

# Flight Path



No 1, April 2011

## Editors comment:

Welcome to the edition 1 of "Flight Path", the newsletter of the British National Flight Archery Association.

## Dates for your Diary

- National Flight Champs: August 20<sup>th</sup>  
RAF Church Fenton  
World Record Status
- Contact M. Willrich  
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- NCAS Flight Champs: August 28<sup>th</sup>  
RAF Church Fenton  
World Record Status
- Contact A. Bakes  
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- WMAS Flight Champs: July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Adams Grammar School  
Longford Hall.  
Newport  
Shropshire
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## Letters to the editor.

I said in my editorial that I want this to be YOUR newsletter, and that I would welcome your news, views and comments. Despite not even being off the drawing board, I have had the following from Mike Willrich, organiser of the National Flight Championships (see diary).

*Hi Tony*

*This is a great idea, I really like the principle of having a Newsletter, it is good that you have resurrected 'Flight Path'*

*I would like to put in the Newsletter about my disapproval of the across the board implementation of the £20 fee for the day approved by the Archery GB . I want it known that I am against this decision of the National Tournament committee ,with backing of the Chairman Of the Judges and the Operations Committee where it originated . My original proposal to the Tournament Committee was an initial increase to £7 senior £5 Junior per Class/wt division in 2011 and £8 senior £6 Junior in 2012 ( a stage increase ). Previously up to 2010 GNAS ( now Archery GB ) paid for the Judges, Organiser's & Lady Paramount Expenses as stated in the Organiser's contract. I now find that these expenses are now to be included in the Organiser's accounts, which in 2010 would have meant about £400 loss instead of my accounts showing a small profit!! This is the only reasoning of the Operations Committee putting a £20 fee in the hope of covering the Tournament costs.*

*I think through the Newsletter we should try and get all Flight Archers to lodge an official protest. Archery GB should be funding any losses that this new procedure will inevitably produce together with possibly reducing the numbers wanting to enter the National Flight Tournament*

*M. Willrich National Flight Organiser*

## From the Archives:

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**First National Flight Shoot Meeting.**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October 1947.**

1 Mr J Flinton	246	1	3
2 Mr F L Bilson	246	0	4
3 Mr P Clover	236	0	2

By kind permission of the Crusader Insurance Company, the first National Flight Shoot Meeting was held in the beautiful grounds of Reigate Priory, Surrey. We are deeply indebted to Mr K. Ryall-Webb, chairman of Reigate Prior Bowmen, for undertaking the entire organisation of the meeting, which was attended and thoroughly enjoyed both by competitors, 14 ladies and 13 gentlemen, and by quite a gathering of spectators.

Our first flight shoot was naturally of an experiment nature, and it was known that hardly anyone was likely to possess any real flight tackle and that only target bows would be available. Several competitors had contrived to make themselves a few flight arrows, some of them really beautiful specimens, in spite of them having no real experience in this highly specialised branch of archery. The distances attained were not great, but were certainly good for the bows in use.

Mr Ingo Simon showed an appreciative gathering what he described as a very poor specimen of an oriental type bow, and the manner of using a thumb ring and sipur. He then, to the great joy of everybody, promptly eclipsed in a most convincing manner, all our best efforts. We are most grateful to him and are certain that our amateur bowyers and fletchers (and hopefully that our professional ones) will now be going all out to double the distances at the next meeting.

It has already been suggested that for next year's National Flight Shoot it will be worthwhile considering, owing to travel difficulties, the possibility of making it a postal shoot at several different centres up and down the country.

Winners:-

Ladies

A Bows under 36 lbs	Yds	Ft	Ins
1 Mrs. Dames	169	0	8
2 Mrs Clover	166	2	4
3 Mrs Bilson	163	2	2

B Bows any weight

1 Miss Rogers	193	0	11
2 Mrs Bilson	192	2	0
3 Mrs Clover	188	0	3

Gentlemen

A Bows under 55 lbs	Yds	Ft	Ins
1 Mr F L Bilson	223	0	7
2 Mr P Clover	215	2	10
3 Mr S E Weston	204	1	7

B Bows any weight

**Focus on.....**Bowstrings:

Today, there are many different string materials to buy – Dacron, Fastflite, Angel Dynema to name but a few. Among the best are the lightweight, low stretch materials such as Fastflite. For target shooting, a fastflite string could have anything up to 18 strands in it, a breaking strain of over 1400 lbs!!!

Try reducing the number of strands. This will give a much lighter, faster string. For safety, the lowest number of strands needed as being about 7 times the draw weight, so for a bow drawing, say, 45lbs you would need a minimum of only 4 strands. However, although Fastflite is a low stretch material, it will stretch a little on loosing. The thinner the string, the more it will stretch, which will rob the bow of some of it's energy. Try making strings with different numbers of strands. You may find that an eight, ten or twelve strand string will perform better than a fourteen, sixteen or eighteen strand.

Bracing height is another thing worth looking at. Reducing the bracing height can, in most cases, give a greater distance but below a certain height there will be no further improvement. **Just remember, though the faster the shot, the more chance of damage to your bow.**

**Your questions Answered.**

Since this is edition 1, questions are limited at the moment. One question did, however, crop up recently in "The Daily Express" (The Saturday Briefing, Sat Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2011):

***What is the furthest distance ever shot by a longbow?***

Obviously not answered by a flight archer (or even an archer), the answer was given as 1339m by the American archer Don Brown. Who wouldn't like a longbow that could reach 1339m?

The furthest distance ever recorded by an English longbow was 379.51m (415 yds), shot by Jeremy Spencer at RAF Church Fenton in 2008 using a longbow weighing in at over 150lbs draw weight. That is some going for a bit of wood.

**Equipment News.**

Easton have brought out a new arrow, the Carbon 1 shaft (a reasonably priced all carbon shaft manufactured from ultra-light carbon nano-tubes). The 1000 spine shafts are approx 15% lighter than the equivalent Cartel Triples, so might be worth a look. Watch this space.

Staying with Easton, lovers of the Pin Nock system may be interested to know that they have released the "G" pin-nocks. More aerodynamic than the original pin-nocks, again they may be worth considering.

String specialist Brownell have developed a new string material, Astro-Flite. Advertised as 20% stronger and with faster arrow speed. Interesting.

### **Obituary**

It is with great sadness I learned of the death of Heather Urquhart on 17th January after a swift and sudden battle with cancer.

Although Heather lived in Scotland, she was a sight throughout the whole of Northern Counties. Heather shot flight and clout, where she set several national and international records.

A very genuine person, who had time for everyone. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

### **A Brief History of flight 1**

Much in the realms of mythology now, one of the earliest recorded flight shots is attributed to ARASH. According to the Persians, he is reputed to have shot from the top of Mount Damavand, (the highest mountain in present day Iran) to the river Gihon, the place the arrow fell marking the then border of Iran.

Much more rooted in history than myth, flight owes much of its origins to warfare. The aim was to shoot the enemy at the greatest possible range and inflict as much damage amongst the ranks as was possible. Indeed, at the battle of Towton in 1461, Lord Fawconbridge ordered all his archers to shoot one flight (arrow) towards the Northern men. Unable to judge the distance effectively, the Northern men returned shot as fast as they could only to see their arrows fall "a full 40 tailor's yardes" short. (*Ford on Archery*)

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