



Bowmen of Ardleigh
Small Newsletter No. 133
July 2022



So, here I am, sitting in front of a blank document screen on the computer with an equally blank brain, wondering where to start. Those among you who have experience of my offerings will know that this situation is usually only temporary and once I do begin I have some difficulty in stopping, so here we go.

I'll begin with an item a little out of order but just a touch momentous in the history of Ardleigh. We have achieved our 100th member. Ella had her first session with us on Sunday 17th July 2022.

Ella had tried Archery a couple of times before while on holiday, as many do. As also can be expected, there was a little phase when someone is trying something new and feeling just a touch awkward, like a bow with a sight rather than barebow, which is what most people on holiday try first, and an under the chin anchor point, etc.

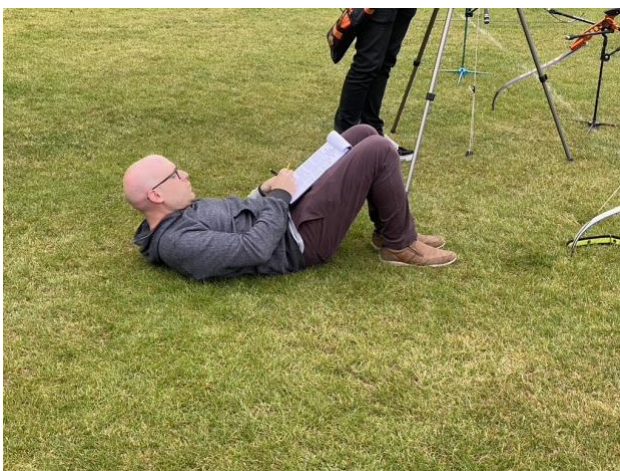
What was worthy of remark is that Ella took to these things like "a duck to water" and developed a good style quite quickly so, well done Ella!

On 22nd May, Alex Nolan set a new Club record for an Under 12 Gentlemen's Junior Warwick, scoring 261 and on 12th June, Mia Phillips set a new Club record for the Under 14 Ladies Junior Warwick with a score of 362.

		Score	Hits	Golds
1	Sam Mortimer	816	108	52
2	Alex Sarzi-Sartori	814	108	44
3	Chris Pollard	796	108	48
4	DaveCook	764	108	39
5	Ken Dell	751	107	32
	Totals	3941	539	215
6	Chris Lowe	730	102	41
7	Chris Phillips	725	107	29

On the 5th June we had our first match in the Essex Summer Windsor League. This was to be with West Essex visiting us but sadly they were unable to field a team. The result on the day was a win for Ardleigh! We have just one match remaining, away to Chelmsford Tudor Rose at Writtle College Sports Field, Fox Burrows Lane, Chelmsford CM1 3SS on 7th August.

These matches are a good opportunity to experience what it's like to shoot in unfamiliar surroundings with different archers. The other good thing is that the home team put everything out and put it away. (plus there is usually a League tea after!)



Alex felt a little tired after his exertions on the day and tents were considered necessary, just in case it rained but it remained dry on the day

Our Monthly Spoon Shoot for June was on the 12th and the results were as follows.

Pos	Name	Round	H/C	ALO	Score	Total
1	Chris Phillips	New Warwick	49	1273	191	1464
2	Tom Nolan	Warwick	53	1168	290	1458
3	Mia Phillips	Junior Warwick	55	1091	362	1453
4	Sophie Pollard	Warwick	64	1283	161	1444
5	Kieron Phelan	Long Warwick	56	1269	143	1412
6	Sam Mortimer	Long Warwick	43	1142	269	1411
7	Chris Pollard	Long Warwick	44	1150	225	1375

For our newer members, the “ALO” is the allowance for the handicap you achieve when you’ve completed three “rounds”. A number of people don’t put their scores into our Records Officers

because they don’t think the totals gained are “good enough”. Please be assured that these are the very rounds you should put in because, as your shooting improves, your allowances will certainly go down. The indoor and outdoor handicaps are separate so you need to shoot three rounds there as well. If there is a tie on total scores then the greater number of scoring arrows is the first “tie breaker” and if these are the same then the number of golds decides. If these also are the same then both share the placing.

Back in the day when I joined Ardleigh, we all bought a set of Archery Rules from the then “Grand National Archery Society” and these included a set of handicap tables so you could keep track of what your handicap should be and check the Records Officer (only an Outdoor one then) was doing his job properly. We now have programmes on iphones, computers (“Golden Records”), etc. that can sort out your handicap for you. At the risk of sounding like a dinosaur, this technology and the trust people have in it means that people don’t always fully understand how the system works and it’s very logical, really.

If anyone really wants to know how it works I can certainly show them, if I have a set of tables with me.

Anyway, it’s worthwhile to have a set of Archery Rules to work with and you can download these for free from the Archery GB website (archerygb.org).



Also on the 12th June, Michael was presented with the Bill Tucker Trophy from the Essex County Archery Association for 2021 by Paul Clark the Essex President. This award is made to people who, in the opinion of a county panel, have provided some service to the Essex and Suffolk County Archery Association.

The nomination for the award was made by Ardleigh, and the citation includes that, “like a lot of clubs, membership suffered during the Covid lockdowns. Whilst clubs around us have folded due to lack of members, Michael has been instrumental in bringing in approximately 40 new members with the number still increasing.

“It is his ability to communicate and connect with people that has attracted our new members, together with endless hours responding to enquiries and running beginners’ courses. Not ending there, Michael is always on hand to advise and encourage.

“We can honestly say, without Michael’s enthusiasm, we would most likely have closed. Thanks to him we are thriving again.”

My thanks for my successful nomination. That said, I observed on the day that I really couldn’t have done it without the support of our members so really, this award isn’t just for me, but for our Club.



. Shown here are the shooting, the scoring and the prizes on the day.



Clout Archery has a base in Mediaeval battle practice with targets up to 180 yards away. The target is for arrows scoring between 5 for a gold and one for a white and five points within a radius of 12 feet.

Our 52nd Annual Clout Championships took place on 3rd July, when these pictures were taken. The wind on the day was “variable” which made things interesting but it wasn’t a bad day overall! There were members who had never shot this discipline before and next year we’ll probably have a practice session before the actual shoot takes place, as we do with our Field Championships. There is a requirement by Archery GB that archers have received instruction in this type of shooting before unleashing them in Clout Competitions away from their Club and the people taking part have now certainly had that! You can sometimes see where the arrows drop but not how far they’ve gone, until you get to the scoring area (and the “not scoring area”). The full results can be found at the end of this newsletter.



Back in the day, when the Earth was young and before we had indoor shooting facilities, we practiced Clout and Field shooting through the winter season, October to March, alternating between each weekend and we produced some very good archers in both disciplines, including County Champions. Now it’s perhaps more of a novelty but practice does help, as with all Archery. Clout shooting when it’s snowing can be very interesting!

Clout shooting is also the only time we can use arrows only made of carbon or fibreglass on our field as it’s used by other sports than ours, and the general public for dog walking, etc. and Archery GB require all arrows must be found on the day so do keep a track of how many arrows you have in your quiver.

Easton have ceased to make the A/C/C shafts most archers use nowadays so the only ones they have on offer that can be used on our field are either Aluminum or more expensive carbon/aluminium A/C/Es (as they’re American this stands for “Aluminium/Carbon/Extremes”!) or X10s that you have to buy in 12s. Easton seem to think that clubs that can’t use

all carbon shafts are a bit weird (it would seem it's only UK Clubs that have a problem, probably because most of them don't own their own grounds or, if they rent, don't have sole use of them) so the sooner some enterprising manufacturer, preferably British, comes up with an alternative the better. Sherwood Archery Products were making aluminium arrows more than 50 years ago so I'm sure the technology and expertise will still be around. There is obviously the problem and cost of creating a manufacturing system that includes carbon but there really is a wide-open market here if they do. In my opinion (and they won't be in the least bit worried about my opinion) Easton have had it mostly their own way for far too long.

Our Monthly Spoon Shoot took place on 10 July and the results were as follows.

Pos	Name	Round	H/C	Score	ALO	Total
1	Stephen Wood	Short Warwick	67	283	1252	1535
2	Sophie Pollard	Warwick	64	162	1283	1445
3	Thomas Nolan	Warwick	52	267	1159	1426
4	Ken Dell	Short Warwick	68	150	1263	1413
5	Chris Pollard	New Warwick	44	189	1219	1408
6	Alex Sarzi-Sartori	New Warwick	44	158	1219	1377
7	Dave Cook	New Warwick	48	102	1262	1364
8	Sam Mortimer	New Warwick	43	140	1208	1348

If an archer's score total is 1440 it means they've shot to their handicap rating. If it's silly better, like Steve's, then it's a lot more. This does, however, play havoc with his handicap rating. With his rating of 67, his score on this day for a Short Warwick (24 arrows at 40 yards and 24 at 30 yards) was to a rating of 58

so Steve's new rating is 63. This means that the next time Steve shoots this particular round and there are handicaps involved then he'd only get an allowance of 1210.

In my attempts to explain how the handicapping system works, I think I've just shown why people leave this arcane task to Records Officers. As I said, it's really quite logical!

We held the last of our "Summer Series" of beginners' sessions on Sunday 24th July. This was very well-attended, both by new archers and members who came to help. The help of our members is pivotal to the success of these sessions, as is the help they give when people join us to help them "settle in". Our membership now stands at 109 and, for the present, we're seeing how many of our current members renew their memberships when they are due in September before arranging any more of our special introductory sessions.

That said, we do intend resuming them as soon as we have reviewed our membership numbers, probably towards the last quarter of 2022.

While on the subject of beginning archers, please be aware of our entreaties about buying things! Wait before buying anything in the way of bows, arrows, etc. Advice is always available at our Club and at reputable dealers and getting the right equipment (for you) is most important. If you really can't control the urge to spend, a tab (finger guard) and an arm guard (bracer) that's right for you isn't a bad idea, especially as it saves you having to adjust straps, etc. each time you pick one out of our boxes of beginners' stuff. Also please bear in mind that for a new archer, the last place to buy anything is on the internet. Go to a reputable Archery Retailer. There's a branch of Merlin Archery at Rettendon, just the other side of Wickford. You'll need to make an appointment but before you go, we can measure your draw length and recommend the length of arrows you need, the length(s) of bows suitable for your build and what extra bits and bobs you'll probably require. There are other things that you possibly don't need to be found as well. I can provide a shopping list of what you really need. Personally, I still find Archery shops are very tempting places and seldom come out of one unscathed.

For our members who we haven't seen much of over the last few months, we look forward to seeing you when your circumstances permit. We do appreciate that things change and people can't always find time for all they hope to do. Our best wishes for the future also go to Steve, Anthea and Antonia who are moving away. Just a final note to also thank members who've kindly provided photographs for inclusion in these offerings.



BOWMEN OF ARDLEIGH
52nd Clout Championships
Sunday 3rd July 2022

Single Clout Round

The weather was grey and overcast but warm with a light breeze. The shoot was well attended with 21 taking part. The scores for those who shot in the competition last year are shown in brackets. Next year's Lewis Trophy award will be made using this year's scores.

Ladies' Barebow (140 yards)	Score	Awards
1 Maria Coppens	33 (37)	Trophy and Gold Medal
2 Claire Jones	18 (14)	Silver Medal
3 Sheron Easter	Retired	

Gentlemen's Recurve (180 yards)

1 Paul Campion	49 (44)	
2 Dave Cook	46	Trophy and Gold Medal
3 Colin Vaughan	42	
4 Ken Dell	50 (56)	Silver Medal
6 Chris Lowe	14 (50)	(9 hits)
7 Gary Knopp	14 (22)	(7 hits)
8 Michael Warman	13	
9 Sam Mortimer	10	
10 Nigel Moynihan	10	
11 Alex Sarzi-Sartori	6	
12 Barrie Green	4	(2 hits)
=12 Steve O'Niel	4	(2 hits)
14 Howard Green	2	
15 Steven Wood	1	

Gentlemen's 140 Yards

1 Tom Nolan	20	Gold Medal
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Gentlemen's Longbow (140 yards)

1 Colin Elliott	17	Gold Medal
2 Simon Elliott	13	Silver Medal

Ladies (80 yards)

1 Stephanie Hoppe	Retired	
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Junior Girls Under 14 (80 Yards)

1 Mia Phillips	51	Gold Medal
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Lewis Trophy, awarded for the most improvement on last year's Championship score. 18 members improved their scores from last year this award and **Paul Campion** was first with an improvement of 5 points.

Thanks again to the members who helped lay out and put away the field for this "once a year day". It's quite a task putting out the ropes and flags to take in a much bigger area but we must accord with the GNAS Rules for shooting Clout and we're fortunate we have the room to do it on our field. Thanks also go to Chris Lowe for arranging and measuring the field, Alex and Chris for controlling the shooting and Jan Lowe for arranging the trophies and awards and presenting them.