

The 1st Tony Bates Junior Tournament

As this was to be the first junior tournament we had held, we were not sure how successful it would be. By the start of September we had had 27 entries and on the day 25 young archers turned up. There were plenty of volunteers from the club. Scorers had special tee shirts to wear, which caused a stir. Apparently, Lynn asked John Weatherley what colour he wanted and he chose pink. The sparkly collars were all Lynn's doing.

It was good to be at a shoot and not be absorbed only in shooting. There was plenty of time to chat to everyone as the day went on. It was a shame that Tony was not there himself, but perhaps next year. At the end there were lots of medals awarded as there were so many age groups. The large trophy was awarded on handicap based on the first few dozen arrows. The winner was an astonished and very pleased Tim Souch. I am very pleased to say that this inspired him to shoot a bit more often and he is now a Junior Bowman at barebow, with a claim for a county record.

It was a great day. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and perhaps next year will see a lot more young archers at the Second Tony Bates Junior Competition.

Lynn Archer