



November
2008

PINES PARK ARCHERS

Welcome to the November Edition of The Newsletter, first time under the new editor

Thanks to everyone who has contributed and anyone whose copy or pictures missed the deadline my apologies but keep articles coming for next edition.

As signposted in the interim newsletter, I have adopted a perhaps different style, I hope you will enjoy reading it, but I appreciate everyone is different, so please accept my regrets to anyone who is offended by anything. Please do give me feedback on what you don't want and what you would like for the future.

Malcolm Pattman



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The Open Shoot in Pictures



3 go to the woods



The day's kill ?



Biggest head hat
competition



My Hero !



Why do ladies
always go in pairs



Barry hides raffle
prize of 'painting
by numbers set'
in case Derek
gets him paint-
ing targets to
save money



H&S Inspection
of pole dancing
platform



Pole dancers wait-
ing to audition



Bacon shortage
scare



No. 32 bus late again



RSPCA ban on bear
hunting ignored



In a more serious note the shoot was judged a success, 135 people attended and a good time was had by all, thanks to members for their hard work in preparation, in marshalling, in administration, scoring and many other jobs which made it happen.....not too long until the next one in March

MY FIRST TIME

A couple of reports from members taking their first steps onto some other clubs grounds and competing for real,
Daniel is one of our younger members,
Barry is a newcomer but slightly older !
Congratulations to Daniel for gaining honours on his first shoot

Barry Buckley @ Saracen Archers Woodhall Spa

The sat nav takes you to the front door of number 126 Horncastle Rd which you drive down the side of, once past the bungalow it then opens up to a field and wooded area at the back

Everyone was made to feel welcome and we were then allocated our groups there were four in ours, I told them it was my first shoot and they all agreed to be gentle with me which indeed they were, we agreed that the two of the group would do the scoring for the first round and then myself and the other



group member would do the second half and apart from a minor hiccup all went smoothly

It was a little disconcerting when I found out that one of our group fired a cross-bow it made a hell of a "twang" when he released!

Daniel Shaw@ Crusader Bowman

SUNDAY MORNING AT LAST .

My first open shoot only 25 minutes from home. I had got everything ready the night before including bow,sights,hats,top with club logo,boots,goggles,arrows etc, because I had a paper round to do before setting off

To my disappointment when I walked out of the house it was raining and cold, but we still set on our way slightly early to be safe

On arrival turning up a single, muddy lane track, passing a camper van as the admin office and the catering tent and managed to park in the hedge bottom

We proceeded to get kitted up even though it was still raining and cold, to find I had left my quiver at home not the start I was looking for.

After admin we went to the practice bosses, where my first arrows were good.

Lucky for us Martin and Derek were there to show us the ropes, even though everyone was very helpful and friendly

I was really looking forward to shooting 3Ds and to my delight our starting

The targets were 3D for the first round which was then replaced at lunch with the animal paper targets "normally" used. The wooded area itself was mainly flat but you do have a couple of shots over water which was a little unnerving "no scuba gear available" should you miss.

All the archers were of a genial sort, out for a good day's shooting. The weather for the time of year was very kind to us, a glorious day.

I didn't "win" anything but I also think that I didn't let myself or my club down either, my final score if anyone is interested was 448.

All in all I had a very good first time experience and I suppose the moral of the story is "go on have a go" I will certainly be putting my name down for other shoots.



peg was a double 3D bear shoot with double points but after that there was only one other 3D which was a bedded buck. This was a little disappointing, but the 2D dragon /spider / elephant and bear helped to break up the continuous paper faces.

Me and my Dad, really enjoyed our first shoot, once you have been on an open shoot you cannot wait to take part in another

Luckily we both came home with the number of arrows we left with which is a bonus !

The terrain was quite steep and slippery in places because of the rain, which stopped just before our 1 hour lunch break, when we were able to chat to other archers.

The sun was out when we started back after lunch, making a good day even better.

To top it all I won my class on my 1st shoot, this was **BRILL** all I have to do is sew my winners badge on my top.....

Don't be scared get out on a shoot its **FAB**

HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET ?

PPA has a new leaflet, quite a few copies were handed out at the Newark HAg (see article later), it has been updated and has new photos, if anyone needs copies for prospective archers or other occasions,

see the **Chairman or Secretary**

or if you have a colour printing facility, ask the Editor for a PDF file



NOT MORE CHANGE

Papa Smurfs view of the National Field Archery Society

As you may be aware the managing committee of the NFAS have been burning a lot of midnight oil trying to sort out the relationship between NFAS Ltd and the National Field Archery Society, - we have now completed all the work. This was complicated by the resignation of **Chris Cox General Secretary** early this year, but we have found a very good replacement in **Andrew Knott**.

At the AGM, which will be held in Ollerton, you will be asked to vote for a new M&A for NFAS Ltd and a new constitution for the National Field Archery Society. A copy of the paperwork will be sent before the AGM.

Where are we going in future? If we have the support of the membership and they accept the new constitution, a few of the restrictions with

regard to international competition have been removed, so we may well see some NFAS members competing overseas

The National and the 3d's are going from strength to strength; again the plan is for the 3d's to be held in our area. Those of you who would like to shoot a nationals, you have only got six months to compete in six open shoots, so go on have a go (trust me, from watching both of this years competitions, you are good enough).

We also have had a change of treasurer during this year in the shape of **Mike Cobban**, who is a trained accountant. There has already been some positive changes in the way your money is being managed - details at the AGM.

It is now a year since I was appointed the Mem-

bership Secretary of the NFAS, there has been so much change this year, my wish is next year I can actually do some archery.

For the first time voting for the NFAS officials can be done on-line, details will be in the NFAS newsletter. You will also be able to renew your membership on-line if you choose to do so (instead of giving it direct to me).

The NFAS club shop has a new manager **Terri Boyce**, she has some interesting plans for the future including an on-line shop, more news later



Pines Park Archers On-line Shop



Pines Park Archers (PPA) has teamed up with CF Sports to launch a new on-line shop for our members. We believe that this partnership will have tremendous benefits for both the club and our members alike.

CF Sports are now able to offer an extensive range of PPA branded products, available all year round, at very competitive prices. There will be access to both shooting and leisure wear bearing the names and club badge where appropriate. These branded products will enhance our club identity.

Registering to use the on-line club shop couldn't be easier. Simply send a blank email from your own email account to pinesparkarchers@cfsports.co.uk. You will get an automatic response with a token (access PIN) to be used in the registration process. Next, go to the My Account page of the www.cfsports.co.uk site (link on www.pinesparkarchers.org.uk) and register as a new customer. During this process you will be asked to enter your token number. This will enable the site to recognize you as a member of PPA.

Once you are registered, you are free

to buy on-line.

When you re-enter the CF Sports site using your email address and password, you will see various categories in a menu on the left hand side of the screen. The two key categories will be those headed: **Pines Park Archers and ProSkins Base Layers**.

If you have any problems please speak to your club shop administrator.

Club shop administrator:
Derek Scaysbrook
Mob: 07547 7024014
email: chairman@pinesparkarchers.org.uk

CF Sports representative:
Andrew Rattray
Mob: 07793 812458
email: andrew.rattray@cfsports.co.uk

For those of you who don't have access to the internet you can call CF sports directly, There will be a pamphlet soon so you can see what you are ordering.



01623 654242

Units 4/5 Bromley Croft
Mansfield Woodhouse
Nottinghamshire
NG19 8EF

So That's How they Do It

Guidelines for Course Layers

A Club, to be healthy, must be active and offer shooting entertainment for all the Club's members. A permanent course layout can become learned and, eventually, boring, therefore it is advisable to regularly make subtle and sometimes radical changes to the course. This can involve anything from simply repositioning a few pegs to offer a different shooting line, to hacking out areas of undergrowth and positioning new targets and pegs.

However when laying out the course you must take heed of the following points:

Consider the general public when positioning targets. Targets must never be placed where a stray arrow may endanger the public (or anyone else)

Consider the paths to and from the shooting pegs and targets and clearly mark them.

Ensure that possible lines of arrow flight, ricochet or overshoot will in no circumstances endanger contestants.

For anyone who ever wondered, some tips for course layouts, any new ideas ?

Where possible do not allow any path or other shooting stand to be visible from any shooting pegs even if it is considered to be out of range.

Targets should never be placed on the brow of a hill or any other place where the landing of overshoots cannot be determined.

When laying out a course, make sure that safe & adequate flight path is available for left and right handed archers, for light and heavy bows and for tall and short archers. This should be checked by having suitable archers shoot round the course, to ensure that all kinds of archer are represented whenever possible.

Keep courses free from litter, respect the owner's property and never shoot at anything else on the course but targets



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

with Derek Scaysbrook

This time we travelled the great distance to Newark Showground. For those of you who didn't know, we were invited to put on a Archery demonstration and have-a-go day at the first **Robin Hood Game and Country Show.**



After several e-mails and phone calls it was agreed the location and size of the area we would have over the weekend, I requested a space 40mx40m - we were actually given an area

of 40m x 100m on one of the main roads.

On the Thursday before the show I went and had a look at the site to do a Risk Assessment, returning the following day armed with a couple of dozen posts, the bunting and a bonker. The pitch was marked out and the Pines Park Sign put up, ready for the Saturday morning set up.

Saturday morning start was very early - bows, nets and loads of other stuff collected from the lockup and loaded into the cars, my caravan loaded and hitched up, Kim and I were off to Newark. By the time we arrived, there were already many PPA members on site eager to get it ready for the customers.

After about 90mins of hard work we were all set up and ready to go, with a few minutes to have a shoot before the crowds started to arrive. We organised ourselves slightly differently from previous HAG's

which worked well in keeping the flow of prospective members going. The next 7 hours were hard work but we all managed a walk round the site on at least one occasion.

We were able to leave the bosses and nets out, just putting the bows, arrows and small 3D's away for safety so not much to set up



on the Sunday (an extra hour in bed for those helping on both days) and we were ready to start again. Another busy day, but unfortunately the weather turned

against us and I called a halt mid afternoon for safety reasons - it was just too windy. A quick pull down and time for another walk round as we were unable to leave until the show closed at 5pm.

A very busy but successful weekend with over £1400 put into the club funds. Due to the hard work of the minority of PPA archers, it is anticipated at this point that the subs will not be going up.

The organisers were very pleased with what we were able to do for the show - archery

had pride of place in the advertising for the show on local radio. If the show is repeated next year, we have already been invited back.



Christmas at Clipstone

The PPA Christmas Social Night will be held on a Tuesday night and Julieanne is looking to provide buffet and the present raffle for

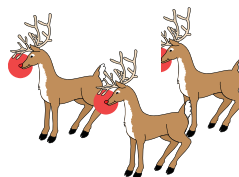
Tuesday 9th December



All are welcome so why not come along and meet new faces/members that you may have seen around but not yet had chance to talk to.

Yes, if you still want to shoot in between, you can bring your bow and arrows.

Put the date in your diary.



WANTED BLUE PETER DEVOTEEES

We have a quantity of paper faces that need pasting on to card board backing

Chairman Derek has done them all for the last few years and would like to pass the task onto somebody else

If you would like to help the club
doing a very worthy and not too strenuous job
please

All you need, will be provided, **Glue, rollers, faces and cardboard,**
lots of fun for all the family !

DECISIONS DECISIONS DECISIONS

A message from the Secretary

Firstly I am conscious we seem to have Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday clubs within our club due to work commitments and preferential choice of location, this is unavoidable.

However this is mainly aimed at the members who want to shoot indoors during our winter period. Tuesday night has now become very popular, especially as we



have recently welcomed some new members to our family fold. With over 30 members shooting over the 2 hour period. The committee is a little concerned with the safety aspect of numbers. I know this evening is a wonderful time for

socializing and you can just come along for a chat, have a chocolate bar and wash it down with a Cuppa if you don't feel like shooting in the hall environment. I know some of you, who used to come are staying away because it seems too busy.

Therefore as discussed Tuesday 28th October with the members present, we have been looking into arranging another night **Thursday** at a different venue. Don't worry it's not too far from the current **Tuesday** venue in Clipstone.



So my request is I would like to you all to get in touch with me with your opinions, to advise if you would/would not be interested in shooting on Thursday instead or alternate between the two depending on your commitments.

Obviously the hall comes with a cost so it would be nice to be able to cover this from the subs on that night. It would be very hard to call this a social evening, if only just one or two members turn up.

**You heard the Lady
what do you prefer**

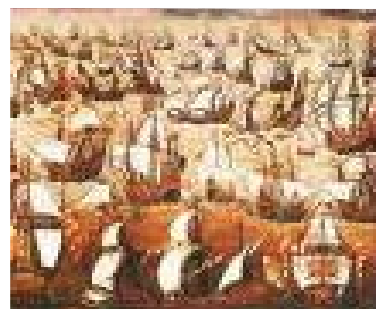
Some Historic Archery Facts

The use of bow and arrows for hunting and war goes back a very long way. As early as 25000 BC, arrows with fire-hardened points or flint arrowheads tied on with sinew were used with simple bows to kill game. In 5000 BC the Egyptians used the bow for hunting and in warfare against the Persians.



In 1346 AD at the Battle of Crecy, Edward III of England led his army against the French. A French force of crossbowmen attacked, but the English archers using longbows showered them with arrows before they could reload, and then did the same thing to the French cavalry. 1,542 French knights were killed, with only 50 English killed.

By 2800 BC the first composite bow was in use; it was made from wood and held together with animal sinew and glue. The unstrung bow, shaped like a 'C', required two people to string it and used bowstrings made from sheep's intestines. The arrows were very light and could be shot over 300 metres; armour worn by the enemy could not protect them.



In 1588 AD, 10,000 soldiers in the English fleet, armed with muskets, defeated the Spanish Armada. This marked the beginning of the decline of bow and arrow in warfare. In 1595 all bows in England were ordered to be exchanged for muskets.

In 434 AD, Attila the Hun's army used composite recurve bows from horseback with deadly results.

In 1066 AD at the Battle of Hastings, King Harold of England was defeated primarily because of the large number of archers in the opposing army.

In 1969, Holless Wilbur Allen was given a patent for his invention of the compound bow. Mr. Allen was a bowhunter who was disappointed with the hunting bows of the day; he decided to design a new type of bow for hunting. His original design had 'wheels' that were triangular shaped.

HOW I GOT HERE - A TRUE STORY

BY MICK DEWS

Malc asked me to put pen to paper for the club newsletter, so here I am, fresh from digging one of Malc's arrows out of a tree with the help of Barry, yes, it did need two of us.

Editors Note

whilst it must be admitted that the said arrow was in a tree and did have my name on it, I have no further comment to make about how it got there

I got into archery for the second time in my life after so many goes on "Have a go days" my wife Tracy said "why don't you just join a club? It would be cheaper". So I did an internet search and found Pines Park Archers.

They sounded like a friendly bunch and not one of these clubs that is full of **** ! Better not go there!! First impressions were

good and I've settled in nicely and made some good friends on the way as well.

I have attended a couple of the "Have a go days" helping out, instead of paying to shoot!!

I have also assisted with the clubs Open shoot, this turned out to be a long day with a 7-15am start on a Sunday but it was enjoyable none the less, its quite an eye opener as well looking at some of the equipment some archers bring with them.

Barry was sure one of the archers had a Sat Nav attached to his bow.

I have still to attend an Open Shoot and see how I fare in competition but I'm sure that will happen in the coming month's.

Cheers for now
Mick Dew's

Ps Still got some arrows hiding in the woods somewhere so keep looking



MISCELLANY

Words and pictures that don't fit in anywhere else

Here is a quotation about an English law concerning archery that shows that normal target practice had to be at ranges exceeding 220 yards.

“That young archers might acquire an accurate eye and a strength of arm, none under 24 years of age might shoot at any standing mark, except it was a rover, and then he was to change his mark at every shot, under penalty of four pence for every shot made contrary to the regulation. It was also enacted that no person above the said age should shoot at any mark not above eleven score yards distant under pain of forfeiting for each shot, six shillings and eight pence.”

At the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada, there is a label for a Chinese lacquer box from the 17C or 18C.

The middle scene depicts Li Yuan, founder of the Tang Dynasty, winning the hand of his wife in an archery contest by piercing the eye of a peacock painted on a screen.

“If archer shoots just for fun he has all his skill.

If he shoots for score his hands tremble

and his breath is uneasy.

If he shoots for a golden price he becomes mad and blind.

His skill was not lessened, but the vision of the target changed him.”



“I’ve got the best seat at this Show”

ARCHERY ON THE WEB



Those of you who surf the web will no doubt have found that archery like everything else is on there.

Send in your favourite sites so we can share them. Here's a few to start the ball rolling




archersrest.myfreeforum.org/index.php (no www)



www.archery-interchange.com/

These are forums or discussion boards, if you haven't tried this format, its worth a look, its like a giant club house where people can post questions and more experienced can answer, but if you are shy, just look, there's no obligation to 'post' be a 'lurker'.

Archers Rest is more Field orientated but both seem quite lively, talk to people throughout the UK and beyond.

And don't forget the NFAS  www.nfas.net has its own web board for views and discussion, choose your 'nom de plume' and sign up



www.huntersfriend.com/

The web is of course international, although unless you have language

skills, then UK, USA and Australian sites are best, though European ones are out there. This one is interesting, its American, so concentrates on hunting ie real animals not 3ds or paper, and hence compounds, but it has some very detailed explanations on compound bows, types, setting up etc, so worth a visit if you want to know more.

I know there also also traditional bow sites which do the same, one is at



www.english-longbow.co.uk/cat20.htm

send me your links

PPA bucks

Global

Financial

Crisis

Without any backing from the Bank of England or the Chancellor, PPA has launched its own bank.

Based on the high level of income produced from the Newark event, this puts Bank of Pines Park in line for the the rating as one of the few banks to be in profit at the moment !

Chairman Derek announced the daring plan and using his *nom de plume* of Papa Smurf, has been appointed by the committee as Chief Cashier.

It is understood that no reaction has yet been noticed from Wall Street or the City of London and the housing market remains unchanged.

The Bank of Pines Park will issue

Sherwood Credits

which can be used to renew your Pines Park membership or to pay for your shooting on Tuesday nights.

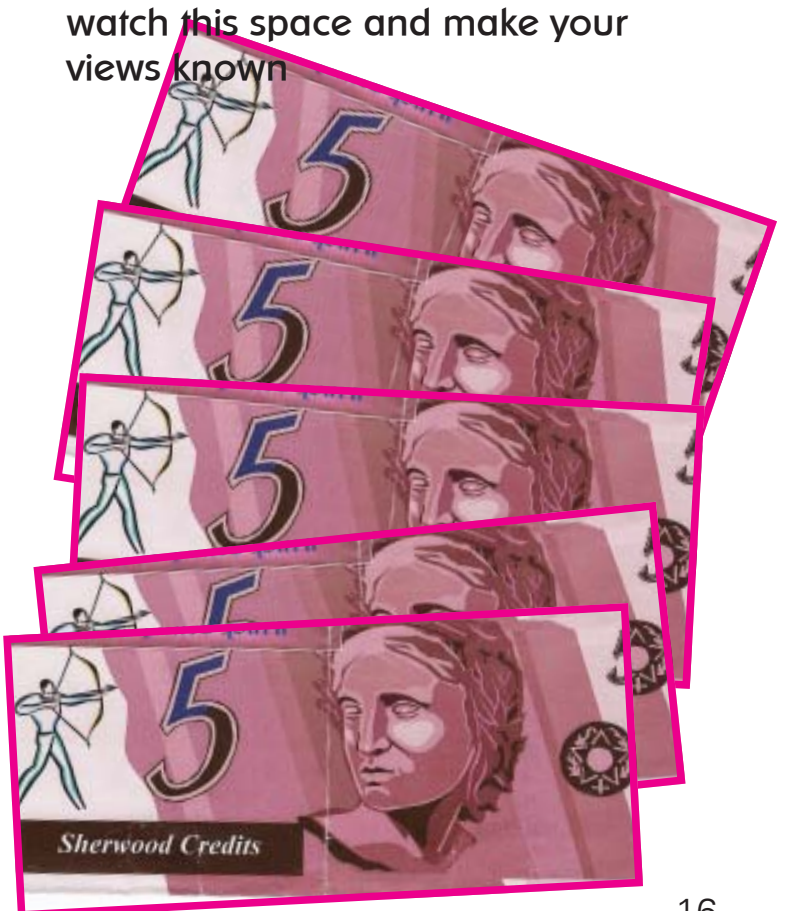
The credits were first issued to those members who helped with the have-a-go day at Newark show ground.

Anyone who thinks they have missed the allocation to those helping at Newark should make an application to the Chief Cashier

Today the Bank was tight lipped about the prospect for further distribution of the coveted Credits. Speculation was rife that this new currency could become more highly prized than the Rumanian Zloty.

The Bank appears to operate on a cash only basis and enquiries as to whether Internet Banking will be available and whether the currency can be exchanged for Euros have not been answered.

Our Financial and Social Affairs Correspondent does an analysis of the scheme in the next article, meanwhile watch this space and make your views known



EDITOR'S ANALYSIS

The bold step as described above, seeks to address the age old problem of any club or society that the few do the work and the many take the rewards,or so it can appear, the Bank of PPA is designed to assist in this, but what may be its effects and perhaps a word of caution that it may not solve all the problems.

Let's call this theory **Malcolm's Paradigm** *(no special reason but I always fancied having a paradigm named after me).*

Lets assume that People can be divided into three groups.

Group 1 is the **"can do's"**, Group 2 the **"can't do's"** and Group 3 the **"won't do's"**

Think about it and I bet you can do this for yourself with work colleagues or any organisation you belong to, and if you're especially brave; with your relatives and family.

Now don't get me wrong its neither right nor wrong to belong to any one group and people do move between them as well, still reading ?
..... good here goes.

"Can do's" usually start by volunteering and in essence they do it willingly, for being a "can do", has its own reward, but its mainly about motivation, people want respect, admiration, gratitude, power, influence, recognition etc etc but their flaw is that sometimes they expect the other two groups to think the same way and of course they don't, so sometimes, the "can do's" get frustrated or fed up and leave or join another group, usually the "won't do's".

The "won't do's" can be more complex, they could be lazy, disinterested etc but they did join the club, and maybe they're happy with what they get, but don't have the internal drive to become "can do's" and they won't respond well to the "can

do's" attempts to shame them.

The third group the "Can't do's" are also difficult to pin down. Most of them are actually unable to help, they have motivation but lack time, energy, availability, skills etc. They are probably "can do's" somewhere else ie at work or at home and have made some life choices.

Back to our three groups, the "won't do's" "can't do's" "can do's". How might they each react to the incentive of the Bank ? OK this is generalising, but its sociology and psychology not rocket science. Malcolm's Paradigm predicts three effects.

Effect 1. The "can do's" will carry on doing, earning credits will make them feel at least recognised for their efforts and some people from the other two groups may move over to be able to gain credits.

Effect 2. The "can't do's" have to pay full price as before, but that's generally going to be OK with them, they have made their choice freely, and maybe its worth less than giving up time from their career or family.,.

Effect 3. The "won't do's" also pay more than the 'can dos' but as they maybe don't want to do anything more than shoot a nice course and enjoy like minded company, when they choose, it's probably worth it to them.

So the 'Bank' idea stands a good chance of working, providing we don't expect hundreds of volunteers at the next Have A Go, for the reasons stated above.

The Almost, but Not Quite, Last Page

Here is a list of excuses we have heard around open shoots in the past, so useful for when you attend one, or maybe just on a Saturday morning !

Any better ones do share !

This is a new bow
I haven't shot for weeks/
months
This is a new tab/sights/limbs
etc
I don't like shooting in the
rain/heat
I don't shoot well with other
AFB shooters
The lead out was too long
I had to wait too long once on
the peg
I was held up by the group
in front
The group behind was
pushing us
I had the sun in my eyes
It was too dark
I got drunk last night
I couldn't sleep last night
It was too boggy
It was too slippery
The trees put me off
There is too much under-
growth in the way
There are too many branches
in the way
I have got new boots on
I have had car trouble
I have forgotten my tablets

I have got the wrong
glasses on
I can't get the bracing
height right
I think this string is stretching
Something is loose on this bow
I only made these arrows
yesterday
I can't shoot in this jacket/
jumper
I have lost my lucky charm
I never shoot well in the
winter/summer
I never do well on this club's
courses
I put my bracer on the wrong
arm
My dog/cat isn't very well
I don't manage to practice up/
down hill shots
I don't like shooting with kids
The rest of the group
was too noisy
The rest of the group
was too slow
I shot with a twiddler
I have got new glasses on
The wind caught my arrow
I had a row with my wife/kids/
neighbour

In the special newsletter, it was suggested that there could be a column for partners and families of archers to have their say. No one has come forward so far, the Editor therefore suspects two possible reasons, one is that all members' families are so supportive and forgiving that they have nothing to say., two is that members have carefully hidden the request to prevent those nearest and dearest having their moment in print so anyway here to end is a piece of fiction.....

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Sam cursed to himself, he wasn't dressed for the occasion, it was damp and cold and he was stiff from keeping in his position which was neither close enough to be useful nor remote enough to avoid discovery.

However that was not unusual, the life of a Private Investigator was not glamorous nor comfortable. Samuel Lawrence Blenkinsopp PI, did not have the ring of Magnum PI, the cachet of Sam Spade, the gravitas of Sherlock Holmes and definitely not the glamour attached to the general perception of private detectives in books, film and TV. His name was wrong, it was just too long, other detectives had short punchy names, Rebus, Taggart, Frost or exotic foreign names like Wilsolski, which showed their workplace as the Big Apple or The City of Angels, not the area of Mansfield & Sherwood District which was Sam's hunting grounds.

Sam's thoughts returned wistfully to his current assignment. It was the bread and butter of investigations, at least of those in the Dukeries, it was following a husband, on behalf of a wife. As usual it had started with a phone call and then a meeting with a lady known as Mrs Amelia Michelson who desired information on the doings of her husband Mr Peter Michelson, Sam had abbreviated them in his mind and in his rough notes to AM and PM.

Mrs AM wanted to know what her husband was up to. Sam sighed inwardly, but outwardly put on his best concerned and empathic face and had said "Ah, your suspicions have been aroused because of changes in his behaviour ?" AM nodded. Sam continued "He's perhaps being less attentive...in the marital situation ?" Sam was pleased with his

subtlety, though most of his clients from the less desirable parts of Mansfield would have phrased it more directly as "He's stopped doing it with you then." However in this case Mrs AM was clear, she explained that no, the bedroom issue was not in decline, in fact the opposite; Mr PM was apparently unusually active both in frequency and in intensity. What concerned her was not just this, but also the fact that he would wash both cars unbidden, he would offer to take her shopping, would empty the bins every morning and most strangely of all had offered to fetch her Mother round for the weekend.

Thus Sam had been engaged to carry out surveillance and to report where and by implication with whom, he was going.

Every day for a week Sam had followed Mr PM, without anything very interesting. Apart from work and the pub on Wednesday evening, the only other outings had been to a workshop unit in Eakring which he had visited three times. Due to the layout of the premises which contained several small enterprises, Sam had been unable to establish exactly which one Mr PM had visited and his observations via binoculars at a distance had been inconclusive. The only interesting fact noted was that PM on his last visit had acted in a furtive manner when returning to his car with a large box, he had looked around as if ensuring no one could see him, before placing the box into the car boot.

Sam also noted that the box had not been removed from the car on any occasion when he was following PM.

Another visit had been on a Tuesday evening to the Village Hall in Clipstone. Once again geography had made close up observation too risky, yes Sam's battered Ford Sierra didn't look out of place but the number of visitors to the Hall was a high risk factor in surveillance terms. Anyway there were lots of people, old and young, men and women and children too. Nothing however to suggest that PM was engaged in a clandestine rendezvous. Sam noted carefully, as always, for his report, that a number of the visitors had a penchant for Australian style bush hats, but that in itself did not add much to solving the mystery of Mr PM's behaviour.

Thus it was that on Saturday morning Sam again took up the trail which led to him following PM out of town towards the woods. Sam had to hold back as Mr PM's Volvo turned off down a road marked

private and when he caught up with the car as it stopped at its destination he was forced to drive past the area where a number of vehicles were parked on the roadside, hide his own car out of sight and return on foot.

That was when he discovered that he wasn't dressed appropriately, as he saw PM and others entering the woods carrying bows and arrows. The signage along the road also confirmed the intentions from their clear warning <CAUTION ARCHERY IN PROGRESS>.

Sam was curious, was this an elaborate cover for a secret meeting with PM's unknown paramour or..... the only option was to wait it out.

Just after 12:00 people started to leave, by 12:20, only Mr PM's Volvo was left. Sam gave it another 10 minutes and then determined to take a closer look. The drizzle had set in and Sam was already cold and damp as he trudged towards the woods. Every so often he paused and listened but there was nothing apart from distant sound of cars on the main road some way off.

Sam followed what looked like a rough path, marked by white triangular wooden signs, moving cautiously, he was mentally preparing a cover story in case he encountered Mr PM,he would be a prospective archer seeking information on this sport.

Just then he heard four sounds close together, sounds he could only describe later when asked as 'thunks'. He moved towards the source of the sounds and turning a corner between some trees stopped in his tracks at what he saw. It was the suddenness of the view and the unexpected nature of the sight which deflected his attention from another sound off to the right but turning his head quickly, he caught a glimpse of someone moving away from the spot, not running but at a fast determined walk. He couldn't be sure but something in his years of training and experience told him it was probably a woman and because the direction was away into the woods and not towards the road, he deduced that she had some good reason for not remaining.

All this was processed in Sam's brain in an instant, and simultaneously he was drawn

back to the scene he had first viewed. About 30 yards away was a wooden framework with what looked like inner tubes bundled together and pinned to this structure was a life sized colour photograph of a deer. What however took Sam's attention was that next to the deer, against a large tree was Mr PM, he had an arrow in his chest, one through his sleeve which secured him to the trunk and one through his throat acting as a pin and perhaps most relevantly as the cause of death.

Sam had checked for signs of life and finding none had retreated back, so as to leave the scene uncontaminated in readiness for the scene examiners, who would shortly arrive following his call to Notts Police CID.

Sam knew he had to tell the police everything and so gathered his thoughts. Amongst the structuring of events, his mind also registered that if it was indeed Mrs AM who had killed her husband, he would have some difficulty in getting paid for his work.

He had little doubt that Mrs AM was the culprit; the fourth arrow told the story. It was between the late PM's legs, very, very close to his delicate bits, and it pierced a piece of paper. Sam had sneaked a look at the paper and had seen it was a receipt from a local Archery Supplier for a new bow, various accessories and arrows in the sum of £765.54.

As Sam walked slowly back towards the main path so to be able to guide the police whose cars he heard getting closer, he ruminated that gentlemen who have expensive hobbies which do not include their wives, might be best advised to seek permission before spending money on such hobbies.

He hadn't thought of archery as a dangerous sport but then clearly neither had Mr PM. "Secrets and lies that's the stuff of being a PI", he thought to himself, and then rather more pragmatically, "I wonder whether I could get Mrs AM to give me the bow and arrows in lieu of my fee",the approaching blues and twos, broke his train of thought, "well after it had been used in evidence of course."

(C) Malcolm R. Pattman
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