester 2009

Report by Jane Readings

Possibly one of the best shoots of the year, the Southern Counties Archery Meeting held over four days at St Cross Cricket Ground gave Guildford archers a chance to shine with six members winning awards.

Day one is dedicated to Longbows when a Double National Round is shot and the Guildford 'team' consisted of Rodney, Val, Robin, Gary and myself.

It always has its highs and lows (arrows going over and under the target!) and this year was no different. Whilst it stayed dry, a brisk wind conspired to send the arrows every which way and for my part, it was more luck than judgment if they hit their mark. There was much muttering and picking of arrows from grass but hey, we're in England and doing an outdoor sport – what else can one expect! I hasten to add that conditions didn't really affect the top archers; I think the winning gent only had about 4 misses all day!

Lunchtimes have always been a highlight in the past and this year we waited with baited breath and rumbling stomachs to sample the offerings from a new team of caterers. I'm not sure they got it quite right the first day but as the week progressed, so the food improved. The format was self service which was a bit of a surprise as we had been given no warning but in hindsight this actually worked better as we seemed to finish more quickly. It would be unkind to complain as it was a sharp learning curve for all; getting food cooked to perfection and kept hot without knowing exactly what time it should be ready is no mean feat! If they continue the standard they achieved by the end of the week they'll get my vote.

Days two and three are a Double York/Hereford Round when all disciplines' shoot together. With 28 targets, most of which have 6 archers per target there is a chance to rest in between ends while those aiming for the perfect shot stand on the line for, what to me at least seems, an eternity. The weather was perhaps kinder to us with no wind but with a little drizzle at the start of day 1 and throughout the afternoon of day 2. Some very good scores were achieved by many archers and it was during this session that Guildford's talent was recognised. The final day on Friday is a Long National Round shot in the morning only. After lunch the awards ceremony takes place and thanks to Gary's insistence in staying for this, awards and trophies were accepted for the following:

Longbow Day: Jane Readings 6<sup>th</sup> place (medal)  
Double York/Hereford Round: Mac Edwards/Richard Fitzgerald/Val Smith/Jane Readings (Club Team Trophy)  
Best Score 100yds: Richard Fitzgerald (Nettleton Trophy)  
Society Broach winners  
5<sup>th</sup> place: Richard Fitzgerald  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Lady R/C bowman class: Jane Readings  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Gent R/C 1<sup>st</sup> class: Nick Sparrowhawk  
1<sup>st</sup> place Gent R/C 2<sup>nd</sup> class: John Luckett

Congratulations should also go to; Mac for claiming his 1,000 Rose Award on his first visit to SCAM, Nick for shooting a personal best over both days and claiming his 900 Rose Award, Richard for beating GAC's club record for a York Round and Don for claiming his 1100 compound Rose Award on shooting his first York.

## Quiz-time.

Test your knowledge with this mixture of loosely related archery questions (no pun intended); some you may know, some you may have to research and for others, you may want to phone a friend! Email your answers to me, [jane.readings@ntlworld.com](mailto:jane.readings@ntlworld.com) by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2009 for a chance to win a Glade Pen. This fabulous prize writes on wet paper, great for our British summer, and even upside-down; presumably for the archer who loves to score whilst standing on his head. (Note I said 'his head', the ladies wouldn't be so daft).

**Please put 'spring09 comp' in the subject line of your email.**

1. Who directed the film 'Robin Hood Men In Tights' (1993)
2. Who played the Sheriff of Nottingham in the film 'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves' (1991)
3. In what year did Sam Cooke release the song 'Cupid'
4. Where is Arrowhead Stadium
5. What is the definition of: Another string to your bow (choose - a, b or c)  
a) Shoot with 2 strings on your bow, b) Keep a spare string with you for emergencies, c) Have a skill which you can use in addition to your main one
6. What is the statue of Eros in London made of
7. How many times has Alison Williamson represented Britain in the Olympics
8. Most species of yew (used in longbows) are toxic but what part is used in the production of Taxol, a cancer cell growth inhibitor
9. What size target face is a Fita 18 round shot on
10. What year did 'Doc' Wotton join GAC
11. What were medieval bow strings made of (choose - a, b or c)  
a) Cotton, b) Hemp, c) Cat gut
12. If I were shooting a Hereford round with my recurve bow, what is the minimum I would need to score to achieve Lady 1<sup>st</sup> class status

(The winner of the winter sudoku competition was Dave Cooper.)

## KEEP IT CLEAN

Now that our fabulous new Clubhouse is nearly finished and ready for use, the matter of keeping it clean and tidy must be addressed. One would hope ALL members will do their best in achieving this but in reality we probably need to organise a regular cleaning schedule.

A solution would be to have a rota of at least 8 people (possibly in twos) who would be willing to tackle this job. On this basis, each pair would do approx. 1 hour per week and no more than once per month. (Less often if more people volunteer).

Jobs would include: cleaning the kitchen area, toilets and sinks, sweeping and mopping the floor, washing tea towels, sweeping the access ramp and steps and occasionally cleaning windows, fridge



and microwave. Items such as toilets and sinks should be done every week, for the obvious hygienic reasons, although this doesn't preclude anyone 'tidying up' after themselves as necessary. The washing of crockery and cutlery after use and the return to its rightful place goes without saying (I hope)!

With over 100 members in our club (most of whom will enjoy the new facilities) I'm sure we can work together and sort something out. If no-one is willing to do this, or the task is left to just one or two people, the alternative is that we pay a professional cleaner – an expense that will directly impact on club funds.

If you can spare any time at all for this task or wish to co-ordinate helpers, please let me know. I've put my name on 'the list' – will you?

[Jane.readings@ntlworld.com](mailto:Jane.readings@ntlworld.com)

## OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

It's a grand sight to watch a line of long bow archers loosing their arrows in unison. They glide through the air in a graceful arc (arrows not archers) before plopping into the target or more commonly the grass. It makes you wonder just how far that arrow would fly with a good tail wind. Jeff has uncovered a few interesting facts which makes our usual distance of 60/50yds (occasionally 100/80yds if we're feeling strong) seem a bit feeble!

### WHAT IS THE LONGEST RECORDED SHOT FROM AN ENGLISH LONGBOW?

(Extracted from a Somerset newspaper and first chosen by "Gold" in 1998)

In 1798, the distance shot by Sultan Selim III was recorded as **972** yards. At the US National Flight Championship in 1976, Bruce Odle, shooting a Drake Browning bow, broke the Sultan's record with a shot of **1,077** yards.

Between 1995 and 1998, Bruce Odle, Don Brown and Arlyne Rhode all exceeded **1,100** yards, using the Drake Browning standard flight bow.

The designer, Harry Drake, died in July 1997, aged 83 (he fell off his motor-bike while returning from a flight-shooting tournament) and is the real record-holder.

These archers achieved their distances using hand-held bows, but in 1971, again at the US National Flight Championships, Harry used a foot-bow he had designed to shoot an arrow **2,028** yards – a record that still stands...

*Original letter from Chris Hassell, Taunton)*

## HANDICAP - HEADACHE OR CHALLENGE?

Whether you are striving for the perfect score or just pleased to be out there shooting, you will attain a handicap if you submit your scores. Now some archers will argue the pros and cons of a low handicap all day long. Some have even been known to retire early from a competition because they believe their end result will be detrimental to their handicap. Others won't even shoot handicapped rounds!

But the benefit of shooting well during the season means you could be in with a chance to win the 'Handicap Improvement Medal'. This is awarded to the individual who achieves the greatest H/C improvement over the calendar year 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 31<sup>st</sup> Dec on outdoor rounds only.

Now this may not necessarily be a seasoned archer, in fact, it is often the case that a novice archer will improve sufficiently to win this medal. However, you will need to submit scores in your first year of shooting to obtain a starting H/C to base the following year's improvement on. (Confused? Don't worry, someone works all this out for you!).

Our winner for last year was Peter Southey who improved his handicap by a total of 7 points. Peter will be required to wear the medal on all Club Target Days at which he is present (a GNAS rule) and it is left to the discretion of the club to impose any penalty if he fails to do so. I can't say exactly what this penalty is, but previous recipients still bear the scars and start to twitch and shake if asked. So wear your medal with pride Peter – **we'll be watching!**

## One Flew Over ...

There is usually something memorable to be taken away and talked about from most shoots. As previously mentioned, Winchester will be the one for those who won awards and also possibly for Claire Lloyd. A bird kindly deposited its calling card down the front of her T-shirt while she was on the line at full draw. Claire took it in her stride and calmly shot the end to the sound of muffled laughter before wiping away the offending offering. And did it bring her luck? Well, 5<sup>th</sup> place isn't too shabby.

## Bits Missing?

I overheard this snippet of conversation while passing the Gent's shooting line at Winchester. "He's a couple of screws loose and he's got no nuts". What's this I thought, some juicy gossip? No – I later found out they were talking about someone's bow but it just goes to show how rumours start!