

PINES PARK ARCHERS

NEWS & FEATURES

3D Champs

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Hi Everyone. The 3D Champs this year were held on the weekend of 23/24 May at Osmaston Country Park in Derbyshire, and Derek and I were really looking forward to it. The village of Osmaston is just outside of Ashbourne, so we could have travelled each day, but we decided to camp as it is a social occasion too. There was a camp site secured by the NFAS in the village itself on the polo field. Lovely flat grass, running water and loos. What more could we have needed?



All we needed was good weather, and our prayers were answered. When we arose the Saturday morning the sun was shining. After breakfast everyone made their way to admin and picked up their cards. Derek and

I found that we were shooting different courses. I was shooting A course and Derek was shooting C, which meant that on Sunday we were shooting B and A respectively. There were three courses so whoever did A one day did B the next, B did C and C did A. (I think I got the two hardest).

The weather stayed perfect for the whole weekend, it could not have been better. On Saturday those of us who were on A course were taken out half an hour before the others because our course was the furthest away. By the time we got there I needed a rest just to get over the trek. Finally we were led out to our pegs and were ready to go. My group were great, 3 guys all shooting compound unlimited and a lady h/t (same as me). The guys didn't take too much time with their shots, there was no-one pushing us, and we weren't waiting for the group in front of us either so it was a nice day.



When we finished we had the long walk back to admin, and this time it was uphill! I must have looked as if I wasn't going to make it 'cos one of the marshals from Pride Park stopped to give me a lift up the hill, then stopped for Dawn Donohoe (one of our members till this year – now independent) we waved like the queen to everyone as we were being driven up the hill. Derek and I went to the pub in the village, which was only a five minute walk, and had a meal, over which we discussed what sort of day we had had.

On Sunday morning everyone was back at admin raring to go again. The placings after Saturday's scores were up for all to see. I

was in 23rd place, not to good. I needed to try a bit harder today. The walk out to B was not so bad as the day before and it was another lovely day and everyone was in good spirits. That's what I like about the champs, it is always a really happy atmosphere.

When I got to the peg I was starting on I found that one of the guys from my group the previous day was with us, which was nice.



There was also a married couple with us. Bob and Carmel have special permission to shoot together and for Bob to tell Carmel where her arrows go as she is partially sighted. She can see enough to walk about, and depending on the light she can see the target, but sometimes Bob had to describe where the target was like "see that patch of sunlight, the target is to the right" but he is not allowed to tell her the distance. After shooting her first arrow, if she missed he was allowed to say "you're three foot short but on the right line" etc. I think this is really great of the NFAS allowing this lady to shoot. It really is a sport for all. The whole group cheered when Carmel got a 24, fantastic.



We had another great day on the Sunday, but the only thing was I had lost an arrow very early on in the day. At the end of the day I got it back, Dawn had been using it all day as she didn't have many arrows left. She had seen my arrow in the sin bin and grabbed it to use knowing I wouldn't mind. We had a good laugh about it at the end of the day's shooting.

Unfortunately Derek and I had to get away and could not stay for the medal giving, which I am sorry to have missed. It's always nice to see people get their medals.

All in all it was another fantastic weekend, the organization was spot on and I really enjoyed it. Other members of our club there were Julieanne and Roy Marples, and I am sure they all had just as good a weekend as me and Derek.



The clubs that laid the courses did a really good job, the targets were challenging to say the least. There were some real long shots, one on A course we were told later was 65 yards. That's a long way when you are stood on the red peg. I did do a little better on the Sunday but I was never going to win anything, but that's not what is important, it's going and taking part that's the main thing, and now I can't wait for the nationals in September.

It would be lovely to see a few more Pines Park members there to represent our club, but whatever happens, we will be there. Because it's **GREAT FUN**.