

Castles League News and gossip.

13th March 2017 –

I delayed the tables while waiting for last-minute results but feel this is the time to post the end tables now. Firstly, I should add some comments. The tables show the state of play at the end of February but 'March', had we results for a 'March', would include any division changes. The certificates, however, SHOULD include the division change so please do not imagine that it's all set quite yet! Also, certificates are printed where I have results for two or more months entry only so not everyone will receive my 'hand-finished' artwork for 2017!

Now to the tables. Ed Thomas (Cleadow), Siam Williams (Kirknewton), Tony McDonnell (Aycliffe), Brian Fraser (Border Reiver Archers) and Gary Reid (Killingworth) all posted 2nd scores so should promote via the annual certificates. Congratulations to all. Bamburgh – I see lots of 1st scores but only Robert Welbourn (Dragon), Peter Goodbarn (Kirknewton), Ewan Paton (Killingworth) and Pete Wake (Border Reiver Archers), Alexander Smirnis (Walker), Satya Varanasi (Ponteland) and finally for this division, Janet Rickaby (Killingworth) managed that 2nd before we ran out of time. Under 'Barnard' I see plenty of '1s' but only Jason Ingram (Heugh) claimed that 2nd score and a new division.

Berwick – Yet again, plenty of '1st' scores but only Elma Metcalfe (Aycliffe longbow), Guy Reid (Killingworth), and Gillian Ainslie, co-incidentally of 'Berwick' claimed the 2nd score.

Under 'Durham', Mark Renwick (Castle Dene), Neil Adcock (Berwick), Usha Bontha (Ponteland) Elma Metcalfe (Aycliffe and Recurve this time) and Alanna Baguley (Norton) all hit 2nd scores. In 'Lindisfarne' Harry Longley (Stockton), and Brian Clarke (Heugh) also hit 2nd. 'Raby' of course, will have none as this is as far as we go, but, at Warkworth I see Ian Schooler (Border Reiver Archers), Gordon Ford (Castle Dene), Andy Waddle (Killingworth and longbow), and Rhiannon Beckett (Norton) all breaking that barrier!

So, here we are at the close of play for winter season 2016-17. I shall attempt to start collating details for the certificates next and hope to have these ready soon. Good shooting everyone!

7th February 2017 –

Time to give credit to everyone who has managed to stay shooting so far this winter season. We welcome new members John Monaghan and Nicky Hunter from Border Reiver Archers, and from Walker I have Peter and Ellen Ridley plus George Anderson. From Newburn I have Sharron and Josh Gibson plus Courtney Carter and from East Durham I have Scott and Phil Hornsey and Michael Redshaw.

So, how did we all do? Taking 'Alnwick' first, we have 11 archers who have posted either first or second scores so will either promote for February scores or be searching for that 2nd score to clinch promotion at the close of the league. Bamburgh has 10 and Barnard has 5. Berwick shows 6 while Bowes has 1. Durham also boasts 6 and Lindisfarne has 8. Warkworth has 8 and,

of course, Raby has none as you cannot get any higher! Of course, we also have a few sliding down and this is often as the score for the first month was very high and so high that it could not be maintained, but every chance gives new hope!

It is an ideal time now to mention something that may show up as unusual but isn't, and that is where you notice "U1's" and "U2's" only to be followed by another "U1". As the table does not show where your starting division was this is usually where we have someone shooting through the divisions at an unusual pace. The "U1" and "U2" being from the previous division and the "U1" currently from the new division. Next year I may try to add the originating division to the tables?

So, with the days getting ever longer but the weather not improving much we are possibly all looking forward to warmer days and dry grounds. For my part, I'm painting new target numbers for my club ready for the outdoor competitions and there will be NO award for the first person to shoot a hole in any of them! Be warned!

Good shooting to all. Will be in touch ready for the February scores in a few weeks.

10th January 2016 –

I still have details from two club to include, but for the moment here are the current lists. Yet again we have a few new members and I welcome them all. Now to the news. Taking the divisions in some sort of order Mark Renwick (Castle Dene) and Declan McElderry-Wilkinson (Backworth), both in Alnwick posted 2nd scores that will result in promotion next month. In Bamburgh, Bill Smailes (Rothbury Forest), Gordon Ford (Castle Dene), Stuart Fores (Aycliffe) and Chris Hood (Kirknewton) have done likewise. Moving to Barnard, Phil Granger (Stockton), Pamela Duncanson (Heugh), and Steven Bell (Priory) have all posted 2nd scores. In Berwick, we have Ed Thomas (Cleadow) and Ian Schooler (Border Reiver Archers) with that 2nd score. From Bowes, we have Tony McDonnell and Elma Metcalfe (Aycliffe) moving next month. From the Durham division John Madderson (Walker), Graham Donkin (Kirknewton) and Christine Thompson (Berwick) all achieved that 2nd score. Lindisfarne produced a flurry of 2nd scores in a block in gents recurve with Mark Arnold (Norton), Joe Brown (East Durham) and Keld Hope (Aycliffe) pushing upwards and lastly Warkworth shows Charles Mayes (Castle Dene) and Patrica Arnold (Norton) will change divisions next month. We also have a host of 'up 1' or 1st scores and there is still time to move up before the season closes. I leave you all to check these out all around the divisions. I wish you all well in shooting this month after the enforced lay-off and hope that everyone will leave the comfort of home and keep the habit of shooting at the club?

8th December 2016 –

With most of the scores in for November, it's time to post the tables as I have them now. We have good news and not-so-good news in that generally we seem to have hit a dip in success

for some of us, but also an improvement for others. Lindisfarne shows the top ten men all posted at least 'first scores' so December will be an important month for all.

Taking leagues individually we have: Gordon Ford and Mark Renwick posting 2nd and 1st scores. Gordon will promote from December. Also, we have Declan from Backworth making massive improvement and posting a 1st score and Karen of Border Reiver Archers doing similar. Moving to Bamburgh I see Alan Hudson of Cleadon gains that 2nd score, Bill Smailes of Rothbury Forest claims a 1st, Gordon Dunk of Killingworth shooting longbow also posts a 1st while the top 5 men recurve do the same. Chris Hood of Kirknewton and Janet Rickaby of Killingworth lead the Ladies recurve with 1st scores. In Barnard, we have Pam Duncanson of Heugh posting a 1st while, yet again, the top four men recurve do the same. I cannot recall when we last had such competition within divisions? Berwick shows Ed Thomas (cleadon), Ian Schooler (Border Reiver Archers) and Jessica Bowkett all posting 1st scores. 'Bowes' registers Tony McDonnell and Elma Metcalfe of Aycliffe Archers and John Clasper of East Durham all gaining that 1st. In 'Durham' John Madderson gains a 1st while the top three men all pass the threshold with Brian Fenwick of Houghton posting a 2nd that will result in a division change for next month. To end this division, we have Eve Cowens (Kirknewton) and Amy Jose (Border Reiver Archers) gaining 1st scores. Now to 'Lindisfarne'. Joan Toman (V.I. compound) posted a 1st as did Alan Brown (Longbow – Backworth). The top 11 men recurve all posted high scores with Gerry Rogerson (Houghton) making this a 2nd score and, thus, promotion for next month. To close, 'Warkworth' gives us Charles Mayes (Castle Dean, Andy Waddle (Killingworth), John Harrison (Kirknewton) and Patricia Arnold all posted firsts.

Congratulations to everyone. For newer archers just getting used to the sport please remember that the indoor season is ideal for developing skills without wind and rain, uneven ground and all the various difficulties we have outdoors, adding problems to an already tough sport. Good luck in December.

10th November 2016 –

All done for October. My fault! I mislaid the Killingworth list. However, lots of shooting days remaining in November so keep shooting.

9th November 2016 –

Not all scores are in with Killingworth still to come, but as it was their indoor open on Sunday and results will be required then league issues are, perhaps, next on the list?

My first comment is to say that after ten years we have had the first perfect score. 360 by Alex Wise of Walker. Bother! Just when we were all working up to it! As it is the first month I expected few 'move' scores but it seems there are many of you better than you first imagined? From Castle Deane Gordon Ford shooting Longbow managed it. Berwick Bowmen, with Gillian Ainsley, Donald Metcalfe, Andrew Isles, David McIntosh, Nicole Ainslie, John Gill (recurve) and Christine Thompson all did it. Alan Hudson, Ann Lee and Hannah Mason of Cleadon did it. Gerry

Rogerson of Houghton did it. The next goal is to do it AGAIN to ensure immediate promotion, but that's the idea behind the league and the challenge is all your own.

I also have entries from Whitburn but I'm waiting for Killingworth before sorting, building and posting the new divisions. There will be a 'post' on the home page of the county web site when it's all done so you can plot any changes.

8th November 2016 - I must apologise for the delay in posting the first set of tables but extra keying and other archery jobs has delayed things so far but the first 'draft' are now here. Initially I was concerned that the divisions seemed smaller than in other years but then remembered that we are up from 7 divisions to 9.

First let me explain some new things in the tables. The top scorer for the month should show a 'T' in red in the table. 'U1' or (we all hope) 'U2' is an indicator of a 'first score' or a 'second score'. Promotion follows a 'U2'. Of course, 'D1' or 'D2' indicates that the opposite is happening and scores have slipped.

Some really high scores for divisions have been entered this month and I will list them all shortly in this file, but for now I will post these tables for all to view.