

## 2011 Outdoor Season Chairman's Summer Welcome

I finally took the snow shovel out of the boot of the car last week and placed it in the Shed, the hats and gloves have been put in a box under the stairs and the snow has been replaced by the rain so that means we are officially gearing up for the 2011 Outdoor Season.

For our new members who have joined over the winter (of which there are about 20) we all look forward to welcoming you to glorious evenings of cooling breezes and blue skies with fluffy white clouds whilst you shoot in the great outdoors. OK the reality is that on the odd day you may get a slight gust of wind or a shower of rain but that just helps you realize you are outside, exercising and enjoying yourself :) . In all seriousness please do embrace the Outdoor Season, it only lasts for 5/6 months and it is a very different challenge to the Indoor Season. There's nothing quite like getting all six arrows on the boss for the first time at a new and longer distance.

For those that are new to this outdoor archery lark there are a few nuances of etiquette which I would like to make you aware:

1) Outdoor shooting brings the perils of dealing with the general public in particular runners, dog walkers and footballers. Most of the time these groups should remain well behaved and some may take a genuine interest in learning more about archery which is to be welcomed. However unfortunately we do get the odd genius with suicidal tendencies who doesn't understand that being impaled by an arrow travelling at velocity would ruin their day and therefore we must take care to look out for them. If in doubt Shout FAST - don't be embarrassed it is the responsibility of all to look out for these possibilities.

2) One of the major problems with Archery outdoors is lost arrows, if you miss the target there is no nice safety curtain to stop them and therefore that means when we collect our arrows everyone should help to look for a lost arrow to speed it up. The key point with outdoors is that you can really shoot any distance from 20m up to 90m (speak to one of the experienced archers if you want to understand how outdoor rounds work). What we want is to see people progressing up to the longer distances; we don't want everyone just staying at 20/30m all the time. However distance progression should take place at a pace that suits the archer, please don't jump up a distance until you think you are comfortable at the preceding one. I shamelessly have copied an article from Guru Elliot on this subject so that if you are new to the concept you can figure out how to benchmark yourself:

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Many people are worried that they won't be able to reach the distances required for outdoor shooting, and others go gung-ho at the longest distance they can possibly lob an arrow at... So what's the best way to decide if you're ready?

A few rules of thumb:

- If you can score 240 in 3 dozen arrows at 20 yards at a Portsmouth (60cm face), you're ready for 30m
- If you can score 240 in 3 dozen arrows at 30m at an 80cm face, you're ready for 50m
- If you can score 200 in 3 dozen arrows at 50m at an 80cm face, you're ready for 70m  
Note that these all correspond to the BLUE badge in or [club awards](#) scheme (click link for more information).
- If you can get to the RED badge on any distance you're definitely ready for the next one up.
- If you can get the RED badge at 70m, then you're ready to go for 90m if you're male!

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3) As you'll see some of the distances shot are nearly 5x that which is shot indoors - this means that you will see people using spotting scopes on the line. Please be aware of this when you are shooting, using scopes takes up more space on the line but space will not be an issue on a club day because the field is so wide. The key message is just be careful pleas.

### Competitions

There seems to be a fair bit of club interest in attending open competitions this Season, so much so that I believe Balbardie should be able to take both Compound and Recurve teams to many shoots

which is fantastic. We want to encourage as many members as possible (of all ages, abilities and bow styles) to enter these events so if you want to know what they are all about just ask!

The Club Outdoor Championships will take place on the 10/11<sup>th</sup> of September using scores from the formal Competition weekend which the club is hosting. **So if you want to get involved please note the only way you can do this is to enter into one of the rounds in the Open Competition over that weekend – speak to Josie or David Herd early to avoid disappointment as spaces are first come first served.**

In the meantime if you are looking for a fun way to get into the competitive spirit sign up for John's Competition Ladder as mentioned elsewhere on the website.

The Club Outdoor BBQ will take place on Sunday the 17th of July at Beecraigs where I hope we can get everyone together for another fun social event - details will be given out closer to the time.

### Personnel

There are many things that happen in our club, the majority of which are planned at the expense (in terms of time) by volunteers. Things like organising competitions, social events, buying new equipment, securing grant money, coaching etc. take a lot of time to do and that means that those that are doing them get to shoot less. The club has grown to 5x its size in the last few years and that means that there are a lot more things to get done. **DO NOT DELUDE YOURSELF THAT BECAUSE I MAKE A LOT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS I GET SOME KIND OF BUZZ OUT OF ORGANIZING EVERYTHING - I want to shoot just as much as you do!**

To this end I ask please if you are willing to give up even a very small part of your time to help run the club come forward and you will be welcomed with open arms. Don't just look at the ground and say "I just want to shoot arrows my life is too busy" ALL of the volunteers in the club have the same issue and without them there would be no club.

I am delighted to announce the following volunteers who have recently offered to help out:

**Records Officer** - Donald McIntosh, if you have any record claims or want to submit your scores for handicap and classification please submit them to Donald.

**Club Coaching Officer** - Gilbert Jamieson - Gilbert will be responsible for organising the duty coaching roster to make sure that we are giving the members the coaching that you are entitled to. Please note this DOES NOT mean that you should always ask Gilbert for advice, he is one of a number of coaches and his role is to organise the coaches not coach all the archers.

The club desperately needs an **Equipment Officer** I simply can't do it any longer. Please note that you **WON'T BE ASKED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND YOU DON'T NEED TO STORE EQUIPMENT**. All the job entails is keeping one spreadsheet up to date when bows are signed in and out by members - that's it.

I thank Donald and Gilbert for volunteering and I ask that somebody steps up for the Equipment Officer role ASAP please.

### That's it

Thanks to everyone for coming along to the BAFTAs on Saturday, it was well attended and in my view a great success as for the first time we got about 45 members and their families across the club in a social occasion for the first time. It was particularly pleasing to see members who only shoot at one indoor venue introducing themselves to members who only shoot at another indoor venue. In my view that was the whole point of it really - we are all just one big family when it comes down to it.

I wish you all the best for the coming Outdoor Season with many a PB to be had by all hopefully.

EI Presidente

6 April 2011