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Cover photo by RE & T.



**Buy NEW
FAN UK patches**

At the request of many readers - and to celebrate entering my 10th year of "Field Archery News UK" online magazine - here is the brand new 2025 patch!



You can purchase patches via PayPal at <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/FANUKHels> or please email fieldarcherynewsukmagazine@gmail.com to request an alternative way to pay.

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FAN UK presents...

“Stick, String & Great Expectations”

- My Journey into Field Archery

by Andy Smith.

Field archery has become a new love of mine, an unexpected but deeply fulfilling passion. What first started as curiosity has grown into a full-blown obsession, especially with traditional styles and the timeless elegance of the longbow. Along the way, I've met incredible archers, each with their own stories and styles and I've found my place among them.

My collection has grown, too. A few bows now adorn my wall, each with its own character and a plethora of arrows... some pristine, others in need of repair or ready to be sacrificed back to the archery gods. 😊 The cedar ones are my favourite as they smell amazing, especially when they go out with a bang with spectacular flair. 😊



From Target to Traditional

Like many, I started with target archery, spending a few years shooting an Olympic Recurve. All the bells and whistles were there, but so was the weight and something was missing. I couldn't shake the feeling that I needed a longbow.

It was a quiet pull, a whisper I couldn't ignore.

Eventually, I took the plunge and bought a longbow, even before joining a field archery club. I figured I'd shoot it at my target club. Then I heard about the Black Arrow experience days and that changed everything.

The Black Arrow Experience

I signed up without hesitation and was introduced to Mike Haslam, who welcomed me to Black Arrow Woods.

I didn't know what to expect, but I was handed a training bow, went through the necessary induction with the coach and I was then sent around the course.



The lower poundage made it manageable, but the real magic was in the setting: the woods, the shot placements, the relaxed atmosphere and it was everything I didn't know I was looking for. Everyone was welcoming and the environment put me at ease. I loved it so much that I returned for the next three Saturdays,



this time with my longbow. Sure, I broke a lot of arrows at first, but that's part of the fun. Soon after, I joined the Black Arrow Field Archers club and I've never looked back. Target archery has its place, but it's no longer mine. I even introduced my brother and after one go, he was hooked ... "We're staying here now!" he said - "It's so cool."



The Bow Collection

My collection has evolved. I sold my Olympic Recurve within the club, it had lost its magic compared to the longbow.

The variety of styles in the club led me to purchase a traditional flatbow and that's when I met Pip Bickerstaffe again.

Meeting the Master - Pip Bickerstaffe

Pip is a grand old gentleman and a stalwart of traditional archery.

Our meeting turned into a two-hour chat over tea, covering everything archery and a lot of Pip banter too.

He brought out numerous bow styles for me to try and we talked about how I wanted to shoot, which then made me remember buying my longbow and his trick.



The Trick

After trying quite a few bows and seeing different types of wood, Pip handed me what felt like a piece of metal - "What about that?" he asked.

I was totally confused, how could metal work in a bow? Then I saw the glint in his eye that he'd got me! It was snakewood, an exotic South American wood, so dense it doesn't float, really!

He had a few pieces available for the belly of the bow and once I saw a finished piece, I knew that it was the one for me.

Within six weeks she was ready.

*Yes, **she!** Bows have personalities and names.*

When Pip unveiled her from the canvas bag, it was like revealing a masterpiece.

She was 76½ inches long, 45lbs and stunning. The wax smell was comforting and I knew she was special.

*Her name is "**Estella**" - elegant, beautiful and unforgiving if treated poorly... ask my brother... he's been bitten a few times!*

Estella shoots like a dream: smooth draw, clean release and arrows that fly true.

Pip knows his craft, no doubt about it.

*Getting back on track to the flatbow, there's "**Old Joe**", my new flatbow.*

At 75 inches, he's made of Hickory, Purpleheart and Osage. Another Bickerstaffe creation - solid, forgiving and reliable with the same delight to shoot.

*And then finally, we can't forget the aptly named "**Pip**" - named after the upstart in Great Expectations, you're probably seeing a pattern here with the names.*



He's a two-piece Mandarin Duck Devourer longbow (AFB), my winter companion when it's too cold for the traditional bows.

Compact, punchy and beautifully designed, Pip is a great all-rounder with a satisfying sound on release.



My take on the Longbow

At heart, I'll always be drawn to the longbow. There's something magical about the simplicity of stick and string. It's just you - no gadgets, no distractions. You find your zen and from there, it's all glory. The only competition is yourself and the goal is always the next better shot.

People ask, "Why choose the longbow when there are so many modern options?" For me, it's the graceful art of traditional archery. It makes you smile like a Cheshire cat, even when you didn't realise you were searching for it.

I was once told: "The longbow is the easiest to shoot and the hardest to master."

I get it now and I wouldn't have it any other way.

*So, here's to having more Great Expectations
and a continued love for field archery.*

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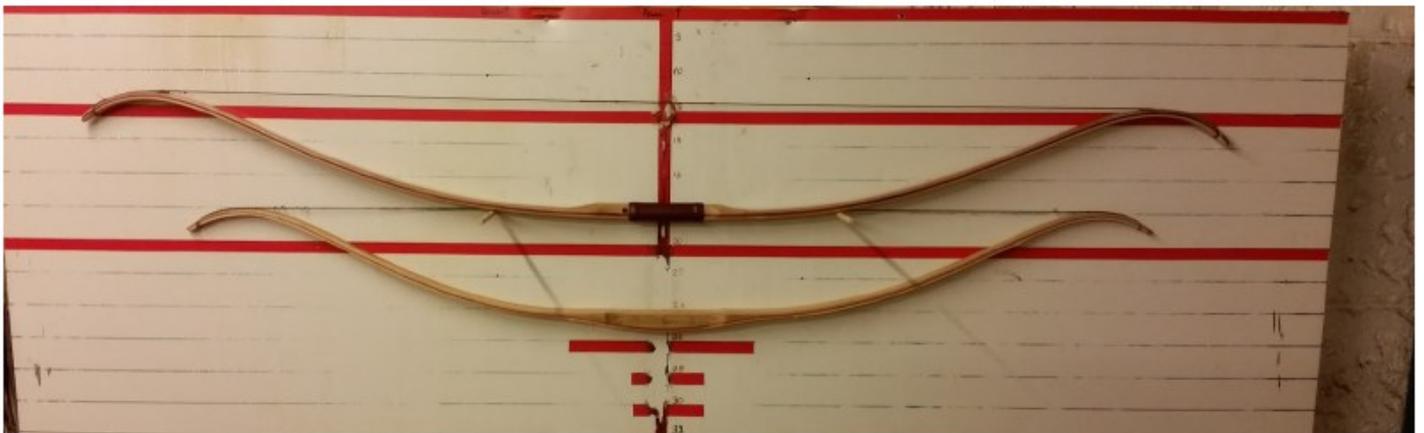
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NEW WEBSHOP COMING SOON!



Photographer: Doc Smith

Location: Dunbrody Archers' 100 3D shoot, 2024.

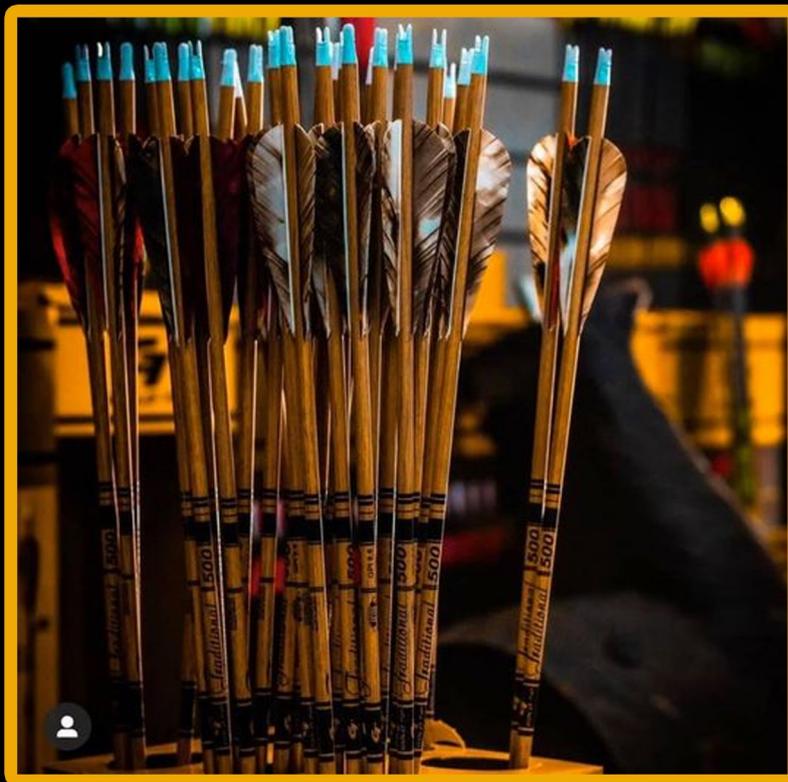


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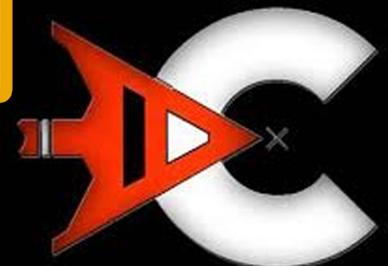


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West Lothian Archers'

Hunter Classification & Club Champion 2025 Shoot.

Report and pics provided by Linda Sutherland.

*Another fantastic day at West Lothian Archers for the Hunter Classification
and Club Champion 2025 Shoot.*

*Lots of medals and awards were presented to the lucky winners,
great shooting and scores everyone!!*



*Along with the aim for x's to give a 5 point score,
the surrounding trees took a hit!*

*One arrow was spectacularly stuck in a
tree stump at target 9!!*



*Awesome shooting congratulations go to Rab -
who shoots trad and scored x's, one at 65 yards!!!*

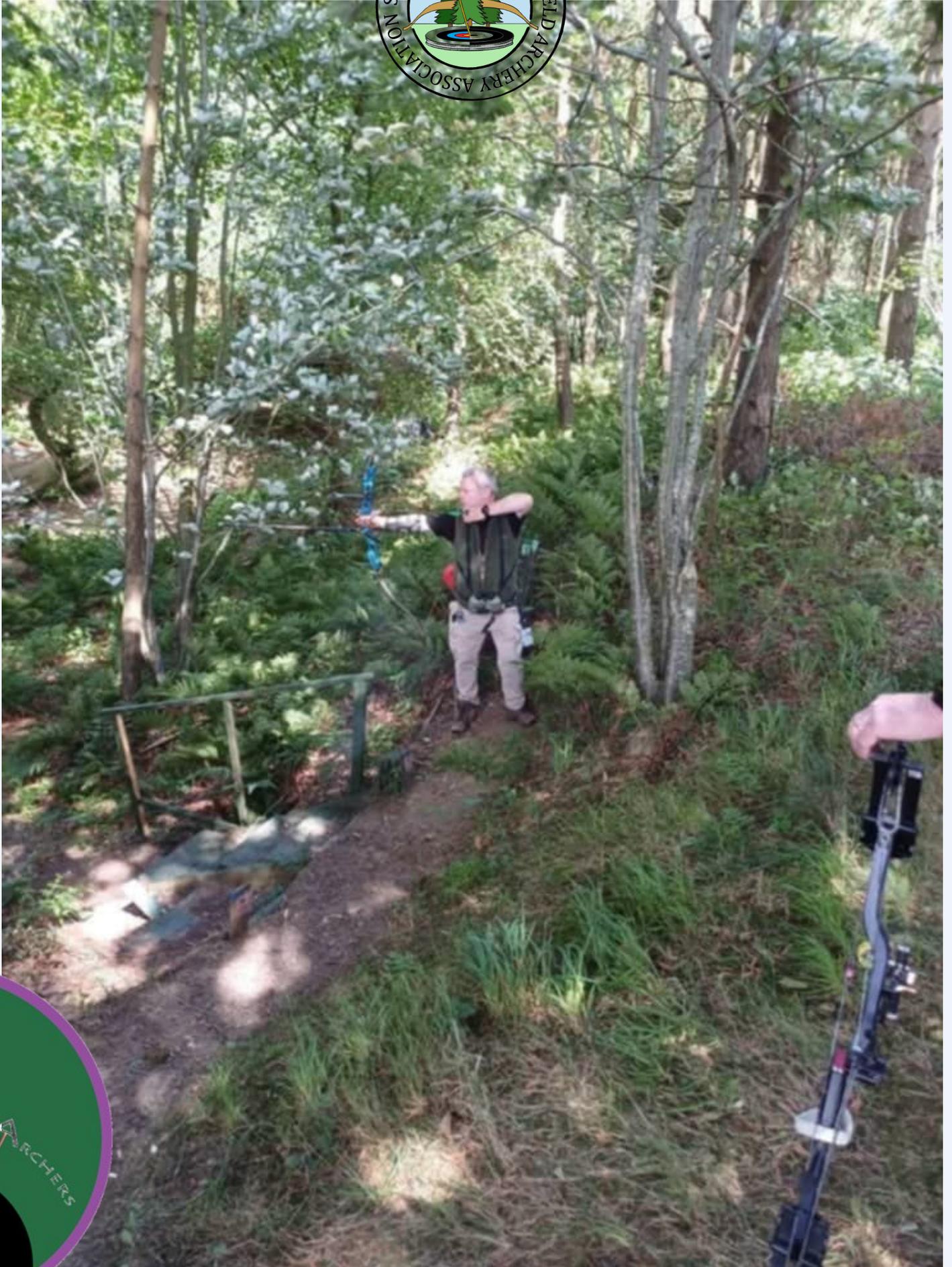
Incredible aim, well done! 🌟🌟😄













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FAN UK presents...

“Traditional Archery Clothing”

by Csaba Fenesi, Archery Historian.

<https://archeryhistorian.com/>.

Who doesn't want to look the part?

With the growing popularity and revival of traditional archery around the world, there is also an increasing demand for traditional archery clothing.

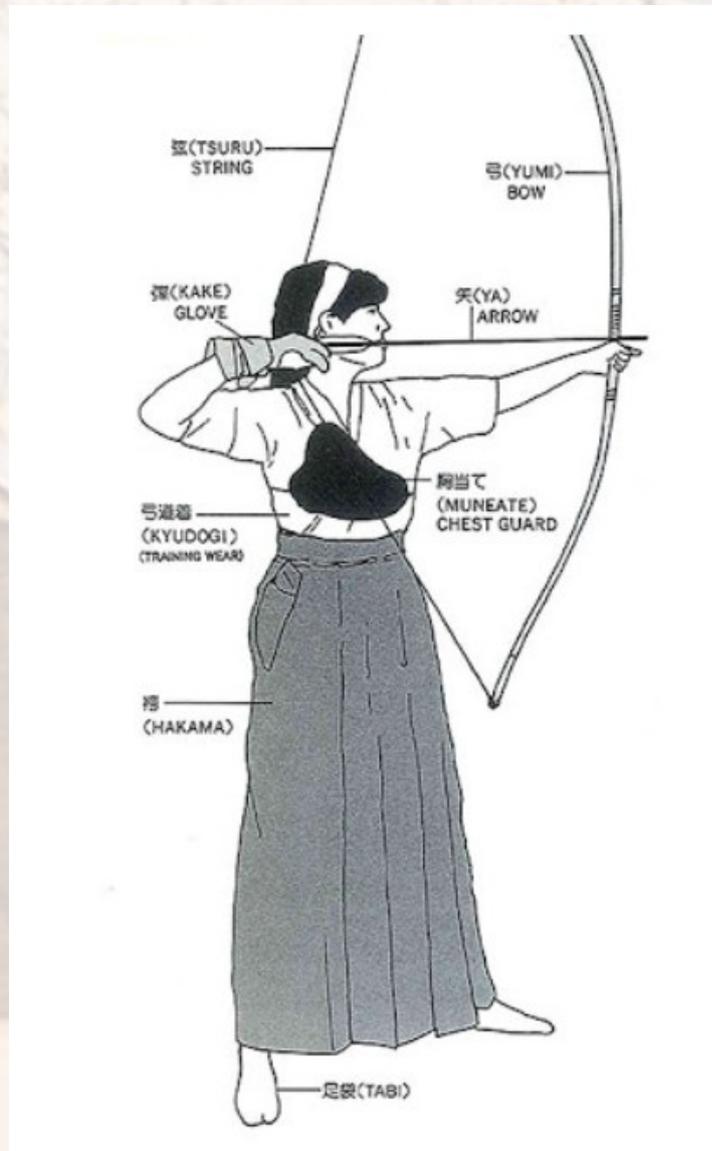
Much like all clothing in general, there is an aspect of fashion as well as practicality in all archery clothing.

This article examines the garb of various cultures known for their [history of archery](https://archeryhistorian.com/history-of-archery/).

[<https://archeryhistorian.com/history-of-archery/>]

Traditional Archery Clothing - Japanese (Kyūdō)

[<https://archeryhistorian.com/japanese-archery-kyudo/>].



- Gi, Kyudogi, keiko-gi (top)
 - Hakama (pantskirt)
 - Obi (belt)
 - Tabi (socks)
 - Kimono
- Muneate (chest protector)
- Setta and zori (sandals).

Yumi

Ya

Kyudo-gi

Obi

Yugake

Hakama

Tsuru

Tabi



Traditional Archery Clothing - Chinese

In ancient times, traditional clothing consisted primarily of loose-fitting robes. As with many other cultures and traditions, clothing signified social status, rank and / or occupation. During several dynasties, strict rules as to the colour and materials for clothing were followed.

Hanfu: the term Hanfu describes the historically traditional clothing worn by the Han people in China. This clothing style consists primarily of loose-fitting robes for the upper garment and long skirts for the lower garment. These garments, particularly the robes, would influence other culture's dress in Asia including the Japanese (kimono) [<https://archeryhistorian.com/japanese-archery-kyudo/>] and Koreans (hanbok)

[<https://archeryhistorian.com/traditional-korean-archery/>].



Commoners typically had their clothing made from hemp or cotton, while richly decorated silk was used by people of higher social rank. There were several variations that were worn over the long history of China. Some variants of clothing evolved over time and others were influenced by the Mongol invasions. We will highlight some examples below:

Chinese Robes:

- ♦ **Yesa (曳撒) or Yisa (一撒)** - originating in the Ming dynasty, this garment was heavily influenced by the preceding Yuan dynasty who in turn adopted their robe from an ancient Mongol garment. It was used, initially by royalty and their officials, but was later adopted and worn by commoners.



- ♦ **Tieli (贴里)** - another style of robe inherited by the Ming dynasty from the Yuan dynasty which came before it. The Yuan dynasty had been established by Kublai Khan, grandson of Ghenghis Khan. Some would argue that in a sense it was not the Mongols that had conquered China, but rather it was the Chinese who assimilated the Mongols. There is some truth to this as Kublai and his court adopted much from the Chinese in terms of culture and language.



The Tieli style of robe would become the most common Chinese robe, especially among government officials. The robe is available in slight variations, with wide, narrow and short sleeves. The lower portion was pleated or folded in a variety of ways and had an internal hem on the backside to make it into the shape of a large skirt.

- ♦ **Zhiduo (直裰)** - a traditional men's robe worn as casual wear and also popular among the priest class. The robe is long, reaching below the knee and features an overlapping collar.

Traditional Archery Clothing - Korean

Hanbok is the name for the style of traditional clothing in Korea.

The quintessential article of clothing for the traditional Korean archery [<https://archeryhistorian.com/traditional-korean-archery/>]

would be a jacket and high-waisted skirt. This style of clothing is very reminiscent of the nomadic clothing of the steppe. The main components of the Hanbok style are as follows:

- ♦ **Jeogori** - the upper portion of the outfit worn by both men and women. It is a robe-like jacket that could be either plain or richly embroidered and decorated.
- ♦ **Chima** - the lower skirt portion. Usually tapering out from above the waist.
- ♦ **Baji** - the pants or trousers of the men's outfit. It is the formal word for trouser in Korean.



Another interesting article of the traditional Korean dress is the horsehair hat known as a **gat**. It is thin and nearly transparent with a bamboo frame. The cylindrical shape and wide brim make it quite recognizable. It was usually worn by merchants and the more well - to - do castes.



Traditional Archery Clothing - Magyar.

The ancient Magyars [<https://archeryhistorian.com/magyar-bows/>] wore clothing typical of most steppe nomads before the conquest of Hungary in the late 9th century A.D. Both men and women wore long robes, baggy trousers and leather boots. Nobility and the more well-to-do had their clothing manufactured from silk and was richly embroidered, while commoners had clothing made from hemp or linen.



The 10th-century Persian explorer Ahmad ibn Rustah Isfahani travelled to eastern Europe, particularly to Novgorod where he chronicled his journeys. He also wrote extensively on the second-hand information he received of the Slavs, Khazars, Bulgars and Magyars. He explains how the Magyars were purchasing silk-brocade fabrics and other manufactured goods from the Byzantines.

Other than a silk caftan, or long robe, baggy silk trousers and leather boots, a well-to-do Magyar warrior could wear a mail shirt and steel helmet. Heavy armour was not common as the Magyars preferred to sacrifice armour for speed and manoeuvrability while mounted. Furs, leather and metal were used to construct sturdy hats, very reminiscent of the Turkoman bork.



Magyar Belts:

Another important aspect of an ancient Magyar attire would have been a warrior's belt. The belt was used as an outward expression of social status or rank. Some exquisitely made leather belts have been recovered that were reinforced with silver or gold plates. The motifs on the metalwork are of animals, very similar to earlier Avar animal style art, and floral patterns similar to Turkish artwork.

Hanging from this belt would have been all the essentials for a Magyar warrior - a small axe and dagger; if he was more well-off a richly-decorated saber and a tarsoly (or belt pouch). This pouch would have temporarily held money in the form of coinage, food, medicine and, later, ammunition. They are still manufactured today in Hungary with great skill and they look great in our humble Hungarian opinion.

<http://www.turania.hu/catalog/lemezes-tarsoly>

<https://www.magyarbordiszm.hu/hu/tarsoly>



Traditional Archery Clothing - Turkish.

Having a lengthy and strong history with the bow, arrow and horse, traditional Turkish archery clothing is making a big comeback. Clothing in the Ottoman era, much like in many other times and places, was used to express social status and rank. If you would like to look the part of an Ottoman archer, particularly a mounted archer, it would be best to consider the following articles of clothing:- (IMAGES CREDIT TO MAMLUKARCHERY.ORG)

- ♦ **Zibin:** a short-fitted jacket, often plain but occasionally richly embroidered.





- ♦ **Dolama:** a commonly used piece of clothing among the Ottomans.

Typically worn over a shirt and under a kaftan, it was widely used between the 14th and 19th centuries.

- ♦ **Kaftan or Caftan:** a long jacket that is long-sleeved with buttons on the chest and wrists - one of the most commonly-used pieces of clothing among the Ottomans.

It is always worn over a dolama or zibin.

It was widely used between the 14th and 19th centuries.



- ♦ **Shalwar or şalvar** - a baggy pair of trousers, commonly worn by all, including men and women during the Ottoman era. They are designed to allow for ease of movement and to be comfortable while on horseback.



- ♦ **Kuşak' (a sash)** - typically worn over the caftan or other jackets to hold them closed. Also, a decent place to tuck weapons, daggers, pistols and the like (for reenactment purposes).
- ♦ **Headgear (pictured overleaf)** - before the Ottoman era, a felt or leather cap, sometimes trimmed with fur, was used to protect the heads of Turks from the elements while on the steppe lands. Later on, in Ottoman times, headgear was used to signal a male's social status within society. High-ranking officials and/or the wealthy would wear a variety of turbans, sometimes very large ones to signify high social rank.



Traditional Archery Clothing - Mongolian.

Mongolian traditional clothing was adapted to live on the steppes of Asia. The quintessential article of clothing is known as a deel, a robe-like garment similar to a caftan. They were made from a variety of materials most commonly including cotton, wool or silk. They can be plain or richly decorated and come in a variety of exquisite colours. This traditional garment is commonly worn with a silk belt around the waist as well as large leather belts.

Photo by:

Marcin Konsek / Wikimedia

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The medieval Mongols were also well known for the use of various furs for clothing, such as caps, jackets and gloves. The harsh winter on the steppe makes the insulating property of certain furs necessary to withstand the cold air.

Sturdy and high-quality leather riding boots are also a necessity for a life on the steppe. They feature thick and occasionally richly decorated leather with upturned, slightly curled toes.

Photo credit:

<https://www.discovermongolia.mn/about-mongolia/culture-art-history/mongolian-traditional-clothes>



The last article of clothing to consider for the Mongol archer is a traditional hat. They come in a variety of styles and colours for different seasons, occasions and sexes.

A common type is the Toortsog. Typically made from felt and/or other fabrics, the hat features panels that are folded up. The middle of the hat extends upwards and ends in a knot.

Hats and headgear were used in Mongolia to signify social status as with many other cultures and societies.



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FOR MORE!

Traditional Archery Clothing - Scythian.

The Scythians were among the first groups of nomads from the steppe to be remembered in history. They developed their clothing in response to their nomadic way of life, which involved the riding of horses, hunting and warfare.

Some clothing has been recovered from ancient Scythian burials which helps us immensely in understanding the traditional archery clothing of the Scythians. While the clothing in these burials belonged to the wealthier strata of Scythian society, several pieces of Greek artwork, mostly vases and cups, depict everyday Scythians in their attire.



Fig. 2.2: Scythian archer, Greek red-figure vase, the British Museum. (© British Museum, The Trustees of the British Museum)

They are depicted as wearing long-sleeved jackets, fastened by leather or strips of cloth, patterned trousers, cloth or leather boots and a distinctive pointy cap. The Scythians are also almost always depicted wearing belts from which hangs a variety of weapons, most commonly small-bladed axes and daggers. Another item unique to the Scythians was a gorytos. This was a leather and metal bow case and quiver in one that was worn on the left side of a warrior's belt, with the opening pointing towards the rear.

Several have been recovered which were richly decorated with metal plates and some surviving specimens - after being examined under a scanning electron microscope - were found to be made from human skin.



Another grand civilization the Scythians interacted with was that of ancient Persia. The famous king, Persian king Darius, had in his city of Persepolis a palace built where conquered nations would bring him tributes. The reliefs on the walls leading to the king show scenes of various nations in a procession towards the king. They bear tribute of various kinds and - in one section of the relief - you find the Scythians, with their coats, trousers, boots and iconic pointed hats.



Fig 2.3: Scythian delegation, Apadana reliefs, Persepolis, Iran. (Courtesy of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago)

Traditional Archery Clothing - English Longbowman.

The English longbowman of the medieval era, particularly during the Hundred Years War between England and France, were mostly conscripted from the humble common folk.

A contract existed between the longbowman and his employer (the local lord or the King himself) and the longbowman's armour and arms were supplied by his boss.



Detailed records were kept during the 15th centuries taking into account the supplies for the army. An archer of this time would expect to receive as his attire:

- ♦ **Brigandine** - a common European medieval armour typically consisting of thick cloth or perhaps leather. On the inside of the brigandine, steel plates were securely riveted to the outer fabric. A secondary inner fabric layer may have been present in order to provide even more protection.



- ♦ **Gambeson** - usually a knee-length padded and quilted jacket. Sometimes worn as is or combined with mail or plate armour.

- ♦ **Livery** - the iconic red cross worn by the English, derived from Saint George's Cross. This was usually a sleeveless garment worn over the armour as the final layer.
- ♦ A **steel helmet** typically a **cervelliere** or **skull cap**, which was, basically, a simple metal bowl. Heavier, more advanced helmets such as a **bascinet** would have been worn by those that could afford to.
- ♦ A **small shield** known as a buckler and a **short sidearm** were also common.
- ♦ **Sheaves of arrows** and **hemp cords** to tie them together.

Archery Historian

<https://archeryhistorian.com/>



Shoot Information



**WREKIN
FORESTERS**

2026 SHOOT DATES

19.04 - Field/expert

17.05 - Hunter

21.06 - Field/expert

19.07 - Hunter

16.08 - Field/expert

20.09 - Hunter

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SFAA UPDATES: DEC. 2025/JAN. 2026

Scottish Indoor Archery Championship 2026

The Scottish Indoor Flint Championship 2025 will be held on 18 January 2026 at the Engage Sports facility, Napier University, Edinburgh.

Tickets are available [HERE](#).

United Kingdom & Ireland Field Archery Championship 2026

UKIFAC 26

Hosted by the Welsh Field Archery Association 2 – 3 May 2026 entries will re-open on 4 November.

Full details and booking are available via this link: [UKIFAC26](#)

European Bowhunter Championship 2026

Registration for the European Bowhunter Championship 2026 is now open via the [Hungarian Archery Association's event website](#).

European Indoor Archery Championship 2026 (EIAC 26)

This event will be hosted by Ireland. Registration opens on 1 June 2025.

Further details can be found at: [EIAC 26](#)



Shoot Calendar 2025–2026

The shoot calendar for 2025 is now available and can be viewed here: [SFAA Shoots](#). Clubs are encouraged to book their preferred dates as soon as possible. [Shoot Booking Form for Clubs](#)

Day	Date	Shoot
Sun	12 Apr 2026	Birkhill Field Archers - Hunter
Sat	25 Apr 2026	Argyll Shoot TBC
Sun	26 Apr 2026	Argyll Shoot TBC
Sat	02 May 2026	UKIFAC 2026 - WALES
Sun	03 May 2026	UKIFAC 2026 - WALES
Sun	02 Aug 2026	Hunter Classification Drum
Sun	09 Aug 2026	Hunter Classification Roe Deer FA
Sat	29 Aug 2026	Scottish Field Archery Championship
Sun	30 Aug 2026	Scottish Field Archery Championship
Sun	20 Sep 2026	Bowhunter Shoot Roe Deer FA
Sun	27 Sep 2026	Field Classification Drum
Sun	04 Oct 2026	Field Classification Roe Deer FA



Coaching Opportunities

If you are interested in coach training, please email sfaacoaching@gmail.com or speak with one of your club coaches. Certification is IFAA approved and delivered by the SFAA Coach Development Team.

SFAA Scotland Team Shirts

Scotland Team shirts are available to order from: <https://www.sfaa-ltd.com/shop>. Please note that shirts are only available for collection at major events or can be collected by a club representative at the event. The next opportunity for collection will be the SFAC in August. The cost is £35 per shirt.

Membership 2026–2027

The SFAA will be inviting renewals and new membership for the 2026-27 membership year starting from 1 Feb 26 the membership fees are unchanged from last season and the application process remains unchanged.

The application page is on the SFAA Website.

Jim McGukin will be taking on the role of Membership Secretary soon, but you will continue to get updates via the email/bulletins and in this magazine.

N.B. New joiners' membership will be valid from date of purchase – 31 Mar 27, this is to facilitate the many beginners courses being run by clubs in the off-season.

LINK TO: [MEMBERSHIP WEB PAGE](#)

All information kindly provided by:

Ken Brill - Admin Team, Scottish Field Archery Association

info@sfaa-ltd.com

[SFAA Website](#)





THE REBEL

BY FAIRBOW



Puzzle page

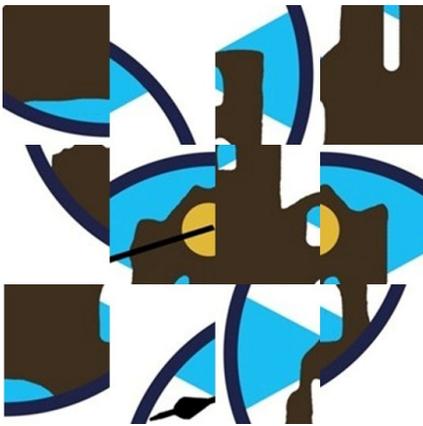
Club Logos

PICTURE PUZZLE

Can you guess the club from the pictures below?

Hint: they are all affiliated to the NFAS or STAFAA!

A



B



C



D



E





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enhanced
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Field Archers
Club



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2026

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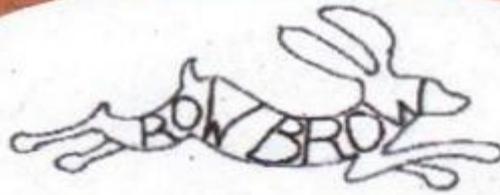
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in the Park and
on our course

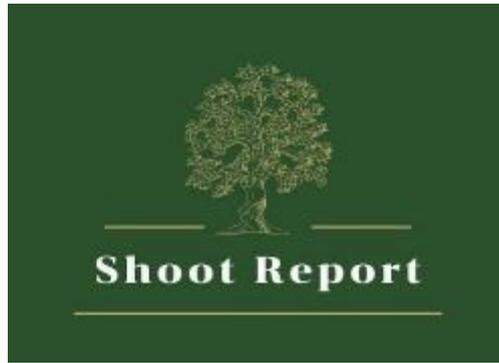
"This must be one of
the best field shoots in
the country..."

Rob L Hoode

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Scarborough, North Yorks Moors National Park,
Dalby Forest, the city of York



For more information check out our web page
rowbrowfieldarchery



The Bourne Retinue of Archers: Fort Paull weekend.

On the weekend of the 20th of September, we, the Bourne Retinue of Archers, attended a multi-period show to help boost the effort to restore Fort Paull.

Fort Paull lies on the Yorkshire side of the Humber and has a history of defending that river from that point. We agreed to attend to help the two owners with their immense task both physically and financially.

Setting up in beautiful weather on the Friday we enjoyed a lovely meal, a few beers and retired to comfortable bed before the show opened to the public on the Saturday.



*“The camp
before the
onslaught”.*





“The camp at night”.

The day started well in lovely sunshine but it degenerated as the day went on until it was almost untenable, but we stuck it out and made the best of it.

It came to the evening time and being wet, I decided to go home instead of sleeping under canvas. It turned out it was a very wise move because

when we got there early in the morning the whole camp was washed out, including my beautiful pavilion (which has withstood many a storm but it could not stand against the terrific gusts that the Humber Bank is capable of delivering, made worse by the continuous rain that had fallen the day before which had loosened all of the tent pegs).





“The camp drying out”.



“Damp

camp”.



Brave Lucy Sargent and newcomer George Jones decided to stay, they were eventually washed out and given blankets, hot tea, comfort and shelter in the bunkers.

The result was that the next day started out drying out awnings and equipment, but we weren't to be thwarted and we managed to put on a decent display for the public as the weather had really improved into sunshine and the public came out in some force, so all was not wasted.



“Poor damp Lucy, safe and dry in the bunker”.

“A somewhat damp George”.



*“After the drying out,
the public came back”.*



“Dull damp regalia”.

Unfortunately, we were not able to display our marksmanship and demonstrations with the longbow and its capabilities, but we were able to demonstrate the swords and the armour, which generated much interest within the camp thanks to demonstrations by our Master of Arms John O’Boyle and helped by George - our newest member - wonderfully kitted-out and looking the part.





“Jonno, Master at Arms, taking lessons”.



“Jonno displaying our Flamboyant to a lad in awe”.

The ladies came to the fore being beautifully turned out for the period, Lucy doing the cooking (pictured right) and some of the show and tell with Helen Bills, demonstrating her skills with weaving and woolly things.



“Lucy prepared pottage for all”.



All in all, a nice recovery after the wash out and with our neighbours, the Viking Vanaheim group helping pack away in the evening (the worst job of all in my opinion), the task was made much easier.

This was to be my last camp and I must say that I always enjoy sleeping under canvas in an authentic way in an authentic pavilion, but I'm afraid that age has caught up with me so this event will be a wet and woolly memory. However, it will not overshadow the wonderful times that this wonderful sport of Archery has given me over a lifetime, not just the joy of the release of the arrow and it's magical flight but all of the things that go with it - the NFAS shoots with their imaginative targets and camaraderie second to none and the reenactment camps with the wonderful battles at Towton, Bosworth and Tewkesbury; with my prime memory being some 10 years ago, my 70th birthday spent on the battlefield in Azincourt with a thousand like-minded Archers and men at arms from all over the world.

All these wonderful times and memories have been possible due to the bent stick of the longbow and it's partner the livery arrow and that magic will never leave me and I will shoot until I drop, unless somebody shoots me first of course . . .



what a way to go!

OH Boyd -

Captain of Archers,

The Bourne Retinue of Archers.





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EFAA National

Photographs by





onals 2025

DAVE HOLLAND





Shoot Information



Black Arrow

**Don't miss our
first shoot of the
year!**

Sunday 29th March - 10am Start

Black Arrow Field Archers, nr. Ashby

Full NFAS Membership, £10pp - Full Catering!

To reserve your place email -

enquiries@blackarrowfieldarchers.co.uk



MANDARIN
DUCK

The Devourer MIK2



The Bowyer's Diary

“Flights of Fancy Part 2”

**by Derek Hutchison AKA
‘Del the Cat’.**

My *Bamboo backed Yew mk2 flight bow** had given me a new PB of 365 yards but had suffered a minor breakage in the plywood riser / handle assembly which creates the shoot through window and holds the forward mounted grip.

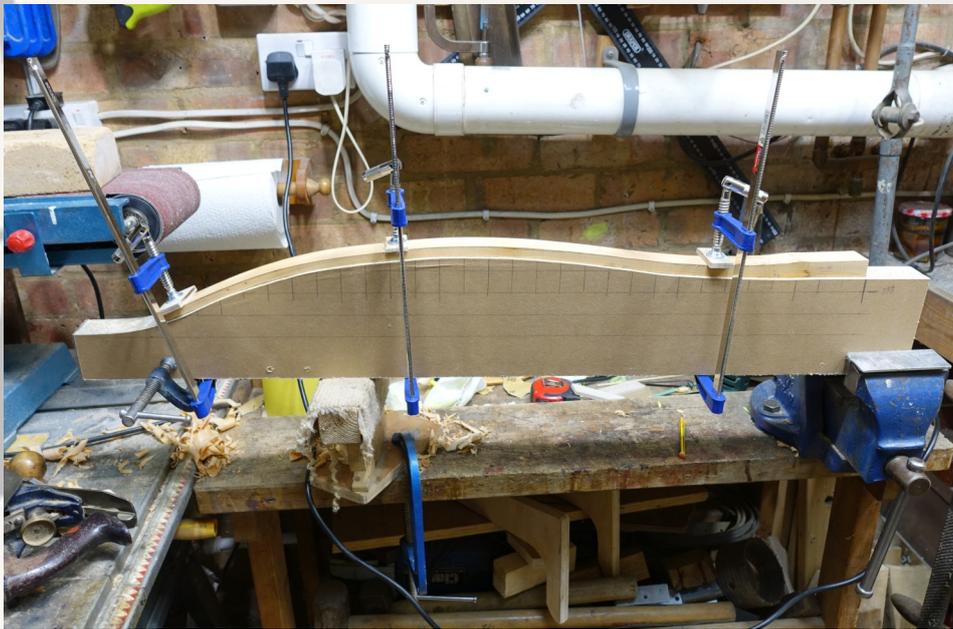
A piece of ply that forms the bottom of the limb socket had come adrift. I'd thought there was little force pushing the limb down into its socket, but obviously there was enough to cause some delamination of the ply.

Plywood is a great material - versatile, stable, strong in compression in all directions - however, it can tend to split along the laminations in tension. I'd noticed this where the screws clamp the side plate on, I wanted a decent clamping force, but too much had jacked the plies apart at one point. These problems were easily fixed by opening up any splits with a thin blade, squeezing in glue and lightly clamping. Once the glue had cured holes were drilled and bamboo pegs were

glued in (from bamboo skewers).

Once the repairs were completed, the bow drew up nicely with no suspicious creaks, cracks or pops!

I tidied up the tips to lighten them up a little and make the string sit nicely, I also made some minor modifications to the brush rest and its mounting to prevent it rotating on the mounting screw.



Pictured below: new limbs WIP.



I made up 11 arrows (20" long), from spruce, pine, compressed pine and quadrant bamboo (which was the best performing, see pic).



Pictured: Flight Arrows.

They all had fletchings made from thin coarse brown paper/card (the stuff that a roll of fancy wrapping paper is rolled around), this is wiped over with low viscosity cyanoacrylate glue (superglue) giving a thin stiff fletching. Points were tiny and turned from brass.

Weights varied from 140 to 319 grains, with diameters ranging from 5.6 to 6.9mm, they were generally parallel shafts as there isn't much scope for tapering or barrelling a shaft that thin. The arrows are spray painted fluorescent yellow to help with finding them.

A week had passed since my last shots, I went to the club where I shoot and I was the only one there! This gave me a chance to focus and take time preparing without getting distracted by chatting and testing the latest flavoured rum!

*Pictured:
Flight vs field arrow.*



I got the camera set up on a tripod, put on my elbow support and started shooting. I struggled to get my flipper release aid (a leather and rubber strap), to actually let go of the string. Unfortunately, I'd forgotten to bring my beeswax and olive oil polish, which would have helped ease it. After a few shots (and a bit of saliva and forehead grease!) I found it a bit easier and I could watch the point of the arrows onto the brush rest, I could also brace my bow hand a bit better to stop the bow kicking / torquing left.

Having shot 10 arrows (I didn't bother with my heavier test arrow) I strode off down the field. I soon found the first arrows at about 350 yards, I used my laser range finder to measure the distance for

each arrow which I duly recorded. The distances increased as I found the next few, then I saw one a bit further and that was 405 yards! Where were the rest? I walked back and saw a group of them to my left (presumably where I'd stopped the bow torquing) and one odd one was even further at 415 yards! I'd certainly smashed my PB and broken the 400 yard mark. I was shooting very slightly down hill, with a slight tail wind. The curve of the ground made it difficult to get the laser rangefinder to range onto my car (from where I'd shot) as I could only see the top of it, so I ranged to a big Oak 10 yards behind it and adjusted the figures to compensate).

The next week I went out again only to find the distances were less. I got home and weighed it on the tiller, The poundage had dropped from about 53 to 45#. I was a bit disappointed, but reminded myself that these were only old re-worked limbs! I'd obviously pretty much hit the sweet spot with those limbs and pushed them to the maximum. I've started work on new limbs, similar to those but with a hint more deflex/reflex and using better looking Yew. There is no guarantee that they will be any better, or even as good, but I have my eye on the ¼ mile shot!

**The bow probably doesn't fit neatly into any of the official classes set out by any of the archery organisations (I believe the only class for wooden bows is English Longbow), but I consider that to be their fault rather than mine.*

I am simply competing against myself for my own enjoyment.

Read more from 'Del the Cat' @
<https://bowyersdiary.blogspot.com/>



Carol Archery

was 41 Years old on 8th August 2023.

Can't believe it...41 years (but I'm still only 21)!

Really busy again at the moment, so for lessons, or arrow matching, please book in advance.

Of course, I'm still doing mail order for those who know what they need. And if you don't, do book a time to visit and get lots of advice and a cuppa!

ARROW MATCHING

It really isn't possible to sort your arrows over the phone or by email... so do book yourself an arrow matching session at my workshop.

One thing though... PLEASE, do *NOT* buy a bow that is too heavy for you... or you *will* injure yourself and arrow matching is just not possible.

I have arrows in 1/4, 9/32, 5/16 and 11.32" with most point weights, made up for you to try.

Book yourself a session and see the difference it makes to your shooting skills. Arrow matching £40 per bow.

Or book an hour's help with your shooting. £55 or £85 for two souls.



And Carols Tri-Jig will help you make your own arrows really easily!

I also make leather 'stuff', including

quivers and armguards, pouches and belts, plus handbags and shoulder bags.

Plus traditional crossbows by my Mick (for NFAS members only) .



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Did you know that if you would like to show your appreciation and support for FAN UK and what Hels is doing (and to enable her to keep the magazine free for everyone) you can DONATE?

You may or may not know that "Field Archery News UK" online magazine is researched, edited & produced by just one person whose aim has always been and still is to bring field archery in all its forms (alongside other forms of archery) and all associations & societies together in one place to celebrate, promote and share our wonderful sport with archers, clubs and enthusiasts across the UK & worldwide.

Any sum to keep the magazine going would be greatly appreciated - thank you! 😊

To Donate just visit - <https://www.paypal.me/FANUKHels>

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EFAC Estonia 2025

by Sandra Anderson.

Estonia has been a popular place for Championships - with great areas of forests, beautiful scenery, the City of Tallin a great place to visit or stay in .

A small team of 8 from Wales took part in the European Field Archery Championships ran from the 25th July to 2nd August.

A total of 382 archers took part in the 5 day event, which consists of 5 days' shooting, all marked distance, 4 arrows on Field and Hunter rounds which are round scoring 5:4:3 and one day animal round on 2D faces.

It was held in Ski resort Korvemaa with the opening tournament and practice ranges on White Horse Hill. With varied targets uphill and down, distances ranged from 20ft to 80yds, with one of the courses taking archers down to beach area and stunning lake.

These tournaments are open to everyone of varying levels, to take part you must have experience of





each round with 2 scores on your Countries Classification Scorecard.



The weekend the event opened in nearby Janeda Village was a very large local Artisan Market with local produce (honey, beer, meats, clothes and pictures) and beautiful gardens to walk in - something for archers and family to go to after registration.

The opening Ceremony with all the Participants Country Flags following a local band and demonstration of Traditional Estonian Dancing. Many archers enter these events year after year and it's great meeting up with old friends and it's also great after the first day meeting new archers. With traditional bows and modern recurve and compound there is something for

everyone. Estonia had a great representation of cubs and juniors, with some other youngsters from other countries too. It was lovely to see.





Estonian archers built the course and they had a large amount of young volunteers helping too.

The weather for the week was lovely and sunny - not too hot.

With varying course difficulty it was a very enjoyable Championship.







The end of Competition dinner was held in the rustic Musta Taku Tall, Black Stallion Stable in Janeda Village which local beer, food and disco.

The Closing Ceremony in another incredible Bull Stable Theatre 🤡 which was such fun.

My favourite part of being a Flatbow archer are the cries of Longbow when we are all together.

It was sad to say goodbye to old friends and new, but we look forward to meeting them again at the next Championship, which is to be held in Romania in 2027.





The Cantor



MANDARIN
DUCK

A Cartoon for you!

M A S T E R M I N D

M



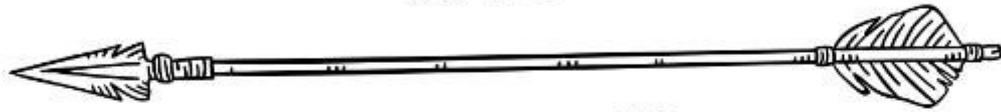
You have two minutes to answer questions on your specialist subject.....NFAS Rules and Regulations.....starting now.

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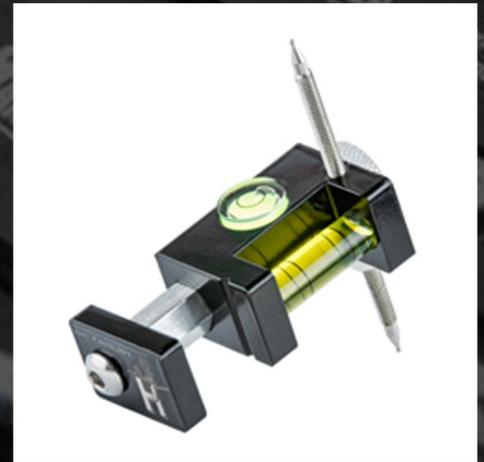
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EFAA National

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onals 2025

DAVE HOLLAND





STAFAA Halloween Fun shoot, November 2025 at West Lothian Archers.

Report and pics provided by Linda Sutherland.

Spooktacular Halloween party last night!



Lots of fun!!



Our best dressed winners were Robert, Zak, Lesley and Eryn.



70 ballons were burst in 4 minutes



- our new beginners

enjoying their first fun shoot.



Thank you to everyone who came along,



to the members who helped decorate the hall,



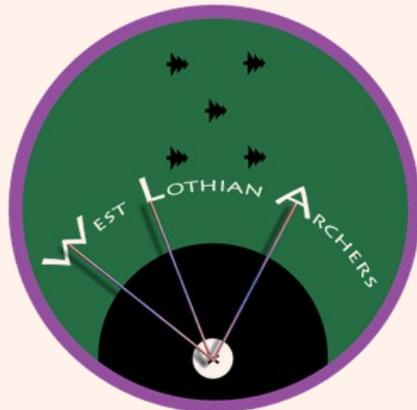
to our

catering team for the tasty buffet,



to our members who were out of

breath blowing up 70 ballons and to all who captured these amazing photos!!













Puzzle Answers

Club Logos

PICTURE PUZZLE ANSWERS

A



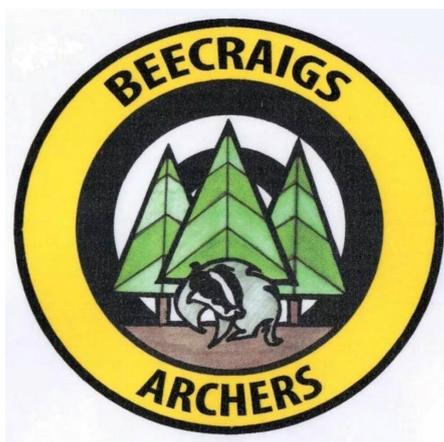
B



C



D



E



THE REBEL

BY FAIRBOW



Club Locations List

2026



Club info

I have noticed a lot of discussion lately on field archery social media groups regarding the UK/ROI/NI they are so if your club is interested in being included on such a list, I shall be happy to include you on the list. Please email me with your club details to Archery News UK. People like to have a rough idea of how far/close clubs are from them. You can submit your club info to me via email ONLY please at fieldarcherynewsukmagazine@gmail.com

Club name, Society/Societies covered

e.g. [Audris-Hart Field Archers](#),

If you want to include info as to whether or not your club allows dogs or crossbows

Club Name	Society/Societies covered by club	County	Country
AFAN NEDD	NFAS, WFAA	Neath, West Glamorgan	Wales
Ashcombe Valley Archers	NFAS	East Devon	England
Audris-Hart Field Archers	NFAS	North Devon	England
Black Arrow Field Archers	NFAS	Leicestershire	England
Bourne Retinue of Archers	The Medieval Society	Kirmington, North Lincolnshire	England
High Cross Field Archers	NFAS	Chedworth, Gloucestershire	England
Regent Archers	NFAS	East Yorkshire	England
Strongbow Archers	IFAF	Co. Laois	Republic of Ireland
Wrekin Foresters Field Archers	EFAA	Telford, Shropshire	England



** Current list updated 25th January 2026 **

compiling a list of clubs which includes the basic information of roughly whereabouts in
shall begin compiling one and include updated versions in each upcoming issue of Field
n so I am more than happy to start doing this to help fellow archers!

zine@gmail.com in the following format -

ed by your club, County and Country

NFAS, North Devon, England.

then please do so and I will add that to the existing list in the magazine also 🐱🐶🐱





Photographer: [Mark Service](#)



MANDARIN
DUCK

Another wonderful year has almost
passed up by.

We are so grateful for all the support that
you have given.

For everyone celebrating
Merry Christmas

Happy Holidays

&

Have a wonderful New Year!



Shoot Information



Delamere Field Archers

NFAS Open Shoot

6th September 2026

Shoot for Unsighted Bows Only

**Any style of bow (except x-bows) may enter,
provided that it doesn't have sights**

Course of 40 targets, full catering, ample parking

Please note that the only way to book onto this shoot is by email:

dfashoot@gmail.com

Pre-pay only

Paypal to dfashoot@gmail.com

If paying by Paypal, please remember to use "friends & family"

BACS: 60-15-29 a/c 76620824 (don't forget your names!)

Adults £10, juniors free

No refunds for cancellations within one week or no-shows

Please note that our entrance is now on the A556 at:

Lat / Long 53.217147 -2.644649

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W3W: increases.reporter.army

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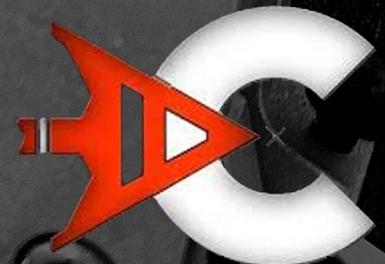
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Dogs & Crossbows

Club List 2026

Club info

To help archers choose clubs that they can shoot crossbows at and/or take their trusty companions to, I have compiled this list based on the most recent status on these queries! If you would like your club to be included in the list then just let me know via email or regarding Crossbows at your shoots. You can contact me in the following ways:- 1. Email fieldarcherynewsuk@wixsite.com or 3. FAN UK Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/FANUK>

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Crossbows allowed?</u>	<u>Dogs allowed?</u>
Archers of Dolphinholme	YES	YES
Artemis Archers	YES	YES
Ashcombe Valley Archers	YES	YES
Auld Kirk Bowmen	YES	YES
Aurora FAC	YES	YES
Avalon Archers	YES	NO - unfortunately the land owner does not accept dogs.
Birkhill FAC (near Wormit, Fife, Scotland)	Sorry, it's a NO.	YES - well behaved dogs on leads at all times please.
Black Arrow Field Archers	YES	YES
Black Sheep Archers	YES	YES
Bowbearers of Wyresdale	-	YES
Brixham Archers	NO	NO
Butsfield Bowmen	YES	YES
Centaura Bowmen	YES	YES
Cheshire Oak Bowmen	YES	NO
Company of Sixty	YES	Not at Open Shoots
Delamere Field Archers	NO	YES, with well-behaved owners!
Druids Field Archers	YES	YES - on leads please.
D W Longbow	YES	YES - on a lead please.
Forest Spirit Archers (near Cluny in Fife)	NO	YES
Hanson Bowmen	YES	YES
High Cross Field Archers	YES	YES
Kings Lynn FA	YES	YES
Lakeland Field Archers	YES	YES
Longbow Heritage	YES	YES
Long Eaton Field Archers	YES	YES
Muscovy Archers	YES	YES
Oakwood Bowmen	NO - sorry.	No - sorry.

Thank you to all clubs that have let me know so far, Hels :-)



* Current list updated 25th January 2026 *

nions with them to shoot, I have compiled an albeit short yet important list of clubs and their
et me know - all I require is your Club's Name and a 'Yes' or 'No' regarding Dogs and a 'Yes' or 'No'
fieldarcherynewsukmagazine@gmail.com; 2. Contact form on the FAN UK website at [http://
eldArcheryNewsUK/](http://fieldArcheryNewsUK/) .

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Crossbows allowed?</u>	<u>Dogs allowed?</u>
Paget de Vesey	YES	YES
Pennington Archers	YES	YES
Pentref Bowmen	NO	We have a no dogs on the course policy however, archers are welcome to bring their pets but they must be left in their vehicles while the shoot is in progress.
Pines Park Archers	NO - sorry, due to landowner restrictions.	YES - on leads & with owners at all times please.
Redgauntlet Archers	YES	YES
Regent Archers	NO	YES
Rednex	YES	NO
Redoubtables Archery	YES	NO
Riggwelter Field Archers	NO	YES - but on a lead.
South Hams Field Archers	YES	YES
Spirit of Sherwood	YES	YES
Stonebow Field Archers	NO - sorry.	NO - sorry.
Toad Hollow Archers	YES	YES - on leads at all times please.
Westcombe Archers	YES	YES - with advance notification, on leads & with owners at all times please.
Wolfshead Field Archers	YES	YES - on leads at all times please.
Wrekin Foresters Field Archers	NO	YES
Ye Olde Delph Bowmen	YES	YES

KEY:

RECENTLY ADDED!



Making Wooden Arrows

A Master's Guide



John Potter

Find me on Facebook
@ "Twangers Arrows"



or email me at:

johnp1963@sky.com



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you will love the
"Marauder"

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Thank you for reading & for your
ongoing support - and a very
Happy New Year to you all!

Hels.

FAN UK patches available at

[https://fieldarcherynewsuk.wixsite.com/
fanuk/new2025patches](https://fieldarcherynewsuk.wixsite.com/fanuk/new2025patches)



2026
10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



~ For the love of field archery ~