

# Flight Path



No 2, August 2011

## **Editors comment:**

Welcome to edition 2 of "Flight Path", the newsletter of the British National Flight Archery Association. The tournament season is in full flight (no pun intended), and this edition carries the results of the first championship of the season, The West Midlands Flight Championships. As always, your views are always welcome, letters may be edited as space allows. Please keep them coming.

## **Dates for your Diary: 2012**

National Flight Championships (provisional)

August 18<sup>th</sup>  
RAF Church Fenton  
World Record Status

Contact A.Bakes  
332, James Reckitt Ave  
HULL  
Yorkshire  
HU8 8LJ  
01482 375033  
[tbakes@tbakes.karoo.co.uk](mailto:tbakes@tbakes.karoo.co.uk)

Northern Counties Flight Championships (provisional)

August 26<sup>th</sup>  
RAF Church Fenton  
World Record Status

Contact A.Bakes  
332, James Reckitt Ave  
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## **Letters to the editor.**

I for one feel that flight is a great and important part of archery and I will support you in any way I can. I already have read your Bowstrings and Carbon 1 arrows, and the 1339meters shot. I echo your sadness regarding the demise of Heather Urquhart and I will miss her at both the clout and flight shoots. I wonder if you have looked at the internet as a suitable means of distribution clearly

this may be cheaper than the post.

I have made a twin bow up made from two old bows and I think it may be worth shooting flight, I have tried it and it shot about 140 yards ( and 112 yards shot as a single bow) this the sort of thing you want to publish? The bow I have made with two bows as you can see fixed in the handle area with small screws the front bow is pointing forwards to get the weight right. The Main bow is 36 Pounds at 64" and the Front 18 pound at 45.5" I have added two plastic wedges at about 5" from the contact points which you can in the photos on my tiller at 6" fistmele with a 23" arrow it measured at 35 pounds at full draw. I previously tried the bow and got 120 yard without the front bow and 145 Yards with it strung up. the plastic wedges were at 6" out.

The Penobscot tribe used their bows to attack canoes at very long ranges but I don't know the weights they used. Its interesting that the Penobscot devised a compound bow from simple elements which were effective in their defense. I will bring the bow to the N.C flight shoot. Who knows, it could shoot in a class of it own.

## **Stephen Brown.**

*Editors Note: I have just been reading Steven King's "Insomnia", and surprise surprise, he mentions the Penobscot tribe in his novel, the only other time I have heard the name. I look forward to seeing Steve's bow in action.*

Tony;

I just had a brainwave. We currently have Grand Master flight, Master flight and First class flight for both gents and ladies. Why not revamp these to include Second and Third class flight, similar to target archery?

This could be based on existing distances but with ladies first class becoming third class flight; ladies master flight becoming second class flight and existing gents Grand master, Master and First class as existing? I think this could boost flight numbers and certainly add more incentive without diluting the top classes? I think its certainly worth considering for the future of flight, as a number of archers come once or twice just to get a classification and then quit?

Regards;  
Paul Spelzini

## Newsletter of the British Flight Archery Association.

*Editors Note: We have been thinking for some time about the flight classifications. I think the idea can go further than Paul is suggesting, possible including classifications for each bow type as well after all why*

*should someone who only shoots longbow miss out on a grand master, yet someone else who only ever shoots even a modest compound be able to get GM first time of asking. Perhaps we should get some discussion going.*

### **From the Archives:**

#### **The First West Midlands Flight Championships, 1952**

45 lb bow outshoots 70 lb.

The first west midlands flight championships attracted 19 enthusiasts to Goodyear Park to compete for the Charles Moore Bugle.

#### Ladies

Mrs M.E Bayliss, Apollo Archers: 200 yards (40lb steel bow).  
WMAA Silver plated medal for the greatest distance.

Mrs Bates, W'hampton Coy. of A: 151 yards (40 lb Kestrel)  
WMAA Silver plated arrow brooch for the second greatest distance

#### Gentlemen

Mr R. Wyre, W'hampton Coy. of A: 300 yards (45 lb solid light alloy steel bow)  
C.H.Moore Bugle and WMAA silver plated medal for the greatest distance.

Mr O. Wyre, W'hampton Coy. of A: 256 yards (70 lb solid alloy steel bow)  
WMAA Silver plated arrow brooch for the second greatest distance



**Let's make this a flight shoot**  
**He WILL remember**

### **Focus on.....Arrows**

Carbon arrows are certainly an improvement over aluminium any day – lighter, slimmer and a lot faster. Try using a lighter pile on the arrow. This has two effects- to make the arrow shoot a little stiffer (so losing

less energy) and to move the balance point back towards the centre of the arrow. Both could improve distances.

Try using smaller fletchings (even trimming them down with a sharp knife). Usually smaller fletchings will also give improved distances.

Give your arrows a good coating of Talc (or other dry lubricant such as powdered graphite), as well as putting talc on your string, arrow rest, tab – anywhere two surfaces rub together. Cutting down on friction will give a much faster shot and improve distances.

In the last edition, two new Nano-carbon arrows were reported, Carbon Express' "Nano XR" and Easton "Carbon 1". Both offered a big saving in weight over most other carbon arrows. The National Flight Championships offered a chance to try both off a Mathews Monster XLR8. As the name suggests, this bow is indeed a monster (but more on that in the next edition). Results were indeed impressive, with both showing a big improvement in distance over other arrows (it was the Carbon 1 which took the 45 lb target compound trophy, even beating all compounds in the 60 lb class as well). Certainly one to watch for the future.

### **A Brief History of flight 2**

The Turks were perhaps the most gifted of the ancient flight archers. In 1792, in the presence of three gentlemen of the Royal Tox, Mahmoun Effendi (secretary to the Turkish embassy in London) shot an arrow 482 yards with the wind. Six years later, in 1798, the Sultan in Turkey drove an arrow 972 yards, a distance verified by Sir Robert Ainslie, Ambassador to the Ports.

This was at a time when the Longbow reigned supreme in England, and distances for the English Longbow rarely bettered 200yards.

In it's hayday, the English longbow seldom exceeded 300 yards. Ford himself states that "very few archers can cover more than or even as much as 300 yards". The longest shot he made was 308 yards, using a Buchanan self-you long-bow.

*Editors note even today, only a handful of archers have managed to shoot beyond 300 yards, especially in the 50lbs class. Here, the world records stands at 324 yards.*

**Tournament Results**

**WEST MIDLANDS ARCHERY SOCIETY**

**17<sup>th</sup> WEST MIDLANDS & OPEN FLIGHT  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**24 July 2011**

**Held at Longford Hall (Adams Grammar School ),  
Newport, Shropshire.**

**Range Master: Antony Bakes  
Lady Paramount Ashleigh McLoud**

The 10 day forecast showed rain for the competition weekend, but 2 days before showed cloudy & bright, competition day arrived and it was a glorious sunny day for the WMAS Flight Championships. 15 archers competed which was 50% up on last year. There were only 5 WMAS archers competing, the majority competing in the open competition being from outside our region, coming as far afield as Saint Albans , Hull, Leeds & London areas. However all archers really enjoyed their day at Flight Archery. It was certainly good to see some new faces at the WMAS Flight Champs, hope you can spread the word for next year. Although there were only 15 competitors we had a top quality field with 4 competitors being past & present World Flight Record Holders

There was a blustery wind veering from a cross wind from right to left to a following wind on occasions, Tony Osborn shot a West Midlands Open Record in the Class A 50lb Target Bow Class, Harry Spencer a junior in his first Flight Competition shot 3 WMAS Open Records, in 50lb Class A, 50lb Class D & 35lb Class D, Mike Willrich also shot a WMAS Closed Record in 50lb Class D, so well done to them. Congratulations also go Nick Mitchell gaining a First Class Flight Qualification, in his first Flight Competition . From a moderate number of Flight Archers we had a very good standard of shooting ,well done to all archers who achieved their own personal goals, found out how far their bows can shoot and enjoyed the day at Flight Archery

Thank you to Antony Bakes for being our Range Master and thanks to Ashleigh McLoud who agreed to be our Lady Paramount for the day. A big thank you must go to all those of you who helped on the morning of the competition and in the measuring parties and clearing up of the field after the competition, whilst I worked out the results. Also a big thank you to my wife Janice who helped me measure and lay out the field and distance boards the day before the competition and on the morning before the competition. Finally many thanks to Adams Grammar School for allowing us to use Longford Hall Sports Field and Toilet facilities.

If you enjoyed your days Flight Archery at Longford Hall I hope you will return next year and bring along more of your club members, especially Junior archers to try their hand at flight archery.

**RESULTS WEST MIDLANDS CLOSED FLIGHT  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 50LB GENTLEMEN**

YDS	FT	INS	
MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
474	1	6	
NICK MITCHELL			SUTTON COLDFIELD
413	1	7	

**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 50LB LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
420	1	6	

**CLASS C: TARGET COMPOUND BOW 45LB GENTS**

ROGER HEMMING			REDHILL
535	0	3	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW UNL. GENTS**

MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
293	1	10	
BOB POWELL			EVESHAM
262	1	4	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW UNL. LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
225	1	2	

**RESULTS WEST MIDLANDS OPEN FLIGHT  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 50LB GENTLEMEN**

YDS	FT	INS	
TONY OSBORN			PEPPERSTOCK
502	1	4	
MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
474	1	6	
NICK MITCHELL			SUTTON COLDFIELD
413	1	7	
ANTONY BAKES			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
374	1	6	
THOMAS CRAM			LSAC
363	2	10	
JAMES COWIE			LSAC
328	1	8	
PAUL SPELZINI			ABBEY BOWMEN
300	0	7	
BERNARD TODD			
249	1	0	
CHRIS ROBSON			
217	1	5	

**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 50LB LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
420	1	6	
ASHLEIGH McLOUD			LSAC
326	1	0	

**CLASS A TARGET BOW 50LB JUNIORS**

HARRY SPENCER			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
354	1	9	

**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 35LB GENT**

MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
392	1	6	
TONY OSBORN			PEPPERSTOCK
377	2	2	
PAUL SPELZINE			ABBEY BOWMEN
272	1	9	

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**CLASS A: TARGET BOW 35LB LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
340	2	4	
ASHLEIGH McLOUD			LSAC
259	1	4	

**CLASS C: TARGET COMPOUND BOW 45LB GENTS**

ANTHONY BAKES			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
643	0	2	
ROGER HEMMING			REDHILL
535	0	3	
JAMES COWIE			LSAC
359	1	7	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW UNL GENTS**

MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
293	1	0	
BOB POWELL			EVESHAM
262	1	4	
THOMAS CRAM			LSAC
221	0	4	
TOM GOODWIN			LSAC
208	0	2	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 50LB GENTS**

MIKE WILLRICH			GNAS
285	1	1	
BOB. POWELL			EVESHAM
262	1	4	
ANTONY.BAKES			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
256	1	6	
THOMAS CRAM			LSAC
192	2	2	
JAMES COWIE			LSAC
173	2	0	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 50LB LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
225	1	2	
ASHLEIGH McLOUD			LSAC
180	1	1	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 50LB JUNIORS**

HARRY SPENCER			BOWMAN OF ST. MARY'S
222	1	5	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 35LB GENTS**

TONY BAKES			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
197	1	5	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 35LB LADIES**

JANICE WILLRICH			GNAS
216	2	9	
ASHLEIGH McLOUD			LSAC
154	1	9	

**CLASS D: ENGLISH LONGBOW 35LB JUNIORS**

HARRY SPENCER			BOWMEN OF ST. MARY'S
159	0	0	

**LONGEST CLASS A TARGET BOW DISTANCE TROPHY BY WMAS ARCHER ;**

M.WILLRICH – GNAS - 474YDS -1FT-6IN

**LONGEST SHOT TROPHY BY A UK JUNIOR :**

HARRY SPENCER - BOEMEN OF ST. MARY'S - 354YDS – 1FT – 9IN

**Thanks to Longford Hall ( Adams Grammar School ) for the use of the ground**

**West Midland Closed Medals provided by West Midlands Archery Society  
Open Medals provided by Mike & Janice Willrich**

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**Achievement News**

Nick Mitchel: first class flight shot

Mike Willrich: Class D n/e 50lbs West Midlands closed record

Tony Osborn: Class A n/e 50lbs West Midlands Open record

Harry Spencer: Class A n/e 50lbs West Midlands Open record

Harry Spencer: Class D n/e 35lbs West Midlands Open record

Harry Spencer: Class D n/e 50lbs West Midlands Open record

**Copy date for next issue: 31 Dec 2011**