



125th
Grand Western
Archery Meeting

1998

The Grand Western Archery Society. Meeting
1861 - 1998

The Grand Western Archery Society will be holding its 125th Annual Archery Meeting in the Dunster Castle Deer Park on the 20th and 21st of June this year. For those of you with a mathematical mind it will be apparent that there are one or two gaps, but read on and all will be revealed.

Throughout Great Britain there are several famous and long standing, archery competitions, or as they were originally called Archery Meetings. But how many of today's archers would rank the Grand Western Archery Meeting alongside such prestigious shoots as the Southern Counties Archery Meeting and the Grand National Archery Meeting, yet ask those same archers about Dunster Week and you may get a different answer.

This booklet attempts to provide some of the background to the Grand Western Archery Meetings and Dunster Week.

To the best of our knowledge the contents of this booklet are correct, but due to gaps in the society records, some assumptions have been made. If in reading it you find errors please accept our apologies and advise us of the truth.

The Grand Western Archery Meetings

Archery in the West before Grand Western

Although almost all formal club or society records have been lost. There is evidence in local newspaper archives that archery was being carried out in the west long after the bow had been replaced as a weapon of war, and before the formation of the modern archery societies in the 1800's.

The earliest evidence of organised recreational archery in the west is in the Archery News Vol. 16. No 1, stating that the "Old Sarum Archers formed in 1791", other evidence is to be found at Salisbury Museum in the form of a medal presented to a Mr W H Goldwyer in 1793 at the "Old Sarum Archers Annual Meet". Unfortunately we do not know anything more about the organisation or how long they continued to hold their meetings.

1852 saw the first major western archery meeting when the first of six Devonshire and Cornwall annual Archery Meetings was held at Bitton House in Teignmouth, the home of Sergeant Praed, a wealthy and influential patron of West Country archery. These competitions were popular gatherings attracting considerable interest from many societies across the two counties, and received much attention from the media of the day. Unfortunately on the death of Sergeant Praed in 1858 these meetings ceased. Though in 1859 there was a move amongst some to restart the meetings nothing came of the initiative.

The first Grand Western Archery Meeting

Those - whose aim it was to restart the Devon and Cornwall Meetings, were not to be lightly brushed aside. In 1860 at a prize day of the Culm Vale Archery Society the matter was raised again. The outcome was on a grander scale, since it was decided to invite all the archers from the five western counties to compete. This may have been stimulated by, the "1858" and "1859 Grand National Archery Meetings" in Exeter. And the 1860 Grand National Archery Meeting in Bath.

Thus it was that the seeds of a truly regional meeting were sown, and with prominent archers supporting the idea, a circular letter was accordingly sent to all the known archery clubs and societies in Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. Bristol and Gloucestershire clubs and societies were not included, as in 1861 they were members of the West Midlands region.

On the 13th of May 1861 a public meeting was held at the Waghorn's Hotel in Taunton, where a Guarantee fund was started, and it was agreed that a Grand Western Archery Meeting would be held that year in Taunton.

Enough money having been subscribed, prizes to the value of £150 were offered (equivalent to nearly £2500 in today's money) and with that motivation to prompt even the most mercenary of archers, Wednesday the 17th of August saw the first of the Grand Western Archery Meetings.

Ode to an Organiser

By Dot King 1998

1. I remember trestle tables underneath the trees,
Loos that advertised their presence on the summer breeze,
Meeting old friends, making new friends, shooting, rain or shine,
And lots and lots of laughter, on and behind the line.
2. I remember ancient bows, and many different shoots,
Then suddenly my role became Assistant Bossy Boots!
Endless lists of names and clubs, pinned upon the wall,
Alas, I never could fit names and faces for you all.
3. But I was only helping for just ten days or so.
For any organiser the work began long ago.
Entry forms to be processed, medals sorted out. Different lists for
every shoot, FITA, Longbow, Clout.
4. Organisers work so hard, to meet the archer's need. Value them my
friends, they are a special breed.

Ode to the Archers

By Dot King 1998

One thing I remember so clearly,
When entering scores for the list,
Whether good scores or bad.
Archers can't add,
At totals they so often missed.

This is the first time that we see the name “Grand” in the title. Although not proven, it is thought that the name was chosen to indicate the whole of the west was involved and to differentiate this meeting from the previous meetings organised within the counties. In future years this title was to be the cause of some national complaints.

Forty-two gentlemen shot the York round, and fifty-three ladies shot the National round. As today the field was a mixture of archers from the west and visitors, one of the most notable visitors being the famous Horace Ford. Mr Hare of West Somerset Archers was announced the First Gentleman Champion of the West and Miss Turner of the South Devon Archers (the 1859 National Champion) as the First Lady Champion of the West.

This first meeting set the standard for all future Grand Western Meetings. As well as the archery, the meeting was a great social occasion with a band playing martial music during the shooting, luncheon and afternoon teas being served in a marquee, and to finish it off there was a “Grand Ball”. After such a successful start the committee had no problems in organising and running annual Grand Western Meetings around the region.

And so the Grand Western Archery Meetings prospered, travelling round the five counties, becoming more and more popular, but trouble was looming. The National Archery Meeting organisers did not like the popularity of the Grand Western Meetings; they felt it outclassed the GNAM, and in 1864 they called for the Grand Western Meeting to be abolished and Grand Western badges be withdrawn. Luckily the Grand Western organisers thought it unworthy of consideration and continued to hold their Meetings.

Interference by GNAM

But in 1865, at the insistence of the National Organisers, the Grand Western Meeting was cancelled so as not to detract from the Grand National Meeting at Clifton College in Bristol. It seems there was an agreement that the GWAM would not be run when a GNAM was held in the region. The fact that at the time the Clifton was not in the western region seems to have been ignored.

To the annoyance of the GNAM organisers a very successful Meeting was held at Weymouth in 1866, but they kept up the pressure and the Meeting in 1867 had to be abandoned when the secretary, a Mr Dawson, resigned. As there was no one immediately willing to replace him, he proposed that the committee be wound up and the plant (equipment) be donated to Taunton Hospital, therefore effectively bringing to an end the Grand Western Meetings. You can imagine the jubilation of the Grand National Archery Meeting Committee, their main competitor had cut their own throat.

Grand Western rises from the Ashes

The archers of the West were not to be defeated. At the Prize Day of the South Devon Archery Club in 1868 a general meeting was called for and subsequently held at Taunton, where Mr Walrond was appointed as Secretary, and it was agreed to hold the 1868 Grand Western Meeting at Teignmouth. Using the original formula of good food, good wine, good venue and a grand Ball the Grand Western Meetings were started again.



Lucy Awdry
Twelve times Grand Western Champion



Mr R Brooks-King
Seventeen times Grand Western Champion

Mr Walrond, (eventually to become Colonel Walrond of the Badminton Library and “Archery” Register fame) succeeded in recovering the Grand Western Challenge Prizes from his predecessor, but the plant did go to Taunton Hospital.

The National Organisers were still unhappy and demanded that Grand Western stop issuing their Archers badges on the grounds that they were too similar too the National winners badge and therefore demeaned their value. The Grand Western committee reluctantly agreed and changed their badge. The argument about the badges is quite interesting, as looking at the National Badge and the Grand Western Badge they both seem to be copies of a much earlier badge originally presented by the Society of Wiltshire Archers, and all three badges were made by the same silversmith.

Under the 49 year stewardship of Col. Walrond the Grand Western Meetings prospered to such an extent that in 1873 it was agreed that all the twenty-seven clubs in the five counties should form themselves into a society, and called themselves the Grand Western Archery Society. Another achievement of Col Walrond was the organisation of five multi-national competitions in Le Touquet near Paris from 1904 to 1908, a whole 29 years before the first recognised international competition in Warsaw.

Olympic Year

1908 was a great year for Grand Western, it’s ten times (eventually to become seventeen time) champion, Mr R Brooks-King being chosen to compete in the London Olympics, where he won the silver medal.

In 1913 the Devon and Cornwall Archery Society, the last of the founding clubs of the Devonshire and Cornwall Archery Meetings, came to an end and it’s Pavilion at Manadon was pulled down.

Alas, although there was a Meeting in 1914, it was to be the last until 1920. The Society was kept running through the war years by Col Walrond, until his death in 1917, and then by two other archers until the 1920 AGM when a full set of officers was elected.

At Peace with GNAM ?

The 1920 GWAM must have been an interesting event as it also hosted the GNAS Championships, We would like to think that it was a final token of peace between the two “Great” societies, definitely since then there have been no Major disputes.

1921 was a bit of a mystery year, The meeting was held since the Champion’s names are engraved on the trophies, but there is no record of where the meeting was held; although at that meeting it was reported that the 1861 Armada Jug “Challenge Trophy” was missing.

With the cup still missing, Culm Valley Archery Club came to the rescue of the Society and donated a replica Armada Jug in 1925.

A Poem by Lucy Awdry
After the 1927 Grand Western Meeting in Salisbury

When Somerset and Devon met
And both with Wilts competed
 We had some fun
 Though Devon won
They'd best not be conceited
 They'd better wait
 Till twenty-eight
Wilts won't then be defeated

Gloucestershire joins Grand Western

In the following years all went well for the Society. Archers from Cheltenham and the Vale of the White Horse were keen to become archers of the West and so in 1935 Grand Western agreed that they would be willing to receive Gloucestershire into the society if formally requested. Unfortunately we do not know if that request was submitted; nor do we know if a letter, seeking approval, was sent to Leamington and Midlands Archery Society in 1939 when Backwell Archery Society asked if the City and County of Bristol could also join Grand Western.

This may have been due to the cessation of nearly all archery throughout the country caused by the Second World War. For instance the 1939 minutes, which as well as, tasking the sending of the letter, reported that the Challenge Cup had been found in a bank vault in Taunton, were not signed until the next 1946 general meeting. What is known is that by the 1950's Gloucestershire archers were active members of Grand Western.

“Grand Western” make a bid for Hampshire

1948 saw a battle take place with the mighty Southern Counties, when West Hampshire archers asked to join Grand Western, as they felt isolated from the rest of Southern Counties. “Grand Western” were quite willing, and elected a member of Southampton Archers onto their committee. Southern Counties were incensed and immediately vetoed the action, and a firm boundary was drawn down the Hampshire border. The only exception, being the town of Bournemouth, which happily hopped from Dorset to Hampshire and back, but always stayed part of Grand Western.

New Scoring System

1950 saw Grand Western catch up with 1929 GNAS change in scoring systems, when they dropped the Points and Handicap Systems shown below for the current, and more popular, highest score system.

POINTS SYSTEM				HANDICAP SYSTEM	
Ladies		Gentlemen		Reduce total points by the following depending on previous performance	
Gross Hits	2	Gross Hits	2	1st Place	25%
Gross Score	2	Gross Score	2	2nd Place	20%
Hits at 60y	1	Hits at 100y	1	3rd Place	15%
Score at 60y	1	Score at 100y	1	4th Place	15%
Hits at 50y	1	Hits at 80y	1	5th Place	10%
Score at 50y	1	Score at 80y	1	6th Place	10%
		Hits at 60y	1	Any other Gross Score prizes 5%	
		Score at 60y	1		
Total	8	Total	10		

Also in 1950 Grand Western organised a National Log Cabin Camp in the New Forest and later in Cranborne Chase, for young people, including archery instruction. These camps, under the direction of Mr Ralph Jebb, Miss Penny Vinter and Mrs Valerie Clarence, and with the help of the now famous coach, Jack Flinton, were continued until 1955. Another great idea of Ralph Jebb was the holding of Balls at large County Houses, with exhibitions of archery, and prize competitions, to raise money for the Society, and provide grants and loans to local clubs.

Mr Ralf Jebb was elected as President of the Society in 1952.

County Associations

1950 saw GNAS take over the role as the national governing body for archery in the United Kingdom, and identify regions and county associations as key elements of the national organisation. Somerset immediately responded by forming its own association that year, Gloucestershire followed in 1951 and Devon & Cornwall in 1952. Dorset and Wiltshire took a further three years before they also formed an association.

Grand Western Reorganisation

With the new National structure in 1950 and the formation of county associations, Grand Western revised its own organisation in 1952 and set in motion a new era for archery in the West. Coaching courses started in Gloucestershire in 1953; and in 1954 Ralph Jebb with the secretary Capt L J Grahame and Les Chapman of WSCA, were asked to negotiate with Mr Geoffrey Luttrell, owner of Dunster Castle, about a more permanent venue for the Grand Western Meeting.

The First Dunster Week

Obviously the negotiations were successful, the Luttrell family were very helpful and Grand Western was allowed to establish its Championships Meeting on the Polo Field.

On the 15th to 22nd of May 1955 Grand Western held the first Dunster Week. It consisted of twenty targets, and the rounds shot were the Somerset Championships on the first Sunday and the Grand Western Meeting over the following weekend. The rest of the week was taken up by practice and possibly an American round. The week was voted a great success, much of which was due to the warmth of the welcome extended by Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Luttrell, and the beauty of the setting. Plans went ahead for the next year.

The second Dunster week set the scene for the future, by adding both fun, in the form of an archery versus golf Match, with the local Minehead Golf Club (won by the archers). And more competitions in the form of a "Veterans Match" - the over 60's shooting a Long Western and the over 70's shooting a Western. The prize table was also increased, by Mr and Mrs Luttrell donating the Luttrell Challenge Cup.

Fuel Crisis foils Dunster

Petrol rationing brought on by the Suez crisis, made travel in 1957 very difficult, and Dunster Week was cancelled, but a very sparsely attended two-day championship weekend was held at Taunton School. This year ended in great sadness for the society, with the death of Mr Geoffrey Luttrell in the September.

Return to Dunster Week

With the fuel crisis over, 1958 saw the return of the Dunster Week, but on a new ground. The Old Park within the castle grounds. For some time field archers had been unhappy with the support they were receiving nationally and at Dunster that year they decided to form the British Field Archery Association.

Field Archery Starts at Dunster

Initially at the request of GNAS Grand Western organised a two-day "All British Field Archery Championships" in 1959 as part of Dunster Week, but GNAS wanted half the profits and none of the costs. The shoot went ahead but the breakaway "British Field Archery Association", formed that year at Dunster, adopted it as their Championships. It is thought that it was about this time, a group of field archers, sitting in a bar in Dunster village, devised a new field round and appropriately named it after the Inn, "The Foresters."

Serious Archery comes to Dunster

The archery week was building in popularity, composite bows were in the majority with only a few steel bows remaining. 1960 saw the addition of a FITA Star on the Monday. Luckily this was before the advent of traffic lights, so maybe it fitted in well with the relaxed atmosphere of Dunster. The FITA round stayed as a permanent fixture, but the Star status was dropped the following year, although Star status was given for the 1970 and 1973 competitions.



Ladies Shooting Line Dunster Polo Grounds 1955



Centenary Year

1961, one hundred years on from the first Grand Western Meeting. Grand Western celebrated in style; they had a film show of the previous year, a Barbecue was held at the Castle, they ignored GNAS and issued a commemorative badge to all competitors. West Somerset presented the Dunster Salver. And a Jubilee telegram was sent to H.M. The Queen and Prince Philip, who graciously replied wishing the Archers good luck.

To commemorate the origins of the meeting a two way longbow shoot was introduced on the Wednesday and a Centenary Armada Jug was bought and awarded to the Champion. More and more archers were taking a week's holiday to attend. The number of visitors to the west was on the increase, including visitors from overseas.

1961 set the structure for the week as:-

Sunday - Somerset Championships
 Monday - FITA
 Tuesday to Saturday - Field
 Wednesday - Two way Longbow
 Thursday - One way Clout
 Saturday/Sunday - GWAS Meeting

and it remained relatively unchanged for nine years. Some of the highlights in that period being the lecture in 1963 by Professor Grahame Clarke, on the prehistoric longbows recovered from the peat bogs of Sedgemoor. With Bert Oram of national longbow championship fame shooting a replica bow on the Dunster ranges, and the introduction of the postal shoot with Natal.

Roy Mathews proved that the notorious wind around the trees of Dunster were no problem to a great archer, by shooting a record breaking single York (144/1032/49) in 1964.

1964 also saw Mrs Sheila Green, who on offering to write a few letters for Capt. Graham become the first Tournament Secretary of the society, a post she held for six years.

The 1965 Grand Western Ladies Champion, and also National Champion, Miss Chris (Bubbles) Britton, was chosen to represent Great Britain in the 23rd World Championships, where she took fifth place.

The heavy rain and high winds of 1966 made the Popinjay shoot, (with a mast loaned by West Herts Bowmen) a test of skill and stamina. Unfortunately there is no record of the mast's construction, or how it was transported to Dunster, only how much it was enjoyed.

In 1967 the Junior Regional Championships were moved from Dunster Week, to rotate around the four County Junior Championships. This however did not prove entirely satisfactory and in 1970 they moved back to Dunster.

Rebellion in the Counties

In 1966 and 1967 Grand Western Council had been rewriting the Society's constitution, but the Gloucestershire Society and Dorset & Wilts Association were not happy with the results, to the extent that in 1968 they applied to GNAS to form a separate region outside GWAS. This caused much concern and a further year of discussion and amendments to bring harmony back to the society at the 1969 AGM.

The Death of Rocket

"Rocket" Mrs Geoffrey Luttrell's horse died in 1968, he and his constant companions, two pet sheep, had freely grazed the Deer park throughout all the Dunster Weeks, only causing archery to stop when he strolled down to the wier for a drink. Today a stone marks his final resting-place, in what was his favourite part of the field.

Ralph Jebb retires to the Sun

Ralph Jebb retired from the post as President, when he moved to Spain and Capt. L J Graham was elected to replace him.

The society owes a lot to both these gentlemen, as like Col. Walrond, who in the 1860's established the Grand Western Meeting, they between them established Dunster Week.

Reorganisation of GW Council

During 1970 Reg Newton, regional secretary and officer of GNAS, took steps to strengthen the Regions committees, aligning them to the National Committee structure; and John Howlett took over as Tournament Secretary, instigating an American round on the Tuesday of Dunster week.

Clout Gets Easy

After much discussion Grand Western gave in to popular request, and the 1972 Dunster Week clout was reduced in distance, from its original 200 yards to 180 yards for the men, and from 160 yards to 140 yards for the ladies. This not only brought us in line with GNAS but made shooting a little easier, and therefore more fun for all the archers. 1972 also saw Reg Newton then secretary of Grand Western elected President of GNAS.

100th Grand Western Meeting

Great things were planned for the hundredth meeting in 1973 and ignoring possible complaints from GNAS, a special badge was made. The week was redesigned to include a Western on the Friday, and the field shoot was changed from the course being available for four days, around the Old Park to a much larger course on the adjoining May Hill for the Tuesday only. Thus began the first year containing eight consecutive days of shooting. Stamina had always been a requirement for attending Dunster Week, but now it was required on the field as well as off the field.

Unfortunately Mrs Geoffrey Luttrell was too ill to officiate at the centenary and her daughter-in-law Mrs Walter Luttrell stood in as Lady Paramount. Later that year Mr A J Green took over as President of the Society.

Loss of a Great Friend

The one sad part of 1974 was the death of Mrs Geoffrey Luttrell, she had been the Meetings Lady Paramount for eighteen years, and had adopted all of the archers as her own, always referring to them as "My Archers". She and her late husband had been the most welcoming of hosts, always visiting the shooting lines and encouraging archers to enjoy themselves, as well as inviting archers to the castle on Thursday nights for a "sherry and nibbles". The meeting went ahead and all the archers agreed that the event had been a great success, especially as Mrs Walter Luttrell had agreed to be the Society's new Lady Paramount.

The format of Dunster Week was now stabilised, and with a few minor exceptions could easily be mistaken for the field as it is today. There were no umbrellas on the line, as archers still sat on wooden trestles under the trees; Quicks emporium (which had started in the early days of Dunster as the boot of George Quicks car) had changed to a van driven by Bill Bishop. The Loo's were still pits behind hessian screens; and all archers were allowed to camp in the Castle grounds.

Last of the Juniors

The Junior Championships returned to Dunster in 1970 and stayed until 1976 when once again they were integrated with one of the County shoots. Although the Junior Championships have never returned this has not stopped the juniors competing with the seniors as equals, a classic example being Mark Blenkarne of Gloucestershire.

Too Many Entries Not Enough Places

Dunster Week had become one of the most popular shoots in the country and complaints had been made about favouritism on entries. To overcome the problems it was agreed at the 1974 AGM that entry forms would only be sent to those archers applying in writing and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, also that all entry forms would be posted out on the same day. This process is still carried out today and has stopped the accusations of the entry being unfair. But in 1975 it did not stop the problems of over-subscription. Four weeks after sending out entry forms there was only 1 Hereford, 1 Gents FITA, 7 Ladies FITA and 6 Western spaces left, complaints abounded, one disappointed gentleman sent in his booking for 1976 and Gloucestershire proposed that the Grand Western Championships be removed from Dunster Week.

National Trust takes over the Castle

1975 saw the castle become the property of the National Trust, who were not too enamoured with the idea of a lot of archers shooting dangerous contraptions in their grounds. Luckily Colonel Walter Luttrell and the villagers of Dunster came to the rescue, and explained to the Castle administrators that we were perfectly harmless and really quite nice people.

Workers Revolt

Marjorie Black, now better known as Marjorie Yeo, took on the duties as Tournament Organiser in 1977, only to be confronted by a workers revolt, I hasten to add not about herself, but about the Loos.

Since the start of Dunster, at the beginning of the week the working party dug latrine pits for both the ladies and the gentlemen, and each day they covered in the day's donations. This was not a pleasant job especially after a long hot day. Hence the workers demanded that the pits be replaced by a more hygienic system. The archers supported the workers, as they regularly had problems with using them, the most notable case being Robbie West who on failing to remove her quiver before using the loo, dropped all her arrows nock first into the pit. Although she claimed it speeded up her shooting it was agreed that that "the Loos Must Go". And so Marjorie arranged the installation of the first portable loos to Dunster.

1977 was also the Queen's Jubilee year, so dress regulations were relaxed and archers shot dressed in red white and blue, clout long-rods were decorated with Union Jacks and a telegram was sent to the Queen. Unfortunately H. R. H. Queen Elizabeth II, Buckingham Palace, London, was not considered an unique enough address and the Post Office demanded that The Mall be added. The local Postmaster was so annoyed that he paid for the extra letters himself.

Bylaws enforce changes

Since the start of Dunster Week all competitors had been allowed to camp on the field, and this was a major contribution to the friendly community spirit of the event. But with changes to the law on both temporary and permanent campsites, stipulating the need for sanitation facilities on sites catering for large numbers, the National Trust asked the Society to limit the number of units in the Old Park. This caused great concern as it was felt that it could diminish the popularity of the event; but the archers stoically agreed that they would find alternative accommodation and leave only the working party camping on the field.

Early on the Sunday morning of the 1977 Championships the National Trust, now firm friends of the "Society", allowed Ray Gallop up onto the roof of the castle, where he shot two arrows down onto the field. The first a longbow arrow landed half way down the ladies line, and the second, shot from a recurve bow, landed in the rough between the two lines.

1977 also saw Bill Bishop bring "young Tom" along to show him the ropes in their nice new specialist mobile shop.

A year later in 1978 Ray Gallop became the Society's President, and as well as providing the prize instigated the Presidents volley at the end of the Clout.

In 1980 Pam Tonkin, quietly supported by her husband Bob, took over as Tournament organiser, only to be told that the castle had established a gate, with a man in a hut, on the Minehead Road Entrance. The target lists had to include little green passes to allow the archers to enter the grounds free. Several early arrivals nearly suffered major injuries when, finding the barrier across the road closed, tried to lift it, but all was smiles when shown a gentle push would swing it on its hinges.

The 1981 Tuesday field round, on May Hill, was interrupted when police officers came to investigate a complaint, made by two ladies driving along the main road, that people were shooting at a tethered deer.

1982 saw Mark Blenkarne, who started shooting as a Grand Western Junior, and came 4th in the Moscow Olympics, win a Commonwealth gold medal.

Trinity Take-over

The Tonkins were posted, by the R.A.F, out of the region in 1982, and Grace Bamford took over as Tournament Organiser with strong and able support from Dot and Monty. This team was to organise Dunster for ten years, and became known not only for their ability to resolve all problems and disputes with a smile, but for their love of the venue and surrounding countryside. Grace brought (with the aid of her "trusty" computer) instant printed results posted each morning on the walls of the office.

1982 saw Wendy Syms become the first lady to win the Wednesday longbow round and as an added bonus she had the pleasure of receiving shillings all round for a perfect three gold end.

The Field round moved to Geoffries Oak in 1982 and on to Judy Hulse's Totterdown Farm at Timberscombe in 1983, where it continued to expand in popularity.

The Field makes its Mark

1983 will always be known as the year of the Thistles. Due to bad weather the National Trust had to delay the spraying of the Deer Park, to kill the thistles, until just before Dunster Week; this meant that the grass, plus thistles, could not be cut until after the shoot. Archers -especially the ladies - suffered scratched and cut legs and feet, and after the Somerset Champs everybody wore trousers and stout shoes irrespective of the baking sun.

Initially the marquee, erected for the provision of food during the shooting days and the award of trophies at the end of the week, stood empty most evenings, the exception being Friday when the working party had their "Fish & Chip Supper". In the eighties this began to change firstly in 1984 with the Thursday night functions (masterminded by Brenda Brooks) and later on in 1988 when Grace initiated the Tuesday night fun shoots.

After much pacing and measurements by Monty over the previous years the Thursday Clout round was made two way in 1984.

Food Glorious Food

Since its inception Dunster Week had always provided food and drink for the archers in the marquee, but the quantity and quality had varied over the years. Initially the service was provided by a selection of caterers, from large firms to a “one lady” outfit, who was often seen rushing off on her bicycle to restock the tables. In each case they all gave up providing the service,, saying there was insufficient profit to make it worthwhile.

It all came to a head in 1985 when the current caterer stated that they would require the Society to pay a standing fee for them to attend, as well as increasing the prices to the archers.

The lady archers in and around Dunster came to the rescue, they offered to take over the catering and the landlord of The “Stag Inn” in Dunster offered to set up a bar. Eventually Marion Hutter of Devon and Cornwall took over providing the food, and on the retirement of Pauline and Ken from the “Stag Inn”, Allan Taylor of the “Foresters” took over the management of the bar.

Sevice on the Mound

From the very beginning of Dunster Week there has always been a service on the Sunday morning of the Championship. The choice of chaplain was easy in the early days, as so many of the clergy were archers, but in latter years the Society relied on local retired members of the clergy. One delightful pastor was always supported by his Alsatian dog, and in 1984 Dunster, preceding the General Synod by several years, and saw its first lady give the service.

Mary Rose Arrow

Hugh Soar, the Society’s Archivist and Historian, negotiated with the Mary Rose Trust for the loan of an arrow from the Mary Rose as a trophy for the best gold on the Longbow day. Its first winner, in 1985, was appropriately Col. Hugo Boehm, of Royal Tox and BLBS fame.

In 1985, as Ray Gallop was invited to become President of GNAS, Mrs Pat White of “Yeo Bowmen” replaced him as President of Grand Western.

1987 saw problems with the field again. Princess Margaret came to Dunster by helicopter and so the grass could not be cut until after the visit, in case it was blown about as she came into land; this meant all preparation of the field had to be delayed until the day before it started.

In 1988 Mrs Pat White resigned as President, and was replaced by Mr R K de B Nicholson.

More Toilet Troubles

The loos that had been in use since 1979 were no longer capable of coping with the numbers of archers requiring to use them, so in 1988 Grace organised an eight seater (Lem Puck eat your heart out) battery driven flushing unit.

Ewe have to be alert

For most of the year the Old Park is home to a variety of farm animals. Normally the only sign of them being their droppings, as in the early eighties when heifers were left in the park up to the week before Dunster (the year of the cow pats). But in 1989 the sheep stayed in the park all week, free to graze most of the time, only being penned in during the shooting. Unfortunately nobody told the sheep the importance of staying off the archery field, and on three occasions they escaped, but it did give the judges a chance to demonstrate their effectiveness as green and white collies!

Ice with the Bubbly

The Wednesday longbow competition is reputed to be the largest in the country, and possibly the world and over the years it has developed its own traditions. Nobody is allocated a target, with the exception of the President who always has target N^o.1; archers just turn up at the allotted time, find a space with some friendly looking people, place their name on the score board, and start shooting when the whistle blows. The 1990 competition started fine and sunny, the President had just poured Champagne for his guests, and the shoot had started when the skies turned black, and down came the hail. Shooting stopped for just three minutes by which time the whole field was white with hail the size of peas and the rest of the competition continued in bright sunshine. During the cream tea interval a request was made that the President should find a less intrusive method of cooling his wine!.

Bursting point at Totterdown

The Tuesday field round at Totterdown Farm was now completely full with 160 archers attending each year. In 1991 to ease the pressure Grace Bamford introduced the Albion round on the ladies line in the Deer Park, with it’s very popular auction of prizes in the marquee. Unfortunately although this round provided an alternative for nearly 60 archers the pressures for a larger field course continued. Thus when Janet and Eddie Faralewski took over the tasks as Tournament Organisers in 1992, the field round was moved to the Old Brake at Mr Webber’s Hindon Farm.

Alcohol Saves the Day

On collecting the Mary Rose arrow from the castle it was noticed that it was covered in small white crystals. When, the arrow was removed from its glass tube the crystals were found to be firmly attached to the shaft, gin was found to be an ideal solvent, but nobody was willing to tell Margaret Rule of its efficacy.

Arrow Returned to Mary Rose

1992 was the last year that the Mary Rose Arrow was awarded. On advice from GNAS the English Sporting Trophies Exhibition had requested the loan of some of the GW Societies trophies, especially the Mary Rose Arrow. GWAS agreed, but stated it would require approval of the Mary Rose Trust. Upon writing to the Trust, requesting the loan, it became apparent that they had forgotten that Grand Western had the arrow and demanded its return for inspection. The Trust then agreed to allow its return to Dunster each year only if the society would supply transport and suitable insurance. As it was impossible to replace the arrow, it was impossible to insure it so in January of 1993 the society reluctantly returned the arrow for good.

Albion Moves

Although the Tuesday Albion was only planned as a small alternative to the field round it grew too big for the ladies line and was moved to its present place on the gentleman's line, where, in 1993, it catered for over one hundred archers.

For 1993 the weather was warm and sunny until the clout, when even the scorers (who spent most of their time in the marquee) complained about rising damp. The longbow was shot in the dry but immediately afterwards the heavens opened, and this pattern of fine for the shooting and rain after was repeated on the Friday. The outcome was that the entrance to the field had to be moved each day and lakes, of sufficient depth to encourage the ducks out of the river, appeared throughout the campsite. Luckily the sun came out for the Championships and all the campers were able to safely drive off the field.

GNAS Force Changes

Like other long standing archery meetings, which had their origins in two-way longbow shoots, the targets at Dunster had always been fixed and the archers shooting line moved forward for the shorter distances. In 1994 GNAS changed the rules of shooting to accommodate the requirements for safer overshoot areas, and it became mandatory for the shooting line to remain static and the targets to move forward. GWAS reluctantly complied since there were great fears that the archers would not take kindly to eight days of moving targets; but they were proved wrong, the archers were there to enjoy themselves, and if targets had to be moved, then they would be moved.

More Toilet Troubles

The toilets in use since 1988 were becoming unreliable and Eddie Faralewski was fed up with cleaning filters and recharging old tired batteries, so he and Janet toured the countryside viewing new toilets, from gilded and carpeted wedding units to building site Thunder-boxes. 1994 saw the results of their labours in the form of the new green individual flushing Loos.

Under the Tree

Between the target lines, was a large oak tree, used to shelter equipment. In the early 90's part of the tree started to die. The castle staff tried several remedies but by 1995 half the tree was dead. Eventually severe surgery was carried out and for a while the remains seemed to flourish, but by the spring 1997 it was obvious that the tree could no longer survive it was cut down. But that summer, and possibly for several years to come when somebody said "fetch a hammer from under the tree" everyone knew where to look.

Unfortunately the spring of 1997 saw the unexpected death of Eddie Faralewski, Janet, strengthened by the help and friendship of all the workers and archers who attended Dunster that year continued as organiser, and masterminded another brilliant Dunster Week.

The Dunster Willow Rat a poem by Mike Reeve 1997

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Twas Dunster week and all was well,
the campsite was asleep -
when up jumped Shirley from her bed
Stan, "I heard a squeak." | 5 "We'll not get back to bed this night
until this thing is found
Take a look out side the van -
look carefully all around." |
| 2 "I canny hear a thing my pet."
said Stan not quite awake.
"Your sure your not just dreaming
after all that chocolate cake?" | 6 Stan looked about the van outside
cursing all the while.
Yes-he could hear something squeaking
and he couldn't help but smile. |
| 3 All was quiet for a while
so peaceful and so nice
but then that noise - it came again.
"Stan, it <u>must</u> be mice." | 7 A willow branch was moving -
against the caravan
squeaking very softly
as only nature can |
| 4 "Get out of bed and help me look,
we've got to find this pest.
We'll have to move the pots and pans
and check out all the rest." | 8 It wasn't mice or crawly things
in their van that night
it was the Dunster Willow Rat
that gave our Shirl. her fright! |

125th Grand Western Meeting

1998 will be our 125th Grand Western Meeting. It has taken 137 years to get here, but although over that period the world of archery has seen many changes, the ideals of those archers at Culm Vale lives on.

The Grand Western Archery Meeting and Dunster Week will be organised so that the archers of the west, and the visitors to the west, can enjoy themselves whilst "shooting in the bow".

The Social side of Dunster Week

Over the years the Somerset County Championship and the Grand Western Championships have developed, by the gradual addition of midweek competitions, into the eight consecutive days of archery that we all now know as Dunster Week. And to this day although it may appear as a seamless eight days, the organisation of first Sunday is still the responsibility of Somerset, whereas Grand Western manages the rest of the week.

Although archery is, and will always remain, the main feature of Dunster Week by being together for eight days rather than just the normal eight hours on a Sunday, the Dunster archers set out to enjoy themselves both on and off the Tournament field.

Dunster has always had a strong social background, much of it quite informal, but vitally important to the participants. Woo betide the person who initiates a new function that impinges on an existing activity.

Some of these events have sadly fallen by the wayside. Such as the Basil Gard Barbecue's, very smoky affairs that on some occasions ended in a huddle of archery umbrella's where burnt offerings were exchanged for goblets of wine from tent to tent until the sun and peoples inhibitions had both gone down.

Another great loss was the West Somerset Co of Archers Fun Shoot and Buffet, kindly hosted by the club at their grounds in Minehead. Molly Tuckers infectious laugh was often heard as she and the ladies served the food, and John Tucker, and the men were great at devising ridiculous competitions.

Friday night used to be Fish and Chip Supper night. It originally started as just being the workers on the site, but the archers wanted to join in, so it gradually expanded to include more and more archers until 1989 when it was catering for 78 people. Sadly its size was also the cause of its demise as the food was no longer hot and then its popularity waned until it was decided to hold the last one in 1993.

New archers to Dunster must take care where they eat and drink. Wherever they go, they will find archers wining and dining, from beautifully formal occasions to downright chaos. For instance, I recommend that no archer approaches the Castle Inn on the Championship Saturday night unless they wear body armour or wet weather gear, or have a great passion for Treacle Pudding, Spotted Dick and Bun fights.

Grace Bamford that well loved tournament organiser must be blamed for the start of the Tuesday night fun shoots where archers are made to enjoy good food and bad shooting in and around the marquee.

At this point I would like to state that no time did Grace and Ken, from Quicks, get together to organise the Pope Young night in aid of arrow sales. The fact that after 11 years metal detectors still find the remains of old arrows is purely coincidental.

The fun shoots have been many and varied and all compliments must go to the archers who take part. Certain stars stand out like, Mike Herridge, who for three years tried to win the knockout little realising that any time he came near to winning the judge changed the rules.

Jackie Gerrie for being the only person out of 47 archers to hit the vertical clout in the allotted time. And Ian Woodley for somehow retrieving his arrow from the top of an oak tree in the cartoon roving round.

Tuesday Nights

1988 -	Horizontal Popinjay	1993 -	Vertical Clout
1989 -	Pope Young	1994 -	Coconut Shy
1990 -	Knockout I	1995 -	Flu Flu Roving
1991 -	Knockout II	1996 -	Treasure Hunt
1992 -	Knockout III	1997 -	Quiz Night

The first recorded Thursday night function was the 1984 Wine and cheese Party held in the Castle where all were enthralled with the Barbara Webber films of early Dunster Weeks. This was followed by Rustic Nights and Barn Dances where Barbara Williams and the then Clair Brighton gave a whole new meaning to Barn dancing especially that step called Dossy Do.

1987 saw Ray Gallops Treasure Hunt around Dunster village and ending up with a Gala Supper produced by Brenda Brooks and her team of caterers. It was a shame that the heavens opened that evening, but the villagers still remember it for the stream of people under monster umbrellas peering in shop windows and asking the local landlords for strange and improbable cocktails.

Chris Brenchley, well known for the simplicity of his hairstyle and love of fun and archery, with his wife Margaret were selected as the Liege lord and Lady for the 1988 Mediaeval Banquet, where 100 superbly dressed people sat down to a whole roast pig and mediaeval trimmings. Bon Bakery in Willerton kindly baked the whole pig, but were a bit surprised, as were the local Brownies, who had their hut at the back of the bakery, when Henry VIII and a lady in mediaeval dress came to collect it.

Many thanks must go to Marion Hutter for providing the Barber Shop Singers in 1990, but the real stars were the archers from Tunbridge who wrote and performed a Barber-Shop song about the characters and officials of Dunster.

The South Pacific night brought out many grass skirts but the prize went to John and Irene Hayles, and would you believe a long haired version of Ken Simmons from Quicks, all who had made their skirts from 80cm target faces. I wonder if Tom Bishop ever got paid for those faces.

The Vicars and Tarts in 1992 caused chaos not only in the marquee, but in the hotels, guest houses and camp sites as archers dressed for their parts. Margaret Brown of GNAS Office fame was definitely one of the cutest vicars. It was also the year that we saw what are now the two famous "Tarts" from Grays Power, I just wish they would learn to shave closer before asking me to dance.

Christmas came early in 1993 with garlands and decorations converting the marquee into the largest party ever held. Christmas carols were sung with gusto, and by the time the bar closed most people had learnt all the words but maybe not in the right sequence.

Two Scottish pipers travelled with trepidation from Exeter to Dunster in June 1994, as they had been asked to pipe in the haggis at the Burns Night. Yet they ended up impressed for with the exception of the Grays Power "Tarts", who turned up as nurses from a burns unit, everybody had dressed the part and duly celebrated the immortal poet. Ray Gallop gave an impressive address to the haggis, but the Stars of the night were Ernie Chapman with his brilliant but suicidal toast to the "Lassies", and Mary Smith's sweet but murderous response and toast to the "Laddies".

1995 saw a new management team, "The Somerset Eating and Drinking Club", take over the organisation of, both Tuesday and Thursday nights from, "Brenda Brooks and her team", with a rousing 1940's Street Party. Pride of place went to the stunning ARP Wardens on their tandem fire engine, driven by Muriel and Clifford and ably supported by Barbara and Keith Williams.

1996 was a test of stamina, both mentally and physically. Did we really wear those clothes in the 70's. Well for Reg and Helen Press the answer was a definite yes as all their gear came out of their own wardrobe. My impression of the 70's was peace and calm (or was it cool) but the night was fast and frantic with great fun had by all.

The Yokel night in 1997 was nearly a Yokel Morning with the band playing on and on and on as they enjoyed themselves more and more. This was the only year where the bar, ably run by Allan from the Foresters closed before the music. But when they are having fun you just have to join in.

Thursday Nights

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1984 - Wine & Cheese | 1991 - South Pacific |
| 1985 - Rustic Night | 1992 - Vicars & Tarts |
| 1986 - Barn Dance | 1993 - Dickensian Christmas Party |
| 1987 - Treasure Hunt & Gala Supper | 1994 - Burns Supper |
| 1988 - Mediaeval Banquet | 1995 - 1940's Street Party |
| 1989 - Barn Dance | 1996 - Flower Power |
| 1990 - Barber Shop Night | 1997 - Yokel Barn Dance |



Barbara Webber and Bridget Orum



Lady Hermione Lutterell



Jock Farquhar and Terry Vaughan



Harry Cork and Harry Ashendon

THE LIFE OF A TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

*The Life of a Tournament Organiser
is such fun
after all there is so little to do
and all year to do it!*



Chris and Maragaret Brenchley



Margaret Brown and Muriel Beaumont



Margaret Lewis



Molly and John Tucker

It all starts at the beginning of Dunster Week, albeit the Dunster Week a year before the one you are planning.

In those long hot quiet sunny periods, when the tournament has been handed over to the judges. And you are not changing archers on the targets for the next day, explaining why the score on the results list is less/more than the archer has on their score pad, selling badges. Greeting new and old friends, doing the results, directing people to the castle, giving out the manhole keys. Now is the time to check with; the Castle that the fields will be available next year, the landlord that the bar will be available, the man who supplies the loos that he will deliver next year.

The hidden work begins the day after you return from Dunster, as you safely store away the applications for next year's entry form given to you on the field. Now all you have to do is check every score sheet, modify the results lists, produce the results book, put them into over 300 envelopes and then down to the Post Office to send them off.

Now comes a really nice bit of Dunster, the receiving and reading the letters of thanks, some with photographs, that show the main pleasure of Dunster is all about people enjoying themselves.

Hey Ho, The postman, here are the first of the letters requesting entry forms. Oh dear back to work, I must complete the GNAS paperwork and advertise the shoot in the major archery publications.

Autumn is the time for the design and production of the Entry Forms, *will the photo-copier survive the printing of another thousand pages?*, then begins the sorting, folding, and stapling together, a great job, especially when it is finished. That pile of letters requesting entry forms is building up.

January, Now is the time to start ordering the regular fixtures and fittings: the office, the Marquee, Quicks Tent, tables and chairs, will Marion do the food?, has Allan requested the licence?, the skips, the loos and visit the castle to take the Trophies to the engraver.

Valentine's Day, time to put the entry forms into that pile envelopes, *How do you get four sheets of A5 into a small envelope*, and post them all on the same day, *and warn the postman to get out his bigger bag*. In come the entry forms. *Type them into the computer.*

Out go the letters to the trophy holders inviting them to return the trophies, and to the traders confirming all the bookings. In come the entry forms. *Type them into the computer.*

Visits to the Castle to return the engraved trophies and give them a final polish before the castle opens for the summer season. In come the entry forms. *Type them into the computer.*

In come the entry forms. *How can he shoot the Field and the Albion?*
Time to produce the layout for the Target Lists, *thank the Gods for the computer,*
Must produce the eleven target lists,
Why does the computer do what you tell it to, rather than what you want it to?
In come the entry forms.
Oh dear I will have to modify the Target List. *B. . . .r the computer.*
Better start typing the names and clubs on the 1000 score sheets.

At two weeks to go we freeze the Target List print it, package it, *Who's going past the Post Office,*
I said who's going past the Post Office?

Go to the Post Office and post it.

At one week to go, the Equipment Officer's teams of willing (*pressed*) volunteers appear on site to quickly change the farmers pasture into a tournament field. Once they have cut the grass, down go the lines, out go the numbers, up go the targets and all the signs. *Dunster is starting to take shape.*

It's Thursday before Dunster, the caravan is loaded, the car is loaded, *they are connected together,* we are on the road. We have passed Blandford/Yeovil/Taunton, dropped down through Willerton, slithered through Carhampton and there is the Tower, across the river, left turn, over the cattle grid and we are here. *Yes I did get your entry form, yes you did book to shoot the Albion, yes you did say recurve, yes you can change it to longbow, as soon as I've unhitched the caravan I'll change it for you.*

Dunster has started.

Without the efforts of many people Dunster would not function. Most of the work during the week is carried out by Grand Western Archers who react like greased lightning to the polite requests of Simon Woolston to move this, or do that, *One day I must ask him why he always waves that large mallet when talking to the workers.* And where would we be without people like; Bill, and his team of workers at Hindon Farm. Honeysuckle Lil to clean and brighten the Loos, Keith and Clifford to tell us where to go (in the car park), and the Judges to tell us where to go (on the shooting line).

Not all the workers are archers from the West, some are visitors; a few who deserve a special mention for their support are, Terry Vaughan, Jock Farquahar, Bob Paton, Harry Cork and Harry Ashendon who for many years have been valued members of the workforce. Only Bob is still a regular attendee, but other visitors to Dunster are carrying on the tradition with him.

Dunster would not happen if it were not for the archers and their determination to enjoy all that Dunster throws at them, and the dedication of all the workers to make sure whatever is thrown, always lands the right way up.

Monty & Grace's recollections on a week at Dunster

Our first impressions of Dunster Week, in the 1960's, as archer's was the wonderful atmosphere of friendliness and laughter.

Who will remember the "dug-out" latrines behind a tarpaulin sheet ?, Mrs. Luttrell coming down from the castle on her golf-buggy to talk to us and invite us to sherry and to see her lemon tree ?, the two pet sheep and the old horse who wandered in front of the targets to our cries of "Fast"! We had steel bows with one or two souls shooting the latest laminated bows - clickers were unheard of. What about Quicks selling flu-flu's to so say stabilise our arrows - when we all wondered why the arrows fell short !. The Popinjay where we hit our noses?

These memories induced me to railroad Monty and Dot to help organise Dunster Week - without them it would not have been possible to continue providing the atmosphere which make the week what it is. The bonus of working with computers, with the advent of the first portable and being able to see what a help this would be in the paperwork was also an influence.

When we took over the organising in 1982 we left things very much the same, as we needed to take stock to see where improvements could be made. We decided to shoot the Clout two way-brought in a computer - run on a generator -(worry - worry!) The food arrangements to say the least were primitive and the loos even more so!

The marquee was used to sell tea, coffee, and pasties provided by a young woman from the village on her bicycle. She would rush off on it to get more whenever she sold out. The job was then done by a lady hotelier from Dunster Beach, but she soon discovered that she could not make enough profit to make it worthwhile to her.

Creature comforts, came more to the fore with the discovery of some portable loos. These awesome devices were mounted on a large trailer above a large tank of effluent and Blue Liquid, the whole thing operated by a couple of lorry batteries. These were vulnerable to burst pipes and blocked filters, both of which required determination & a strong stomach to rectify. A smelly, wheezy, noisy tanker would arrive to empty them twice in the week. The one advantage which came from this was that the charging of the batteries at the Head Gardener's cottage at the Castle formed acquaintances which eventually involved the National Trust team with some of the preparation work. They were also invited to one of the social gatherings at the marquee, the Fish and Chip Night. In it's heyday this function was well attended by anyone who was anyone.!

We had various problems with the field in the early days. The ladies will remember the thistles, which was far worse in their shooting area. There were always problems with getting the grass cut. It is perhaps obvious that the field is pasture (cow pats!) for 50 weeks of the year and needs to be given some attention to make it into an area for targets lines, clout targets and footmarkers. This was often done with a hired motorised hand mower, driven by someone dragooned from archers staying on site. We often wondered what the new visitors made of our field - especially if they shot at Oxford!

In the following years catering was greatly improved by the voluntary efforts of the G.W.A.S. ladies and any visitors who could be persuaded to help. The social evenings also began to take shape and were much supported enthusiastically by our visitors. It should be remembered that whilst Grand Western archers do shoot at Dunster, most of the weekday tournaments consist of visitors from outside the area.

We decided that it might be an idea to run an evening get-together on Tuesday after the Field event. One evening that is remembered was The Pope Young Round. It proved a disaster, as so many arrows were lost. However the archers taking part appeared very philosophical and some even asked for the rules during the week.

The growing numbers of entries and the arrival of the Composite arrows introduced problems with wear and tear on the bosses and stands. Monty has worn out a power saw through making yearly replacement stands! We were both involved with making the plastic footmarkers. Our local Clarks shoe factory was invited to give away their worn plastic discs, which were cut to size and numbered.

Dunster Week would be the poorer without the attendance and support provided by Quicks the Archery Specialists. In the late 50's George Quick ran the shop out of the back of his car, now Ken Simmons needs two days to set up the shop in a 40ft by 30ft marquee.

Some archers may remember when camping was allowed for all on site, but with the introduction of local and national camping bylaws the campsite has had to be reduced, to working party members only.

The popularity of the field round became a problem when the venue at Timberscombe proved too small. To alleviate this The Albion was introduced and a new field venue was found. The Longbow line is reputed to be the longest in the country. In the Clout round my one unfulfilled wish was to have the President's volley televised. It is such an impressive sight.

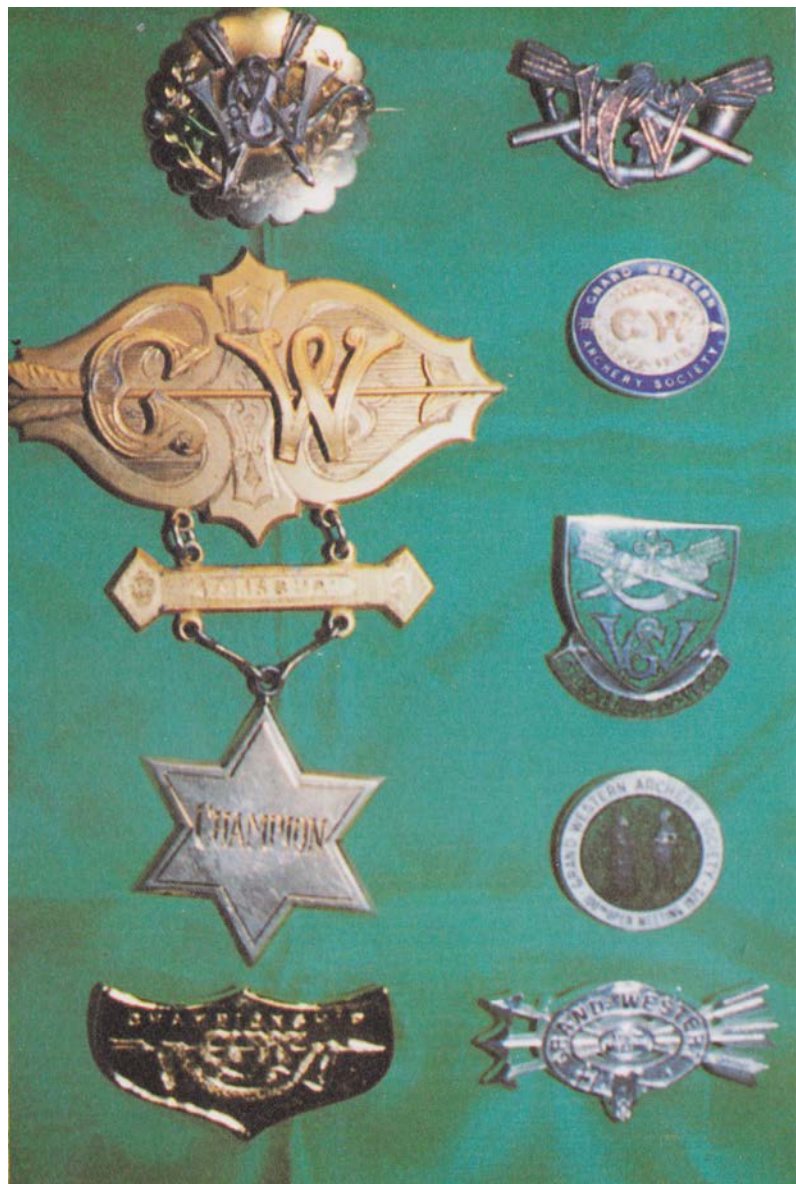
A week of archery has a tradition in the West Country and the setting at the Castle is superb. (The 'record status field' being rather a misnomer when compared with Oxford !). However it has meant that a more relaxed and recreational environment has been established. The villagers came to realise Dunster Week was part of their scene and when they thought we would be banned when The National Trust took over the Castle, they protested strongly.

I 'did' Dunster for 10 years and in spite of a few hassles consider it was some of my happiest times and it should be said that I was supported wholeheartedly by G.W.A.S. council. All the archers who come to Dunster are also responsible for making the event the success that it is. However without Monty and Dot, I would stress it might not have been me.

Grace Bamford



Tony Usher and Gill Newland Champions of the West 1997



GRAND WESTERN MEDALS AND BADGES

Champion's Medal 1861 - 1866	Archers Medal 1873 - 1954
Champion's Medal 1868 - 1954	25th Jubilee Badge
Champion's Medal 1955 to today	Centenary Badge
	100th Meeting Badge
	125th Meeting Badge (reproduction of 1861 Archers Badge)

CHAMPIONS OF THE WEST

Year	Venue	Lady Champion	Gentleman Champion
1861	TAUNTON	Miss A Turner	South Devon
1862	SALISBURY West Hamham	Mrs AA Malet	West Somerset
1863	WEYMOUTH	Miss S Dawson	West Somerset
1864	EXETER	Miss S Dawson	West Somerset
1866	WEYMOUTH	Miss S Dawson	West Somerset
1868	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1869	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1870	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss M Lockyer	Teignmouth
1871	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1872	SHERBORNE Castle	Mrs P Pinckney	South Wilts
1873	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Mrs P Pinckney	South Wilts
1874	WEYMOUTH	Miss K Lowe	Devon & Cornwall
1875	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Mrs Hosken	Devon & Cornwall
1876	SALISBURY The Butts	Miss E F Pinckney	South Wilts
1877	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss E F Pinckney	South Wilts
1878	WEYMOUTH	Miss E Matthews	Devon & Cornwall
1879	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1880	SHERBORNE	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1881	BATH	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1882	EXETER	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1883	SALISBURY The Butts	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1884	TAUNTON Taunton School	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1885	WEYMOUTH	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1886	BATH	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1887	EXMOUTH	Miss MA Winwood	Bath Archers
1888	TAUNTON	Miss C Radford	Sidmouth A C
1889	SALISBURY East Hamham	Miss MA Winwood	Bath Archers
1890	EXETER	Mrs Gilling	Wiltshire Archers
1891	SEATON	Miss M A Winwood	Bath Archers
1892	BATH	Mrs Kane	South Wilts
1865 - No Meeting due to the GNAM at Clifton			
1867 - No Meeting due to Organisational problems			
1868	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1869	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1870	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss M Lockyer	Teignmouth
1871	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss Ripley	Wiltshire Archers
1872	SHERBORNE Castle	Mrs P Pinckney	South Wilts
1873	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Mrs P Pinckney	South Wilts
1874	WEYMOUTH	Miss K Lowe	Devon & Cornwall
1875	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Mrs Hosken	Devon & Cornwall
1876	SALISBURY The Butts	Miss E F Pinckney	South Wilts
1877	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss E F Pinckney	South Wilts
1878	WEYMOUTH	Miss E Matthews	Devon & Cornwall
1879	TEIGHMOUTH Bitton House	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1880	SHERBORNE	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1881	BATH	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1882	EXETER	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1883	SALISBURY The Butts	Miss I Carter	Vale of White Horse
1884	TAUNTON Taunton School	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1885	WEYMOUTH	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1886	BATH	Mrs Eyre Hussey	Wiltshire Archers
1887	EXMOUTH	Miss MA Winwood	Bath Archers
1888	TAUNTON	Miss C Radford	Sidmouth A C
1889	SALISBURY East Hamham	Miss MA Winwood	Bath Archers
1890	EXETER	Mrs Gilling	Wiltshire Archers
1891	SEATON	Miss M A Winwood	Bath Archers
1892	BATH	Mrs Kane	South Wilts
1865	West Somerset	Mr H Walrond	West Somerset
1866	West Somerset	Rev H B Hare	West Somerset
1867	West Somerset	Rev H B Hare	West Somerset
1868	West Somerset	Rev H B Hare	West Somerset
1869	West Somerset	Rev H B Hare	West Somerset
1870	Teignmouth	Col. Ward	South Wilts
1871	Teignmouth	Rev. R Price	Stour Vale
1872	Teignmouth	Col. H Walrond	Teignmouth
1873	Teignmouth	Col. H Walrond	Teignmouth
1874	Teignmouth	Rev. R Price	Teignmouth
1875	Teignmouth	Rev. O K Prescott	Anglesea (Dorset)
1876	Teignmouth	Col. H Walrond	Wiltshire Archers
1877	Teignmouth	Col. H Walrond	South Devon
1878	Teignmouth	Col. H Walrond	South Devon
1879	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1880	Teignmouth	Mr P J Pinckney	South Wilts
1881	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Wilts
1882	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1883	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1884	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1885	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1886	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1887	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1888	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1889	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1890	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1891	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon
1892	Teignmouth	Mr H H Palairret	South Devon

Year	Venue	Lady Champion	Gentleman Champion	
1893	SHERBORNE	Mrs Kane Miss C Radford Miss E Winwood Miss E Winwood Mrs A M Pinckney Miss S E Morres Miss S E Morres Miss A M Pinckney Miss A M Pinckney Miss S E Morres Mrs Stopford Mrs E Leonard Miss L Awdry	South Wilts Sidmouth Bath Archers Bath Archers South Wilts Bath Archers South Wilts South Wilts South Wilts South Wilts Devon & Cornwall Backwell Archers South Wilts Devon & Cornwall Devon & Cornwall Backwell Archers South Wilts South Wilts South Wilts Bath Archers South Wilts	Royal Tox Royal Tox Devon & Cornwall Devon & Cornwall Devon & Cornwall Devon & Cornwall Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers Wiltshire Archers
1894	PLYMOUTH Manadon Park	Miss C Radford	Rev.CJ Perry Keene	Devon & Cornwall
1895	WEYMOUTH	Miss E Winwood	Rev.CJ Perry Keene	Devon & Cornwall
1896	EXMOUTH	Miss E Winwood	Rev.CJ Perry Keene	Devon & Cornwall
1897	BATH	Mrs A M Pinckney	Rev.CJ Perry Keene	Devon & Cornwall
1898	SALISBURY Victoria Park	Miss S E Morres	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1899	PLYMOUTH	Miss S E Morres	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1900	BOUNEMOUTH	Miss A M Pinckney	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1901	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	Miss A M Pinckney	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1902	PAIGNTON	Miss S E Morres	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1903	BATH	Mrs Stopford	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1904	EXETER	Mrs E Leonard	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1905	SALISBURY Britford	Miss L Awdry	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1906	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	Miss KG Mudge	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1907	PAIGNTON	Miss KG Mudge	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1908	SHERBORNE	Mrs Eleonard	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1909	TAUNTON	Miss G Mudge	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1910	EXMOUTH	Miss K Mudge	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1911	BATH	Miss Cicely Foster	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1912	WESTON-SUPER-MARE SALIS-	Miss L Awdry	Rev. J Penrose	Wiltshire Archers
1913	BURY Victoria Park	Mrs E Leonard	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1914	PAIGNTON	Miss A M Pinckney	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1915 to 1919 Championships Abandoned due to the Great War				
1920	BATH	Miss L Awdry	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1921	?	Miss NE Wallace	Mr R Brooks King	Wiltshire Archers
1922	SALISBURY Bemerton	Miss L Awdry	South Wilts	Wiltshire Archers
1923	TAUNTON Taunton School	Miss NE Wallace	South Wilts	Backwell Archers
1924	WELLS Wookey Hole	Miss L Awdry	South Wilts	Bath Archers
1925	BATH	Miss E Macdonald	South Wilts	Royal Tox & GWAS
1926	SIDMOUTH	Miss L Awdry	South Wilts	Royal Tox & GWAS
1927	SALISBURY Bemerton	MrsJ H Moore	Sidmouth	Royal Tox & GWAS
1928	SIDMOUTH	Miss A Browning	Sidmouth	Royal Tox & GWAS

Year	Venue	Lady Champion	Gentleman Champion	
1929	SIDMOUTH	Mrs JH Moore	Maj. J J Farley	Royal Tox & GWAS
1930	SIDMOUTH	Miss A Browning	Mr E Meade King	Backwell Archers
1931	SALISBURY Victoria Park	Miss L Awdry	Capt. A P James RN	Royal Tox & GWAS
1932	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	Mrs Everett	Capt. A P James RN	Royal Tox & GWAS
1933	SHERBORNE	Miss L Awdry	Mr T Robinson	Backwell Archers
1934	SIDMOUTH	Miss E Brooks King	Mr R Brooks King	Sidmouth
1935	SALISBURY Victoria park	Mrs R Raby	Mr R Brooks King	Sidmouth
1936	SIDMOUTH	Miss L Awdry	Col. J Conran	Royal Tox & GWAS
1937	SIDMOUTH	Miss Anstice	Capt. A P James RN	Royal Tox & GWAS
1938	SIDMOUTH	Miss Anstice	Capt. A P James RN	Royal Tox & GWAS
1939	SIDMOUTH	Miss L Awdry	Capt. A P James RN	Royal Tox & GWAS
1940 to 1945 Championships Abandoned due to the Second World War				
1946	SIDMOUTH	Mrs Fraser	Maj. J J Farley	Budleigh Salterton
1947	SALISBURY Bemerton	Mrs Cobard	Mr R Jebb	South Wilts
1948	BATH	Miss L Awdry	Mr R Jebb	South Wilts
1949	SALISBURY Old Bishops Palace	Mrs McCormack Smith	Mr R Jebb	South Wilts
1950	SALISBURY Old Bishops Palace	Mrs H Grenfall	Mr A Ball	South Wilts
1951	TAUNTON	Mrs MFelix	Mr C C James	South Wilts
1952	SALISBURY Britford Lane	Mrs MFelix	Mr R Jebb	South Wilts
1953	EXETER	Mrs MFelix	Mr R Jebb	South Wilts
1954	BADMINTON	Mrs John Orum	Mr H A Oram	Bowmen of Hatch
1955	DUNSTER Castle Polo Ground	Mrs E Nettleton	Mr H A Oram	Bowmen of Hatch
1956	DUNSTER Castle Polo Ground	Mrs E Nettleton	Mr H A Oram	Bowmen of Hatch
1957	TAUNTON Taunton School	Mrs E Nettleton	Mr J Calyton	Bowmen of Hatch
1958	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss P Vinter	Mr H T James	Exeter Co of A
1959	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs G E Norris	Mr D J Potter	Bath Archers
1960	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs L Kimball	Mr D J Potter	Dunheved Archers
1961	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss V Brain	Mr D J Potter	Dunheved Archers
1962	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs L Kimball	Mr B A Wembridge	Bowmen of Mendip
1963	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs W E Sessions	Mr G Grant	Black and Gold
1964	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs LKimbball	Mr G B Clark	Backwell Archers
1965	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss C Britton	Mr J W Plowman	Black and Gold
1966	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss C Britton	Mr J W Birch	Ad Astra Bowmen
1967	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs B Williams	Mr D R Dobinson	Black and Gold
1968	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs B Williams	Mr D E Pinnel	Pheonix Bowmen
			Mr D R Dobinson	Black and Gold

Year	Venue	Lady Champion	Gentleman Champion
1969	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss C Britton	Mr W Felstead
1970	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs L Maslin	Mr P G Holloway
1971	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs B Williams	Mr M Willis
1972	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs B Williams	Mr B A Pullen
1973	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs B Williams	Mr D Bailey
1974	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss M Lewis	Mr R Knowles
1975	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs K Vane	Mr R Knowles
1976	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs K Martin	Mr M Blenkarne
1977	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs K Martin	Mr M Blenkarne
1978	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs S Chugg	Mr A Smith
1979	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs P Tonkin	Mr C Kemp
1980	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs G Skipper	Mr A Smith
1981	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs F Prewett	Mr M Blenkarne
1982	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs P Hinton	Mr M Blenkarne
1983	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs P Hinton	Mr A Smith
1984	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss C Sidebottom	Mr R Hemmings
1985	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs P Hintim	Mr S Woolston
1986	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss V Gallop	Mr A Asher
1987	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss V Gallop	Mr A Robinson
1988	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs S Sandoe	Mr R Freemantle
1989	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss V Gallop	Mr E Cameron
1990	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss Y Oakshott	Mr R Freemantle
1991	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss Y Oakshott	Mr A Smith
1992	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss Y Oakshott	Mr R Freemantle
1993	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss Y Oakshott	Mr R Freemantle
1994	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss J Williams	Mr R Freemantle
1995	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs A Jackson	Mr L Godfrey
1996	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Miss J Williams	Mr L Godfrey
1997	DUNSTER Castle Old Park	Mrs J Newland	Mr R Insley
			Mr A Usher

