

Welcome all, to the first edition of the 'Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield Bulletin'. Our intention is to keep you up to date with news, forthcoming events, results and anything that we think might be of interest to members of the club. Please bear with us as this evolves and feel free to let us know your feedback and get in touch with articles and content you would like to see here.

Scorton 2023



The Antient Silver Arrow, is the World's longest established and oldest recorded sporting event, dating back to 1673 and first shot in Scorton Village, North Yorkshire. The competition has continued annually since 1673 (except in periods of various Wars) and is open to any Gentleman Archer aged over 21 shooting in the Long Bow or any other barebow and, since 1947, the Recurve Bow. Shooting 2 arrow ends in a 2-way shoot, the winner is the first gentleman to hit the 3-inch centre Black Spot at 100 yards and becomes 'Captain of the Arrow', wins the Scorton Arrow Trophy and takes on the responsibility to arrange the next year's meeting. Assisted by a Lieutenant, which is awarded to the first gentleman to hit the Red. The original Scorton Silver arrow trophy of 1693 is deposited with the Royal Armouries in Leeds (with a replica being awarded to the Captain). In 1970 B A Lockwood of Valley Bowmen became Captain and the competition was held in Huddersfield the following year.



OUR MOLLIE

This year I am taking part in the Junior Archery Series, which is a five-stage youth competition at locations all around the country. The Series mimics that of the National Tour, however, the Junior Archery Series incorporates 4 stages rather than 6 leading up to the final being held at the Junior UK Masters. The Junior Archery Series is open to any junior age category (under 21) and any bow disciplines. In order to qualify for the finals, you need to have shot in 3 out of the 4 regional stages, or have achieved your Master/Grand Master/Elite Master Bowman classification. The 4 regional stages are being held at York Archers on the 20th May; Woking Archery Club on the 17th June; Lilleshall for the Youth Festival from the 31st July through till the 4th August; and Meriden Archery Club on the 19th August, with the finals being held at Deer Park Archers on the 9th and 10th of September (dependent on your bow style). The entries for the York and Meriden stages are on their archery club's website, but for the Woking and Lilleshall events the entries are on Sport 80.



On the 20th of May, I attended the first regional stage of the Junior Archery Series in York. The day consisted of shooting a 720 round in the morning (relevant to your age category and discipline) and then head to heads in the afternoon (again, dependent on age category and discipline). The scores within a category from the mornings shoot were ranked and then used to identify the head-to-head brackets. In total, there were 65 archers competing in the Northern leg of the Series with a total of 21 targets on the field. I really enjoyed competing in the Northern leg, the environment was really encouraging and friendly and I enjoyed spending the day with some lovely fellow archers. I am definitely looking forward to the next leg! 😊

If you want to find out more information about the Archery GB Junior Series, take a look here

- <https://archerygb.org/competitions/archery-gb-youth-competitions/junior-archery-series-2023> ."



Why enter archery competitions?

Have you heard or read that some of your fellow archers from Valley Bowmen are entering archery competitions, and thought - 'I would like to give that a go', but you're unsure how to enter? Or have you thought that external competitions are only for elite experienced archers? Then let me dispel one common myth. External competitions are for EVERY archer of any standard and ALL bow types.

Yes, venturing into the unknown can be scary, but don't let that stop you getting involved in competitive archery. Whether you're an experienced archer, or new to the sport, it's a great opportunity to test your skill against other archers, fulfil aspirations and set personal goals, beat personal bests, and be in with a chance to claim records, trophies, awards and badges. You will also pick up lots of tips to help improve your shooting. However, most of all, competitions are fun and enjoyable.

External competitions are very social and friendly events. You will meet new people and make new friends.

There are many competitions both locally within our county, and further afield. A full updated list with details of how to enter can be found by clicking this link

<http://www.yorkshirearchery.co.uk/upcoming.html>

What to expect at an external archery competition.

There are many differences between shooting at your club and shooting at a competition. The main ones are highlighted below.

Lots of archers - There will be more archers present than you're used to seeing. Competitions attract archers from many clubs.

Registration - You will be asked to register your attendance at the shoot. This is to record the correct number of archers on the day.

Judges - Qualified judges will be present and clearly identifiable by their uniforms. Judges are there to help and assist all archers. A judge can be called by simply raising your arm. If there is doubt with any score called by an archer a judge will assist. They will assess line cutters, correct any wrongly entered arrow values, deal with bounce outs, and equipment failures. Judges are there to ensure the participants compete within the spirit and rules of the sport.

Equipment Inspection - Before every shoot begins the judges will carry out an equipment check to ensure you have the correct bow for the bow style you entered with.

That all your equipment complies with AGB rules. All arrows have to be marked to make them identifiable to you. This is generally your initials and arrow number. You can purchase pre-printed personalised arrow stickers, or you can use a 'sharpie' to mark the shaft of your arrow with your initials and arrow number on, which works just as well.

Assembly - Prior to competitions beginning all archers gather for information to be given by the Tournament Organiser. This will include everything from going over the general rules of the competitions, explaining the awards, housekeeping on the field, and introducing the judges.

Timed Ends - An electronic timing system is used. It indicates by producing a system of 'beeps' when it is time-

for your detail to come to the shooting line, when to begin shooting and again when your allotted time to shoot has ended. Time allowances per end vary on which rounds are shot. and whether you are shooting 3 or 6 arrow ends.

Target Captain - Generally there are four archers shooting per boss. Each boss has two targets and two details. One member of the boss will volunteer to score and complete the score sheets. If you do not feel confident or comfortable carrying out this role, then there will always be an experienced archer on the boss with you who will assume the role. Another archer on your target will be asked to record the value of the target captains' arrows. This is because no archer can record the values of their own arrows.

Dress Code - All competitions adhere to the Archery GB dress code. This can be found on the AGB website. Of note- There is a strict 'No Blue Jeans' rule' at all competitions.

Etiquette - All archery rules of etiquette must be strictly adhered too at competitions. This includes ensuring you do not walk away from the line when another archer either side of you is at full draw, and not talking loudly when other archers are on the shooting line.

Record Status - Competitions that are record status will be clearly marked as such. This is your chance to aim to shoot a score to claim a County or National record, plus other various awards.

Friends - You will make many friends along your competition journey. The archery world is full of friendly, helpful and lovely people. Like-minded people who are keen to share their experience and vast array of knowledge to help fellow archers achieve their full potential on the shooting line.

Cake - Archery and cake go hand in hand. There is always cake and catering available at competitive shoots. I mean, what's not to love about a day out that involves a plentiful supply of cake?

Valley Bowmen has a long and proud history of being well represented at archery competitions all over the County. It's a proud feeling to be at a competition representing your club. Archery is an individual sport, but your attendance also represents the club. There are also 'inter club' competitions where you would be attaining scores for the honour of Valley Bowmen. Let's do ourselves and the club proud.

If you're still feeling hesitant, not sure how to enter, or you're not sure what competitions/rounds would suit you best. In fact, if you have any questions about anything at all, then please do speak to myself, members of the committee, or any members who enter competitions. We're always around to help and advise, and guide you through everything you will need to know. A full list of archers who are attending external competitive shoots can also be found on the Valley website. This is helpful if you want to 'buddy' up, arrange sharing transport, or to meet up with familiar faces at the venue.

Target archery competitions are the most popular. However, there are also competitions covering 3D, Clout, and Field archery. If you would like more information on these disciplines, then please do ask.

So, what are you waiting for?

Go for it - Give competitive archery a shot. I can guarantee you'll leave feeling proud of what you have achieved, and most importantly, have had a great day out.

Forthcoming Club Events

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE
18/06/2023
13:00 for 13:30

50th ANNIVERSARY THE VALLEY BOWMEN OF HUDDERSFIELD 1963 - 2023 VS **THE UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD ARCHERY**

Shoot for the honour of your club

Men	Women	Men 50+	Women 50+	Juniors (U21)	Handicap
	Western			Age and gender appropriate Western	Any Western Round
	4 doz @ 60yds, 4 doz @ 50yds				

Bowman Series

Shoot three of six

A competitive target event at club level with the opportunity to shoot and achieve a Bowmen classification.

25/06/2023
13:00 for 13:30

Men	Women	Men 50+	Women 50+	Junior (U21)	Handicap
New Western 4 doz @ 100yds 4 doz @ 80yds	Long Western 4 doz @ 80yds 4 doz @ 60yds		Western 4 doz @ 60yds 4 doz @ 50yds	Age and gender appropriate Western	n/a

This series of competitions is specifically aimed at those archers who are trying to get a Bowmen classification.
Please Note: This does not prevent other members shooting at the field at the same time as this competition.
Further dates in the Bowmen Series: 30/07/23, 20/08/23, 29/10/23

Axe Throwing 28th June @ White Wolf
See notice board in pavilion.

1st Wednesday of the month meal
@ Tapas bar in Honley



Unconfirmed, but pencil in your diaries Xmas Party on Thursday 7th December @ Lockwood Rugby Club.



General Call

This is a reminder that all members generally know 100% more about archery than people attending a beginner's course and that everyone is able to help. We don't throw you in at the deep end and will usually get you to be field captain, balloon monitor or one of many other supporting roles. When you help a beginner, it helps you to consolidate your own knowledge. This year we have been reliant on a small number of coaches and volunteers to run all the courses which has become onerous on those involved. The more people that help out – if only for one course per year – the more it lifts the burden on our regular helpers.

Items For Sale	Price
Adrian Hayes Longbow	£ 375.00
Recurve (Left Hand) Hoyt with 68-26 Limbs	£ 275.00
Junior Recurve - Wooden Riser (19") with 62-20 Limbs	£ 100.00
One Piece Recurve 69" - 38lb	p.o.a
Recurve - Samick riser and limbs (68-26)	£ 275.00
Junior Recurve - Wooden Riser (19") with 54-20 Limbs	£ 100.00
W&W Pro Accent Limbs 70-36	£ 120.00
Easton X23 (set of 12)	£ 100.00
WNS Riser + WNS Delta Limbs 66-24 + 24 Easton 1516 Arrows	£ 140.00
Full ILF Kit (2 set of limbs, long rod + v-bar etc.) Inc. 14 arrows	£ 275.00
Items Wanted	
30-35 lb. Longbow	

Full details of all items for sale can be found on the club website

VALLEY SMASHED THE COUNTY OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Euan - 918 - (no misses) - GMB score and won the U16 gent barebow. He also won overall junior gent's barebow
Mollie - U21 ladies recurve champ.
John - close 2nd in the gent's recurve. Pipped by Roger Castillo.

WELL, DONE WE ARE ALL PROUD OF YOU!

WA 50m Rounds

Looking back to 2010 there was no 50m round listed in the classification tables although a 50m Compound round was mentioned in relation to the "FITA Target Awards" badge scheme.

By 2012 the AGB Administrative Procedures included classifications for a 50m (80cm) round for all bow styles.

At some point after 2020 AGB Introduced the "50m Barebow" round (on a 122 face) and the 80cm round became the "WA 50m Compound" round.

In 2022 some rounds were renamed, Gentlemen/Ladies changed to Men/Women and age categories changed / amended - all to bring us into line with World Archery. Then on 1st January of this year the Classification and Handicap system was completely overhauled and everyone started from scratch again. New rounds called Metric 122-x and Metric 80-x (at distances from 30m, 40, and 50m) were introduced.

Golden Records is in use in many countries and although our version has the default set of AGB rounds loaded we have some flexibility over which rounds can be select when submitting a score. Until recently this has resulted in 6 different 50m rounds being available.

To remove any confusion this list has now been reduced to:

50m Barebow
50m Compound
Metric 122-50

With the following rounds made obsolete:

WA 50m Barebow (122 Face)
WA 50m Compound (80cm Face)

Final Thought Did you know that during the Ancient Scorton Arrow shoot there is a tradition that whenever someone swears, they have to pay a fine? The proceeds of the swear bag on May 20th contained £120.60. One wonders how much the Valley Bowmen contributed to this total?

Handicaps

As a result of the wholesale revision of the AGB handicap and classification scheme everyone started the year with no handicap and no classification - great news if you like collecting badges but not such good news if you are managing everyone's handicap and collating scores for handicap competitions.

When entering a Handicap competition, you need to have shot three recognised rounds (i.e., not 252's) in order to have a handicap value and thus be given a handicap allowance to be added to your score. If you have no handicap then you will be given a zero handicap and this the minimum handicap allowance.

At the St Georges' Day shoot we submitted all scores for the Handicap class into Golden Records for it to automatically generate everyone's handicap allowance and thus calculate their overall Handicap score. Being so early in the year many competitors, but not all, had yet to gain a handicap and thus all accrued a minimum handicap allowance.

However, we didn't spot that some competitors did have a handicap and that their overall Handicap score had been incorrectly calculated, as a result the results announced on the day were incorrect.

Unfortunately come the Longbow Memorial Shoot we still failed to spot that Golden records was not correctly calculating handicap allowances and thus the overall Handicap scores. In fact, it was the publication of the results that brought this error to light.

In fairness to the competition organisers, it was assumed that Golden Records was working correctly and also that the changes to the AGB handicap scheme have turned everything on its head.

In conclusion, please be assured that we have changed the way we calculate the handicap results for competitions and that we will be more vigilant in future.

Date	Event	Rounds	Location
11/06/23	South Leeds Archers Summer Open Tournament	Long Metrics	Woodkirk Valley FC Ground, Tingley, WF12 7JL
17/06/23	Junior Series Shoot - Stage 2	WA 720 and H2H	Woking
01/07/23	YAA Open WA1440 and Metrics	WA1440/Metrics	Grange Park Sports Club, Wetherby, LS22 5DY
19/08/23	Junior Series Shoot - Stage 4	WA720 and H2H	Meriden
20/08/23	South Leeds Archers Westerns Open	Westerns	Woodkirk Valley FC Ground, Tingley, WF12 7JL

Lord of the Bow

So, I was telling my friend about my prowess with a bow and arrow yesterday. I said "my best round ever didn't start so well, I only scored 1 point with each of my first two arrows. Got better after that, scored 2 with the next, then 3, then 5. On my 12th and final arrow, I managed to score 144."

He was quick to point out that this was impossible, so I had to confess it was a fibbin' archery sequence.