



# ASCHAM

*Civil Service Archery Association Newsletter*



April 2011

Hello again, and welcome to the April edition of your newsletter. As usual at this time of year, there is a lot of information to be published regarding the Regional Qualifiers, National Championships (Indoor and Outdoor) and Rep matches, and I'll try to keep it brief but include what's necessary. Also in this edition, I have the sad responsibility to publish not one but two obituaries, as Dr Alf Webb and Earl Pennell have passed away. Not knowing Earl, and only recently meeting Alf, I approached Vice President Bernard Moore for his thoughts, and they are included elsewhere in the Newsletter.

So without any further preamble, here goes...

## **Indoor Championships RAF Cranwell March 5th**

42 archers attended this year's Indoor Championships, 26 members, 4 associate members and 12 visitors. This number is lower than in recent years, but with the current economic climate seems to be the way tournaments are going this year. Nevertheless the quality of the field was not diminished, with some close competition particularly in Gents Recurve where Mike Regan shot a PB of 571 to take the title. Lorraine Burrow claimed the Ladies Recurve crown. *(Below)*



*Robin Jarvis and Anita Baily on the line*



Robin Jarvis reclaimed the Gents Compound scoring 577, and Pat Spragg won Ladies Compound. Len Furbank took the Longbow honours and unfortunately, there were no Ladies Longbow entered. A full list of scores and winners is available on the website.

On the following day, CSAA competed against PAAS in a rep match, consisting of teams of 6 archers (3 recurve, 2 compound and 1 longbow). PAAS ran out as winners with a cumulative score of 3175 to our own of 3090.

**Dr. Alf Webb Ph.D., L.L.A., F.R.A.I.(Ldn).**

Firstly, let me apologise for including the above list of qualifications; however, Alf would never have forgiven me if I had not! These were all obtained in what might be termed his second life that started when he finally escaped from what had become far too onerous a list of functions for Civil Service Archery at the end of the 1970s. At that time, I was pleased to help out in any way that I could and, as they say, the rest is history.

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Alf Webb passed away. His long term poor health, entirely due to injuries sustained in World War Two, finally got the better of him. After several years as a boy sailor, having runaway from home, he signed-up into the Army and did valuable work as an undercover agent in the Middle East and the Balkans. His extensive injuries were the result of a German 88mm shell exploding in the glider that he was piloting to deliver heavy artillery. With the very severe injuries, he could well have been left for dead, but it was only when he revealed that his "call sign" was "Spider Smythe" that he was rescued.

I come now to his love of archery. Prior to running away to sea, he had taken up with the bow, become very successful and indeed, the "Hatfield Dish awarded to the Lady Champion in longbow at our Nationals, is the very first trophy that he won of which he was justifiably proud. After massive amounts of surgery and rehabilitation after the War, he joined the GPO as a telephone engineer and this gave him the opportunity to create a Civil Service Archery Association in unison with others who were members of Princes Bowmen, the club based at Chiswick. There was a brief hiatus following the sudden and tragic death of his Wife but without his enthusiasm and dedication in the late 1950s, the 60s and much of the 70s, the Association could well have faltered and succumbed the way that many others have done.

His second "life" became possible when he, together with Harry and Ivy Gordon moved down to the Forest of Dean, tried to set-up a small holding with a B&B establishment and a local archery club(what else!). It was quickly realised that there was much local archaeology, some of it with connections to archery, leading to his string of qualifications at the top of this. He has written at least two books on the archaeology of the Forest and there is also one that records much of Alf's life history. Details of these are readily available from the Dean Archaeology Trust, as would be copies. It is an irony that one was just off the press when Alf died.

Good-bye friend; only you and I know how much is owed to you that we still have a Civil Service Archery Association. **Bernard Moore.**

I was lucky enough to purchase the second last copy of Alf's memoirs,( A Strange War) and what a fascinating read it is. He gave a short talk at Cheltenham after our 50th championships, and signed the book for me. Any one of the strands of Alfs life would be enough for most people, but when you take it as a whole, and consider the cards he was dealt, it can only confirm what an enormous character he was.

Last year, I was fortunate enough to be the co-winner of the Toxophilus Trophy awarded by GNAS for the best club newsletter. A few days after it was announced, I received a letter from Alf, congratulating me as well as telling me some of the history of the Trophy which was presented to GNAS by Civil Service Archery in 1967, and was in fact made by none other than the man himself! **Ed.**

## Regional Qualifiers

Listed opposite is a list of the Regional qualifiers that have been notified to Anita, Regional Rep Organiser as at the date of publication. If there is no date listed for your region, contact your local Regional Rep in the first instance NOT Anita!

The entry form for the National Championships on September 9th will be available very soon, either from me, or the website. This years event will be at Crystal Palace Bowmens ground, in Beckenham, South London, with accommodation in Croydon.

Membership fees (which are due on July 1st) must be up to date on the closing date of the competition in order to qualify for a reduction in entry fee. Standing order forms are available via the website, if needed. You will NOT be able to pay Membership fees at the National Championships.

It's worth reminding everyone that assistance is available from CSSC for travel and accommodation at the National Finals.

Criteria are as follows:-

**RECURVE** Ladies and Gents Champion, and the next two highest scores

**COMPOUND** Ladies and Gents Champion, and the next highest score

**LONGBOW** Ladies and Gents Champion.

Therefore for each region, a maximum team of 9 archers can claim for expenses. For this to happen though, there has to be a minimum turnout at each qualifier of 6 CSSC archers, so please support your local event, and who knows, we might see you in London!

## Regional Archery Qualifying Tournaments

London and South Eastern Regional Qualifier Championships will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am. Venue is the Civil Service Sports Club, Recreation Close, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5AZ. (This is off Junction 7 of the M20). London Regional rep. Anita Bailly: contact

[membership.secretary@csarchery.org.uk](mailto:membership.secretary@csarchery.org.uk), and South East regional rep. Ron Simpson: contact

[Crownarchers@hotmail.com](mailto:Crownarchers@hotmail.com)

Northern Ireland regional qualifier is being held on 4/5th June at Stormont pavilion grounds sighters at 10am. Contact Stephen Hand

NW CSSC Archery Championships are to be held at Assheton Bowmen, Tudor Lodge, Victoria Avenue East, New Moston, M40 5SH on Sunday 12 June 2011. Sighters at 9.30 am. Contact Wendy Hodkinson: [wendy.hodkinson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wendy.hodkinson@manchester.ac.uk)

The Midlands Regional Qualifier Championships will be hosted by TELFORD ARCHERS on Saturday, 02 July 2011. Sighters 10am National – Sighters approx 1pm. Venue: Blessed Robert Johnson School, Wellington, TELFORD TF1 3DY. Entries to: Martin Knowles, 8 Bader Close, Apley, TELFORD TF1 6YB Email: [mjknowles@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mjknowles@blueyonder.co.uk) Tel: 07954 604024

The South West archery regional qualifier is on the 5th August 2011. At Cheltenham CS Ground. Entries to: Ginger Parker: [albert.parker@sky.com](mailto:albert.parker@sky.com)

Scotland Region will hold the Regional Archery qualifiers on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Bridge of Allan Games Field. The round will be a FITA, assembly at 09.30. Contact Ciaran Murphy for more info , or see [www.scottisharchery.org.uk/](http://www.scottisharchery.org.uk/)

## Earl Pennell

After an extended illness, Earl Pennell passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> January. A very full eulogy was printed in the Spring 2011 issue of "Archery UK"; readers might like to read that in addition to what I write here.

To my mind, Earl was one of those Civil Service archers that epitomise what we are about. He was extremely good with his bow not only for himself but also as a team member when the occasion demanded it. There are very few who could look back upon having been CS Champion on four occasions and what is more, these four spanned no less fourteen years! However, it is as a loyal team member that I will remember Earl best; he shot in a CSSC team on thirteen occasions from 1969 to 1986, obtained his CSSC Colours in 1973 and was one of the recipients of the CSAA Super Colours when they were commissioned in the Millennium year. Probably my fondest memories were his readiness to "assist" other team members with their travel and accommodation arrangements and his undoubted abilities in consuming considerable volumes of both beer and whisky on the shooting line! What price drink driving?

Finally, I would like to write about the important part that Earl played in the setting-up of our annual match with the Royal Tox Society. It was the coincidence of Bill Terry, Hedley Featherstone from CSSC Head Office and Earl himself all being at the Lewes Nationals in the year 2000 that generated this match. Bill had only recently acquired a very old tankard that he thought would be of interest to us as it recorded a return match between the Civil Service and Royal Tox. Earl, already then an active member of Royal Tox was present to receive his CSAA Super Colours and Hedley representing CSSC at the Outdoor Finals with a mandate to generate additional activity within the Development Sport of archery. The resulting match is for the Strong Tankard with a partner one, the Hodgkinson Tankard for the Runners-up; it is an annual event, alternating between Burnham and Farnborough and covers all bow types, with a loading towards the longbow as one might expect.

Thank you Earl for being what you were, but equally importantly, for what you have left behind.

## **Rep matches Summer 2011**

Over the course of the Outdoor season, CSAA compete in three Rep matches against other associations, namely Per Ardua Ad Astra Archery (PAAS/RAF), The British Police (BPA) and the Royal Toxophilite Society (RTS). In practice the matches against PAAS and BPA are combined and held on one day, and for this year will be on July 15 at RAF Cranwell, the round being a York/Hereford. The date for the match against RTS has still to be fixed, but the venue should be at the RTS ground.

Team Manager for the Rep matches is one of our Vice presidents, Graham Plumb. Any member can be included in the team, but obviously Graham needs volunteers, so if you can make the dates, let Graham know well in advance so that you can be considered. You can email him at the address below, and please include some current scores so that he can make the best choice.

Email [graham@grahamplumb.me.uk](mailto:graham@grahamplumb.me.uk)

As editor, I am always looking for copy to be included, and I have to thank Steve and Kathryn Lester from Midlands Region who have risen to the challenge recently, supplying me with articles every few weeks for inclusion. If you have also set records like Kathryn, or been to a big tournament, or not so big, consider putting pen to paper, or finger to keyboard, and tell us about it...

## **CSAA Archer claims UK Record 17 April 2011**

CSAA Associate member Kathryn Lester took to the field at Droitwich Rugby club to compete in a UKRS Warwick round tournament. Run as one of only two UKRS Warwick round tournaments each year, Kathryn took this opportunity to try and set two new UK records for Ladies Longbow at the New and Long Warwick distances. Practice at 100 yards in the previous weeks had already bought her county records at the New Warwick, New Western and New National distances so her confidence was high going into this tournament run by Droitwich Archery club. Having been selected for the County of Worcester Archery squad for the 3 Counties match in Warrington for the same day bought a conflict of interest. However after much discussion she opted to withdraw from the county squad to support Droitwich's shoot already hit by county squad members not competing.

As per the rest of the UK the conditions were sunny and warm. Shooting a New Warwick round in the morning Kathryn managed some hits at 100 yards which put her in sight of the UK record. Problems at the change of distance to 80 yards saw her struggling to make any further headway until a change in foot position enabled her to find her range and she passed the UK record setting a new score of 33 double the old record of 15 set in 2010 at Fakenham. This score was also a PB, County and club record. After a celebratory cup of tea and a slice of cake it was time to move on to the Long Warwick.

A change of boss and shooting partners led to a disappointing start at 80 yards which she was unable to claw back at 60 yards leaving her 30 short of a second UK record although her score of 50 was a new county record but 21 short of her PB.

With a tan and records (subject to ratification not the tan) Kathryn was pleased with her efforts in her first year of shooting longbow.

## **WMAS & County of Worcestershire Championships 06/03/2011.**

Three members of the Civil Service Archery Association made their way to Evesham for the above Indoor Championship. They were Sarah Trout (MOD), Mark Renouf (DWP) and Kathryn Lester (Associate). Sarah would be shooting in the Ladies Compound event, Mark in the recurve and Kathryn in the Ladies Longbow. Two of the archers Mark and Kathryn had already shot at RAF Cranwell the day before. Surprisingly Kathryn knew 2 on her boss for the 6th already, team mate Tony Carter and "The Grip" Liam Grimwood, imagine her surprise when she found the 4th person was none other than Mark, who was 2 bosses away at Cranwell. Archery is a very small world. For Sarah and Kathryn this was their Regional and County Championships with Mark shooting as a visitor.

This event had also attracted a number of Internationals. Naomi Folkard was in the Ladies Recurve, Liam Grimwood in the Mens Compound alongside Andy

Rikunenko. Sarah found herself up against Nicky Hunt and Mark was up against Mike Peart. With all these internationals, life was going to be tough on the target. Kathryn the current WMAS & CWAA Outdoor champion had no opposition as the 3 spot vertical face had put off all of the women Longbowers apart from her and the men were pulling out leaving only former UK indoor champion Lee Ankers to shoot. Having shot a PB, club and County Portsmouth record the day before Kathryn was in good form although she was to spend her session sandwiched between team mate Jon Nott and Liam Grimwood.

Sarah was first up on home soil as she shoots for Evesham AC, in session A. She therefore had to juggle shooting, scoring and admin duties throughout her session and ended up with a score of 526. This was enough to give her second place in both the WMAS & CWAA Champs. At the end she was within 50 points of Nicky Hunt's winning score as the UK no 1 took the Visitors title. Session B saw her doing more admin and supporting her CSAA colleagues.

Mark was in session B shooting after Kathryn on the same boss. He was up against the best that the West Midlands and Worcestershire had to offer. They all had the added pressure that as I was spectating, not shooting, one of them would be last for a change. He also had to contend with GBR International and UK NO 2 Mike Peart. Mark shot a 548 beating everyone except Mike Peart who shot a 578 to win, so took second place in the Visitors category. Mark also won the C classification medal.

Kathryn's nerves got to her early on as shooting between Jon and Liam was quite daunting as they banged in the 10's. After settling down she shot well and her shot of the day was an X10 on an end "The Grip" could only get 9's on. She said "I think he smiled as I called it" She finished with 185 which although 46 below her PB was enough to give her a second Worcestershire county record in as many days. This now meant she was WMAS & CWAA Indoor and Outdoor Champion.

A good day for the CSAA with one champion and 2 Runners up. The only sour point of the proceedings is that both Kathryn and Mark were omitted from the medal presentations due to an oversight on the organisers part, although a written apology to both has been made. The Civil Service can still teach the private sector a few things then.

With club mates Naomi Folkard also winning and setting a UK record, Jon Nott taking 3rd place in the Mens Compound and JU/14 Meg Bow taking 2nd place in the Junior girls Recurve it had also been a good day for Kathryn's local club.

Sarah's club mates also picked up silverware to add to hers. Her dad Ian took 2nd in the Veterans Compound, 2nd place in WMAS and Champion in CWAA Mens Recurve. Other winners were Junior Girls Champion, 2nd in Boys Recurve and Mens Compound and 2nd in Team Recurve to rivals Redditch AC.

As a footnote after a day of rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> (well I say rest we visited a well known midland archery shop for a new tab) Kathryn did some outdoor practice shooting a New Warwick. She promptly set a PB, Club and County Record of 32 which nearly doubled the current UK record. Shame it was just practice. She then shot a Long Warwick straight afterwards which was another PB, also being higher than her current club record, the County record and 9 short of the UK record.

See you on the shooting line....

**Steve and Kathryn Lester**

Midlands CSSC.

**At RAF Cranwell, the welcome party**

(front left to right)  
Ted Burnham , judge  
Mike Hesketh Roberts, chairman  
Sir Anthony Battishill, President  
Lady Heather Battishill, Lady Paramount  
Wendy Hodkinson Vice President  
Bernard Moore Vice President



Mark Renouf (South West)  
Gents Recurve Champion Mike Regan (South west)



Robin Jarvis at the PAAS championships (don't worry, he knew I was taking this photo as I had marched from one side of the hall to the other, camera in hand!

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