

Old Basing Archers Newsletter January 2008

- **Happy New Year!**

Time to get over the excesses of the Christmas holidays and into the fresh air.

These first months of the year are a new challenge as we've all had our handicaps reviewed and can once again go through the process of classification. What joy!

Who's going to be the first to break a club record?

Good luck to everyone!

This may be the last newsletter before the AGM so looking ahead, if anyone would like to offer their services on the committee, please come forward. We all have busy lives juggling work, home and family but the committee needs new blood. If we could spread the load a bit more it would benefit everyone.

On which note, I have to regretfully report that Robin feels that it is time to stand down as Newsletter editor and producer at the AGM in February. He has done a fabulous job for the last four years and always managed to come up with interesting articles and info. Many thanks, Robin, for all your efforts.

If there's anyone who can take over the Newsletter, please contact Robin, who can explain what's involved. It's a wonderful job for someone who's into computers and has a few hours a month to spare.

Dave Westbrook is also stepping down from the committee. He spent a lot of 2007 travelling the country with Steffi as she rises in the ranks (he's not done too badly himself!) and, added to work commitments, just hasn't got any spare time. Thanks, Dave.

I'm spending quite a bit of time dealing with the Parish Council. You may have noticed that last year we couldn't shoot on several occasions because the rec had been hired out. I'm hoping that those issues will be resolved by the end of April so that we know exactly where we stand. Watch this space.

I hope to get up to the range to shoot sometime soon!!!

Your absent chair.

Su

- **Christmas Indoor Shoot**



The indoor sessions for 2007 ended with the now traditional festive treats. After shooting a Bray I (2 and a half dozen) the serious stuff ended and out came the mulled wine, mince pies and other treats. To conclude the session there was a novelty shoot off - 1 dozen arrows into three matching Christmas stockings. The green patterns on the oversized socks were the target, but the scores were hidden, some positive and some negative. The top hitters were Phil and Dave,

with 10 hits apiece, but once the scores were revealed it was a very different story - Dave scored minus 5 while Phil amassed 45 point to make him the winner.

Andrew

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- **OBA Art**

This watercolour picture was painted by local artist Alan Clayton, in about 1980. Alan was highly regarded by his fellow local artists and died in the mid 90's

He created a number of pictorial records of Old Basing and we know for certain that he presented pictures to the Bowls, Cricket and Tennis Clubs who use the Old Basing Recreation Ground. He may have presented one to Old Basing Boys, the football club at the time. Our picture was given to us by the Bowls Club when we used their facilities for a 25th Birthday party in 1993.

The picture shows Norman Leavy who was the Chairman at the time and a relatively youthful Terry Cootes shooting his TD4 recurve bow. It is interesting to look at the original picture in detail, first the limbs on Terry's bow are on the wrong side of the riser (probably an artist's error), second the bow string doesn't quite line up around the anchor point. Not to worry about this though, Terry is noted for a problem with this!



You can get a PDF or JPEG file of this picture from our website if you wish, the original size is 13½" x 9½". The actual painting is framed and kept as a club archive, though not in our storage hut as it's too damp. Please refer to Debbie.

Geoff

- **UK Rankings**

The latest issue of Archery UK (Winter 2007) contains the latest National Rankings and you could be forgiven for passing over the long lists of names in search of more interesting reading. However, closer inspection reveals the names of some of our own club members. On page 24, Junior National Rankings, Junior Ladies Recurve, 13th, Rachael. Junior Gentlemen Longbow, 1st Richard. Page 38, Official GNAS Target Archery Rankings 2007, Ladies Compound, 24th Stephanie Westbrook. Gentlemen Compound, 73rd, David Westbrook.

Hearty congratulations to Rachael, Richard, Steffie and David on your achievements; OBA is proud of you!

Editor

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- **Boxing Day Shoot**

On a surprisingly sunny day, ten members gathered for the traditional Boxing Day Shoot which was organised by TC. Terry explained the rules; the first rule was that there were no rules! (apart from the safety rules). A variety of animals targets were placed at 30 metres and onto these were pinned various Christmas characters such as snowmen. After a couple of ends it was decided that something a bit more challenging might be the order of the day. The white, portable target was trundled out to 100 yards. In one end, stalwart longbow men Andrew and TC managed to drop three arrows onto the top face of the target, narrowly missing the rat.



Following the consumption of the comestibles proved by TC, a few more dozen were shot before we headed for home and the traditional Boxing Day turkey sandwiches.

Editor