

Background

In 2010 Archery GB launched the National Development Project, each area nominated an Area County Development Co-ordinator (CDC) to promote development of the sport. As part of this project the Eastern Area CDC for the SAA launched an initiative to promote grass roots archery amongst the kids.

We wanted to see as many kids as possible turning up for a fun competition against other archers of their own age. The established competitive junior archers were very welcome however in particular we wanted to see as many juniors as we could that had never shot in a competitive environment before. The object of the initiative was development and participation; the project was about improving the confidence of our young archers in a safe and friendly environment where they could mix with others of their own age.

Format

The Competition was held over three dates at three sponsor club locations as follows:

Event	Host Club	Location	Date
No 1	Balbardie Archers	Linlithgow	5 Nov 2010
No 2	Bannockburn Bowmen	Alloa	21 Jan 2011
No 3	Cupar Bowmen	Cupar	15 Feb 2011

We had to come up with a round which was suitable for all archers many of whom were using club equipment. Feedback from the really young ones was that any more than 36 arrows was too tiring and that shooting a 40cm face was just too difficult. With this in mind we created a new local round affectionately known as an "Eastern" which is 36 arrows shot in 12 ends of 3 at a 60cm face at 20 yards.

Bill Mackay kindly agreed to help with the judging and a small budget for the awards was granted by the Eastern Area. We really wanted to make the last event a big occasion as nothing like it had ever been done in Scotland. For the last event we put on a big party and after the 3rd leg we played a game of Archery castles whilst the scores were being added up. After much chaos and gamesmanship from the respective teams the girls beat the boys by dismantling their castle whilst defending their own. To keep the wee ones from dropping off we cracked open the supplies of home baking / goodies which several of the parents brought along to share so that everyone could take part in the celebration afterwards.

The EAJL was very much set up with the aim of having the Juniors shooting in teams, and appropriate Club names were selected to make it a bit more fun for all. The results are presented in the respective club colours and team names.



Competitors paying attention to the briefing (mostly...)

Results

EASTERN AREA JUNIOR LEAGUE 2010/2011

TEAM SCORES								
POS.	TEAM	ARCHER A	ARCHER B	Leg 1 SCORE	Leg 2 SCORE	L1 & L2 TOTAL	Leg 3 SCORE	TOTAL SCORE
1 st 	Bannockburn Spiders A	Ruth Porter	Amy Malone	401	399	800	412	1,212
2 nd 	Balbardicuik A (Penicuik & Balbardie combined)	Gareth Fleming	Zoe Jamieson	366	357	723	369	1,092
3 rd 	Balbardicuik B (Penicuik & Balbardie combined)	Thomas Hawker	Drew Jamieson	Nil	530	530	475	1,005
4 th	Mini Cupars B	Robbie Paisley	Allan Craik /Ciaran Russell	274	219	493	422	915
5 th	Balbardie Geckos	Ruth Paxton	Adam Cook	272	311	583	324	907
6 th	Mini Cupars A	Jana Phillips	Bryony Baxter	286	317	603	296	899
7 th	Bannockburn Spiders B	Fiona Laing	Blyth Walker	Nil	428	428	440	868
8 th	Balbardie Tigers	Jenna Cook	Jamie Walker / Holly Clark	219	242	461	357	818
9 th	Lasswade Lions	Ian Shepherd	Paul Shepherd	Nil	322	322	321	643
10 th	Mini Cupars C	Callum Walber	Liam King	258	Nil	258	295	553
11 th	Balbardie Tykes	Drew Jamieson	Noah Cook	213	Nil	213	Nil	213
12 th				Nil	Nil	0		

INDIVIDUAL SCORES								
CATEGORY	POS	TEAM	ARCHER	Leg 1 SCORE	Leg 2 SCORE	L1 & L2 TOTAL	Leg 3 SCORE	TOTAL SCORE
OVERALL WINNER	1 st 	Penicuik	Gareth Fleming	333	338	671	337	1008
U18 Boy	1st 	Mini Cupars B	Robbie Paisley	231	203	434	288	722
	2nd 	Mini Cupars C	Callum Walber	214	Nil	214	224	438
	3rd 	Mini Cupars B	Ciaran Russell	Nil	Nil	Nil	127	127
U18 Girl	1st 	Mini Cupars A	Jana Phillips	215	259	474	269	743
	2nd 	Bannockburn Spiders B	Fiona Laing	Nil	292	292	278	570
U16 Girl	1st 	Balbardie Geckos	Ruth Paxton	218	252	470	195	665
U 14 Boy	1st 	Penicuik	Thomas Hawker	Nil	303	303	293	596
	2nd 	Balbardie Tykes	Drew Jamieson	173	237 C	410	182 C	592
	3rd 	Lasswade Lions	Ian Shepherd	Nil	198	198	130	328
	4th	Bannockburn Spiders B	Blyth Walker	Nil	136	136	162	298
U14 Girl	1st 	Bannockburn Spiders A	Ruth Porter	213	252	465	214	679
	2nd 	Balbardie Tigers	Holly Clark	Nil	Nil	Nil	127	127
U12 Boy	1st 	Lasswade Lions	Paul Shepherd	Nil	124	124	191	315
	2nd 	Balbardie Geckos	Adam Cook	54	59	113	129	242
	3rd 	Mini Cupars C	Liam King	44	NIL	44	71	115
	4th	Balbardie Tykes	Noah Cook	40	Nil	40	27	67
	5 th	Mini Cupars B	Allan Craik	43	16	59	7	66

	6th	Balbardie Tigers	Jamie Walker	21	40	61	Nil	61
U12 Girl	1st	Balbardie Tigers	Jenna Cook	198	202	400	230	630
	2nd	Bannockburn Spiders A	Amy Malone	188	179	367	198	565
	3rd	Mini Cupars A	Bryony Baxter	71	58	129	Nil	129
	4th	Balbardie	Zoe Jamieson	33	19	52	32	84



"I got 32 this time...with 3 arrows???"



The Shiny trophies (sponsored by Archery GB bag)



Well earned refreshments (check out the cake!)



The Trophy Winners

Minis, Geckos, Lions, Spiders, Tykes, Tigers...anyone seen an archer round here?



Conclusion

Was the initiative stressful? Yes, having a hall full of kids many of whom have only just started to shoot is a bit chaotic and you are constantly on your feet.

Was it worth it? Absolutely – to see the excitement in the faces of the younger ones was definitely worth the effort.

Will it be happening next year? – Plans are already afoot to repeat the league but in a bigger format, who knows maybe we will get four or five venues next winter.

Kevin Young, SAA Eastern Area CDC - 20 March 2011