

SPECIAL CLUB REPORT NUMBER 1. LOUGHCREW ARCHERS.

This is the first of our special IFAF club insights... To start we are featuring the LOUGHCREW club. We will get around to all the clubs in due course.

FACTFILE: LOUGHCREW ARCHERS

BASED: IN OLDCASTLE CO. MEATH AND ON SHORES OF
LOUGH SHEELIN, - MEATH/ CAVAN BORDER

FOUNDED IN: 2001

FOUNDED BY: DON PRIESTLY AND WILLIE CARR.

CREST: MATURE OAK TREE WITH BLACK BACKGROUND



Loughcrew Archers started out quite a while back in 2001.

The club was started in February of that year by Don Priestly, our long standing IFAF Secretary, and Willie Carr another experienced, well known and respected archer. Both originally were members of Summerhill Archers in Trim. This was a target archery club and they had attended various field competitions and decided to start up a field archery club in their area. And they never looked back since.

The first Loughcrew shoot was held on 20th May 2001.

But these are things that can be read on Loughcrew's own web page... We want to delve into the club a bit further...



Three Loughcrew archers Marjan, Martin, and Annie at their course...

Loughcrew has a large membership, and always seems to sustain a considerably high number of members, Their indoor venue is a fine sized hall in Oldcastle Co. Meath where they hold their club nights.

Their woods are perhaps one of the finest in the country.... a mixture of mature trees and interesting trails. It is typically old style estate woodland. Set on flat land predominantly, they still manage to create a wonderful shoot experience with plenty of challenges. They use to their advantage the few gradients as well as definitive shooting lanes through huge and intimidating mature tree trunks.

The course itself provides a wonderful setting for 3D targets, and one can almost be forgiven for being confused on occasion at coming across some live porcine (pigs/ hogs) on the outer rim of the course. Horses too grace surrounding fields. No sounds of traffic here...

There is ample area for camping on summer shoot dates.

Loughcrew always try to keep things interesting for the visiting archer.



A fun sign at loughcrew in 2011...

There have been Clout shoots in selected adjoining fields. (These are shoots where archers shoot their arrows high into the air for them to come down inside the scoring zone around a flag at the other end of the open field at perhaps a distance of 140-180 metres. Great fun, but unfortunately there are certain bow restrictions for safety.)

Loughcrew archers are also known for their Hunting trail shoots. (These are shoots where an undisclosed amount of 3D animals, perhaps 20 plus, are partially concealed along a pre-established trail. Groups are sent off at intervals so as not to catch up with other groups where the challenge and integrity of the competition would be compromised. It is up to the individual group members to firstly - try find all of the 3D targets or as many as possible, and then secondly each member of the party tries to shoot them. However there is a gamble... each archer can shoot from where the target is first seen, or gamble on following the trail further forward for a clearer shot, the risk however is in not having a shot further along and there is absolutely no retreating back the trail. Superb fun indeed!) I have to add here that there have been amusing instances of an occasional 3D being found and shot at during a

Loughcrew hunting trail, only to discover afterwards that it was in fact a target misplaced from the year before... the one,- or two that got away! Questions would have arose by those organising the event as to how 24 3D's came back afterwards when only 23 were placed out that very morning! Obviously these popular tales tend to be recounted regularly to great laughter.



The gathering at Loughcrew base camp...

The Loughcrew lunch canopy/ base camp in their woods has set the standard nationally, and has encouraged other clubs to set up similar shelters in their woods.

The old toilet is.... ok we won't go there on this occasion (pardon the pun!), but they have now installed a Dave Sinnot Special.

Loughcrew members are diverse, with members having originated from several nations. Loughcrew is a place of fun, banter, and enjoyment for visiting archers.

Regardless of the Loughcrew club members background, they always make the visiting archer feel welcomed and so the Loughcrew shoots are always extremely well attended for these very reasons.

Of course Loughcrew is well situated geographically hence their events attract archers from all corners of the country, but even if Loughcrew archers were situated on an island off the west coast, it would still be a popular shoot venue for the reasons mentioned above.

They put a lot of thought into their prizes too, with some very unique and amazing plaques, awards, and other mementos, another huge plus for this club.



One of the young Loughcrew stars in action...

Loughcrew Archers held UKIFAC (United Kingdom and Ireland Field Archery Champs) at their woods back in 2007. It was a learning experience for the club and the national association, and showed us all what could be done in this country. UKIFAC 2007 tempted many IFAF archers to attend this annual event when it returned to the UK in the following years. UKIFAC 2007 at Loughcrew also inspired southeast club Dunbrody Archers to run UKIFAC 2011 at Tintern abbey Co. Wexford as the event returned to Ireland four years later.

Loughcrew archers have represented their club and country very well at competitions across the UK and Europe. Some of their underage archers have excelled nationally and internationally bringing lots of pride to the club and IFAF.



New members are always welcomed at the club, and they have an efficient training up program with lots of advice on techniques and equipment.

For further information on the club, contact Don Priestly on [046 9243907](tel:0469243907)

Loughcrew have a calendared shoot coming up in April (Sun 28th) and it will no doubt have a huge attendance once again.

We shall be returning to feature Loughcrew Archers at a future date with more news and information.

By Andrew Wayland (IFAF P.R Officer) 2013

