



The Silver Arrow Archery Competition

Saturday 23rd April 2011

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER	Ranald Gordon
VENUE	University of St Andrews Athletic Union, St Andrews
ROUNDS	St George (Gents) Sighters 12pm Albion (Ladies)
STATUS	Scottish Record Status
JUDGES AND LORD PARAMOUNT	TBC
RULES	The tournaments will be held in accordance with current GNAS rules, including dress code. Club colours may be worn.
AWARDS	Recurve; Compound; Gents : medals according to entry Longbow; Barebow Ladies : medals according to entry <i>Trophies</i> <i>Could trophy holders please arrange for them to be returned in good condition at or prior to the event.</i>
ENTRY FEES	Adults £12
ENTRIES TO	Mr Ranald D Gordon 5 Golf Place St Andrews Fife KY16 9JA Tel: 0781 311 3965 email: rdg22@st-andrews.ac.uk
MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO	The Kate Kennedy Club
CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES	15th April 2011
OTHER	Refreshments will be provided.

All archers attending this tournament will be liable for drug testing and competitors approached to provide a sample must comply. If any competitor refuses to undertake a drug test that refusal will be treated as a positive result.

PARENTS / LEGAL GUARDIANS PLEASE NOTE

Entry forms submitted on behalf of archers under age 18 must be signed by their parent or guardian confirming that they abide by this rule, and authorising drug testing on such competitor.

Parents or their representative will be responsible for the care of their own child whilst that child participates in this tournament. We have no control over photography at this event.



History of the Silver Arrow Archery Competition

The Silver Arrow is Scotland's most prestigious and ancient archery competition with a history stretching back over 400 years. The competition has a long and distinguished history; an early legend purports that the Marquis of Montrose, while an undergraduate at St. Andrews, sent an arrow flying over St. Salvator's Tower to land on the Dean of Arts. This mild oversight was, however, more than compensated for by his winning the Silver Arrow in 1628. The competition has had many distinguished winners over the centuries, including Robert son of Struan (1687), Tullibardine (1706), Dempster of Dunnichen (1750) and the grandson of Archbishop Shairp (1710-1714). The oldest medal in the University dates from 1618.

In 1318 King Robert the Bruce ordered that every man who possessed goods equal to the value of a cow should own a spear or 'a gud bow wyth a schaft of arrows'. The statute of 1457 banned football and golf and decreed that every parish should have a bowman, and that 'wappennshaws' were to be held four times a year, which came to be looked upon as recreational and social occasions. The growing popularity of archery as a recreational sport towards the end of the sixteenth century resulted in the introduction of the Silver Arrow Competition in St Andrews.

The earliest known references are from the diaries of James Melville, but the first detailed description comes from Mackay's 'Journey through Scotland' of 1723: "in St Leonard's is kept a silver arrow that is shot for by the students every year to keep up that noble and ancient exercise of archery, and he that wins it appends to it his coat of arms on a silver plate. This was brought to such a height by the emulation of scholars that some plates are as large as platters, which discouraging the poorer sort, who although good archers, durst not shoot their best for fear of winning and so exposing their poverty, the University suppressed this ponderous arrow and set up another rule that no plate appended to it should exceed an ounce".

The competition, which was held under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts in June of each year, seems to have been open to all students of the university, and the winner had the privilege of presenting a silver medal to be hung upon the Arrow. The contest normally took place at the Bow Butts on the edge of the links, though both St Salvator's and St Leonard's Colleges had butts in their own grounds.

The relics of the competition consist of three arrows and seventy medals. The oldest arrow covered the period until the Civil War, the second from the Restoration to 1703; the third from 1704 to 1754. The second and third arrows have each twelve rings for suspending the medals. The second arrow bears an inscription along its length: "Ter praemia primus Accipiet, flavaque caput necteur Olivia", and this is repeated (with a slight variation) on its successor. The third arrow alone is dated (1704). The medals, while varying considerably in size and shape, follow a fairly standard design, the obverse generally bearing the coat of arms of the winner, and the reverse a figure of an archer. Most of them were made either at Edinburgh or Dundee.

For the first period (1618-1642), there are eleven medals. All are comparatively small, the commonest size being about a half by a quarter inches. The series includes the medals of Argyll (1623), David Leslie (1626) and Montrose (1628). For the second period (1675-1703), there are twenty-four medals of very much larger dimensions and more elaborate design. A favourite size is 5 1/2 by 4 1/4 inches, but Lord Leslie's medal for 1694 attains the monstrous proportions of 8 by 5 7/8 inches. Among the winners, the best known name is that of Alexander Robertson of Struan (1687). For the third period (1704-1754) there are thirty-five medals. Until 1707 these were still very large, but hereafter restrictions were imposed on this extravagance by the University authorities, and from 1710 few medals are larger than some 3 1/2 by 3 inches, and all are of a simple oval design.

The competition ceased in the mid-eighteenth century, and was not revived until 1970, since when it has been held at the University playing fields every year, organized by the Kate Kennedy Club.

The Kate Kennedy Club

In 1926 two students Donald Kennedy and James Doak, inspired by J. M Barrie's Rectorial address on "Courage" and with the assistance of Principal Sir James Irvine revived the The Kate Kennedy Spring Procession. The Procession was to be organised solely by the Kate Kennedy Club, a stipulation by the University Court and the Principal.

Tradition places the Procession on the 5th March. By the time of the first extant records, the Procession was no longer entirely respectable or desirable. Having fallen into the wrong hands and onto the wrong lines, the university authorities banned it in 1881.

In February 1926 one or two enthusiasts who had long hankered after a revival, outlined their proposals to the principal and made promises in return for permission to restart the festival of the Lady Kate. It was run as an historical progression, though far from completely illustrative of St Andrews history by reason of lack of funds. Yet it was a beginning and with every year was considerably extended. In 1926, the great problem was to ensure that Kate should never again be liable to banishment, that rules and regulations should clearly define future activities of the Procession.

The Kate Kennedy Club exists to preserve the Kate Kennedy Procession and:

1. Maintain the traditions of the University and town of St. Andrews
2. Uphold and improve Town and Gown relations
3. Raise money for local charities

The number of members cannot exceed sixty and only male matriculated students of St Andrews University are eligible to apply for membership. The Club admits nine bejants each year, after a series of interviews. It also invites male tertians and magistrands who the Club deems to have been outstanding contributors to the University, Town and Kate Kennedy Club to join.



Silver Arrow Archery Competition 2011

Saturday 23rd May 2011

Club:

email:

Contact Name:

Phone:

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Name	M/F	GNAS No.	Round	Bow	Fee (£)	Parental/ Gaurdian Signature.

Cheques payable to 'The Kate Kennedy Club'.

Closing date: 15th April 2011

Please send cheques to:

Mr Ranald D Gordon, 5 Golf Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9JA