



We shot our first Essex Summer Albion League Match since September 2019 on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Please, first, bring to your minds the Ardleigh Mantra “It’s not the winning, it’s the taking part”!

ARDLEIGH		RAYLEIGH	
ARCHER	SCORE	ARCHER	SCORE
Chris Lowe	714	P. West	817
Dave Clegg	590	K. Arthurton	810
Chris Phillips	468	G. Bilton	731
		I. Bushell	634
		G. Beswick	593
Totals	1772		3585
		C. Hill	588
		P. Dredge	560
		C. Clayton	491

A win for Rayleigh by 1813 points and in the League Table we’re presently holding up the other 5 teams!

The Albion Round consists of 36 arrows at each distance, 80, 60 and 50 yards.

Our next match is on 13<sup>th</sup> June and, hopefully, we may field a bigger team. Established members will be aware of the Criteria for Team Selection at Ardleigh but I list them, abridged somewhat, below for our newer members’ information.

1. Possess a bow that will shoot arrows to 80 yards or use a Club one (we do have them!)
2. Can expect to hit the target reasonably consistently at 80 yards.
3. Can expect to hit the target at 80 yards, but occasionally have arrows in the skirt or somewhere nearby.
4. Be capable of drawing breath and able to get to the shoot with a bow and some arrows (preferably at least 6).

This last will apply on this coming Sunday when members shooting the match will follow on from the “Taster” sessions for beginners in the morning.

Our first sessions for beginners on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June had 20 people booked in and 17 of those taking part indicated they’d like to take a course with us when we’ve sorted out the dates. We need to know how many finally book in for an introductory course and how long the current Covid regulations will last before we can do that.

We have another 19 booked in for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June so any help members can give will be very welcome.

The sessions are all outdoors at the moment and people are arriving at around 8.30am to start preparing the field but any help at any time in the morning will be appreciated.

Just in case there isn’t another newsletter between now and when the Olympic Archery in Tokyo takes place (hopefully!) I’m sure that we wish our former member, Sarah Bettles all good fortune in the competition. Whatever the result, it’s a wonderful achievement to get there.



These pictures are from the Essex County UK Record Status Target Championships on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

This was a successful day for Chris Phillips, who won the Fred Towler Rose Bowl for the top score in the Western Round (634). This was also a personal best.

Chris's granddaughter Mia also had a successful day. Well, it was actually a very successful day! Mia shot in the Junior Ladies' Under 14 Competition. The round was a Bristol 4 (6 dozen arrows at 40 yards, 4 dozen at 30 yards and 2 dozen at 20 yards) and Mia scored 972 points which is also a personal best. This won Mia the Jubilee Cup for the Highest Score by an Essex Lady Archer Under 14. Mia also won a commemorative badge from Noak Hill Bowmen for achieving two 6 gold ends.

We have 4 new members joining us, Dave, Wendy, Charlotte and Jade so a warm welcome to them. There are also some very keen archers among the people at the Taster session on 6<sup>th</sup> June and we've still got another three sessions to go. We're continually reviewing how we run the courses in view of the potential numbers of people who might enrol in them but until we know what (if any) relaxation in the present limitations in numbers we can't set a proper schedule. We have some options with our indoor facility so that may well be brought into play at some stage.

We are looking at different ways of running the courses. One option is two two-hour introductory sessions

What is fairly certain is that the new members, when they join us, will need the support and assistance of members while they're "absorbed" into our way of doing things. Perhaps by the time the Covid regulations do ease, and we don't need to have the booking system, members will be more inclined to shoot, either indoors or out. I think we're going to be wearing masks and sanitising for quite a little while yet anyway!

We're hoping to run our Clout and Field competitions later on in the year and both will have practice sessions before so people can prepare for them reasonably properly. So far as the other Outdoor Target competitions go, though, I think we're looking at things returning to something approaching normal next year, all being well and our monthly Spoon shoots as well.

The Manor House at Bretons is now open, albeit only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at the moment and I'll be processing our members details to both renew previous memberships and create new members of the Bretons Community Association. All our adult members are registered with the association, either by direct membership of the Social Club, when they can use the Social Club facilities at any time, or Associate memberships, when members can use

the facilities when our Club is using the Social Club when meetings are arranged by us. Under normal circumstances we have monthly Committee meetings and the barn is booked on Mondays and Fridays throughout the year (except Bank Holidays, etc.) and on Sunday afternoons from October to March.

When things settle a little more, perhaps our LADS (Lady Archers' Dining Society) and GADS (Gentlemen Archers' Dining Society) can begin functioning again as well.

Both the Ladies' and Gentlemen's Societies tend to have food as a primary function. The Ladies usually have the additional purpose of things like quiz nights. The Gentlemen's arrangements do mainly centre around food and the occasional drink at a chosen venue (often the Passage to India at Upminster Bridge), ideally somewhere on a bus or rail route. Just to re-assure partners, in no way are these events "gentlemen's evenings"! Quiz nights have been known to occur but usually the evenings commence with erudite discussion about World affairs and how solutions may be found and possible educational matters. After about half an hour of this, things then settle down to cordial discussion about nothing in particular! Things have been known to verge on chaos, though, when certain members and former members attend, and that's all I have to say about that!

One final note for one of our members shooting last Thursday with a view to getting some sight marks ready for our Essex Albion League Match. If your marks are well out from where they normally are, it's best to quickly check your bow is put together properly. Finding out the top limb is where the bottom one should be when one is putting one's gear away is rather late in becoming apparent! I did type in here the very logical reasons why the limbs are marked "upper" and "lower" so they are put in the right way round but deleted them quickly as it's much easier to explain with a bow in your hand.

Members who received the last newsletter will be aware Perris Archery have closed their Rettendon branch at Highlands Farm and now have one outlet at Raydon, near Ipswich. I understand that Andrew, who managed the Rettendon shop is re-opening and managing a new venture, effectively the Essex Branch of Merlin Archery, still at Highlands Farm but in a different building. I understand this has now been fitted out with stock arriving soon after. I understand the shop should be functioning from the 15<sup>th</sup> June with the official opening on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. I'm sure we wish Andrew every success with his new venture. That said, I've known Tony Preston, who owns Perris Archery for many years and feel some regret that he isn't as handy to get as they were. (According to my wife Barbara, a bit too handy!)