

National Team Championships, Lilleshall 2015

This year Somerset were able to send 5 Teams to the National Team tournament held for the last 3 years at Lilleshall National Sports centre, Shropshire. The home of Archery GB. We had both ladies and gents recurve and compound teams and a "B" team in the ladies recurve division.

Team Members were Vikki Atkins, Hazel Ede, Sue Elkins, Sarah Mogridge, Janet Ross, Caroline Baldry, Amyce Aurora-Smith, Pippa Sullivan, Rhiannon Norfolk, Mark Smith, John Neusinger, Alex Hickson, Chris Plater, Dom Latham, Simon Bulley and Paul Atkins as Team Manager.

The event consisted of a 720 ranking round, Team H2H matches and a WA1440 over the 2 days. points being awarded over the 3 elements to give a winning Team. No individual awards are given for each discipline.

As this has become a very popular event since its introduction more and more teams are entering leading to 70 targets this year. Teams are now well versed in the H2H element of the competition and standards from counties have risen, however throughout the whole of the weekend the atmosphere was friendly with a lot of banter between the teams.

Saturday was hot with a light breeze for the 720 ranking round in the morning and the H2H element in the afternoon.

In the H2H element Somerset did rather well with the ladies recurve team coming 1st place however they did knock out the ladies "B" team along the way! The ladies compound team came 3rd and the recurve men came 4th. A credit to their skill and nerves.

That evening the team all went out for a meal. The days shooting, highs and lows were discussed in length. By 21:30 everyone was tired so we all went our separate ways and looking forward to some rest and a fresh start on Sunday.

Sunday started cold with heavy rain and strong winds but this did pass through eventually to leave us with a warming afternoon but still with the strong winds.

Rhiannon had to leave the team on Sunday due to a prior engagement which I know she was sad to do after their success in the H2H matches. Holes started to appear along the very long shooting line as archers packed up and went home due the conditions. Some of our archers struggled with the wind and existing injuries playing up but kept with the team spirit and continued to do their best all day long. Thankyou for your determination and hanging in there!

Once all the arrows were shot prize giving took place shortly after and it was good to see that all of the Somerset archers remained for this, which took no longer than half an hour.

If you would like to see all the results (52 pages) from this event please go to the AGB website, Click on NEWS - Counties Rise To the Challenge, RESULTS half way down the page - National Mid Summer Event - Results.

Overall results for Somerset where;

Gents Recurve - 6th

Gents Compound - 9th

Ladies recurve (A) - 6th

Ladies Recurve (B) - 14th

Ladies Compound - No placing (due to all 3 competitors not completing all 3 elements). Would have been 5th even with only two scores from the WA1440 round.

Overall it was another good showing for Somerset, Everyone done their best and supported each other. Several PBs were achieved over the weekend, congratulations Janet and Chris. Hopefully we can get some more "B" teams next year. Bring on 2016!

Paul Atkins - Team Manager.