

British Timken Bowmen Newsletter

March 04

50th Anniversary

This year BTB celebrates it's 50th Anniversary on 9th December 2004.

We plan to celebrate this with 2 events.

The first is an outdoor shoot on 10th October 2004. All the local clubs will be invited to join us at this event, free of charge. The round is a Pope Young, in which all the archers shoot 6 arrows in a very short space of time at 6 targets all at different distances! Refreshments will be provided.

The second is a dinner for all club members on the 9th December itself. In order to book a restaurant, we need to know how many members are interested.

Please contact Pat.



EMAS champs

Beginners Course

Our beginner's course will start in May at Duston Upper School. It will be held on a Wednesday evening and will run for 7 weeks including week 1 as a taster session.

Our coaches, David, Sylvia and Graham will be organising this. Our thanks are due to the coaches for giving up their time to do this for the club.

There is already huge interest in this from people who have contacted the club wanting to start archery.

This year it is the turn of Northants County Archery Society to host the East Midlands Senior and Junior Championships, on Sunday 20th June.

On behalf of the county, LBSAC with help from BTB will be putting on the event.

This is a very important shoot and will require the help of lots of club members to make it go smoothly. Please be available to help if you can on the Saturday to help set up, and or on the Sunday during the shoot itself.

Help with collecting scores, changing target faces, finding arrows, moving bosses and lots of other things will be needed.

The rugby club will be doing refreshments. It is also a real opportunity to compete. If you need any help to complete the entry form, just ask.

National Champs

I think it is fair to say that I have been bitten by the archery bug, or to use a technical term I have a severe case of Toxophilitis. Having finished the beginners' course in January I decided to use the 'both feet/deep end' method to try and improve. I started entering competitions both local and outside Northants, yes there are competitions outside the county! I have found that archers were not just friendly but very enthusiastic about their sport and extremely helpful to a real novice like myself, I mean where else can you get free coaching from some of the top archers in the country.

So filled with a small amount of confidence and the knowledge that somebody has to come last in all competitions and that it might as well be me I entered the GNAS National Indoor Championships held at Lilleshall, the home of GNAS. The competition was a FITA 18, that's the one with three of those silly little small targets in a vertical line and all you have to do is shoot an arrow into each of the targets (Yeah right!), with the 32 top scoring men and women going on to a head to head shoot out.

Luckily I was not going to be alone both Pat and Catherine had entered although originally I was shooting in session A, which meant a 5.30am start, and they were in session B. But fate took a hand and due to a space becoming available I was able to shoot in session B, and have an extra couple of hours in bed!

I arrived at Lilleshall after battling with high winds, rain, bright sunshine and everything else the guy upstairs decided to throw at us mere mortals to find archers from all over the UK milling about, yes this was a serious competition but the friendship and enthusiasm was still there in bucket loads.

Inside the hall there were 38 targets with two archers per target, the competition was being run using traffic lights, buzzers and a large timer system. After a few minutes I worked out what people were doing at what colour light and which buzzer but Pat quickly ran through the procedures to make sure I was not about to make a total plonker of myself, we had better not mention the large timers on the wall though had we Pat (sorry but that's an in-joke at the time, does anybody know a good optician?).

So, on with the competition, for my own performance I think the least said the better but the first and last dozen were certainly nothing to get excited about although the three dozen in the middle were a lot better. And I certainly worried the targets a lot, even if they were the targets of the archers standing next to me! At the time of writing this I have not seen the final results but I think I can safely say that I am holding up the rest of the field on my shoulders, like I said at the beginning somebody has to be last.

And the rest of the BTB contingent, well many congratulations to Pat who made it into the top 32 women, unfortunately she got knocked out in the first round of the head to head after a very close run battle. Well done Pat! I think Catherine had a bit of an up and down sort of day but where her day was more of the up variety mine was a definite down sort with a few overs and unders thrown in for good measure.

Due to reports of lorries being uprooted from the grass verges and trees turning over on the roads (or is that the other way around) I left before the end of the head to head competition.

And my verdict of the day? Would I do it again? Was it worth it? Simply put Brilliant, Yes and Absolutely!

Now where are those other entry forms and what other competitions are coming up? Right lets have a look EMAS, BTB Open, Kestrels, Bedfordshire, Wicken, Wellingborough, Dunster Week now that looks interesting.....

Article by Es Shepherd.....Please contact Pat if you want to say anything in the next newsletter.

BTB Outdoor

Our annual outdoor competition will be held on Sunday 27th June at Duston Upper School.

The round is York, Hereford and Bristol with an afternoon National round offered.

For those new to shooting, the York, Hereford and Bristol rounds last all day. Men shoot 100 yards, ladies 80 yards and juniors from 80 yards to 20 yards maximum distances. The junior distances depend on age and sex. All archers shoot 12 dozen arrows, 6 doz at the longest distance followed by 4 doz at the next distance and 2 doz at the shortest distance.

For example ladies shoot, 80, 60 and 50 yards respectively.

Please use the EMAS champs (the same round) as practice for the really important event!

Please keep this date free to shoot and to help.

Have a go

We have several commitments to cover this summer as a club.

Nether Heyford Fete, have a go session. Volunteers needed **Saturday 12th June**. This is a chance to promote BTB and do some fundraising.

Play scheme at Queen Eleanor Lower School Tuesday 17th August. This is for hearing-impaired children and is our opportunity to put something back into the community. Archery is a sport where everyone can compete on equal terms regardless of disability and as such particularly appropriate for this group.

We have been asked to set up some sessions on a few **Saturday mornings 10.30 – 11.30am** especially for obese children.

Also we are offering a have a go session at **Danes camp on the 4th August**.

You don't need to be experienced to help out at any of these events, as you will be under supervision.

Please contact Pat, Sylvia, or David if you are available or if you want to know more.

Junior Worlds

This year the Grand National Archery Society are playing host to the Junior World Outdoor Target Championships July 18th – 24th.

International teams of juniors will be competing for the chance to win the Championships for their country.

There will be a grand opening ceremony involving all the clubs in this country where special Gonfalons with the club logo will be paraded.

It is hoped that 2 junior archers from each club will carry these in the opening ceremony thus demonstrating the breadth of archery throughout this country.

Any juniors who are interested in doing this, **please contact Sylvia, David or Pat** for more details. This is a rare opportunity to be involved in such a prestigious event.

Practice

Indoor shooting.

The last shoot will be Friday 2nd April 2004 at Moulton as the 9th is Good Friday.

Outdoor shooting

We will start shooting on Monday 19th April at Duston Upper School. We will be shooting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6pm – 9pm or until the light fails.

Shooting fees will be £1 per session.