



DEVON BOWMAN SCOUTS FOR CROSSBOW SUCCESS

A Scout boss and archer has hatched an ambitious plan to introduce the crossbow as a new Scouting activity and draw up a squad of youngsters for this year's World Crossbow Championship in France.

Andy Bowman is the Scout Association's district shooting advisor for North Devon and has been involved in Scout airgun activities since 2004. He is also an experienced target archer and was the National Crossbow Federation's secretary general in the 1990s.

With these credentials and with the success of airgun shooting in the Scout Association nationally, Andy is convinced now would be the perfect time to introduce the crossbow as a new target shooting activity for the Scouts and other young shooting sports enthusiasts.

He has teamed up with the National Small-bore Rifle Association's crossbow experts David Froggett, former GB match-crossbow team member and current NSRA director of coaching, and Eric Douglass, chairman of the NSRA airgun and match-crossbow committee, and has already secured the loan of crossbows and target equipment to put his plan into action.

Once his equipment is up and running, Andy plans to arrange training sessions for the members of his successful air rifle team at their Devon base.

The Scouts will be practising with 10-metre match crossbows and Andy hopes to take three or four members of the squad to this year's World Crossbow Championship in France to compete – he just needs to raise £4,000 for the trip.

France 2010 may not be about winning medals for Andy's young team – but it could well be a significant step towards future British crossbow-shooting success.

Work is also progressing on a training manual that will form the basis of a future Crossbow Youth Proficiency qualification scheme (see Chris Aston's article in Bow International issue 52). For a Scout leader to teach young people they must hold an appropriate qualification, such as the NSRA's Airgun YPS Certificate.

NEW CROSSBOW WEBSITE

The National Crossbow Federation of GB has a new website – www.ncf-crossbow.co.uk – in the pipeline.

The website, which is still under construction, contains details of the NCF's 2010 Shoot Dates and general information about crossbow target shooting in the UK. Webmaster Alan Minnis is in the process of adding new content which, over the next few weeks, should make the NCF website a valuable source of information for crossbow archery enthusiasts in the UK.



The National Crossbow Federation hosted the WCSA World Target Crossbow Championship at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire in 2003 (Photo: Chris Aston)

FOUR OF FINEST MAKE IT TO HALL OF FAME

Four of Australia's finest and most high-profile sporting achievers have been rewarded with induction into the Australian Archery Hall of Fame.

Simon Fairweather was always a logical choice for induction in 2010. His World and Olympic triumphs and now his work as the head coach at the Australian Institute of Sport, coupled with his quiet, engaging persona, have endeared him to archery lovers, not only in his own country but worldwide.

James Larnen has undoubtedly the most comprehensive cross-section of achievements in our sport and he ticked all the boxes for the induction criteria. An archer of the highest quality, having represented Australia at numerous world championships, and the reigning National Masters Champion, he is also a top-level coach, international FITA official, hard-working ambassador and continues to serve as the CEO of Archery Australia.

Legendary Queenslander Syd Green, who passed away in early 2009, was the backbone of the now firmly established Australian Bowhunters Association. He served as president of the International Field Archery Association, was editor of long-time Aussie archery publication Archery Action, and his 35 years' service to the sport he loved, in every capacity, is now justly rewarded.

The late Grace Drake was a pioneer archer and one of supreme talent, winning multi-national titles from 1948 to 1963. A long-serving administrator and historian, she worked tirelessly to popularise archery in Australia and was honoured by the state and the nation with life memberships. Her teaching efforts with the young and disabled saw hundreds brought into the archery fold. The induction is a just finale for one of the great ladies of Australian archery.

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