

Castles League News and gossip.

22nd April 2019. –

I have no idea how I failed to load any gossip from the end of February and here we are, all waiting for outdoor shooting to become normal after a winter indoors.

So, what happened as the league closed? Well Nicky Hunter from Border Reivers put in the score that promoted up a division after an indifferent January. However, January WAS a poorer month for many of us and I put that down to the festive season and dark and cold nights? In the Bamburgh division Stephen Muir, Tony McDonnell, Steve Foreman, Kevin Ford and Andrew Isles all did the same and posted 2nd scores. Under 'Barnard' Claire McGovern and Kevin Stead did likewise and were promoted at season's end.

In the 'Durham' division there was a massive late response to action. Jack Porteous, Terry Astley, Liam Ford, Mal Newton, Steve Foreman (Longbow), Chris Stewart, Mike Tomkinson, David McIntosh and Helen Ford all gained that second score for promotion. A good end to the season.

Finally, moving to 'Warkworth' we have Katie Dixon, Jenny Leverett, and Maureen Ritson (Longbow) all gaining that score for promotion.

Spread around all divisions we also had a host of 'first scores' that hinted at improvement before the season closed and we are all cast out into the open air for another 'Summer' season.

To everyone, thanks for taking part. Please forgive my bloopers when they happened, and I hope to open the challenge once more as late summer arrives.

12th February 2019. –

Before I review the tables I had better explain something. I've changed the colour of the 'U2' table entry to indicate that a division change happened at this point as it can make the table look a little unusual. However, that showed up another point and that is where 'U2' is followed by 'U2'. I think it's happened twice this time and it's because the scores entered have improved so much that the first 'U2' score is actually higher than the top score for the division just entered and so it acts as a 'U1' for the new division. Now to the tables.

Taking Alnwick first. Jack Porteous (Border Reivers), Claire Daley (Whitburn), Liam Ford (Norton), Bill Lee (Riverside), Dave Thompson (Kirknewton) and Brian Younger (Berwick Borough) all entered that second score ready for promotion at the end of February. Jack Gill of Berwick Borough gained a first score for his new division. In Bamburgh Julie Bews (Killingworth) has a 'first score', Alex Blick (Stockton) has promotion coming next time. Tony Lomer-Cross (Berwick Borough) and Derek Phipps (Border Reivers) plus Lee Blenkinsop (Killingworth) all posted 'first scores'. Now to Barnard. Kevin Stead, Robert Monaghan, and Steve Rushforth (Stockton), Alison Gray (Aycliffe), Oli Baylis (Riverside), Angus Sanderson (Norton), all entered 'first scores'. Luke Fittes (Killingworth) will promote at the end of this month. In 'Berwick' Ollie Kasicki (Border Reivers), Jennifer Turnbull and Jenny Leverett (Riverside) all have 'U2' scores ready to promote.

In 'Bowes' Mark Chaffer (Ponteland) entered a 'first score'. Durham! In Durham Anna Baylis (Riverside), Alison Derbyshire (Kirknewton) and both Chris Stewart and Andrew Lawrie (Border Reivers) entered 'first scores' while Mary Rathbone (Killingworth) entered her 'second score'!

Lindisfarne. Here we have Harry Longley (Stockton), Chris Waugh (Heugh), Niall Carolan (Riverside) have first scores and Joan Toman (Killingworth) posted a 'second score' and the final division today is Warkworth. Here

we have Jack Bradley, Phil Thompson, and Jacques Reid (Killingworth) all with first scores as does Jane Phipps (Border Reivers). With a second score we have Ian Jamieson of Aycliffe. For this month these are the potential movers or 'ready to movers. Shoot well, stay focussed.

10th January 2019. –

A New Year and the shortest day now past, although we have yet to see the benefits. So, to the League. As expected, we have a burst of promotions although this will not take effect until the month end. This will allow you to have the glory of seeing your position in the existing division before entering a different one for the continuation of the season. For those who have slipped a division, could it be the loss of practice after the summer season ended? Whatever the reason it's time to see if you can reverse your slide before the season end?

Now to the divisions. Warkworth. Steve Foreman and Muriel Temple (Killingworth) will both move up next month while Katie Dixon (Whitburn) and Sandra Wickham (Stockton) posted 'first' scores. In the 'Lindisfarne' division last month we had a flurry of U1's and these have converted to U2's this month. But first I'll cover a new 'U1' and that was Sam Phillips of Norton. Promotions are planned for Phil Scott (Backworth), Adrian Price (Norton), John Allan (Killingworth), Allan Curry and Amit Ray (Border Reivers) but real 'hard luck' went to Harry Longley of Stockton who needed only 1 more point for promotion. Next time!

And now for Durham! 'First scores' first. Here we have Helen Ford of Norton and John Harrison of Kirknewton. Promotion scores are from Tony McDonnell (Aycliffe) and John Monaghan (Border Reivers), both longbow and both going up in the Castles League world.

Under 'Berwick' and taking promotions first this time Claire Daley (Whitburn), Jack Gill (Berwick) and Ann Turnbull (Riverside) will all promote for the end of this month. With 'first scores' we have Ollie Kasicky (Border Reivers), Jennifer Turnbull (Riverside), and Jenny Leverett (Riverside) all making progress.

In 'Barnard' David Leverett (Riverside) and Luke Fittes (Killingworth) both have U1 first scores while Adam Shaw (Backworth), Phil Grainger (Stockton) and Jamie Wallace (Whitburn) are up next month.

Finally, in Bamburgh Nikita Newton will promote having posted an 'U2' score while Bill Smailes (Rothbury Forest), Alex Blick (Stockton), and Kevin Ford of Stockton all posted 'U1 first scores'.

Obviously, there are also disappointments but there is still time to recover. Please enjoy your shooting this month as we work towards the spring time. I'll be here next month will another round-up.

11th December 2018. –

The festive season rolls in and, although I was a little slow in getting the tables built, they should all be done now. As I expected, the first round of "first scores" have arrived and I will cover these shortly. As a reminder what these are, the answer is this. To make sure a member is ready to change division either up or down and the score is neither unusually good OR unintentionally low we employ a 'first score' and 'second score' system. The first time the threshold is breached the score becomes a 'first' score. A second breach without a break between entered scores (months) creates a 'second' score and subsequent division change. This change is automatic in the following month to the 'second' score to allow you to view your achievement in 'print' before you are caste into the maelstrom of the next division.

Currently we have 233 participants to this season's league.

Now to the achievements for November. Alnwick! Jack Bradley (Killingworth), Ann Lee (Riverside), Brian Younger (Berwick) and Ian Jamieson (Aycliffe) all entered the 'first score'.

Bamburgh. We have two 'up' scores. From Caitlin Everett (Riverside) and Nikita Newton of Whitburn.

Barnard. Here we have a flurry of activity in 'Gents Compound'. Adam Shaw (Backworth), Jamie Wallace (Whitburn), Spencer Black (Killingworth), Phil Grainger (Stockton) all posted U1 scores in one large clump! Under 'Gents Recurve' we have Oli Bayliss (Riverside) and from Stockton, Peter Gray and Kevin Stead.

In Berwick, the division not the club, we have Claire Daley (Whitburn), Jack Gill and Michael Tiernan (Both Berwick Borough, the club not the division), Ann Turnbull (Riverside) and Lee Blenkinsop (Killingworth).

Next up is Bowes. We have one here and this is Alan Hick of Border Reivers.

Durham holds 9 scores. Anna Baylis (Riverside), Mary Rathbone (Killingworth), John Monaghan (Berwick) starts a clump from 'Gents Longbow' with Gordon Dunk (Killingworth), Tony McDonnell (Aycliffe) and Spencer Black (Killingworth). David McIntosh Elliot Chisholm and Keith Hall (Berwick Borough) make up the nine.

Lindisfarne also holds nine upper changes. Abbie Taylor (Killingworth) starts it all off. For 'gents recurve' Harry Longley (Stockton), Phil Scott (Backworth), Adrian Price (Norton), John Allen (Killingworth), Steve Jackson (Berwick), Amit Ray and Alan Curry (Border Reiver) and finally Karolina Krucovska of Stockton.

From the final division I have three. Warkworth yields Jovie Robinson (Whitburn), Steve Foreman and Muriel Temple (Killingworth) make up the trio.

We did have a few low scores but there is always the opportunity to break the cycle this month. That's all for now. Enjoy the festive break and shoot well when possible.

13th November 2018. –

I'm just posting 'version 2' of the October tables to add those whose scores arrived a little later than the others. We are half way through November and even I have entered a score for this current month. All that remains is to add "enjoy your shooting" and we will, hopefully, have a few 'first scores' to report early in December?

8th November 2018. –

The first draft of the first table set is now here. With 180 entries already, I'm hoping that we expand over the winter. Everyone has been placed in a starting division and I notice a few who are teetering on the top of the ladder already. One extra point from that 'first score' number that hints at the chance of a move.

As I have done in other years, you have a 'where-am-I' list for you to locate your division and, of course, this gossip page. As we enter November you now know exactly where you are and what you need to aim for to progress further. So, for now "Good Shooting".