

SAMFORD VALLEY



TARGET ARCHERS

Newsletter of the Samford Valley Target Archers

(ABN 63 639 289 573)

www.samfordarchery.org

Newsletter No. 31

January, 2017

So, 2016 has left us, and now we face 2017. Within the Club it promises to be a busy year, and there are a few changes which are to be trialled, which may take a bit of getting used to. The 2017 Australian Open archery tournament is our major job for the first part of the year. Ensuring that that is the success we want it to be will involve trapping - er, encouraging - as many members as possible to help with the organisation and staging of the event.

The first changes involve

Beginner Courses. The Beginner Course will be a one-day course (usually on Saturday mornings) and running from 7:30 am arrival to the 11:30 am finish. On the Saturday following the course day, there will be an induction day for those people who wish to join the Club.

Then comes a major change -

the new members joining will be given a set of 6 aluminium arrows, which will be theirs to maintain. The decision to do this has been driven by the fact that, previously, maintenance of the Club equipment has been **a major job**. That job has been done magnificently by Dave Arrowsmith (most of the time, but also by others), but he has decided that he has had enough, and will not continue with that work this year.

New members will be shown how to fletch arrows, and how to check them for

damage. Since a set of arrows is at least six arrows, arrows which are irreparably damaged will need to be replaced - at a reasonably small cost to the member.

The cost of hiring Club equipment will go up to \$10 per day (from \$7).

Those new members who have joined the Club within the last 3 months, will also be eligible to be given a set of six arrows - **when they have attended, and signed in to, six shooting days, hiring equipment at \$10 per day.**

This is going to be quite a learning curve for everybody, (which is a polite way of saying there will be some problems initially) but it is hoped that, in this way, the work of maintenance of equipment will be lessened.

It will still be necessary to maintain Club equipment - the arrows and the bows, etc., and the Management Committee is looking for members who are willing to volunteer for that work. If we can get a reasonable group together then the rostered time involved should not be too onerous.

So, everyone, how do you know whether an arrow is safe to shoot? When you are walking back from the target after scoring check your arrows for damage. Check every time irrespective of whether your arrows missed the target or not, or hit the

frame, or if you hear a crunch when yours or other's arrows went into the target. Get into this practice whether it is club equipment or your own.

For safety it is the archer's responsibility to check each time that the arrows are OK.

What do you need to check for?.....

- that there are no broken nocks; examine them closely looking for any cracks or indents in the plastic nocks, replace them if there is any sign of damage. Look for longitudinal cracks as well as lateral cracks. (If you have pin nocks you may have to replace the pins also if they are damaged or scored).
- that the nocks are not loose. Do not shoot arrows with loose nocks.
- that the arrows are not bent, it is a good idea to spin them to detect any wobble. Do not shoot bent arrows.
- that the points are still fully in place (and that a point is not missing or left in the target - yes points do sometimes come out). Never shoot an arrow with a loose or missing point.
- that arrows are not cracked or split or splintered (pay particular care if you have carbon or carbon/ aluminium composite arrows - carbon splinters are dangerous). Check all arrows including wooden arrows closely. Never use cracked or damaged arrows.
- that fletches are sound - a loose or missing fletch will affect the accuracy.

“ ‘Twas a dark and stormy night” (a la Snoopy) - but those of you who missed the Christmas break-up also missed the Christmas Archery Tree,



and the announcement of the Club Champions for the year.

So here they are, for 2016:-

Club Champion (Compound) -

1st - Tristan Barrett

2nd - Scott Hagaman

3rd - Nick Horley



Club Champion (Recurve)

1st - Emelia Paton

2nd - Gregory Jackson

3rd - Andrew McIntyre



Club Champion (Longbow)

1st - Michael Schilling

2nd - Neroli Roocke

3rd - Gregory Jackson



Most improved archer for 2016

Judith Symes



Silver Arrow for 2016

1st - Bruce Symes

2nd - David Barwick

3rd - Judith Symes



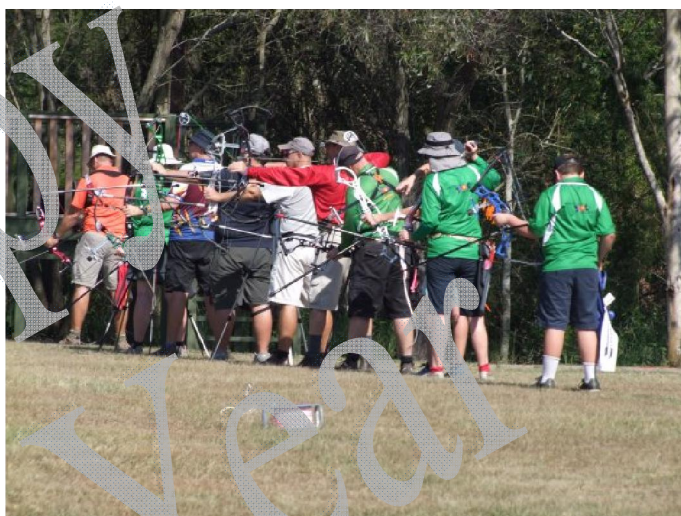
And, while we're on who won what, a late announcement of the winners in the Evening Indoor Matchplay (Series Two) in November of 2016.

Recurve Bow

1st - Michael Schilling

2nd - Darren Johnston

3rd - Jason Wilson



Compound Bow

1st - Scott Hagaman

2nd - Brian Hagaman

3rd John Gardner

So, we know that archers are “different”, but some archers are “differently-different” - (which is another “polite speak” for “crazy”). So on Sunday, 1st January, at 0600 hrs, some of the differently-different archers had a “dawn shoot” of the newly instituted 720 rounds.

I won't name them (poor things!) but I will include pictures.

Two archers ended up with Elite Bronze ratings, and one younger archer (LS) produced a highly creditable Elite Silver rating for his round.

Ah, well, they might be crazy but they might end up with some State records, for however long.

There are other pictures on the Club' photo gallery.

Check the notice boards at the Club. There the new 720 rounds - the AA rounds which had 35 metres and 45 metres in them have been dropped. There is a range reduction allowed for Veteran and Veteran plus women archers shooting for National and Australian

Tournament records and National Championships, and there is a change to how scores might be allowed to be altered during QRE's and registered shoots. Don't get caught out!

In the reasonably near future Coaches will be identified

by a Coach's shirt. With the new classifications from Archery Australia Instructors will be "Level 1" coaches (no special shirt- ooooh!). Michael Schilling, Brian Hagaman, Peter Clark and Trent Carberry are "Level 2" coaches(formerly Club Coach), and Alison Hagaman is a "Level 3" coach (formerly Regional Coach). If you need archery help, depending on the level of help required, "approach a coach".

With my liking for going back

into history, here is a double step-back. The first to the "Shooting Lines" magazine of July/August 1990, and then to the 1500's.

"ROMANCING THE BOW

by Tony Reade

Robin Hood, the fabled archer of Sherwood Forest, is still very much alive in the folklore of countries with an Anglo-Saxon heritage. So too are Switzerland's William Tell and a host of archers from many countries, whose deeds with bow and arrow set them apart and gave them a place in verbal and recorded history. England as a nation was famed for it's archers.

The battles of Crecy (1346) and Agincourt (1415) still ring down the centuries, swelling the British bosom and denting Gallic pride. The introduction of gunpowder gradually put an end to the

bow and arrow as a military and hunting weapon. The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 by the English who had experimentally armed 10,000 troops with firearms against the Spanish archers convinced military theorists that archers had become relatively inefficient.

In other parts of the world, especially the civilized nations of the Far East, archers were employed in warfare as recently as the 19th century, and the use of the bow and arrow in hunting and inter-tribal disputes continues in Africa and South America up to the present day.

With the disappearance of the professional archer, archery became popular as an amateur sport, particularly in England. The oldest archery tournament still held today is known as the Ancient Scorton Arrow and was founded in Yorkshire in 1673.

Tournaments gradually grew in popularity from what were, essentially, local affairs constrained by the difficulty of travel, to modern international events like the 1987 World Target Championships, which involved archers from over thirty nations.

English kings, particularly the energetic and athletic Henry VIII, did all they could to preserve, by statute and example, the premier position of the bowmen of England. In 1509, as a young man of 18, "His Grace shotte as strong and as great a length as anie of His Garde" and in 1520 he again demonstrated his skill with a longbow at the lavish summit meeting with the French king at the Field of The Cloth of Gold where he repeatedly shot into the centre of the target at a distance of 240 yards (220 m).

In 1510, King Henry purchased 40,000 yew bow staves from the Doge of Venice, and as late as 1534, he ordered 30,000 bows made and kept at the Tower of

London. This was "Romancing the Bow" on a grand scale indeed! The remarkable fact that emerges from these prodigious figures, which only accounted for government purchases, is that not one example was known to have survived into our time - that is, until the raising of Henry VIII's flagship "Mary Rose".

Raised from the waters of the Solent near Portsmouth in southern England in 1982 after 437 years under water, the surviving parts of the hull and its contents - some almost perfectly preserved by the fine silt - have left us with a rich record of the tackle of the "professional" archer. Over one hundred longbows have been recovered. They were all made from fine-grained yew, which the bowyer had cleft so that each weapon contained a natural selection of sap and heartwood. The bows were a "D" shaped section with sapwood on the back of the bow and a thicker section of heartwood on the belly. Wood technologists know that sapwood under tension and heartwood under compression form an efficient natural laminate.

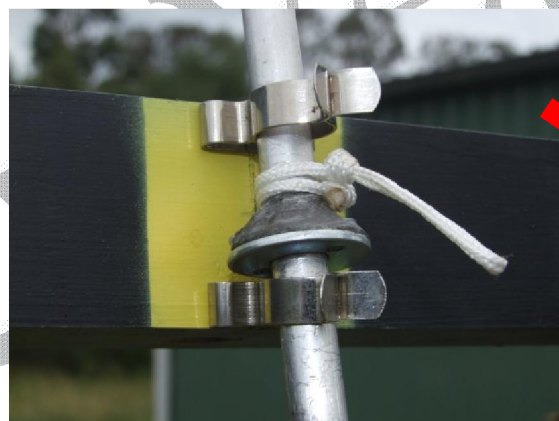
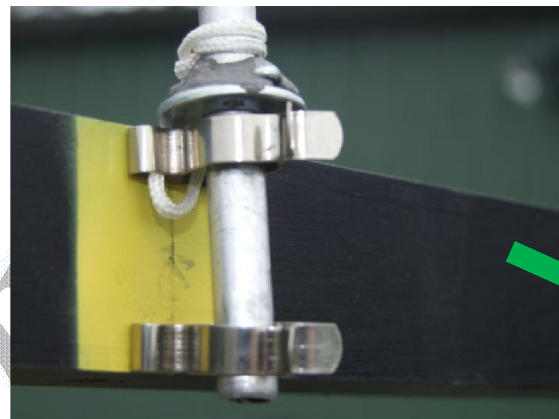
A bow of the average dimensions of those found on board the Mary Rose could reasonably be expected to have had a range of 200-250 metres. Boxes of arrows, bound in bundles of 24 and kept apart by pierced circular leather discs to avoid crushing the flight feathers, were also recovered. The shafts were 800mm long and 10mm in diameter. A nock was cut in the base of each shaft and reinforced with a v-shaped horn insert.

From contemporary records it is known that it was possible for a practised archer to loose 12 shafts a minute for short periods. Just imagine the deadly shower from a formation of, perhaps, a thousand archers."

The Wind Flags are still a source of some confusion for some archers. The fittings and design are intended to lessen the chance of damage/breakage of the flags.

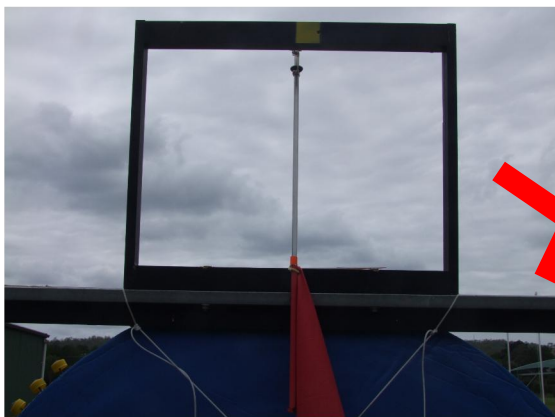
The bottom stub of the aluminium flag pole should simply sit in the two spring clips, with the washer/stopper on the top of the top clip.

Removal then is also simple.



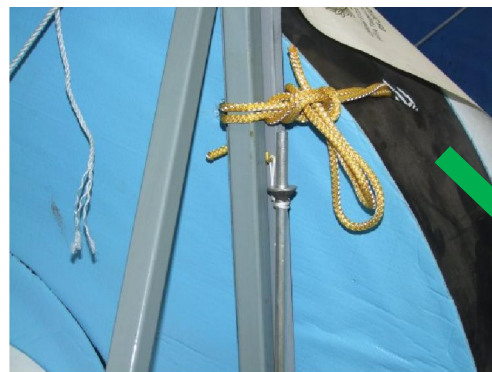
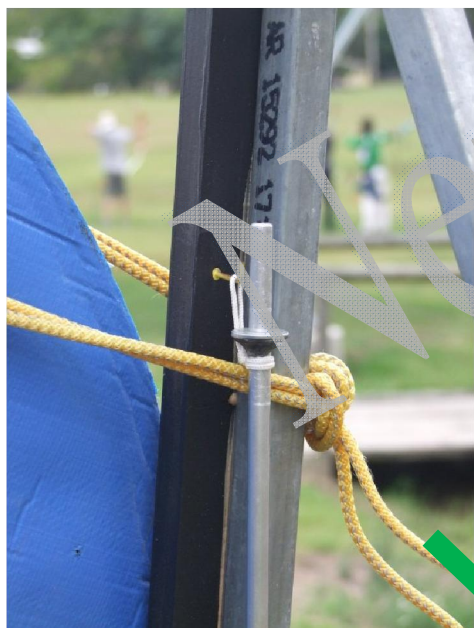
This way, should the flag not be removed from the clips **BEFORE** returning the target to the shed, the flag has a chance to fall out of the clips (and then picked up and stored properly).

In addition, please do not store the flag on the target, by hanging it from those clips.



This leaves the flag open to being damaged by being shot - believe it! It's happened.

There are small hooks on the rear of the frames of the targets - on the right hand side, facing the back of the target frame - on which to hang the flags when not actually in use. The locations of the hooks vary a bit, depending on the actual frame.



THE 2017 AUSTRALIAN OPEN TOURNAMENT IS COMING! - March 4th to 6th-

ARCHERS! - If you plan to shoot in the Tournament you need to register by 11th February, if you wish to avoid a late fee (or risk not being able to be accommodated).

CLUB MEMBERS! - We will need a considerable number of volunteers a few days before, during, and a few days after the Tournament to set up, conduct the Tournament, and break down the infrastructure. Please plan to give some time to the Club for this prestigious event. Please talk to Brian or Alison Hagaman at the Club to indicate your willingness to help - **THERE WILL BE A GREAT REWARD - A VOLUNTEER'S SHIRT** (They'll need to know the size).

In addition, we're going to need Marquees/Gazebos for shade at the Open. We are borrowing a number from various locations but need more than we currently have. If any member is willing to lend marquees/gazebos, in good condition, for approximately the week before the Tournament up to a few days after,

please advise Brian or Alison Hagaman or myself - evanf@hotkey.net.au

**Everybody note!!!! -
Hire fee for Club
Equipment has gone up
to \$10 per day.**

(No longer \$7)

Apologies to all that there seems to be so much “nuts and bolts” stuff in this Newsletter, but it needed to get out to members.

If you have friends who might be interested in archery, let them know that we have Beginner Courses generally each month.

