



December
2021

Plumpton Bowmen News



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Dates for the diary

2/01/2022 – First shoot of 2022
@ Playing Field

08/01/2022 – Cow Tuning &
Coaching @ Plumpton College

09/01/2022 – Friars Gate Field
Shoot

A note from the Chairman



Hello Plumpton Bowmen and welcome to our first Club newsletter. I wanted to introduce this newsletter as a place for us to share information and celebrate our successes. As this is the Club's newsletter, if there are any topics that you would like us to feature in the future or if you would like to contribute an article, please do let me know.

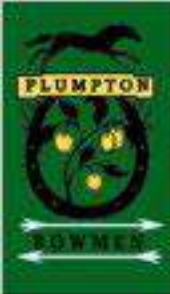
I can't believe this has been our second year of shooting with Covid, and I wanted to thank you all for helping keep one another safe whilst at the Club. We had to put in some drastic changes last year and I am so pleased that as the summer progressed, we were able to return to our old ways and shoot as a Club once again. I want to especially thank Stephen Cropp who built and managed the Event Bright booking system which we all came to know and love, it was a real success however it was an administrative nightmare for Stephen, so thank you.

You will read later in the newsletter what the Club has been up to on and off the shooting range, but I just wanted to reflect on how good it has been seeing many of you shooting and that we have been able to squeeze in a couple of the more social shoots, the fun shoot and the wand shoot.

We had a fantastic demand for our beginners courses this autumn, so much so that we held two back-to-back. As you all know, the beginners courses also bring us new members so please join me in welcoming our new members. Finally, I just want to say a big thank you to the team of coaches that supported this event and to Mark Piercy for arranging and managing the courses.

At the end of November, the Club had its annual end of season dinner at the Plough at Plumpton. Although numbers were down on previous years, a good time was had by all. The dinner is an informal get together for the Club, reminisce the past year and look forward to the next. I hope that 2022 allows us to have a good shooting season and give us an opportunity to celebrate this at the end of the year.

I think that all is left for me to do is to wish you all a Merry Christmas! keep safe and I look forward to seeing you all at the Playing Field for a new year of shooting.



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Up and coming fixtures

Fixtures List

You should have received the Club's shooting fixtures list via email and if you can lay your hands on it, it is also posted on the Club's website. Just by way of a reminder, the first shoot of 2022 will be on Sunday 2 January at the Playing Field and there is no indoor shooting on Sundays or Wednesdays until 2 February.

Bow tuning and Coaching

On Saturday 8 January between 10am and 1pm, the Club will be hosting a bow tuning and coaching session at Plumpton College. The session is open to all members who wish to use the opportunity to refresh their bow tuning skills or want some advice from our Club coaches.

Field Shoot

One of our neighboring Clubs, Friars Gate Archers, are hosting their annual field archery shoot on Sunday 9 January. The course is set in the woodlands near fletching and negotiates 28 targets at unmarked distances. The shoot is £15 for adults and £5 for Juniors with entry forms to be in by 1 January. If you are interested in taking part in this event and are a little unsure, please reach out to Marcus Allen and he will be able to answer any questions and help you with your entry. Thank you Marcus.



PR Activities

Although we have had another year living with the pandemic we managed to get out and promote the Club in the local community. In July David, Mark and Rob ran a taster session at the village Primary School as part of their Patina celebrations for the children moving to Secondary School. The kids had a great time as did the teachers who were just a little too competitive. Also, in June the Club had a stall at the Plumpton Green Strawberry Fayre, this was a great opportunity to show the village what we are all about and advertise our taster sessions.

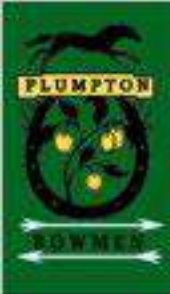


With the COVID restrictions not fully easing until later part of the summer the Club only managed to hold one taster session at the Playing Field. This was a well attended event and we managed to earn a few pennies for the BBQ fund.

The Club ran two fully subscribed Beginners Courses during September and October, our first since 2019. Our team of coaches saw c.40 participants through their four-week course, and as a result we have seen a healthy boost to our membership. Welcome to all our new members!



We continue to promote the Club, and in the new year we will be hosting archery taster sessions at Plumpton College and our next Beginners Course in the spring is looking to be another fully booked event.



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A Call to Arms

The Committee has recently dug deep into the Club's coffers and invested in some new kit, the Club brought four new beginners bows and some replacement sights. The Club has also invested in some new bosses too. Early in the new year we will be looking to form a couple of working parties to have a tidy, maintain our exiting bosses at the playing field and the College and make space for our new bosses which are currently in storage. Please look out for these calls to arms and help out where you can.



Percy's Patch

The Plumpton Bowmen was founded by Percy and May Law in 1975. Sadly, both Percy and May are no longer with us, however the Club still remembers them as its founding members. The memory of Percy is also commemorated with a plaque which has been recently refurbished and reinstated at the entrance to 'Percy's Patch'. Percy's Patch is a small woodland just behind our container and is a well-known spot in the village.



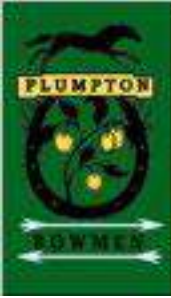
Our Committee

Plumpton Bowmen is a club for its members and in order for it to run smoothly there is a band of merry men and ladies on our Club's Committee. The Committee is voted in each year at the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and each voted in Committee Member has their own area of responsibility. The Club's Committee is currently represented by:

- David Wearn – Club Chairman
- Sue Holden – Club Secretary and Child Protection Officer
- Marcus Allen – Treasurer
- Stephen Cropp – Committee Member and Records Officer
- Mark Piercy – Committee Member and Public Relations Officer
- Geoff Beale – Committee Member and Website Manager
- Steve Gilbert – Committee Member and Competitions Officer
- Mark Osborne – Committee Member
- Kieran Osborne – Junior Representative



At the last AGM, Michael Seaborne stepped down from the Committee as our Competitions Officer. The Committee would like to thank Michael for his contribution to the Club over the years whilst on the Committee.



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Keeping Score

The last two years has seen us shoot differently as a Club and we have all been keeping our own scores in our own way. The Club is really keen to reintroduce the use of score sheets so that we can keep your records and achievements up to date. We don't want to discourage you from using those new (or old) scoring apps for your own records as well, but please start to use the score sheets too.

For all our new members, please don't be put off from scoring and submitting your scores, your results are not scrutinised by the Club and there is no Club leader board. Your scores however will be used to reward archery achievements, such as bow classes, calculate handicaps for competitions and be a reference point for your own progression.

If you would like access to your score records please contact Stephen Cropp at scores@plumptonbowmen.org.uk and he will arrange this for you.



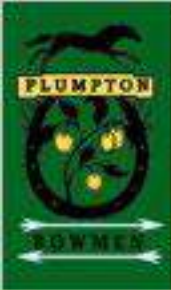
Coach on Duty

Following the Beginners Courses earlier in the autumn, the coaches at the Club have been taking it in turns to be the 'Coach on Duty' each of the Sunday morning shoots. The Club has a dozen or so coaches with varying levels of experience and area of expertise. The Coach on Duty is there for all Club members and if you would like to take advantage of their help or guidance, please just let them know and they will be more than happy to help.

Eton Town

I am sure you have all seen the campaign signs and banners around Plumpton and surrounding villages opposing the plans to build a new town between Plumpton, East Chiltonton and Chailey. This proposed development would see 3000 houses being built on 500 acres of farmland including the fields that boarder the Playing Field. This is a one of a number of developments that the Parish and County Councils are objecting and fortunately is still very much in the early stages of planning. The Playing Field is not part of the development plan and there is no indication that the any development will start in the near future. If you want to support the fight against the development or want to get a better understanding of the plans and the campaigning against the development please visit and support www.donturbanisethedowns.com/.





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Our Home Ground

The King George V Playing Field has been the home to Plumpton Bowmen for many years. As a regular and long-term hirer, we have a voice at the Parish Pavilion and Playing Field Committee, influencing how the facilities are used and maintained.



The Club has a good relationship with the Parish Council however we do have to be mindful of how we treat the facilities and how we leave them for other users after us. The Parish Council is sensitive to the Club parking on the playing field and we thank you all for following the guidance to not drive on the Playing Field, to reverse park, and to use the car park when the conditions don't allow us to park on the field. The rule of thumb is, we shouldn't be parking on the Playing Field if doing so will mark the surface. We are also aware that other users of the field do not abide by the rules as stringently as we do, however the Parish Council is in contact with those users.



We would also like to thank you all for adopting the new peg box that Malcom made for us, this box allows us to ensure that we don't leave any pegs on the field, in the past this has been a costly mistake in the past for the Club as our pegs have damaged the mowers used to cut the grass and punctured the tires of the tractor.



Plumpton College

We are so pleased that the Club has been able to offer members the opportunity to shoot indoors this winter and we are thankful to Plumpton College for allowing us to hire their sports hall. Over the last year, our relationship with the College has strengthened, as the Club has been hiring it's equipment to the College in support of their outward bounds courses it offers its students. It is a great partnership between the Club and the College, and it helps offset our hire charges at the College. Every little helps as they say.



Plumpton College



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Social Media

WhatsApp

Just a gentle reminder that the Club has two WhatsApp chat groups that are open to all members:

Plumpton Bowmen

This group is for announcements from the Club to all Members on matters such as:

- last minute changes to shooting location due to the weather
- Mid week shooting details
- Parking updates

Plumpton Bowmen Chat

This is the Club's informal chat thread discussing everything from new bows, general archery chat and advice to who is going to be shooting.

The WhatsApp chats will not replace the email messages sent to all members.

If you are not already a member of these WhatsApp chats please get in touch with Stephen Cropp and he will add you.

Website

For those of you that do refer to the Club's Website, Geoff Beale is in the process of rebuilding this for the Club, so be on the lookout for the changes at www.plumpton-bowmen.org.uk/



Facebook

The Club also maintains its Facebook Page www.facebook.com/plumptonbowmen, please do help us advise our Club by liking and sharing this page.