



Dunedin Archery Club

Chingford Park Dunedin

Masters Games 2018

WELCOME

On behalf of the Dunedin Archery Club I would like to welcome you to the 2018 Masters Games.

THE VENUE

Chingford Park is situated in North East Valley. Travel north along North Road, turn left into Beechworth Street and finally right into Afton Terrace. At the end of the terrace is Chingford Park with the Clubrooms just on the right.

The feature of the park is the Chingford Stables which sits amongst mature trees. P C Neill who built the stables and used them from about 1872 to 1937 was a major Dunedin man and a founder of Wilson Neill Ltd. He was also the owner of Edinburgh House, originally known as P C Neill Universal Bond Store which gave its name to Bond Street. (Edinburgh House has since been demolished).

Along with Archery Chingford Park is also used for Soccer, Golf Frisbee and Cricket and is also home to the Leith Harriers.

FACILITIES

The Clubroom is equipped with toilets, fridge and modest kitchen. Coffee, Tea and biscuits are provided. There is a Bakery, Supermarket and money machine (Westpac) situated in the Gardens Village which is a 5 minute drive away.

TARGETS, DISTANCES and TIMING

All of the targets are mobile and packed with either Pinex or Danage. For the 50M/30M and 40M/30M distances, 'cut down' single face 80cm targets will be used with scoring zones 10-5. One face per archer with 6 arrow ends. The Tournament will be conducted under modified Archery New Zealand rules and under the direction of accredited judges and director of shooting. Men 60+ and Women 50+ will shoot 40M/30M. All other age groups will shoot 50M/30M.

The Masters Archery is run in conjunction with a WA registered tournament, so there is the possibility of taking part in this to make a full day 1440 shoot. Only the afternoon scores will count towards Masters Medals. For further information about registering for the 1440 shoot, please contact the Tournament Organiser: DAC.tournament@gmail.com

PRACTICE

Weather permitting, practice targets will be available on the Friday afternoon, 2 February from 1.00 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. At the beginning of each days shooting 2 Official Practice ends will be shot.

DISTANCES

For men, classes 40-49, 50-59 50M/30M, 60+ 40M/30M. For women 40-49 50M/30M 50+ 40M/30M.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The maximum peak weight for a compound bow is 60lbs
Target Crossbows: maximum draw weight is 95lbs (+2.2lb).

CLOTHING

It is requested that appropriate clothing be worn, no open toed shoes or jandals please.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire, Ambulance, Police 111

Urgent Doctors, [95 Hanover St, Dunedin](#). Phone 479 2900

YOUR CO-ORDINATORS

Annemaree Senior

Phone 021 279 7580

E-mail annemaree.senior@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND ARCHERY HISTORY

It is generally believed that the Dunedin Archery Club was the first of the modern clubs to get started. Although no early minute books are available for reference or confirmation of this fact due to the fire that completely destroyed the clubhouse and its contents in the autumn of 1949. However, two references from the Fred Lake (Surrey, England) collection of archery literature show quite clearly that this was correct and that the club was formed in 1938 by Mr. N. J. Ryan.

This club operated successfully during the war years with around thirty members from the armed forces shooting regularly with the club. The club's existence therefore was due to Mr. N. J. Ryan's interest in archery which commenced in 1937 a few months prior to the Christmas holiday break of December and January of that year. He had rented a "crib" (a bach to North Islanders) at Brighton about nine miles south of Dunedin for his family to spend their summer vacation in.

Mr. Ryan, or Nick as he was known to his friends would never envisage a holiday just lying in the sun, so in his search for some sort of family activity came up with the idea of archery. In order to make archery gear he had to undertake research in the Public Library and as a result found references and articles in an old last century archery book, in the Badminton Sports series, and also the Encyclopedia Britannica. The books instructed the use of yew for the manufacture of the bows but he was unable to find any seasoned yew timber and had to substitute with other timbers. He finished up making three bows, one from ash, one from Oregon and one from a branch of the small native tree, Horoeka, or Lancewood.

The bowstrings were made from light sash cord similar to that used for the heavier type venetian blinds and without protective arm guards these strings raised blue and red welts on the shooters' arms. The arrows themselves were made from 1/2 inch white pine doweling and fletched with goose feathers. There were no arrow rests on the bows themselves and the arrows had to be fired off the top of the hand and as the split goose quills were glued on top of the shafts rather than inserted into a groove many small pieces of flesh were removed from the index finger and knuckle.

They did not have a proper target so shot down the beach at a distance of twenty or thirty yards in a clout fashion by shooting at an elevated angle and landing their arrows down onto a marked area. One day on the beach Mr. Nick Ryan, his son Des and his friend Tony De Courcy, were approached by a husky young man in his mid-twenties by the name of Frank Wheeler. He told them that he owned an English bow and arrows and would bring them out to Brighton the next day. He did and the Ryan's were fascinated to see a yew bow and six well-made arrows. The bow was very short - only about 4ft 6 inches long - and was laminated with yew on the outside and ash in the middle, black horn tips and a felt-type handle. The arrows were slim, attractively crested and had horn nocks. Mr. Nick Ryan was captivated with this equipment and with more research from America where archery was really getting into full swing, he spliced two hickory pick handles together to make his first efficient bow.

Archer activities were soon under way at a place close to the Beverley Begg Observatory, which was appropriately known as Robin Hood Park. This park was the top part of the disused quarry, which had been flattened out and made into a soccer field. The Ryan family which consisted of Mr. Nick Ryan, his son Des, his daughter Sheila and son-in-law Horace Sullivan were soon augmented by others such as Herbie and Eunice Myles and Hud Brookes. This was in 1938 and Mr. Nick Ryan's enthusiasm soon infected several old friends including Eric Strang and Eric Davis while others not known to him at the time were also to become interested in the sport, for example Frank Walker and Hughie Butel. Later the City Council granted a lease of a portion of Jubilee Park for the use of an archery range and clubhouse site. An old photograph in the Ryan family collection shows a group of archers taken at Jubilee Park Dunedin among which are Mr. Nick Ryan and Mr. Eric Strang of the Dunedin club and Mr. Ian McVinnie of Oamaru.

The date was the 17th November 1940 and the occasion was an archery contest between Dunedin and the Oamaru club. This shooting match preceded the opening of the Dunedin clubhouse, which took place in August of the following year.

Their first targets that they made and used at Robin Hood Park were simply just round scrim sacks filled with straw, which soon broke up. They improved upon this with square wooden frames with scrim backs and fronts and stuffed full of straw but even these did not last long as the arrows invariably hit the wooden frame and broke and the straw became lumpy. When they moved to Jubilee Park in 1941 Mr. Nick Ryan in an endeavor to improve on the targets wound and glued six inch strips of corrugated cardboard together, but, it was only when he purchased Dr. Elmer's book on archery from the United States that he was able to make targets that stood the test of time. These targets were made from three-inch diameter straw rope and were sewn together as they were fed between the spokes of two horse carriage gig wheels, which he had mounted on an axle and frame.

Mr. Nick Ryan's contribution to the establishment of archery in New Zealand was immense and his devoted efforts were not only responsible for the formation of the Dunedin club in 1938 but also the New Zealand Archery Association itself which was registered in Dunedin on the 16th February 1943. Mr. Nick Ryan is known today as the "Father of Archery in New Zealand". During the war years rifle ammunition became unavailable and many men who had previously shot at targets with a rifle now turned their attention to the use of the bow and arrow. Archery in Gisborne became established for this reason. The Gisborne Rifle Club, which had been formed in 1941 by MR. W. J. Burton and others soon, used up their existing supplies of

ammunition and as a result an archery section was formed within the club the following year. This archery section of the Gisborne Rifle Club operated for the next ten years until the Gisborne Archery Club Inc., was formed in 1952.

The Auckland Archery Club was formed for the same reason on the 11th November 1944. The foundation members included two riflemen in Tom Bryan and Jim McDougall, one bowhunter in Wattie Harriman along with Jack Draffin, Roy Baird, Mr. Rennie snr., Mr. Rennie jnr., Mr. and Mrs. Fearon. Mr. Bryan had made a trip to the South Island, where he met up with Mr. N. J. Ryan of the Dunedin club and was soon encouraged into the interests of archery. On returning to Auckland he got Mr. McDougall interested and together they were instrumental in forming the Auckland club.

DUNEDIN ARCHERY CLUB

Dunedin Has Many Enthusiastic Followers. If a friend should tell you that he has just become a toxophilite, don't panic. You could, of course, confuse the word with taxonomist, tergiversator, tintinnabulist, toxicologist or even tulipomaniac, any one of which should bring a glassy look to your eye and make you tremble.

But with the toxophilite, you have no need for alarm. What your friend is trying to tell you is that he has become a student or follower of archery.



Now, although the days of Robin Hood, William Tell and company are long since ended, archery is by no means dead. In Dunedin the bows twang every Saturday at Jubilee Park, where the local Archery Club meets. The 1951-52 season had an auspicious opening on Saturday, when conditions were ideal and members lined up in good numbers for some target shooting. Not that the arrows hit the targets every time - a fair number went whizzing over, below, and to the side of the target they were aimed at.

Archery is not as easy as it looks as some of the new members found out. Although the target, with its diameter of four feet, looks fairly large from 30 yards distance. It seems a lot smaller when you are shooting

arrows at it. In fact, perseverance is the essence of the sport for a novice.

But perseverance does bring its reward. Constant practice conduces to a wonderful degree of accuracy in the art of shooting with a bow, and to watch a skilled archer regularly hitting the nine-inch-wide bull is a revelation in steadiness and judgement. Archers, of course, have something in common with anglers. They can tell a good story. This trait, indeed, gives rise to the proverbial phrase "drawing the long bow", but, even if some archers like to embellish their feats, it is, nevertheless, true that a remarkable degree of accuracy can be attained at distances up to 100 yards.

The fundamental requirements of good archery are early training and constant practice. From this experience, steadiness, stance, sighting, and, perhaps, most important of all, release of the arrow, are learnt and improved. Release of the arrow is the attribute that archers say will make or mar a perfect shot. Some favour the method merely of relaxing the fingers; others prefer to withdraw their fingers slightly from the string. These are points that experience decides.

Throughout the world, archery is gaining more and more adherents. The United States has for long been a stronghold of the sport, and in the past few years there has been a revival of interest in Britain, where it first became a prominent pastime. In New Zealand, too, there is a growing band of archers, whose numbers are perhaps not large in comparison with those who take part in better-known summer sports, yet indicate that the pastime has a definite hold in this country. Their enthusiasm is a factor that would be welcome in many kindred outdoor sports.

Archery, in addition, is a pastime where a woman meets a man on more or less equal footing. If Annie had had a bow instead of a gun - and practiced with it - she would probably not have been left lamenting the lack of a man.

Taken from the Otago Daily Times, October 15, 1951.