



# Shropshire Archery Society



## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2015

The archery clubs around our county are thriving. As of the beginning of September 2015 there are 12 separate clubs in Shropshire with a total of 480 Seniors and 215 Juniors registered with ArcheryGB. We wish a very warm welcome to Croesoswallt Archers from Oswestry who have come back to Shropshire after a spell with North Wales. We hope to see lots of their members taking part in our Heritage shoots in 2016.

### Calling all archers in Shropshire.

This is an experiment to communicate with you all and let you know what is going on in the wider Archery field within our County. Depressingly, the evenings are now drawing in fast and most of us are back indoors for the winter. But it has been a great summer for archery with lots going on.

**Heritage Shoots.** As far as we can ascertain, Shropshire is the last county in England to continue the “Architectural Heritage” series of shoots. These were originally conceived as Archery competitions, suitable for all levels of archer and held, where possible in the grounds of Stately homes (or similar grand surroundings). In 2015, 8 of these competitions were held in Shropshire, on Sunday afternoons with everyone shooting a variation of the “National” round (a total of 6 dozen arrows). 4 of them were in the aforementioned stately homes – wonderful settings. A total of 159 different archers took part – 43 Juniors and 116 Adults. This is only 23% of our total numbers – where were the rest of you? These shoots really are good for all ages and abilities. Juniors shoot shorter distances, archers with a lower handicap shoot longer distances. There is an abundance of medals handed out at the end of each shoot. The word “competition” strikes terror into many archers minds. They are convinced that they don’t shoot well enough (yet) and will show themselves up. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our Heritage shoots are truly a great and sociable way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon. They start at 1pm and everyone has left by about 5pm; the shooting is very convivial and lots of encouragement is given to those who haven’t been to a competition before. Not only that, but at the end of each shoot a fabulous tea is provided. On average 66 people attended each Heritage shoot this year – 50 adults and 16 juniors. All bow types are welcomed. Almost all competition “virgins” end up their first Heritage shoot by saying “well, that was fun, when is the next one? These shoots are spread out between late May and early September. At the end of the season the totals are added up for an archer’s best 6 scores and trophies are awarded to those with the highest aggregate score. This year, only 33 adults and 8 juniors shot 6 or more of the heritages and a total of 13 end of season trophies were awarded. It is difficult (but not impossible) to win a trophy if you have done less than 6 events. It was great to see the number of junior participants increase steadily as the summer progressed. Many thanks to all the volunteers from the various clubs that have helped with putting on these events – they are hard work but very rewarding. And to all you archers nervous of the word “competition” – give it a go in 2016!!

Many trophies are awarded at the end of the summer’s heritage series – too many to list here – but you can see a full list of names on the County Website.

### County Target Championships.

This event was hosted by Long Mynd Archers on 20<sup>th</sup> September. 48 archers took part – 30 adults and 18 juniors. For the serious archers the full championship round was shot - a “York” round for gents (100, 80, 60 yards), a “Hereford” round for ladies (80, 60, 50 yards) and Bristol rounds of varying distances depending on ages for juniors. All these rounds were 12 dozen arrows. For those nervous of these distances, several variations of the National round were shot. Our Shropshire Champions for 2015 are as follows.

- |                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Recurve Girls;  | Penny Healey (Audco Archers)        |
| Recurve Boys;   | Finlay Scott (Long Mynd Archers)    |
| Recurve Ladies; | Jayne Clarke (Telford Archers)      |
| Recurve Gents;  | Martin Gulliver (Audco Archers)     |
| Longbow Gents;  | James Daborn (Archers of Teme)      |
| Compound Gents; | Winston Damerum (Bowbrook Archers). |



*Congratulations to all trophy winners!*



### **Clout Archery.**

For those who haven't tried this version of the sport – give it a go. Arrows are shot in the air, attempting to land them as close as possible to a post in the ground some distance away. The shortest Junior distance is 80 yards, the adult gents distance is 180 yards. You have to land within 4 yards of the post to score points. Regular clout practice sessions have been held at Bowbrook's field – the next one is on the morning of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 10am to noon. Specific Clout coaching will be available at this session. This is all in preparation for the Shropshire County and Open Clout competition held near Newport on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. You certainly don't need to be an expert archer to enjoy clout shooting – if you want more information then contact Jonathan ([cloutarchery@the-waltons.co.uk](mailto:cloutarchery@the-waltons.co.uk)). Entry forms for the County Clout have been sent to all clubs within Shropshire.

Inter County Shoot. 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Well done to all archers from Shropshire who took part.

Louise Willsmore – 1<sup>st</sup> Longbow  
James Daborn – 2<sup>nd</sup> Longbow.  
Shropshire won the longbow trophy.  
Danielle Brown – 1<sup>st</sup> Compound.  
Kay Lucas – 3<sup>rd</sup> Compound  
Shropshire were 2<sup>nd</sup> team in the compound competition.  
Taking part; Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire.

### **Field Archery.**

By comparison with many other counties, Shropshire is not a hotbed of Field archery (shooting at various distances at 2D or 3D models of animals in the woods. Having said that, 3 of the county's clubs do have a field archery course. Once a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the month) an open Field Archery competition is held near Shrewsbury, hosted by Bowbrook Archers. This combines good shooting with excellent company and fantastic Bacon butties. There is also an open Field archery practice session (no bacon butties) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. For more information about these events, contact Paul Holland ([nooklane@btopenworld.com](mailto:nooklane@btopenworld.com)). It really helps if you can let the organisers know before an event that you wish to attend – numbers are limited (so is car parking) – and it helps with catering. All archers are welcome, irrespective of age, ability or bowtype.

### **Inter Club collaboration.**

“Energize STW” is Shropshire's County Sports Partnership. Below in red is the text of a communication from Harry Cade, the Youth Sport Manager at Energize to Sue Williamson.

I was given your contact details after a meeting I had with Kate Moss at Archery GB.

Kate mentioned that one of their priorities is for us as the County Sport Partnership for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin to support in bringing clubs together from across the county. Ideally for this to happen on an annual basis so clubs can share good practice, be made aware of support available from Archery GB and us, the different programmes available for clubs to get involved with etc...

As you're the County Development Coordinator I wanted to contact you to see whether you're aware of something similar to this already happening with the clubs or whether it would be of use/clubs would be interested.

Any information you can offer would be appreciated.

The SAS committee would be very interested to hear your views on this. Should we have an inter club gathering, partly social and partly to talk to Energize and to hear what the other Archery clubs in the County are doing. EnergizeSTW are very knowledgeable about funding sources and offer great assistance in drafting funding applications.

### **Possible funding assistance for Archery clubs? - now you all should read this!!!**

As many of you are aware, Shropshire Archery Society has a sensibly healthy bank balance. We are prepared to accept applications from clubs for funding specific projects. Every application will be judged on its merits – we are more interested in assisting clubs with capital projects rather than general club running costs. There is no specific time scale for this – each application should include details of the project plus all associated costs and how the project will be funded. All applications should be sent to Sue Williamson. [Sue@chelmickforge.co.uk](mailto:Sue@chelmickforge.co.uk). An application will be discussed at the meeting following receipt of the documentation – a club representative will be invited to present the case at that meeting.

## Congratulations to Archers of Teme!!

Archers of Teme had a serious burglary a little while ago so they decided to deter future intruders by building a secure store – literally a building within a building at their shooting ground in Bromfield. This has now been completed after a lot of hard work by club members and some funding assistance from Shropshire Archery Society and the West Midlands Archery Society.

## Heritage Longbows

Lee Ankers of Heritage Longbows has opened a shop at Church Aston near Newport. The shop mainly caters for the wooden bow/wooden arrow brigade but has a small range of bits & pieces suitable for recurve and compound archers. Once the shop is fully fitted out there will be a 20 yard indoor shooting range and there are plans to add an outdoor range as well. Lee is in the process of buying the 'Simulator' from Dave Horder of Bowplus and plans to open late on Tuesday evening for 'Sim' sessions.

The next County committee meeting is on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in The Church Stretton Club. It would be nice to see a representative(s) from every club there. Please don't forget your club report – send it to Sue please.

**And Finally;** We would be interested to hear any comments about this newsletter. We hope that it will get sent out 4 times per year. It partly depends on how much there is to say! If you have interesting news about your club (including pictures) that you would like to share, please send it to the email address below. If we have got anything wrong please let us know! If there is anything in particular that you want to be included in future newsletters please let us know. We hope that you have persevered and read it all the way through to here!

Contact; [SASnewsletter@the-waltons.co.uk](mailto:SASnewsletter@the-waltons.co.uk).

## SHROPSHIRE ARCHERY CLUB CONTACT DETAILS.

Shropshire Archery Society. Website; [www.shropshirearcherysociety.co.uk](http://www.shropshirearcherysociety.co.uk).

Archers of Teme (Ludlow) Email [secretary@archersofteme.org.uk](mailto:secretary@archersofteme.org.uk) Website [www.archersofteme.org.uk](http://www.archersofteme.org.uk)

Audco Archers (Newport) Email [secretary@audcoarchers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@audcoarchers.co.uk) Website <http://www.audcoarchers.co.uk/>

Bowmen of Caradoc (Church Stretton) Email [j.hilditch590@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hilditch590@btinternet.com) website [www.bowmenofcaradoc.co.uk](http://www.bowmenofcaradoc.co.uk)

Bowbrook Archers (Shrewsbury) Email [Bowbrook-archers@supanet.com](mailto:Bowbrook-archers@supanet.com) Website [www.bowbrook-archers.co.uk](http://www.bowbrook-archers.co.uk)

Cleobury Country Archers Email [chair@cleoburyarchers.co.uk](mailto:chair@cleoburyarchers.co.uk) Website <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/heathaze/ccal/>

Croesoswallt (Oswestry) Email; [smartugs@gmail.com](mailto:smartugs@gmail.com) Website <http://croesoswalltarchery.wix.com/club>

Hafren Foresters (Newtown, Powys) Email [renshaw@hafren1.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:renshaw@hafren1.freeserve.co.uk)

Longmynd Archers (Church Stretton) Email [Sue@chelmickforge.co.uk](mailto:Sue@chelmickforge.co.uk) Website <http://longmyndarchers.co.uk/>

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