

The L&RCAA v Northamptonshire match is traditionally the last match of the outdoor season. This year it was hosted by Northants at Targetcraft Archers' ground near Desborough on Sunday 24th September. The round to be shot was a WA1440 (formerly known as a FITA) with the surprisingly late assembly time of 09:15. The day started as a classic autumn morning; bright, cool, dew soaked grass and a clear blue sky... And virtually no breeze. So things were looking good!

During set-up one of L&R's lady compounders realised she only had her X10 Protour arrows with her and was shooting on a straw boss. X10s and straw is not a good combination and many an archer has trudged away from the target in the past clutching the shattered remains of an X10 because it lost the battle for survival against straw. After a little frantic discussion, however, the Team

provided some ACE arrows of the same spine and length (lucky or what?) and by the end of practise the problem was solved.

Targetcraft's ground is very open so is susceptible to any small breezes which come through gaps in the bushes



L&RCAA

versus



down the right hand side. It is also on quite a noticeable slope which had a marked effect on everyone's sight settings.

As the shoot progressed so sudden gusts of wind developed: not strong but enough to move arrows unexpectedly around the target. For the whole of the day the gusts came and went and many people's scores began to suffer. Not so for L&R's Ollie Stevenson who had recently invested in a new set of humungously expensive limbs. He shot strongly and consistently all day and was chuffed to be in with a chance at a good MB score when it was pointed out that the match wasn't a record status (an admin/paperwork cockup) and so, no matter how well he did, his score wouldn't count to his MB. He rose above the initial, brief disappointment and went on to win the recurve match by a substantial margin.







Will Croyden, one half of the barebow team along with Chris Flint, put up a good fight against Northants' Richard Wise, eventually finishing four points ahead to be the highest scoring Gents barebow.

Another excellent performance was from Paul Taylor who only started shooting with the County Team this year but put in 1167 to be second highest score of the match.

L&R juniors were quite represented but mostly in recurve with two barebow shooters. Megan Havers shot well in her Metric 5 scoring 1253 and was the highest scoring L&R junior. Because L&R cannot field any junior compound Northants shooters the iunior didn't influence compounds results but the four Northants juniors who did shoot compound deserve some mention because they each put in excellent scores.

In the senior compound class Northants' James Mason is very hard to beat but Bill Chapman did his very best finishing on 1340 to James

Mason's 1350. Overall each of the L&R gents compounders put in Master Bowmen scores which gave the team a substantial lead. Only one lady compound counted at the end of the shoot and that was Caroline Cater with 1296, highest scoring lady.



the highest scoring team members, Neill Brown, in recognition of the whole team's efforts.

L&R has now won every County match shot this year despite sometimes having to cajole or beg archers to take part. It's really important that club shooters are made aware of the County's team shoots against others in the Region and are encouraged to enter competitions even if they consider themselves "not good enough to shoot a competition". Confidence and success comes from taking part and being offered support at club level...