

TWIN COAST ARCHERS



January/February 2015

A special welcome to our New Members!

Thankyou to all who let me know of their successes. For those that do not know, Email me at stgd94@gmail.com with your archery related news/pics that you want to share.

Hunters: If you intend sending pics through of bowshot game, please ensure you select the most 'clean' pictures. I.e, ones with the least blood/dirt etc... on the animal. Thankyou

Tournament News

There were no competitions attended over this time that I am aware of.

Bowhunting News

Congratulations to Matthew Riddiough for joining the number of bowhunters among us. On his first hunt, he shot a nanny goat with a recurve bow – just awesome! Well done! The same can be said to Heath – he shot his first goat with his bow over Waitangi Weekend. Congrats also to Brenton and Eli for shooting their first fish – both Koi Carp. These are awesome achievements, well done everyone. The biggest achievement for the month came in the form of a Red Deer for Nathan – which makes him the NZ Bowhunters Society's 108th Master Bowhunter! Congratulations Nathan!!!! Total tallies from 1st January – 28th February include: 10 Goats, 1 Rabbit, 1 Myna, 1 Magpie, 142 Koi Carp, 1 Eel, 4 Turkeys and 20 Possums. Big Game – 1 Red deer hind to Nathan

Club News

The biggest New Year highlight of the club would have to have been the 3D shoot at the Thoroughgood's residence.

A pleasant stroll through the forest seemed like it was going to be quite a walk in the park for the first 2 targets – a mountain lion on a fallen log and a Russian boar in a little clearing amongst branches and ferns etc... both at 26y. Then came the wolf, standing amidst a bunch of trees. Some found the distance very deceiving, many arrows flew over and under. Dare I point out, it was merely 32y away (from the back peg)! That target over with, archers walked through a ferny patch and out along a low spur to find a tinsel antlered buck (some sneaky person had been around and decorated him after the targets were set out) sitting in amongst some taller ferns and looking very at home on a small bench in the heat of the day. At 24y, he did not prove too much of a challenge to anyone. I'm sure some of the shooters at this point would have been quite relaxed. There had been nothing too tricky and after all, they were now halfway through this course. Others may have been convincing themselves the challenging shots were surely close. We walked up over the hill beyond the bedded

buck, around an old decrepit sheep catching pen and there was the shooting peg... Archers looked down the slope and I'm sure some hearts started to race when the bighorn sheep was seen standing a reasonable way away with lots of fern in between the shooter and target... Having shot nothing over 32y thus far, this had minds working over time. A good many arrows were flung at this big ovine, who was later ranged at 58y.

With a small burst of adrenaline having got us all excited for the next target, everyone walked away from the big sheep and over another hill onto a main spur. Dropping down off the far side of the spur, several planks were visible – secured around 1.4m off the ground at the high end, between two trees. The mind must really have started to think quickly here... As each individual shooter stepped up onto the planks and walked to the high end, a crocodile was visible crawling out from behind a sedge, very at home in the head of the swamp. If this wasn't enough, the platform was made from 4 individual planks rather than one wider one so there was a bit of movement in them, making it hard for one to stand perfectly steady at full draw. To add to that, the ground underneath the crocodile turned out to be an arrow sucking quagmire, reluctant to return arrows that didn't make the reassuring 'thunk' into sturdy foam. Two kind souls returned after lunch to dig around in the heavy mud to look for arrows that were covered by up to a foot or more of black sludge. Some arrows were located, others have been relinquished to the dark and unforgiving mass of the swamp. With mixed feelings, archers left that target and some hoped for something less expensive as the next shot. Skirting around the edge of the wet ground, they came to the shooting peg for a deer, standing on the face across the far side of the swamp. This target really had some people very deceived. I know at least 3 archers over or under shot it by 10y! The actual distance was 45y. Wondering what on earth they might be getting next, archers climbed up the short slope and walked back up the spur. They were rewarded by a coyote strolling through a fern bed with a pine tree directly beyond him. He looked nice and close, but was he? The distance deceived some, I could tell that when my group (the last one out) came to it. The ferns that were previously a dense bed in front of him were now all on the ground and scratch marks across the slope in front of him screamed 'archers undershot this'. The coyote is not a very large target and was later ranged at 32y, though on first appearance did seem somewhat closer.

If everyone thought that was good to be over, next up was the specialty course – something to really get the blood pumping. First shot was a javelina suspended by a wire and some pulleys who came speeding down a slip and proved tricky to hit by some, especially when he kept falling apart in need of repair (sorry folks, it was working very nicely when we tested it prior to the day). After that; where a great many more arrows were pulled out of the bank than the target I believe, came a timed challenge. The time was generous, archers had 45 seconds to run from a peg, around a corner to the shooting peg and shoot two targets. The hyena at around 20y was glancing down the hill, searching for the oblivious deer grazing at the bottom, 32y from the shooting peg. Both targets required an arrow flung their way after which the archer had to run back to the start peg before time could stop. This proved reasonably straight forward. Carefully picking their way down the hill to collect arrows, everyone then had to cross a narrow swamp and stop at the

second timed challenge peg. This required archers to run from that peg, up the side of a creek under the shade of younger pine trees and visibly search for and shoot 3 targets – in a very generous 2 minutes 30 for the Juniors and adults with 3 minutes allowed for the younger ones. Shooting pegs were placed along the way and stopping at these pegs, you then had to look around to find where the target was. Several people found the pegs tricky to find in their haste, which I guess is understandable... The pegs weren't that easy to find, sitting more or less right in the middle of the track afterall!! On this challenge, archers stopped at the first peg, had a look around and didn't take long to spot the target - a coyote at around 8y, facing their way through a window in the native shrubbery along the creek edge. The second was a turkey standing up on the root system of a fallen tree, surveying the scene below. Archers raced on uphill past the turkey after having put an arrow in him (well hopefully in and not beyond), ran across a plank bridge and stopped at the 3rd shooting peg. Where was the target though? This creature was somewhat harder to find, very much at home and reasonably camouflaged in his natural environment – a beaver sitting on a shelf in the middle of a small, lazily flowing waterfall. With the last target found, I'm sure some arrows were shot reasonably hastily after which the archer then tore off back down the creek edge running as fast as possible (without slipping into the creek) to get back to the start peg/finish line before time could cease. Then came a hike uphill to a white goat which was to be shot at 106y from the back peg, 60y from the middle peg and for the younger archers shooting lower draw weights or traditional bows, there was a closer peg at 30y. Quivers were emptied on this target and not many arrows actually hit the target I learned from talk at lunchtime. There was one exception though, I was quite proudly told by our president that he had pinwheeled the 11 ring on his second shot (his first shot hadn't missed either)...at 106y! Way to go! As archers made their way up to the house, there was one more target to wrap things up. This target required archers to get an arrow out of the quiver, on the string and into the target in 5 seconds (or a bit longer for some). A tarp was raised as the cue the 5 seconds had started. It was then promptly lowered back over the target when time was up. The archer then had 5 seconds to get their head thinking straight again before the process was repeated. This continued on until the tarp had been raised and lowered 4 times – hence ideally there should have been 4 arrows in the target. Judging by the number of holes in the tarp, chipped wood beside the target and evidence of a couple of broken arrows – I'd have to assume this would have proved a good shot for spectators to watch!

What an awesome day for all. Thanks to all those who attended – the more the merrier when you put days of work into something like that. The food was great, we must extend our appreciation to the cooks of the day.

A very good way to start the New Year!

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