

Osprey Archers Inaugural Clout Competition

November 7th 2010

The day dawned wet and windy and by 9am I was beginning to think no one would turn up because of the weather. However, the mad few started arriving by about 9.20 with a total of 16 club members arriving to shoot. I decided not to shoot and elected myself as Field Captain and Judge with Roy as Lord Patron.

Assembly began at approx 10am, which is roughly when the weather started to pick up. The rain stopped but the wind kept blowing. After explaining the basics, for those who've not shot a competition, we were under way. We were to shoot a double one-way GNAS clout.

After sighters it became apparent that most of the longbow men were not going to reach their distance of 180yds so Mike and John decided to join Christine on the ladies flag at 140yds. Darren decided to join them too. I didn't insist on dresses / skirts for the men on the ladies flag this year but beware – I may just do so next year, or at least a ladies hat!!!!

The shoot continued at a decent pace with plenty of excursions into the corn field to retrieve wayward arrows (mostly by my beloved)!! At some point during the proceedings it became very clear that Mr. Chairman had actually managed to score an arrow!!! I think the whole of Buckland Rippers knew about it. Eric had decided, bravely, to continue on the men's flag and did manage to score a few times. After a dry but breezy first clout a short lunch break ensued. Much jollity over the number of wayward arrows was had.

The second half continued at a slightly quicker pace (who knows what was in the lunch boxes!!!) with all bowmen having a good time. Collection of arrows from the corn field did reduce but still occurred. Tony had decided to stick with trying to reach 180yds and battled all day to do so, all to no avail. He was definitely the archer who battled longest and hardest for just one point but, sadly, never quite made the distance. All credit to him for continuing on the correct flag. Maybe next year?

I decided to have a best clout prize, to be judged over the course of the day, along with one for the highest number of petticoats. Sammy looked certain to take the best clout with one of her first arrows but it was closely fought with 3 people (Sammy, Christine and Dave) all having an arrow approx 7" from the post. However, eagle eyed Dave managed to put an arrow right beside the post in the second half so won the best clout award. The petticoat prize was awarded jointly to Elliott and Toby who both scored 8.

At the end of the shoot working out the medals was not too difficult due to most categories having only 1 archer in them! I'm hoping that this will change next year.

I would like to thank all those archers who shot – I was a bit nervous that no one would come along due to the weather. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves – maybe some will even shoot a few of the local competitions with myself and Paul.

Perhaps we could undertake a FITA clout at some point?

