

Go For Gold

Sept 05

Welcome back indoors, it has been a busy outdoor season for the competitive archers in the club, with our two juniors Calum and Matthew both performing very well, reports later. Congratulations are also due to Dot who has joined the ranks of tent carrying travellers roaming the countryside looking for a field to shoot in!!!!!!! Ok, bit of an exaggeration there, but Dot has now entered more competitions, enjoyed the experience, and will hopefully consider more indoor ones as well. Well done Dot.

At club level, we don't seem to have been that busy at times through the outdoor season, with a large number of our members not attending at all, or only a couple of times. As the season started in April, and it is now September, it is slightly concerning. The committee would very much appreciate feedback from you all regarding this issue. If you were all just busy with other things, that's fine, our concern is that we could have been doing something to keep your interest going. Recently the club has tried twice with very little success to gain feedback from members, once re coaching needs, the silence was deafening, and then our appeal for assistance at competitions, again we were underwhelmed by the response. If you have any thoughts on these matters or issues with the club, please communicate them to the committee, contact numbers below. Over the indoor season, we would like to build a clearer picture of what the club is doing to support archers and meet coaching needs, but this is very much a two way process, looking forward to hearing from you all.

Dot – 676545 Norrie – 677169 Liz - 674021

Finance

On a related theme, there are discrepancies with outdoor fees paid this year. We do not have a formal collection of outdoor fees, and trust that members will pay. I believe I make this easy with the list on the wall, and money box on the desk. I know some members must have been shooting and not paid, as well as some who have paid and not ticked themselves as having attended. This is really not acceptable, as I have to account for all monies, and we need the outdoor income to pay for the field hire. It costs over 900 pounds for the outdoor season, and so far out fees are 623. We make the difference up with income from the competitions we hold, but as you can see it is a considerable sum of money. The choice we face for next outdoor season is to only have a season payment, that all members must pay, or no season payment, which means everyone must pay everytime they shoot, with no upper limit(as you all know at the moment no-one pays more than 25/10 pounds). The latter would mean more work for the committee, as we would need a rota for collection of monies, but that would ensure that money was paid. Other options could include no outdoor shooting fees for anyone, but an increase to our club fee payable in January. Decisions like these can only be taken at the AGM, as treasurer I will be putting these forward to be voted upon. A fully worded proposal will go out with notice of AGM.

To continue the theme of finance, yes GNAS is due again, fees are as follows:

Adult	52	
2nd Adult	41.50	
Senior Citizen	44.50	L 60 G 60
Junior	5	

Monies must be paid by end of September, preferably 1st night indoors Friday 23rd, or Sunday 25th, or if you are not able to make it, please post your payment to me at: Liz Garrigan, 55 Namur Rd, Penicuik, EH26 0LJ. Cheques made payable to Penicuik Archers.

If payment not received by 30 September, then you will not be able to shoot, until you pay. Paying late causes me immense headaches as you have to rejoin the club as if you were a new member which is quite a bit of paperwork for both me and the regional membership secretary.

If you affiliate through another club, please be aware that you must show your 05/06 card the first time you come to shoot, if you do not have the card, you will not be permitted to shoot, as we have no way of verifying that you are a current GNAS member.

Competition Corner

Our competitions ran efficiently as usual over the summer, we have to say a very heartfelt thank you to all of the members who came and helped at some/all events. We could not run these, and generate the income they provide (which by the way, benefits the **whole club**, not just those who help) without the usual familiar faces who assist time and again. It was terrific to have input from some of our newer members too, it was greatly appreciated. As mentioned earlier, we tried to gather a wider input from all members re volunteering for these events, as a way of planning in advance what assistance we had guaranteed and where any shortfall was, unfortunately this was not successful, as a number of members neither replied nor volunteered. Again over the indoor season, the committee will be seeking input from members on this issue, as we would appreciate more support from the whole membership, as stated before, a little help goes a long way, and can be loads of fun. If any of you have any ideas please be in touch.

After being let down by Billy Burger, we purchased a BBQ, and catered for the last couple of comps ourselves. This was a challenge, but was successful at feeding the archers as well as the field party. My own personal thanks have to go to Jims wife Phyllis, for her contribution of home made lentil soup for the Premier. I absolutely love lentil soup, and it was fab!!!!

Junior Reports

Both Calum and Matthew have attended Scottish Junior Squad, thoroughly enjoying the experience and the opportunity for coaching and support from other than their usual coaches, Susan and Peter (it can be tough being a parent and coach). This year for the first time, both of them performed so well they earned places on the Scottish Junior Team. Calum first of all earned a place on the Scottish team competing in the Home Nations Comp at the Junior Outdoor Weekend early in July, then Matthew earned a place as part of the Scottish Team competing in the Junior Euronations Comp in Belfast. This was a terrific achievement for both of them, and deserves our congratulations and praise. I asked them both to put together a few words on their experience.

Calums Report

"I think being picked for the British to represent Scotland was probably the best thing to happen to me involving Archery because even though I had been to the British before with the Squad, I had never before represented Scotland. Personally I think I performed really well on the day because on the Saturday I came third in my age group, and Scotland was 2nd."

REPORT ON THE JUNIOR EURONATIONS 2005

BY MATTHEW MAITLAND

The Junior Euronations this year was held on 2 & 3 July in Belfast. I was selected for the Scottish Team and this being my first team event I was both nervous and excited. We travelled by mini-bus and ferry to Belfast on the Friday morning. Travelling together as a team is a great experience as well and we all had a laugh and got on well.

When we arrived, the Northern Ireland hosts had arranged for a practise session on the Friday afternoon, and then following dinner all the teams went ten-pin bowling.

The weather on the Saturday was fine with hardly any wind. We all shot well with Scotland coming 3rd overall, although the Scottish compound team won their event. On the day I wasn't too nervous, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The best bit of the day was the water fight at the end of the competition – what a laugh, we were all soaked. The Irish hosted a fantastic banquet for everyone on the Saturday night in Belfast Town Hall. We flew the flag for Scotland by wearing kilts and we were the best looking team there!

Sunday saw an open competition, weather was not quite so good. We travelled home on the Monday morning. The weekend was really good fun and I made lots of new friends and gained some good team experience. I definitely want to be selected to shoot for Scotland again so I will train hard and make sure I am.

This reminds me I still haven't seen the photos of Matthew in his kilt, must get hold of some.

To round off a very good season for both of them, they competed on the Sunday at the Premier. It was a fabulous day, hot with no wind, perfect shooting conditions. Calum scored 527, 17th place, Matthew scored 485, 23rd place, out of 33 gents recurve. An added spice to the day was Calum beating his dad by 5 points, tough luck Peter!! Both boys went out against their opponents in close matches in the afternoon, but with very respectable scores, well done guys.

On that very subject, Alastair Maitland, our own media correspondent, took loads of photos of the event, the best of which will be put together on a disc, and sold to any archer who would like a memorial of the event, I am sure if any of you would like to see these photos, Susan will bring along the disc for viewing. We had 27 bosses on the field, it looked very impressive.

Indoor times

We start back as stated Friday 23rd Sept 7pm for 7.30 start, Sunday 9am for 9.30 start.

Remember on Sunday we need to have the hall cleared and be out by 11.25 at latest, to allow football in for 11.30.

Unusual Requests

Oxfam contacted us recently, asking to borrow one of our stands. Why? You may ask, we did, and the answer was on the news last week. Oxfam arranged a demonstration re their Make Poverty History campaign in Edinburgh, they had made a black & white MDF target and needed a stand to put it on. This was not to shoot real arrows at, but to demonstrate that Tony Blair and George Bush were missing the target to make poverty history!!!! Dot arranged for the best looking (least shot to splinters) stand to be picked up, Penicuik once more happy to help.

See you all Friday.