

# THE FESTER



JANUARY 2022 ISSUE | WRITTEN BY MARK GARDINER, FREYA HEALEY, PAUL COMINA, ALISON FAUTLEY

## ST NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS EVENT



"It's Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, and finally time for our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual St Nicholas Christmas Fun Shoot! One-word springs to mind: FOG! This did not, however, sway the 27 archers who braved the weather to show off their Christmas jumpers, hats, and even a tea cosy! As always, we hosted this shoot as a handicap event, shooting 7 dozen arrows at 40, 30 yards (for the St Nicholas) and 30,20 yards (for Santa's Lil Helper). By the end of the first distance, stomachs began to rumble and rather than "aim, shoot, repeat", things soon became "aim, shoot, when do we eat"? As always, Helen came up trumps with freshly cooked bacon rolls and hot drinks. Everything went down exceptionally well indeed! A few of us did wonder whether the second half would be called off as everyone looked rather comfortable curled up around their mugs.

The second half did commence, and back out into the cold we went once again for some fine shooting in the fog. Finally, prize giving took place in the pavilion, with lots of chocolate and smiles. Congratulations to all of those who won their category, and to everyone who took part. It's the enjoyment of the archery that counts, after all. With all the happy goodbyes said at the end, I think this was greatly achieved. Many thanks to everyone who got stuck into setting up and taking down the field. I must admit, when putting the rope out, I thought I might need another one to find my way back to the shooting line! Many thanks, also, to Katherine and Paul for arranging the event, and finally to our two Lord Paramount's (may their Christmas jokes be better next year... they cannot get any worse)!"

Written by Mark Gardiner (Club Secretary)

## JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 Monthly Shoot: American  
Fri 7<sup>th</sup> 18:30 Indoors: Portsmouth  
Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 13:00 Winter Coaching Session 3  
Thu 13<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Committee Meeting  
Fri 14<sup>th</sup> 18:30 Indoors: Worcester  
Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Berkshire AA AGM  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> 18:30 Indoors: Portsmouth  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> 18:30 Indoors: Portsmouth  
Sun 30<sup>th</sup> 12:00 Winter Clout Shoot

## MEET THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



### Hi, we are Helen and Freya!

#### OUR ROLE ON THE COMMITTEE

We are the tournament organisers for the Indoor Friendly shoot in February. Helen is also Catering Officer for the club.

#### OUR ARCHERY EXPERIENCE

Freya: I have been shooting barebow as a Junior for 5 years and moved into the senior category this summer. My favourite type of archery is target archery, but I have recently discovered the fun of Clout archery and am looking forward to doing this more often in the new year!

Helen: I don't shoot! But I am often to be found crocheting on the waiting line while Freya shoots, or cooking bacon butties at competitions!

#### DID YOU KNOW

A competition of clout archers can consume 5kg of bacon within 30 minutes?!

#### EMAIL

[indoorfriendly@harlequinbowmen.org.uk](mailto:indoorfriendly@harlequinbowmen.org.uk)

# HARLEQUIN HAWKEYE'S

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

"On December 11<sup>th</sup>, a small group of Young Archers ventured down to the field for our first social shoot! We started off the first of many with a super fun Christmas themed round (similar to the November Fireworks Shoot). In teams, we shot lots of different and challenging ends such as 'Red Robin' where only hitting the red scored you points. The targets were also covered in Christmas stickers, each hit scoring us 25 points for our team! We did all of this, and more shooting club bows and arrows – and we shot WRONG HANDED! It's a lot more difficult than it sounds... Although there was only a small group of us, this social event was a great way to get to know some of the other Young Archers, and hopefully we'll have another one soon with even more archers joining us! Thank you Alex, Charlie, Hannah, and Freya for attending, and thank you to Katherine for organizing such a fun shoot!"

Written by Freya Healey (Competitions Committee)

## NEWEST MEMBERS

This year has seen a MULTITUDE of new Young Archers of all ages. It has been so lovely to see so many of us down the field regularly, shooting indoors, outdoors, at events, and clout! No one is afraid to give anything a go and that's simply awesome to see! I thought it would be nice to welcome all of our new Young Archers who have joined the club this year, by giving them their own space in the newsletter. A warm welcome (in no particular order) to: Dan, Jay, Isabel, Alex, Charlie, Michael, Joe, Ollie, Trisha, Evie, and Matilda! We sincerely hope you've enjoyed being with us at Harlequin Bowmen so far and wish you a very happy year of shooting ahead!

## ACHIEVEMENTS

It wouldn't be an epic year of archery for our Young Archers without something to write home about. We've seen achievement after achievement this year, and everyone deserves to sing their own praise. I asked our Young Archers what their proudest achievement was this year, and here is what they had to say:

**Henry:** "Being the first to shoot the Christmas Pudding on the first end of the St Nicholas shoot!"

**Joe:** "Getting the best Junior Gold at the Club Championships in the summer!"

**Freya:** "Achieving my Indoor Recurve D Classification whilst shooting barebow!"

**Amy:** "Getting back into archery and taking part in the St Nicholas shoot (shooting the Santa's Lil Helper round)!"

**Lauren:** "Achieving my Metric Red Clout Tassel, shooting the adult distance!"

**Katherine:** "Gaining my Indoor Recurve C Classification after nearly 5 years!"

**Hannah:** "Being part of the Archery GB team and being invited to stay at NAG in 2022, continuing my work towards my Olympic dream!"

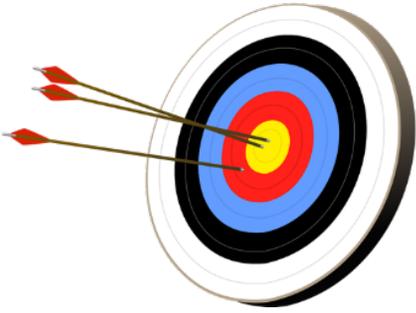


## CHRISTMAS JOKE COMPETITION

This year, for our St Nicholas Christmas Shoot, we asked you to enter your BEST Christmas joke... there are some pretty corny ones in the mix I must admit! We want you to vote for your favourites! Click on the link below to view all of this year's Christmas jokes, select your THREE favourite jokes, and we'll be announcing the competition winners in our next newsletter!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfM2DO4uNfPNoLOCUWWqOgZsgL--NYqNYFdaZbcot6gqkqDw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

# GOAL SETTING



## COACHING TIP OF THE MONTH

Set yourself some simple goals for what you want to achieve in 2022, then think about how the club can help you get there.

Contact [coaching@harlequinbowmen.org.uk](mailto:coaching@harlequinbowmen.org.uk) and let us know what you want/need from us. We'll try to offer something for everyone.

# SETTING TARGETS

WORDS FROM OUR COACHING OFFICER

Happy New Year! It's great to be able to say that phrase every January; it triggers thoughts of resolution and looking forward to a year ahead that is positive and full of opportunities. The challenge, often, is on deciding what those opportunities will be. Every year, I set myself some broad goals for what I wish to achieve in my archery. In 2021, the lockdown in January meant that I only really wanted to 'get back on the range' and perhaps keep technique/performance at 'first class' level. This year, all being well, we are in a different position (yes, I have heard of the phrase 'tempting fate')!

For me, then, in 2022:

GOAL 1: Compete more. I really missed competitive clout over the last 2 years and want to try to get back to a more normal competition level, enjoy meeting archery friends from across the UK, and improve my National ranking. Aspirational goal: achieve at least one Grand Master Bowman score in competition... I've done it once before, 4 years ago!

GOAL 2: Obtain at least 1 recurve round ranked at 'Bowman' level. I have plateaued at 1<sup>st</sup> class for 7 years, but last year things really seemed to CLICK, and I saw some progress in performance, mostly due to tweaking some aspects of my technique.

Next question: How can I achieve these goals? Goal 1 is a time commitment... not wholly within my control but, with planning, achievable. For my Bowman scores, this dictates that I shoot regularly at 100 yards... so I expect to be shooting lots of 'NEW' rounds: New Nationals, New Westerns, etc.

The performance aspects of both goals will need to be underpinned by technique so working with a coach would help. What parts of my technique are already good? What needs developing? And that's it... a year of archery 'planned' in 20 minutes! It's rough, not detailed in any way yet, but it gives me a focus for the year ahead in terms of my archery. Now all I've got to do is put it into action. What will your goals for 2022 be?

Written by Paul Comina (Coaching Officer)

## JOIN THE NEW HARLEQUIN CLOUT TEAM

In 2022, we're launching a Clout Initiative. We're proposing the formation of an official Harlequin Bowmen Clout Team – a group of archers, of all ages and bow types, to take to the fields and tour the country going to clout events TOGETHER! There really is nothing quite like setting up your kit with a sea of blue Harlequin tops dotted up and down the bow line. Getting to know and make friends with other archers all over the country. The family feel of it when we're all sat together for breaks and award ceremonies, going home with our fair share of smiles and lots to celebrate. If this sounds like something you want to be a part of, we encourage you to join the team. We're putting together a calendar of possible events to attend this year, so if you're interested in attending some, most of, or all of these events, let us know! This new initiative is for everyone and anyone who loves clout and don't worry if you're new – we've done this plenty to be able to help you if you need: extra clout sessions (I'll never say no), transport, etc. I promise you a GREAT experience regardless.

Interested? Contact Katherine:  
[juniors@harlequinbowmen.org.uk](mailto:juniors@harlequinbowmen.org.uk)



## YOU FEATURE: ALISON & ALEX FAUTLEY

"Hi, this is Alison and Alex Fautley, and we are new members at Harlequin Bowmen! We joined the club at the end of August 2021 after completing a beginner's course run by Paul, ably supported by Katherine, Hannah, and several others on his coaching team. It was great for Alex to meet and be taught by other teens as well as adults, and the course was a great way to get into the sport and meet new people. Everyone at the club has been very friendly, welcoming, and encouraging.

The mini-clout competition and wand shoot during the beginners' course inspired us to join on the Club Championships in September, even though we were absolute novices. We both came away with medals and Alex even won the trophy for Best Junior Clout which has pride and place on our mantelpiece and is his achievement of the year! We try to shoot every week, even now it's colder and have also been to the indoor sessions at John Mason school. Alex is including Archery in his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and Hannah, as his coach, is keeping an eye on his progress.

After the success of the Club Championships, we've been to the November Fireworks Shoot – we both really enjoyed the target games – and the St Nicholas Christmas Event this month where we both brought home trophies and chocolates! The bacon sandwiches and hot chocolate to warm us up were highlights and we had lots of laughs trying to shoot the Santa's Lil Helper! We're both looking forward to shooting further distances and (hopefully) getting more golds and badges in 2022!"

Written by Alison Fautley.



## "Same time next Sunday?"

As the years go, 2021 has been a rather non-existent year for clout. Or maybe that's just me giving our committee a nudge and asking for more clout shoots. Lately, a small but merry group of archers have been heading down to the field nearly every Sunday afternoon this winter, to shoot a clout round or two. It's been great! We've seen newbies and oldies down the flag range, and it really is such a joy to see everyone getting back into the swing of things, getting great scores, and setting new personal bests! As well as our usual Sunday clout, we've had archers attend both our own Harlequin Bowmen Clout Weekend in June, and the National Clout Championships in October. Here's a snapshot of some of the great clout achievements from this year!

Neil Bennett – BB 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Lauren Comina – BB 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Red Metric Tassel (at adult distance)!

Paul Comina – BB Bowman Class

Alan Inglis – BB 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Black Metric Tassel, White GNAS Tassel

Sam Taylor – BB Bowman Class

Bob Goodenough – White Club Tassel

Chloe Pink – White Club Tassel

## ENTRIES NOW OPEN: FEBRUARY INDOOR FRIENDLY

Entries are now open for our annual Indoor Friendly Competition. This indoor friendly shoot is non-record status and is suitable for archers of all abilities and ages, particularly those who want to try a competition in a relaxed environment and for those new to archery. Morning and afternoon sessions are available on both Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This event takes place at John Mason Sports Hall (our usual indoor shooting venue). To find our more and to enter now, click on the link below:

<https://www.harlequinbowmen.org.uk/event-info/indoor-friendly-shoot-2022>

**DISCLAIMER:** Commencement of this event will depend on COVID safety rules and regulations at the time.

# THE JESTER NEEDS YOU

## WE NEED WRITERS!

Our monthly newsletter can't run without content! We need YOU, members of Harlequin Bowmen, to send in your stories! Whether that's an advert for an event you're planning on going to, a piece on a competition that you've attended, something you've achieved recently, anything! If you have an idea for a piece that you'd like to see in next months issue, send it in!

We're open to all and any suggestions. We ask that all pieces remain within 200-300 words and if you have any photographs to go with them, don't forget to send those in too! And don't worry, we'll do all the spell checking for you!

Send in your ideas to [juniors@harlequinbowmen.org.uk](mailto:juniors@harlequinbowmen.org.uk) and we'll get them published! We are very grateful to any and all contributors. Thank you!



## YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF 2021

This year, we want to celebrate all the highs of an excellent year at Harlequin Bowmen by asking YOU what you are most proud of achieving this year. It could be ANYTHING – getting a new classification, shooting a six-gold end, just getting back onto the range, you name it! If you're proud of something you achieved this year, whatever it may be, send it in! WE WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!

You can enter your greatest achievement now by filling out the form below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp6esixpX\\_ZPrbMjtIMKAKOjiMQ8\\_spmSLXUb4rH-gim60YQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp6esixpX_ZPrbMjtIMKAKOjiMQ8_spmSLXUb4rH-gim60YQ/viewform)

We will be publishing everyone's achievements in our next newsletter! Don't be modest, don't be shy!

