

## Castle Bowmen review of the Year 2021

Another quiet year for Castle Bowmen but all in all still a good one considering we still managed to do lots of Archery, and as someone once said.. 'we ARE an Archery club after all'.

The year started much the same as the last one ended...in lockdown... (sad face)

But, after a few...many...lots and lots of months relaxing, we finally got to take to the field in May. The sensible safety precautions were still there so limiting numbers, but everyone who wanted to, got to shoot.

We kicked off the season with the long awaited, much delayed 50-arrow tournament award, and that was awarded to Dan G', well done to him for being the first award winner of the year.

We also managed to restart our Beginners courses in May with thanks to Beginner co-ordinator Andrew and our team of fabulous coaches led by our high performance director Rory.

In June we were able to increase the session length to give people more time to shoot. Castle Bowmen also featured in a short documentary about the history of Heath Park and all the people that enjoy it.

A brand new banner flag was procured in July for the club, courtesy of a grant from Glamorgan Archery Association- you can never have enough flags.

In August we held the big tournament for club members to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club (a year late for obvious reasons). Held over 2 days many Club archers shot our unique round created especially for the event , the 50@50@50. Everyone must have been so happy to compete again because every single person won a medal.

In September the Welsh Archery Association held their annual Inter-Counties tournament, where each part of Wales sends a team to compete to be crowned champions of Wales. Chris O' from Castle Bowmen once again led the Glamorgan team to a well deserved, record, 8<sup>th</sup> county win.

The very next day Chris continued the winning streak by beating all opposition in the Welsh Target Championships to become Welsh Barebow Champion for 2021.

For the winter season we started using St Germans Church hall for our indoor shooting, and although numbers attending were low the archers shooting there had some excellent results, picking up 6 new Indoor Classification badges.

Andrew P claimed the coveted Longbow 3-Gold end badge from ArcheryGB, the first Gent Longbow in the club to do so.

Numerous '252' badges were awarded to the Juniors and some Seniors, and some new Outdoor Classification badges have also been awarded throughout the year, meaning archers are still improving despite the difficult conditions over the last 2 years.

Hoping that 2022 brings lots of excellently shot arrows and equally impressive scores, which will all add up (usually using a calculator) to an amazing year of archery for the club and all of it's members.