

SAMFORD VALLEY TARGET ARCHERS

Newsletter of the Samford Valley Target Archers

(ABN 63 639 289 573)

www.samfordarchery.org

Newsletter No. 40

So, a new Club year has begun.

The Annual General Meeting for 2019 has been held, reports offered and accepted, and the excitement of an actual secret ballot for one of the positions on the Management Committee. You can't have much more fun than that, can you? Congratulations to the elected members.

The coming year could be very interesting as we should advance towards the process of joining the two sheds, and the Commons area on the hill will start re-building. Because of the building plans on the hill, our neighbors from up there have asked for parking space in the Club's grounds during constructions.

The Management Committee have replied with a set of conditions under which we would agree to that and we await the Commons and Millen Farm's response.

There are a couple of photos from some time back which have been saved for a suitable time to publish.

They tend to offer some insight into the brains of archers - who, let's face it, are not necessarily like other people.

The first one is an occasion when Brian Hagaman lost one of his arrows during a shoot. He used the metal detector to try and find it. Now, that's not unusual -

September/October,
2019



The major point about this is that it was an indoor shoot, and I don't think the arrow has been found, to this day.

The second photo gives a sense of the single-mindedness (read monomaniac, read maniac) of the archers' approach to completing a round.



It seems there are a few identifiable archers there - through the rain.

Brian's use of the metal detector there was obviously not appropriate, if nothing else the metal reinforcing in the concrete would give confusing readings.

This leads to some thoughts about how to use the metal detectors which the Club owns. Observations have revealed that, at times, the search for lost arrows could be more efficient and effective, and thereby hold up the line for less time.

Using the Club's Metal Detectors.

What follows is some suggestions about using the metal detectors that are available at the Club for finding arrows buried into the ground. The first suggestion is - **read and understand the manual for the particular device.**

The Samford club owns five metal detectors - there are three "Bounty Hunter Tracker 4's", one "Makro Racer 2" detector, and a "Garrett Pro-pointer".

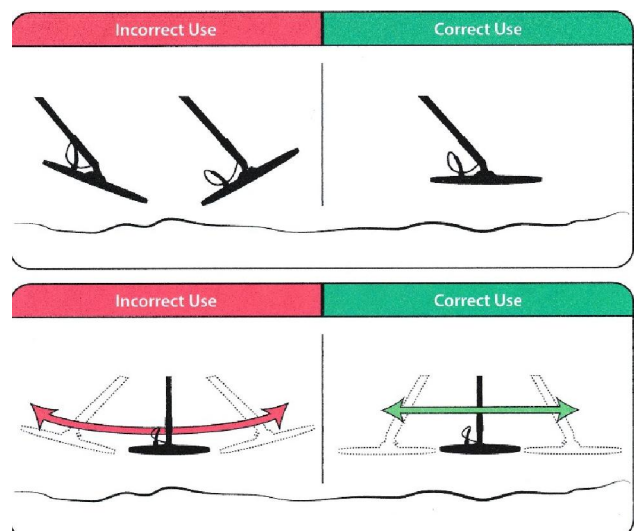
Two of the Bounty Hunter detectors (the ones with the arrow holes) are newer and work quite well, the third one is older and appears to have a relatively low volume to its speaker. The Makro Racer is the most expensive detector and could do many things in addition to "just" finding arrows - however it is hardly worth using **unless** you totally understand its use - **that means read and understand the manual.**

The Garrett Pro-pointer was bought with the idea that it might be valuable in finding arrow points left in the targets. Unfortunately, this is not entirely the case - the penetration of the pointer is 4 inches (10cm) or less into the target butt. This sometimes is enough to find a point, but often it does not. The idea of the pointer is that it beeps more rapidly the closer it gets to a metal object, and therefore locates it more closely. It can help in finding the nails holding the plastic discs which mark target centres at the various distances, should you be looking for those. The pointer is kept in the locked coach's cupboard.

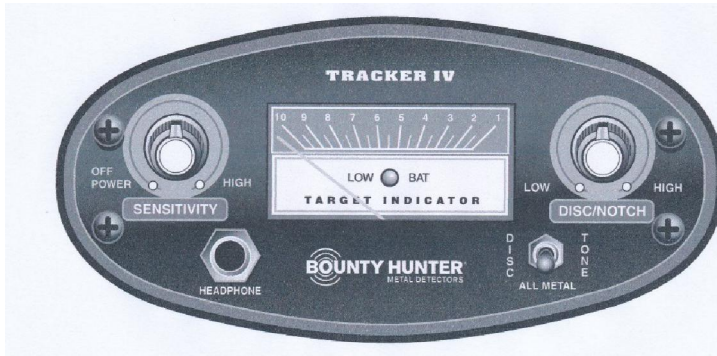
The general rule with detectors (except the Pro-pointer) is that they detect metals **when moving over them. They do not work when simply held still.**

Most of the manuals talk about "slow" sweeps, but the machines seem to work if the sweeps are moderately quick. With slow sweeps it takes more time to cover ground (meaning that a line of archers might be stopped from shooting for longer than might be justified).

The detector's coil should be swept parallel to the ground and no more than about 2 inches (5 cm) above it.



Using the Bounty Hunter detectors: -



Set the “Toggle switch” to “All metals”.

Set the left hand “On/Off/Sensitivity” to about level 3 (on the high side).

You can set the right hand “Disc/Notch” to its maximum if you wish, but certainly at least halfway.

If the machine “chatters” this is an indication that the “Sensitivity” is too high - reduce it.

The machine will also chatter if a second detector comes too close to it.

Using the Makro detector: -

Preferably - don’t, unless you have read the manual and fully understand it’s use.

There is a set of instructions hanging above the detector.

Searching for arrows:-

There can be quite a number of false signals in our grounds - it seems that the large underground grass runners will cause a signal, and there are metallic pieces left over from when the area was a paddock for the CSIRO. However, it is also possible that there might be rocks or metallic objects deeper than we normally need to search. After rain, when the ground is soft, the deepest an arrow from

a compound bow might go is perhaps 5- 6 cm.

Aluminium arrows are generally the easiest to identify - if you get a return which you can follow for about the length of an arrow - it’s probably an arrow. There can be a similar result for carbon composite arrows - those with a carbon outer and an aluminium centre.

Pure carbon arrows will be more difficult - there is the point which will be detectable, and perhaps the nock insert if there is one. When looking for carbon arrows try to keep the distance advanced for each sweep to a bit less than an arrow length.

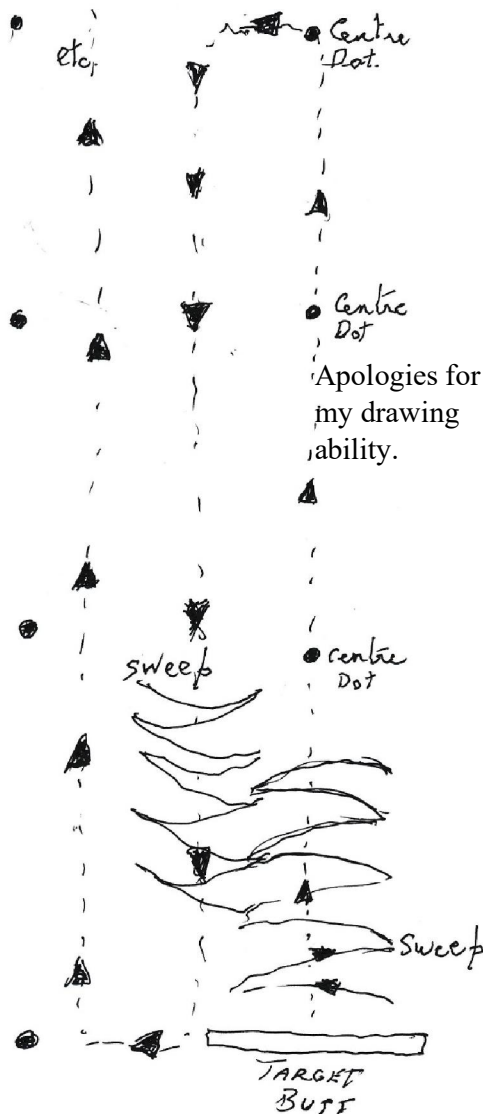
Plan your search.

If you know that the arrow went left, or straight over or under the target, or right, then perhaps start in the centre and work firstly on the side where you think the arrow went.

Work on a grid.

It would seem to make sense to work firstly along the line that the arrow would normally have taken - that is, a line directly moving away from the target butt to about the maximum distance the arrow might have gone (which tends to be about 20 - 30 metres), though it can be further at times. Move forward about the length of an arrow with each sweep.

If there is no result with that, turn around, move to one side (which ever you think might be more productive) and sweep back to the target butt.



This search pattern makes use of the centre dots so that you have some idea of where you have looked.

Keep going until you are successful in finding your (and probably other archers') arrow/s.

Fairly obviously this process could take some time - it may be necessary to do your search during a lunch hour, or after shooting has finished for the day - it depends to some extent how expensive the arrow is, and how determined you are. The main point here is not to unfairly delay other archers on the shooting line.

An alternative search pattern.

If the grid pattern suggested above is NOT successful, then you might consider turning the grid pattern 90 degrees and searching across the down-range line. Sometimes, this might be better at picking up a point.

With either of the search patterns it may help to carry a couple of arrows that you can set up to steer towards and try to avoid going over the same area again.

It can also help to carry some sort of a digging instrument so that you can dig (carefully) in an area where you have got a signal. "Carefully" because you might possibly be risking damage to an arrow.

If you find gold nuggets - they're mine - I must have dropped them at some time!

A note from Michael Schilling in an e-mail way back when -

"A good resource for Recurve archers to refer to that might help some people:

<https://www.onlinearcheryacademy.com/>

Any questions they can ask a coach to help further."

This is a series (a blog? = I don't really know the definition) by an English Olympic archer giving a lot of information which should be useful to recurve archers.

The way it's set out, it can take the reader down varying paths, but there's a fair amount of good information.

The Management Committee people felt that some Club members might see some value

in being able to store archery equipment at the Club.

For this reason, using a community grant, some lockers were purchased. (You've possibly heard about this?). At the latest Committee meeting we managed to decide of a hire price - \$13 per month for the tall lockers, and \$7 per month for the smaller lockers - charged for the calendar year.

If you are interested, see Evan Fisher who can explain the idea more fully.

All of you (most of you?) will have seen the Atlas Archery machine in the West shed. On the only occasion it has been used so far, a lot of fun was had by a few people.

It's a target tossing machine, a bit like a clay pigeon trap. The machine is not owned by the Club, it's owned by Emma Crouch, who seems to be deciding what to do with now.

Michael Schilling hit a target in the air on two occasions, a couple of archers managed to brush the targets.



"Floo Floo" arrows are used so that they don't go too far - like, to Samford.

And again, the Management Committee, at the recent meeting, decided to arrange for a second target butt to be left outside for the use of those archers who wish to practice at "out of hours" times.

There will be some rules and arrangements which will be necessary, but the process is "en train".

An interesting note: -

On some occasions, using Archers Dairy, members have registered their shoots as crossbow rounds (even the members who have been members for some time).

We don't shoot crossbows here. The rounds in the list on Archers Dairy that are preceded by an "X" are crossbow rounds (X for CROSS-bow).

If you're looking for the OzBow rounds they are listed further page of possible rounds.

You are all aware - or you should be - that the work of maintaining and improving the Club is done by volunteers.

On occasions there are working bees where there will be jobs for everyone who turns up (such as the 19th October), but there is also a lot of mundane stuff which happens pretty much every day of the week - done by people who have

(generally) retired and have the “spare” time.

Unfortunately, there are more jobs developing, and the people with “spare” time are getting older and running out of puff.

We need volunteers from the members who do not have particular positions in the Club, to step up and offer to do things sometimes. What things? - well a bit of cleaning, a bit of maintenance - keeping the range marking dots clear (thanks Trevor - it's quite hard work in the heat), picking up items that should be somewhere else - rubbish, target faces left on the ground, etc., etc.

As mentioned by Brian in his President's Report at the AGM, we are beginning to think about contracting out some of the maintenance work. This would put a strain on our finances, which would probably mean an increase in fees.

Think about asking if you can help - see Brian or Alison.

A couple of things which would really be helpful but are more serious jobs - there are places for a Tournament Director (and a few people to help) to put together all the things which need to happen when the larger Tournaments are on.

There's potentially a place for a Social Director - and his/her crew - since the Club may well benefit from more time for socialising, such as more frequent barbeques - perhaps to welcome new members when they join at induction.

There are probably a lot of possibilities - if you think you can help, please offer.

2021 and 2022 will probably be years when SQAS will host the National Championships. SVTA will probably play a significant part in hosting parts of those Championships - think ahead, think positively, start preparing to play a part.

From the “You don't see this often” department is the following photo.



This fellow appeared in the cattle paddock on the 14th September when members were shooting a clout round - the cattle weren't sure how to deal with him, but he obviously knew we weren't a hunting club. Maybe he was the STAGS mascot?



**So, for the moment, that's the
last of the gnus.**