

SAMFORD VALLEY TARGET ARCHERS

Newsletter of the Samford Valley Target Archers

(ABN 63 639 289 573) www.samfordarchery.org

Newsletter No 36

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It's about time for another Newsletter.

Recently we have had a few of our members attend Tournaments. (If I forget someone, I'll apologise now!)

Delia Evans attended the Asian Grand Prix in Manila in April.



She said she was not totally happy with her performance, but we say "Great effort for trying, and things will get better".

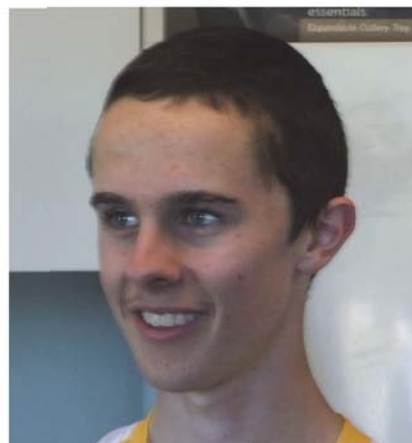
Matthew Clark attended the Youth Nationals in Morwell in April (12th - 16th) and the Trans Tasman as well (19th - 23rd).



In the Youth Nationals Matthew, as a male, Cub, compound archer, ranked 1st in the Clout, with 288, second in the Target with 991, third in the Field with 321, and third in the Short Distance with 660.

In the Trans Tasman competition Matthew ranked third in the Cub male compound division with a score of 702 (in an AA30/720 round). First scored 713, and second scored 704. Sounds like there was some high-quality competition.

James Palmer also attended the National Youth Championships in the Cadet male recurve division.



He ranked 4th in the Clout with 281, ninth in the Target with 970, tenth in the Field with 248, and 6th in the Short Distance with 540. Perhaps the cold weather did his head in (it's been a bit

bare lately, but good on him for being involved in the Shave for a Cure!)

On a totally different subject - recently I asked a quite well-informed archer whether Roving Shooting was the same as Field Archery.

The response was a slightly blank look. So what do you do then? The obvious - you Google it!

I “borrowed” the following from www.longbow-archers.com - thanks to them.

“Roving Marks - Shooting at the Marks

The origin of shooting at the marks is in the same as that of clout shooting. On the way into the villages and towns of England for the Sunday Church service and mandatory longbow practise afterwards, the longbow men amused themselves by shooting at a variety of ad-hoc marks on the way.

Distinct from the original roving clout shooting, the marks are no longer clumps of grass, nor sticks, nor round “spots.”

Moreover, unlike clout-shooting, the marks are not set up two-way, but are set apart at various distances and in various directions (very similar to today's Golf).

A group of archers up to a hundred strong walks from one mark where arrows are retrieved and then aims towards the next and so on. The length of the shot varies from 80 to 280 yards (70 to 255m). The angle of the bow and trajectory of the arrow varies considerably from a 45-degree elevation flight shot in the Cloth of Gold (240 yards, 220m), to elevations of up to 80 degrees over a line of trees for a mark at only 80 yards (70m) on the other side. No artificial measurement devices are allowed, nor any sight marks on the bow.

This type of shooting was essential practise for the longbow man. He had to be able to accurately judge and shoot over various distances and do so over undulating terrain with

all its optical effects on estimating distances. To be able to maintain the range of his arrows in all conditions.

Just as the medieval longbow man was expert at accurate aim over a flat trajectory, so too was he adept at plunging shot in order to reach the adversary sheltering behind the walls of fortifications or other obstacles.



This type of shot refines the all-round use of the longbow and needs regular practise to gain proficiency. Even before the disbandment of the longbow armies this type of shooting was routinely practised in the fields of Finsbury and Southwark in London and the fields in and about the major cities and towns of England.

There are a small number of longbow companies that have revived this type of shooting. Most prominent among these is the Fraternity of Saint George, the Finsbury Mark and the Fraternity of Prince Arthur, whose origins go back to the shooters in the aforementioned Finsbury fields in London in the 1490's.

A shoot the the (roving) marks shoot usually takes a full day. These are held on undulating pastures or on the estates of country houses. The scoring is done by shooting three arrows at each mark, with the highest score for those nearest the mark

The St George score at 1/2 a bowlength 12 points, the next 3/4 bowlength 7 points, a further 1 1/4 bowlengths 3 points. A different type of scoring is to count only the nearest men's, women's and junior arrows.

In order to be fair and safe it is common that at longer distances the heavier bows shoot first, then the lighter bows move forward and the ultra-lights (usually only juniors) move further forward.

As an alternative a steward can take the lighter bows forwards at an angle of at least 40 degrees and another steward the juniors forwards at an angle of 40 degrees to the lighter bows.

On an agreed signal all can shoot. Equally all must stop at a different agreed signal.

The sport of golf is a direct descendant of shooting at the (roving) marks. The distances and angles shot are very similar. It is a shooting style that most closely emulates that of the longbow man of old. It makes for a wonderful day out and it makes for good all-round archers.”

Seeing that I’ve gone into a bit of history, here is some material from a much earlier Newsletter. It’s from Newsletter number 17, of October 2013, but apparently still relevant today.

“A FEW REMNDERS -

- Please remember to make the effort to keep our (YOUR) Club tidy. Put rubbish in the bins provided. Occasionally find a broom and have a go at sweeping a floor - it’s therapeutic!
- Don’t just drop drink cans and food wrappers at the shooting line - take them to the bins. If you see rubbish that someone has left, please take it to the bins.
- If you’re finished shooting, check if someone else wants to use your target, and if there’s no-one, at least take the target back to the door of the second shed - but preferably put it back properly.
- Check all your archery equipment BEFORE shooting. Check the string - does it need waxing, is it worn too much? If it’s Club equipment, ask someone to check it.

- Carbon arrows are great - they’re either broken or not but it can be difficult to be sure at times. Fragments of carbon under the skin can be a REAL PROBLEM. Learn how to check arrows for problems - ASK FOR HELP IF YOU’RE NOT SURE!!!

- Beginners and new archers especially, be aware to how to remove arrows from the target (and the ground) properly. If you’re not sure - PLEASE ask. Bent aluminium arrows MIGHT be able to be straightened, but it’s a very fiddley job. If they are Club arrows and really bent, that’s a financial loss to the Club.”

And if they’re your new arrows, provided when you joined, then it’s going cost \$10 per arrow to replace.

Way back in March - St Paddy’s Day, in fact - the Club took part in Samford’s Charity Night, which involved a get-together for a number of local organisations, and a way for each group to raise some funds.

Thanks, especially, to some of our Club members who put in the extra effort to make sure we participated and made a bit of a difference.

Eric and Ruth Whisson donated one of Eric’s paintings - which was auctioned for \$1000 (cheap at twice that price).



That was a very generous thing for them to do, and we thank them very, very much.

Judith and Bruce Symes decorated the table which the Club members occupied, with (believe it or not) an archery theme.



As a result of the efforts of Club members an amount in excess of \$2000 was raised.

It's been announced at the last few lunch-time announcements, but if you haven't been to them, you may not know that we

have a new, tri-partite Recorder Subcommittee.

Bronwyn Healing -



- Will set up Club events in Archers Diary each week in advance. Bronwyn will also check for Club and SQAS records provisionally established.

Mark Bradley -



- will collect the scoresheets which have been placed in the holder (if you don't know where that is, ask), and check them to see if archers have claimed an award.

If an archer is due an award, Mark will arrange it and issue it at lunchtime (if the archer is actually present).

Scott Hagaaman -



- will update the spreadsheets listing the progress of the Club Championships and send them out to be further displayed.

Jointly the three will prepare reports for the AGM, and for the Christmas awards night.

This leads rather neatly to some information which will be of particular value to the newer members.

WHAT IS A RANKING?

In addition to the club championship rounds this year, there are also Monthly Handicap rounds, which use an archer's Ranking to determine results. So, what is a ranking and how do you get one?

An archer's ranking is based on their own performance and is initially determined from five rounds in each of target and indoor rounds (an average if you will).

It is based on the calculations in Archers Diary, which takes into consideration the number of arrows shot, the discipline and categories of all archers, etc.

So basically, for a certain score, there will be a Rating number, and it is the average of any five official rounds (any round on the club/state/national calendar for the day) shot by the archer, that will give them a Ranking Handicap. Your scores for these rounds will need to be entered into Archers Diary to be counted.

If you don't understand "official Club rounds", and "Archers Diary" **please** ask.

So, if you have shot and recorded five or more rounds, then you will have a Ranking Handicap!

The Club Recorders will have access to the various handicaps. **The winner of a Club Monthly Handicap is the archer whose score is the best percentage of his/her handicap ranking at the time.**

The Club calendar - on the website, or on the wall above the computers at the Club - tell you what the "official rounds" for the day are.

Just a reminder!

With the increase in member numbers, a normal Saturday (especially before lunchtime) can see quite a number of people on the shooting lines.

On occasions the mid-field can get quite crowded, with newer members and "older" members all trying to shoot various distances.

If it starts to look crowded on the mid-field, the DoS (Director of Shooting) may ask people who wish to shoot at distances greater than 20 metres to move their target(s) to the West field (assuming it is not also crowded).

On most Saturdays - except when there is a Beginner course - the East field is also available to accommodate an overflow.

This is only likely to be a problem on a Saturday; other days are not usually crowded.

Samford Club has just hosted the SQAS Short Range Championship (May 19th) and the SQAS Clout Championships (May 20th).

In response to a request from Jodie Gill



(Lismore City Archers) we put on weather that was just about perfect for shooting on both days.

Michael Schilling, having trained well in windy conditions was a bit put off by the lack of - apparently - but he got a spot on the podium.



Brian (Hagaman) shot his longbow - and there were quite a few of those -



And Brian ended up QUITE happy.



Then there's something about roses and thorns.....



Scott Brice and Sam Wearne were happy,



That's two "perfects" in there.



Although Sam was beaten into second place in the Men's Open Compound by Scott Hagaman on a countback.

In the Clout Championship on Sunday, Alison Hagaman showed that her new clout arrows are really working. For the Double Clout Alison averaged a score of 9.06 per arrow.

It was quite a social day, and REALLY good weather (slightly different from some of the recent clout days).

This Newsletter ends with a few photos from the clout day.

The 180 metre line -



165, and 145 metre lines



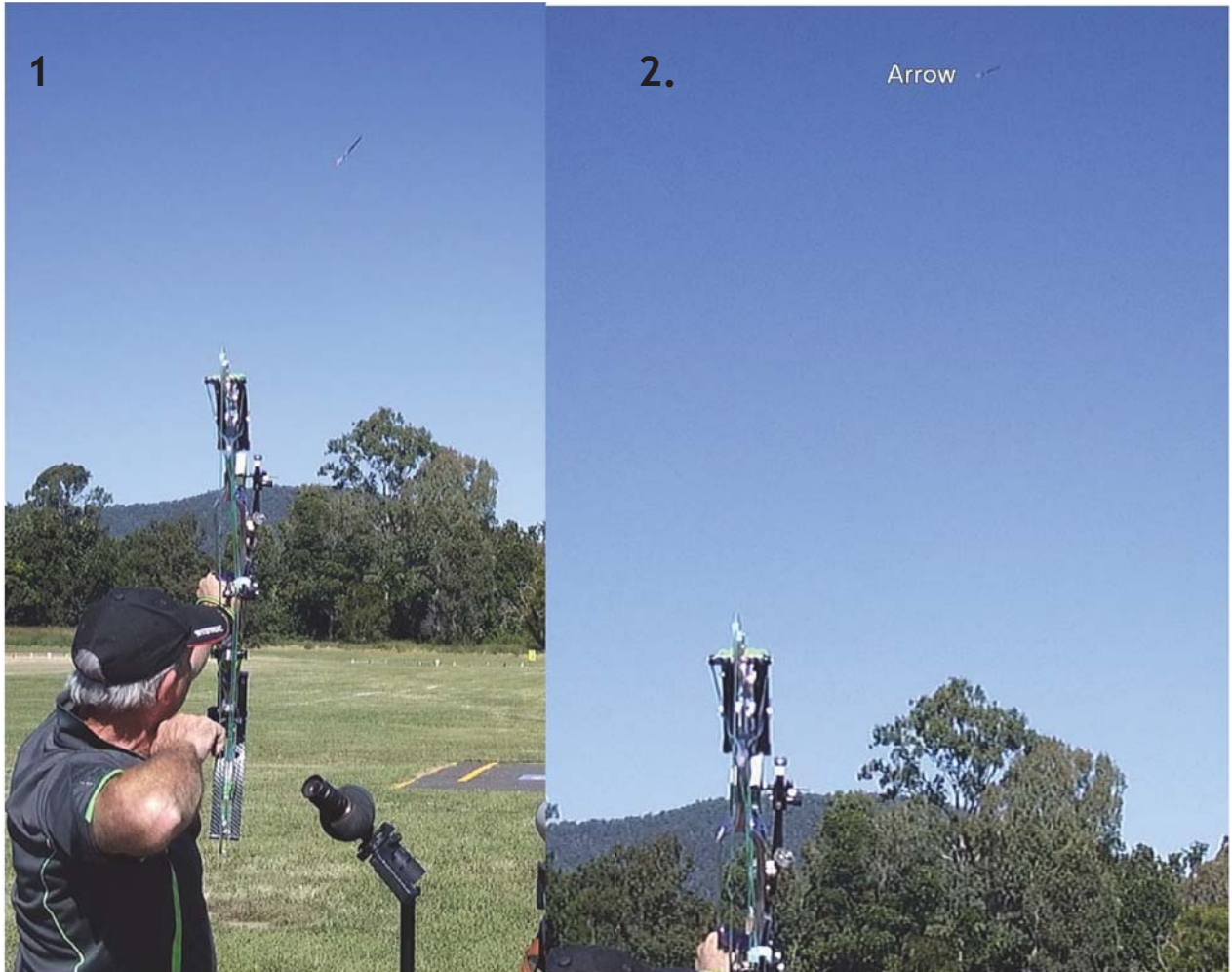
Matthew -



Daisy -



I do like shots of arrows in the air....
when they work!



I'll finish with a request from
Taymon Kenton-Smith.



If anybody has any spare 810 spine arrows
(or higher) to donate, would they please
contact him at the Club?

Even if it is only 2 or 3 arrows!