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THE ANTIENT SCORTON SILVER ARROW by Ben Hird



Ben Hird, the author of this book, can rightly claim a long association with the Scorton Arrow Meeting. As a founder member of Ye Grene Companye in the 1890s he became Captain of the Arrow in 1900 and his recollections of that meeting have an endearing and romantic quality evocative of more leisured days.

This historic and unique sporting event is well documented and Mr Hird has drawn liberally on official records to support his lively memories of over 70 years. These reminiscences are published on the eve of the 300th anniversary of the Meeting, first held in 1673, and provide not only the first attempt at a history of the event but in addition form an admirable souvenir of Ben Hird's wonderful achievement and longevity. The cover illustration is taken from a photograph of the Scorton Arrow Meeting of 1880 and many of the competitors shown are mentioned in this book. They are, from left to right: T.T.S. Metcalf (Royal Toxophilite Society), P.S. Nevile (St. Wilfrid's), J. Foster (John o' Gaunt's), Mr. Swarbrick (Richmond Archers), A. Newall, with arrow (Royal Toxophilite Society), Dr. Edgar (North Ribblesdale), Dr. Hitchcock (York Archers), Captain Stackhouse (John o' Gaunt's), and G.G. Phillips (St. Wilfrid's).

THE ANTIENT SCORTON SILVER ARROW

The story of the oldest sporting event in Britain

As told by
BEN HIRD
(Captain of the Arrow 1900)

Edited by E.G. Heath

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THE ANTIEN SCORTON SILVER ARROW



Ben Hird (Captain 1900)
with the Antient Silver Arrow
(Photographed by Frank Newbould in 1972)

CONTENTS

	Page
Chapter 1. The History of the Scorton Silver Arrow until 1900	8
Chapter 2. Reminiscences of Two Decades	16
Chapter 3. Further Reminiscences up to the 250 th Anniversary	22
Chapter 4. Memories of Recent Years	29
Chapter 5. The Trophies and Medals	36
Chapter 6. A Miscellany of Anecdotes.....	43

ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece	Ben Hird holding the Scorton Arrow	
Plate I	The Trophies	41
Plate II	The Trophies	42

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THE HISTORY OF THE SCORTON SIVER ARROW UNTIL 1900

Sometime before May 14th, 1673, a number of gentlemen archers in the North Riding of Yorkshire and South Durham met and decided to form a "Society of Archers" who would hold a meeting once each year to shoot at targets for an "Ancient Silver Arrow". For the control of the Meeting the following Articles and Rules were drawn up and agreed to by twenty-two Archers.

Rules:- The following are the Articles, Rules and Regulations agreed upon by the Society of Archers at Scorton, May 14th, 1673, for the regulating of the annual exercise of shooting at the targets for a 'silver arrow'.

(I) Imprimis. That every person intending to shoot at this, or other yearly game, for the future, shall deposit and pay into the hands of the Captain and Lieutenant of the Archers, or, of some others deputed and appointed by them, Stewards to the Company of Archers for the year the sum of five shillings, or what other sum shall from time to time be concluded and agreed upon by the major part of the Archers; the same to be done some convenient time before the general day of the meeting to shoot at the said targets whereof notice to be publicly given, to that end, that plate, and such other prizes, as are hereafter mentioned may be had and provided in due time.

(II) Item. Upon the day appointed for the said exercise, all persons concerned shall repair to the place, for the said purpose (to be appointed by the Captain of the Archers for the present year) which place shall always be within six miles of Eriholme-on-Tees in the county of York (unless otherwise resolved and agreed upon by the greater number of the 'Society of Archers' present at the shooting down of the said targets) by eight of the clock in the morning; when and where a note in writing shall be taken of those intending to shoot (the Captain and Lieutenant excepted) and lots of figures of their numbers shall be drawn by some indifferent person: according to which figures they are to observe their several courses and orders in shooting for that time, and if any come after the lots are drawn, they shall take their places, and shoot after the last figure, and according to their coming.

(III) Item. Two targets shall be then and there ready provided by the Captain and Lieutenant (who hereby are, and shall be exempted and freed from

depositing any sum or sums of money, so long as either of them shall continue in their respective offices), with four circles, aptly distinguished with colours, whereof the innermost circle being gilded or yellow, shall be for the Captain's prize; and the next to that shall be for the Lieutenant's prize; and the third and fourth, or outermost circumferences, shall be for such spoons or other prizes of a greater and lesser value, according to the monies deposited, as they shall be ordered and proportioned by the Captain and Lieutenant and three of the Company of Archers then and there present.

- (IV) Item. The said targets shall be set in some open and plain field, upon two straw basts or mats, breast high from the ground, each being distant from the other, at least, eight score yards, at which distance three rounds shall be shot by all the company, with what manner of shaft (not exceeding two shafts) every one pleaseth. The Captain and Lieutenant beginning first and then the rest two ans two, in order, according to their several lots and numbers, till the first round be shot out at the first stand; after which they shall remove in ten yards, and there shoot others three rounds, in manner aforesaid; then remove in ten yards more and shoot three rounds there; and so forward from stand to stand, or one removal to another till all the prizes be gotten, or shot down, provided that their said approach to the targets be never nearer than sixty yards, at which distance they must stand to shoot them out, if not won before.
- (V) Item. Such person, as in his due order and place, shall first pierce or break the Captain's prize, or any part thereof with his arrow; that is to say, so as his arrow or any part thereof shall be within the circle, dividing between red and gold shall have the silver arrow from the rest, and shall be esteemed and adjudged Captain of the Archers, and shall have and enjoy all privileges due and belonging to that office during the year ensuing, and further shall have twenty shillings of such monies as shall be deposited by the Company of Archers, at their next annual meeting, for the shooting at the targets; when he shall and must bring in the said silver arrow to be shot for in manner and form aforesaid. The same to be done and performed yearly about Whitsuntide, to and by all the successive Captains. Also, he that in like manner pierceth the Lieutenant's prize, or circle shall have such prize or piece of plate as shall be allotted and appointed by the Captain and Lieutenant for that time. Likewise, he that first pierceth either of the other circumferences shall have one spoon (or such other prize as shall be appointed for the same circle, as aforesaid) for every arrow wherewith he shall pierce or break them, in case all the prizes belonging to them be not gotten before. Also he that pierceth any of the inner circles, in manner aforesaid, whereout the prize, or prizes were won before, shall have one of the best prizes remaining in the circle, next to that which he shall so hit, provided that the spoons, and such other prizes, as shall be designed for the said two outermost circles, shall be of two several rates and values,

and the better of them shall be allotted and appointed for the circle and circumference next to the Lieutenant's.

- (VI) Item. If any of the company shall presume to shoot at the targets, out of his due turn of standing, he shall lose his shot for that round; or, having shot before, in the next round following. And if any be absent from the stand, to shoot in his turn, according to his figure, then the next figure there present shall shoot on, that no time may be lost and shall have such prize as he shall then win. Nevertheless such absent figure may, at his coming to the place of standing, have liberty to shoot during that round, if the Captain so please and appoint, either at the time of his coming, or at the end of the same round, provided that he come before the beginning of the next round.
- (VII) Item. Forasmuch as the exercise of archery is lawful, laudable, healthful, and innocent and to the end that God's holy name may not be dishonoured by any of that society, it is agreed, and hereby declared, that if any one of them shall that day curse or swear, in the hearing of any of the company, and the same be proved before the Captain and Lieutenant, he shall forthwith pay down one shilling, and so proportionably for every oath; to be distributed by the Captain, to the use of the poor of that place, or township where they shoot. And in case of refusal, or neglect, to pay the same, then such party to be excluded from shooting any more, until payment is made, as aforesaid.
- (VIII) and lastly. All the company of Archers shall on the day of shooting at the targets, as aforesaid, dine with the Captain and Lieutenant, at some ordinary, appointed for them, near the place of shooting; and if any of them shall refuse, or neglect to do so, or not dining with them, shall pay one shilling to the Captain or Lieutenant for his ordinary; then the party so offending, shall lose and forfeit the privilege of shooting in the round next following after dinner.

It is very unfortunate that the only authentic records of the Meetings handed down to us from 1673 to 1766 are these Articles and Rules, the names of the Captains, and Lieutenants of the 'Arrow', the dates and places of the Meetings and number of archers taking part. These foregoing particulars were taken from various papers on which records had been kept. Some interested archers in 1766 decided to perpetuate the 'Silver Arrow' records, and to this end bought a sheet of parchment and a book in which to enter a record of each yearly meeting. Unfortunately many interesting items that would have been of value to us today, must have been discarded. At the beginning of the Record Book No. 1 there is the following statement.

“N.B. The original Articles of this Society, being almost defaced or obliterated, the Gentlemen Archers present on the eighteenth of June, 1766, bought this Book for the same to be fairly transcribed herein, (and also to enter any new rules or orders). We whose names are hereunder written having carefully compared this Transcript, and the following list of Captains, and Lieutenants with the original, do hereby certify the same to be a true copy thereof.

As witness our Hands: GEO. ALLAN: JOE APPLEBY: GEO. HARPERLEY: JAMES ALLEN jnr: JOHN SADLER: J A PORTEES: THOS. KELLY: J ROWLANDSON: ROBERT JACKSON: JAS. NICHOLSON: ROBT. HALL: Jo GAINFORD: GEO. RICKERBY: ROBT. SURTEES: THOS. PEIRSE Jun.

On the sheet of parchment, approximately 12 inches square, one of these gentlemen transcribed the Rules, names of Captains and Lieutenants, place of meetings and number of archers shooting, and on the space remaining every Captain of the Arrow signed his name from 1766 until 1913 when no more space was left on the Parchment. Before the story is continued from 1767 with details taken from the Record Books, it will be of some interest to glean what we can from the meagre details of the early period. The place of meeting six miles from Eryholme-on-Tees was strictly kept until 1709, when it was held at Richmond eleven miles away. From this dates to 1823 (when the distance was altered to twenty miles) it was held there sixty times. Darlington also became a favourite place for the meetings. It is rather strange that after the first meeting in 1673 at Scorton, it was only held there twice (in 1754 and 1823). The attendance at the meetings from 1673 to 1768 was very consistent, double figure 10 to 24 being the average.

Many gentlemen of note won the Captaincy and Lieutenancy during this period, the name of Henry Calverley (he was the first ‘Captain of the Arrow’) does not appear again. There is no definite record of when some of the Articles of the Society began to be discarded; obviously it was before the first entry in Record Book 1 and here the Arrow is often called the ‘Golden Arrow’; this name varies from one period to another, being called at some meetings, ‘Silver’, at others ‘Golden’ until 1795, when the gilding finished, Longstaff in Darlington Annals 1854 says: “The Arrow was frequently termed the Golden Arrow, and within the last few years bore traces of gilding”. Other more important departures from the Old Rules are described in the reports of the meetings entered in Record book 1. The time of starting was altered from 8am to 10am; the size of the target varied and the diameter of the ‘Gold’ was at times 3” and at others 4”. The distance between the targets and the number of ends to be shot were frequently altered. To give two instances, in 1790 there were 12 ends at 70 yards, the rest at 60 yards; another in 1793 there were 4 ends at 90 – 80 – 70 yards with the remainder of the shoot at 60 yards. These and other variations were arranged to suit the convenience of the archers of that period. The ‘Arrow’ was the only permanent transferable prize for 161 years. Various other prizes, such as spoons, plates, bugles and cups, were subscribed for by the archers taking part at the meeting; these prizes were won outright.

This go-as-you-please attitude of running the meetings came to an abrupt end in 1822, when a bitter dispute arose over two rival claims to the Arrow and Captaincy. This is described in Record Book 1 as follows: -

‘Richmond. July 26th 1822. (15 Archers)

The gentlemen archers met this day at the Golden Fleece Inn in Richmond, pursuant to advertisement, and proceeded thence to the Race Ground to shoot for the Silver Arrow, a subscription Silver Cup and other prizes. John Smurthwaite of Darlington placed the first arrow in the Gold, and, at the same end Mr. Christopher Croft of Richmond placed one considerably nearer the centre. At the annual shooting in the year 1815, a similar circumstance having occurred for the Lieutenant’s prize, and it having been unanimously adjudged for the arrow nearest the centre; the Silver Arrow and Captaincy were immediately awarded to Mr. Croft. Sometime after dinner a claim, however, was made by the Darlington archers on behalf of Mr. Smurthwaite, and after considerable altercation and many unavailing attempts at an amicable settlement of the dispute – one party insisting on the old law and the other upon a recent decision, as well as the equity of the case – the Captain declared that if the Darlington archers insisted upon the observance of the Old Rules the whole of the shooting was entirely void as we had not acted upon them in any one instance, but had gone entirely on custom, and ruled that in consequence he would continue to hold the Arrow to give the two claimants an opportunity of settling the matter, and if they did not do so, that he would again advertise all the prizes to be shot for strictly according to the Rules. Of the fifteen archers taking part in the Meeting, Mr. F Fisher had won the Lieutenant’s prize, Dr. I. Peacock got the most central Gold and Mr. Chris Croft was captain of Numbers. The targets were 102 yards. The Captain Geo. Croft, kept his word and the prizes and put the following announcement in the York Herald before the date of the next Meeting.

‘The Antient Silver Arrow and other prizes will be shot for according to the “Articles agreed upon the 14th May 1673, on Wednesday the 27th August inst., at Scorton, near Richmond, Yorks.” Unless otherwise resolved and agreed upon by the greater numbers of the Society of Archers present at the shooting down of the said targets by 8 o’clock in the morning. Every gentleman who intends to shoot for the said Silver Arrow, and prizes, is requested to signify such intention to the Captain and Lieutenant on or before the 20th inst. and on or before that day to deposit with them the sum of five shillings according to Article first, to be applied as directed in the third and fifth Articles.

And candidates are further requested to meet at the house of Chris Fryer, the Shoulder of Mutton Inn, precisely at half past seven o’clock on the morning of the said 27th August, as propositions are intended to be submitted at the Meeting for such alterations of the Articles as may render them more adapted to the practice of Modern Archery.’

Signed GEO CROFT Junior
Captain, Richmond Aug. 6th, 1823.

In consequence of this announcement, thirteen archers attended and the following amendments to the Rules were agreed to:

‘That the practice of Archery having varied considerably since the time of making the Articles at Scorton on the 14th of May 1673 for regulating the annual shooting at the targets for the Silver Arrow and it being highly desirable that it should always conform to the Articles – we the undersigned archers met and assembled at Scorton this 27th day of August 1823, pursuant to advertisement, do, for the attainment of this desirable object, agree and resolve that at this and every other future Annual Meeting for the Silver Arrow, the following alterations and additions to the Articles be observed and kept viz: -

I. That the sum, or sums of money in Article I be paid into the hands of the Stewards, or, in default of their election, into the hands of the Captain for the time being.

II. That the distance of six miles from Eryholme, (to which all persons concerned are on this day appointed for the said annual exercise to repair) shall be extended to twenty miles, and the hour of eight, to that of ten o’clock in the morning.

III. That the Captain and Lieutenant be not limited to the provision of two targets, but that they shall have then and there ready provided two or more such targets, as are described in the said Article according as they shall think necessary for the number of Archers intending to shoot.

IV. That the said targets shall be set upon straw rests, or mats, in such manner as described in Article IV, but each distant from the other one hundred and two yards, at which distance all the company with what manner of shaft everyone pleaseth (not exceeding two shafts) shall stand to shoot, and shall shoot in such order and manner as in therein described, until all the prizes be gotten, or shot down.

V. Provided always in explanation of Article V, that should there be two, or more arrows in the Captains Prize from the same end, the archer that shot that nearest the centre shall have the Silver Arrow from the rest and shall be esteemed, and adjudged, Captain of the Archers, and shall have and enjoy all the privileges due, and belonging to the office, subject to such regulations as are contained in that Article. And that this explanation shall extend to (and be observed with respect) the Lieutenant or any inferior prize.

VI. That further alteration or additions, in conformity with the foregoing, may be from time to time made by the major part of the archers duly assembled at any Annual Shooting for the Silver Arrow. But, that they shall not be altered, or repealed unless public notice by advertisement of an intention to propose

such alterations, or repeal, be given at the same time, with the notice of such Annual Meeting.

VII. Should any dispute arise during the shooting respecting prizes, the same to be determined by a majority of the archers present at the said shooting.'

Signed: GEO. CROFT Jun.: Captain

WM. NEWBY: CHRIS CROFT: ROBERT MEYNELL: CHRIS FRYER: MATHEW BELL: ISAAC FISHER: WM. KIRKBY: THOS. BOWMAN: WM. TUTIN: SIMON TUTIN.

The foregoing amendments and signatures were entered on the "Parchment" following after the original Articles, and since that time have been reasonably adhered to. Of the thirteen archers present, only eleven signed the Amendment. John Smurthwaite does not appear at this date nor at any of the future meetings. Isaac Fisher won the Arrow, and William Kirkby the Lieutenancy. (Geo. Croft won the Arrow again the year following and Chris Croft won it in 1830.) A 'Horn Spoon' is first mentioned at this meeting, 1823, but it is not called the 'Ancient Horn Spoon' till the 1830 meeting.

In 1834 a Silver Bugle for the Lieutenant's transferable prize was subscribed for: £4 19s Od. was paid for it and it was presented at the meeting the year following (1835). At Thirsk in 1843 the 'Arrow' was won by Peter Muir (bowmaker to The Royal Company of Archers, Edinburgh). The Rev. Higginson also scored a Gold at the same end, but Peter Muir's arrow was nearer the centre; the Rev. Higginson won the Arrow the following year. There was a proposal to hold the meeting anywhere in Yorkshire made in 1853; it was defeated. At a meeting in 1840 it was proposed that each winner of the Bugle should add a Silver link to the chain, inscribed with his name and the date. Also at this meeting there was a subscription for a 'Golden' prize for the Captain of Numbers. At the meeting in 1842 a very handsomely designed Gold Medal was presented for most hits, this also was a transferable prize. At the meeting in 1845 it was proposed that in addition to the Gold Medal for most hits, there should be a Gold Medal for highest score. Subscriptions totalling £9 5S Od. were raised and a very handsome medal was presented at the meeting in 1849 as a transferable prize.

At the meeting held in Easby Abbey grounds, Richmond, 1857, Robert Farrer gave a Silver Gilt Cup for a transferable prize for the Best Gold, but it could be won outright if an archer won it three times in succession. It was known as the 'Robert Farrer Cup'. About this time there was a proposal to alter the distance between the targets to 100 – 80 – 60 yards, which was rejected unanimously. In 1852, when eighteen archers took part, the expenses were 3/6 each. At York in 1869 the proposal to extend the place for the meeting to anywhere in Yorkshire was again put forward and this time it was accepted. Pasted in the Record Book along with the report of this meeting is a news cutting taken from The Field.

The writer states: 'The "Scorton Arrow" has been shot for since 1673, but how much earlier cannot be ascertained. Some who have dipped deeply into the case of archery assert, that the old prize was the gift of Roger Ascham himself, and a Horn Spoon supposed to be contemporary with the Arrow'. It is strange that this is the first time the 'Arrow' has been called the 'Scorton Arrow' in the Records of the meetings up to this date. Yet on the original front cover of Record Book 1 there was a label of some material on which the following was stamped:

'ACCOUNT OF ANNUAL SHOOTING
FOR THE
ANTIEN SILVER ARROW
COMMONLY CALLED
THE SCORTON ARROW'

This original cover was no doubt destroyed when Frank Petty, Esq., had all the Record Books re-bound. I have a photograph of the old cover taken in 1900.

At the end of Record Book 2 (1866) after the report of the Meeting is this note:

'Be it remembered that the Marker, who has attended this Meeting for the last 40 years, is now in his 97th year, MATTHEW GREATHEAD is his name'.

He also attended the meeting the next year and the year following when he was 99. He is not mentioned again (see below*).

In 1822, at Harrogate, 32 archers shot for the Arrow, the following year at Richmond, only three archers shot. In 1884 Henry Peckett died. He had shot for the Silver Arrow for 44 years and was a staunch supporter of the meeting; he was also one of the founder members of the 'Thirsk Bowmen' formed in 1824. He was one of the best shots of his period. About the time of his death, the 'Thirsk Bowmen' disbanded and their chief trophies were loaned to the Society of Archers, to be shot for at the Silver Arrow Meetings (available for Yorkshiremen only). They were first presented in 1886 at a meeting held at Thirsk but only four archers competed.

* In the churchyard at Richmond, Yorkshire, a monument records this inscription: "To the memory of Matthew Greathead who was initiated into the mysteries of Antient Freemasonry in the Lennox Lodge, Richmond, December 27th 1797, and continued a zealous and consistent member of the Craft until his death Dec 31st 1871, at the advanced age of 101 years and 8 months."

For sometime suggestions to extend the distance for the place of meeting had been discussed, and finally, at a meeting held at Settle in 1897 (15 archers present), the proposal to extend the place of meeting to 100 miles from Eryholme was proposed. The archers from the south pointed out that they were at a disadvantage, due to the restricted distance wherein the meeting could be held.

In fact, they said, some southern archers taking part were careful not to hit the Gold, till the Arrow had been won. After much discussion the proposal that the place of meeting be extended to 100 miles' radius from Eryholme was defeated by 11 votes to 3. It has been said that the southern archers made this an all-out attempt to get the meeting held anywhere in England; but the archers of the north, hearing of this, rallied their supporters so that the effort failed. The following year the meeting was again held at Settle, but only five archers came to shoot. W. Straker of Royal Tox won the Arrow and John Foster the Bugle.

Chapter 2

REMINISCENCES OF TWENTY YEARS

1900. Settle. August 17th. This is a memorable meeting for me. It was my first 'Ancient Scorton Silver Arrow Meeting', and it was also the first for other members of Ye Grene Companye. I have been asked to describe this meeting and the events leading up to it, to the best of my recollections and ability. As a preface, this Companye was formed by half-a-dozen school boy friends, soon after their schooldays were over. Conan Doyle's book *The White Company* fired their imagination with a desire to imitate some of the characters and virtues of that period, especially shooting in a bow. Inexpensive lancewood bows and arrows were bought, and with the aid of the *Badminton Book of Archery*, borrowed from the library, and a copy of *Toxophilus* (which we bought), shooting at targets started and roving was much enjoyed. On our walks together through the fields or over the moors our bows and quivers of arrows were always carried. We shot as we walked from one mark to another – the next mark was chosen by the one whose arrow was nearest to the mark shot at – and so by shooting instinctively we learnt how a bow should be used. At that time a page in *The Field* was devoted to archery news and reports of the meetings. About 1898 one of us saw the announcement of the 'Ancient Scorton Arrow Meeting'. This appealed to our idea of a tournament and as it was open to all archers, we decided to attend one. However we decided not to that year, as we wanted more practice. Desiring to learn more about the meeting, three of our members went to Settle on the day it was held and watched the archers shooting. Later they reported their impressions to the rest of the Companye. We now decided to practice at 100 yards, and to shoot York rounds. Our field was on a steep hillside, with a sharp rising knoll at the top corner on the top of which was our club house. Unfortunately, at 100 yards the target at the bottom of the sloping field was out of sight from the top target at the foot of the knoll, so we cut some steps and shot from the top of the knoll. The following year the meeting was held at York, but this was too far away for us to attend. At this meeting, Dr. Edgar of the North Ribblesdale Archers won the Arrow, so naturally he held his meeting on that society's ground at Settle. We saw an announcement in *The Field* that it would be held on Friday, August 17th, so, deciding it was the proper

thing to do, we wrote to Dr. Edgar telling him some of our members would be taking part in the meeting. We were surprised, and annoyed, to receive a reply saying 'As it was an open meeting, we were entitled to shoot, but if we did carry out our intention, he hoped we would behave ourselves, and not get in the way of the other archers'. This made us determined to show him our ability to shoot and our good manners. On August 17th, five of us caught an early train from Shipley to Settle. Archie Fyfe – Captain (20), Ernest Mann – Lieutenant (20), Ben Hird (19), Harold Skelton (18) and Harold Ellis (17). With our bows slung alongside our quivers on our backs, we marched through Settle to the river bridge. From there we could see five pairs of shining targets set up at 100 yards in the cricket field by the river. We were very early and no one was there, so, after inspecting the ground and targets and resisting the temptation to have a trial shot, we continued our walk into Giggleswick. On our return, we were again the first arrivals, so we sat on a bench in front of the clubhouse and soon Dr. Edgar arrived in his trap with his groom and his bow-box, which were called 'Aschams' in those days. He came over to us and said: 'Are you Ye Grene Company?' We replied: 'Yes', and that was that.

Shortly after, John Foster arrived in his trap, with his groom and Ascham, and also the 'marker' – or scorer – arrived and the arrangements for the meeting were made ready. Finally, a cab arrived from the station bringing A.A. Gordon, the Rev. Hutton Coates, P.S. and G.C. Neville and their Aschams. When final arrangements were made, Dr. Edgar came to us and asked if we were entering for the Sweepstakes. We said 'No'. He then asked us to go to the marker's table to draw lots for target and position. I was drawn with Harold Skelton – Harold Ellis with A.A. Gordon – Ernest Mann with Dr. Edgar – Archie Fyfe with John Foster – and Hutton Coates was drawn with P.S. and G.C. Neville. I do not remember if we were asked to sign the Record Book and pay the entrance fee. The weather was fine and hot, with only slight wind. Dr. Edgar led off and shooting started. I cannot remember what hits, if any, we had before the fourth end, when to my amazement my seventh arrow scored the first Gold. In an awed whisper to Skelton, I said 'Is it a Gold?' 'Yes!' he replied, and I remember distinctly my first reaction was more of consternation than joy. When we all crossed over to the targets, I cannot remember anyone coming up to congratulate me; I just stated a 'Gold' at the marker's table. Later, Dr. Edgar scored the first Red and won the Bugle. My recollections about the rest of the morning shoot are very hazy. At the end of the two hours the gentlemen went off to the Red Lion for Lunch, but we were not invited to join them, nor did we have to pay the shilling fine. All of us had brought sandwiches, etc., so we walked through Giggleswick to the 'Ebbing and Flowing Well' and quenched our thirst with cool spring water, and discussed the events of the morning, my lucky Gold, and Ernest's consistent scoring. Harold told us how disconcerting it was facing A.A. Gordon at the target. Harold shoots left-handed. Gordon was wearing a monocle all the time he was shooting; it fell from his eye as he loosed, flashing in the sun as it dropped and often putting Harold off his aim. We returned to the field and during the afternoon shoot I do not remember any outstanding incidents

or remarks. I was again lucky at the last end to score the 'worst white' and win the Antient Horn Spoon. When the total scores were made up, Ernest Mann had the highest score, 195, but he, John Foster and A.A. Gordon all had 51 hits. It was decided to give Ernest the Gold Medal for Highest Score and John Foster courteously withdrew his claim to the 'Gold Medal for Captain of Numbers' in favour of A.A. Gordon. Foster, being a Yorkshireman, took the Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Arrow and Gold Belt for Highest Score, Hutton Coates won the Silver Cup for best Gold. The scores were: E.E. Mann 51 for 195, A.A. Gordon 51 for 177, J. Foster 51 for 177, P.S. Neville 44 for 164, J.W. Edgar 44 for 154, C.H. Coates 46 for 148, B. Hird 39 for 139, H. Ellis 37 for 119, G.H. Skelton 30 for 86, H.A. Fyfe 19 for 69, and G.C. Neville 14 for 40. Dr. Edgar presented the prizes and then to my dismay I was called upon to propose a vote of thanks to Dr. Edgar and the North Ribblesdale Archers for their hospitality and use of their ground. In fairness to Dr. Edgar and most of the other gentlemen, their attitude towards us completely changed. John Foster told me the story of the Horn Spoon and Dr. Edgar, after impressing upon us the antiquity and irreplaceable value of the trophies, said if it was not convenient for us to put them for safe custody in a bank, he would be pleased to do so for us after we had shown them to our friends. Also, if it was my wish, he would give me all the help he could with the arrangements for next year's meeting, and finally some of them came to the station and saw us off on the train, admonishing us to continue with our archery.

To conclude, this is the entry made in our 'Companye Annals' by Ernest Mann. 'It seemed that we who had expected nothing but to be allowed to shoot at the same target with the other competitors, should bring home such a large and precious portion of the prizes.'

1901. Settle. The members of Ye Grene Companye made an effort to hold the meeting at Saltaire but there were so many difficulties in the way that they decided to accept Dr. Edgar's offer to hold it at Settle. He made all the arrangements, thus taking a load of responsibility off the shoulders of Ben Hird, the Captain. The meeting was held on the 20th June, eight archers taking part. Four were members of the Companye. The weather was poor, making good scoring difficult, with showers and choppy wind. John Foster won the 'Arrow' with his eighth shaft. All of us were very pleased, for he was a strong supporter of the Antient Arrow Meetings, having competed for at least fifteen years. Ernest Mann got the first Red, winning the Bugle and Lieutenancy. This year he went to the ordinary at the Red Lion. At the meeting, the Rev. Hutton Coates proposed and the Rev. G. Horner seconded 'That a committee of three – one to retire each year – together with the Captain and Lieutenant as ex officio members, should be appointed to take such steps as they think fit for the safe custody of the trophies shot for at the Scorton Arrow Meeting'. This was agreed to. B. Hird thanked Dr. Edgar for making all the arrangements and the North Ribblesdale Archers for the use of the ground. Sixteen dozen arrows were shot: E.E. Mann 78 – 258, Dr. Edgar 45 – 171, Hutton Coates 40 – 128, B. Hird 39 – 143, John

Foster 37 – 125, H. Ellis 37 – 115, H.A. Fyfe 30 – 100, and G. Horner 10 – 40. John Foster, Arrow and Captaincy: E.E. Mann, Bugle and Lieutenancy, Gold Medal, Captain of Members, Thirsk Bowmen's Arrow and Gold Belt; Hutton Coates, Cup for Best Gold, Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Medal; Dr. Edgar, Horn Spoon and Thirsk Bowmen's Bugle, Most Hits: H.C. Coates has won Best Gold Cup twice in succession.

1902. Settle. Only three members of the Companye took part in this meeting. H.A. Fyfe had gone to Glasgow, E.E. Mann and H. Ellis to London. None of them could get to the meeting, but Ernest's younger brother came. Eight archers took part. The weather was fine but very windy. The 'Arrow' was won by Hutton Coates, who also got the Best Gold for the third year in succession, thus winning the Robert Farrer Silver Cup outright. He also won the Gold Cup for Captain of Numbers. Dr. Edgar again won the Bugle, John Foster the Gold Medal for Highest Score, and B. Hird the Horn Spoon. Scores: Hutton Coates 58 – 208, John Foster 36 – 144, Dr. Edgar 33 – 127, G. Crankshaw 26 – 94, H. Skelton 27 – 85, B. Hird 26 – 78, P.S. Neville 13 – 47, J.W. Mann 4 – 16. We had no luck and our scores were poor. At this meeting after lunch there was a discussion about the preservation of the old Parchment. Hutton Coates promised to have it stretched and put in a glazed frame. Further, by instructions from Hutton Coates, models had been made of the Antient Scorton Arrow trophies. (If this was done, where are they? I have never seen them.)

1903. Leeds. Kirkstall Grange. August 25th. 14 Archers took part. There was a larger gathering for this meeting. Hutton Coates had gone to a lot of trouble to make it a success, getting permission from Ernest Beckett, M.P., for the use of the ground. Only three Companye men came – E.E. Mann, J. Dracup and B. Hird, and no archers from the North Ribblesdale Club. We wondered why! The record of this meeting in our 'Companye Annals' is a news-cutting from The County Monthly (published by The Field). In an article with photographs entitled 'Archery in the North', the writer gives the names, and clubs, of the archers taking part, but makes no mention of the three members of Ye Grene Companye and also states that there is now only one Archery Club in Yorkshire, the North Ribblesdale Archers. It is almost certain that this article was inspired by Rev. Hutton Coates. He never made any effort to conceal his dislike for the young members of our Companye, who broke through the class-barrier which surrounded archery at that time. He expressed it in many ways when we met. The trophies were won as follows: - T.S. Parker-Jervis, Silver Arrow; C. Pownall, Bugle, Gold Medal; for Highest Score and the Horn Spoon; J.H. Bridges, Gold Medal Most Hits; Hutton Coates, Thirsk Bowmen's Arrow and Gold Belt; Ben Hird, Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Bugle for Most Hits (for Yorkshiremen only).

1904. Settle. August 23rd. This was a very well-attended meeting. Nineteen archers took part and I think it would be of interest if all their names and clubs were recorded. The weather was very unsettled, showers and variable winds held up the shooting and kept the scores low, although some of the leading

archers of that time were taking part (only nine dozen and eight arrows were shot). Shooting started at eleven o'clock when, with his second shaft, E.E. Mann scored the first Gold, winning the Arrow and Captaincy! At the next end, Dr. Edgar got the first Red, the Bugle and Lieutenantcy – it was a fortunate coincidence that Dr. Edgar should be Lieutenant to Ernest just as he had been to me. At the end of two hours we all adjourned to the Red Lion for lunch. At the meeting it was resolved that in future all winners of the 'Arrow' should receive a small Silver Arrow Brooch as a permanent badge to mark their Captaincy, the cost to be borne by the archers present at the meetings. This was unanimously agreed to. At that time the cost was about half-a-crown or 5/-, I think. At the end of the afternoon shoot, G.A. Muntz won the Horn Spoon. As was the practice in those days, we then shot one end for the cash left in the Pool.

	Hits	Score
R. Watkins, John o' Gaunt's	45	175
C.H. Coates, royal Tox	39	147
A.C. Black, Woodmen of Arden	31	127
W.A. Coombs, Royal Tox	23	117
C. Pownall, Royal Tox	26	116
C.W.G. Inge, Woodmen of Arden	39	115
Col. Monkton, Woodmen of Arden	29	95
P.S. Neville, John o' Gaunt's	21	89
Dr. Edgar, North Ribblesdale	22	86
E.E. Mann, Ye Grene Companye	23	85
S. Madan, Woodmen of Arden	23	79
G.A. Muntz, Woodmen of Arden	22	74
A.L. Willett, Woodmen of Arden	20	70
B. Hird, Ye Grene Companye	22	66
T.S. Parker-Jervis, Woodmen of Arden	19	63
H.P.M. Doddington, Royal Tox	18	60
E.A. Waller, Woodmen of Arden	10	38
J. Dracup, Ye Grene Companye	11	29
S. Biltcliffe, Ye Grene Companye	4	14

Prizes: E.E. Mann, Antient Scorton Arrow; Dr. Edgar, Scorton Bugle; R. Watkins, Gold Medal Most Hits; C.H. Coates, Gold Medal, Highest Score; B. Hird, Silver Cup, The Hutton Coates Cup for Best Gold; G.A. Muntz, Antient Horn Spoon and Thirsk Bowmen Insignia; R. Watkins, Silver Arrow and Gold Belt; C.H. Coates, Bugle for Most Hits; and B. Hird, Silver Medal Best Gold.

1905. Settle. (12 Archers.) This was the last meeting that any member of Ye Grene Companye attended for many years, as most of the old members had left the district. Dr. Edgar had again made all the arrangements for the meeting on behalf of Ernest Mann, the Captain, who was now living in Southampton. I joined him at Settle. We were the only Companye men taking part, other archers came from Edinburgh, London, Hereford and Lancashire. The way that the

Arrow and Bugle were won at this meeting more resembled present day arrangements than those of the early 1900's, except that then it was a 9 inch diameter Gold, not the 3 inch black spot of later years. At the first end, W.A. Coombs, Royal Toxophilite Society, scored a Gold, but C. Pownall also shot one nearer to the pin-hole and so won the Arrow, but at the second end W.A. Coombs got the first Red and won the Bugle, which was some compensation for the loss of the major trophy. The Gold Medal for Most Hits was won by Hutton Coates; the Gold Medal for the Highest Score by C. Pownall; the Cup for the Best Gold, Dr. Edgar; the Horn Spoon, E.E. Mann; the Thirsk Bowmen's Arrow and Gold Belt, Hutton Coates; the Bugle for Most Hits and Medal for Best Gold, Dr. Edgar, Ernest and I finished with the lowest scores, B. Hird 22 for 76, E.E. Mann 24 for 66, and so after five 'Scorton Silver Arrow Meetings' our spell of glory ended and Ye Grene Companye faded out!

The year following at Richmond it was proposed at the meeting after lunch "That as there had been 20 occasions between 1673 and 1906 when no meeting had been held, this day's meeting should be designated the 214th and not the 234th. This proposal was not carried out until 1910 at Settle, when that meeting was recorded as the 218th. In 1907 T. Metcalf won the Arrow. Being a Yorkshireman, he felt he was also entitled to the Thirsk Bowmen's trophy, but Hutton Coates raised an objection because he did not live in Yorkshire or belong to a Yorkshire Archery Club. At the end of his report of the meeting in the Record Book, he agreed with the ruling, but protested against such an absurd rule that bars him, yet a mere resident in the country who might be a foreigner, unable to speak the English language, would be eligible.

In 1908, H.B. Richardson, the American Champion, shot for the Arrow. His score was the highest ever at a Scorton Arrow Meeting, 102 hits for 452 – 9 Golds, but he could not take away any trophies.

At the Meeting after lunch at Settle in 1912, the condition of the Old Parchment was raised, there being room only for one more signature after this. There was a proposal to offer it to York Museum and C. Pownall suggested asking the Royal Tox to accept it, but neither would take the responsibility. The subject was left in abeyance.

1913. Clithero. The following statement is made in the Record Book: - 'Be it remembered, the Original Manuscript of "Ye Antient Scorton Arrow" bearing the names of all the Captains and Lieutenants is deposited on loan with the Municipal Museum, Hull.'

FURTHER REMINISCENCES UP TO THE 250th ANNIVERSARY

1920. Settle. Owing to the First World War and a big decline in the practice of Archery, a lapse of seven years took place. As there were so few archery clubs in the north, it was proposed that the place of the meeting should be altered to read 'and any part of Yorkshire or Lancashire'. It was also proposed that the Captain's retainable brooch be discontinued due to the high cost. Also that a custodian such as a bank be appointed, with whom all the Scorton Arrow trophies should be deposited if required. In 1926 at Settle it was proposed that each archer give five shillings to buy a replica of the 'Ancient Horn Spoon' to present to the North Ribblesdale Archers in recognition of their generous hospitality to the 'Society of Archers' for many years. £12 10s 0d was collected.

1927. Lancaster. Ernest Mann competed at this meeting, winning the Gold Medal for the Captain of Numbers and the Ancient Horn Spoon. I Turner won the Arrow. In the following year the Arrow was won by Rev G Haytor. He had scored the first Red, but on striking the first Gold, relinquished the Bugle to Col A J Turner, who scored the second Red.

1929. Lancaster. It was agreed that any archer taking part should be eligible for the Thirsk Bowmen's Trophy if he was born in Yorkshire. In 1931 it was agreed to insure the Record Books and Thirsk Bowmen's Insignia for £124 10s 0d, at a premium of 12/- per annum.

1936. Lancaster. John W Phillips won the Arrow. He also won outright the Hutton Coates Cup for Best Gold, but A G Banks took the Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Medal for Best Gold.

1938. John Yates won the Arrow and at the meeting after lunch, was asked to make enquiries about the old Parchment that has been loaned to Hull Museum in 1913. All traces of it had been lost and it was feared it had been destroyed by enemy action when Hull was bombed. Also, at this meeting a silver salver was presented to Arthur Parker of Settle in recognition of his long service as Scorer for the Society of Archers from 1898 to 1936.

1947. Slaidburn. A.G. Banks won the Arrow. At the lunch meeting, John Yates reported on his search for the Parchment. It had been loaned by Hull Museum to Burton Agnes Hall for an Archery Exhibition, but they had returned it to Hull, where there was still no trace of it. He was asked to continue his enquiries. Some months later, it was found in a disused store cupboard at the Wilberforce House Museum, Hull, intact in its double-glazed frame. It took its place amongst the trophies at the next meeting.

1948. Ben Rhydding. September 11th. The weather was fine, with a moderate cross wind. In many respects this meeting was an outstanding one. A.G. Banks, Captain, known to all his friends as 'A.G.', had spared no effort to make it a success. The ground between the river and the main road was ideal for archery and he had arranged for the Northern Championship Meeting to be held there on the three days prior to the 'Scorton'. This arrangement brought many well-known archers to Ilkley – C.B. Edwards, Jack Flinton, Melville Foster, Mr and Mrs Ingo Simon, W.H. Bailey, Tom Fisher, John Yates, Mr and Mrs Nettleton, Tom Kelly, Mr and Mrs K.L. Dames, Miss Marchant, Mrs Ogle, Mrs Macquoid and many others.

A revolutionary innovation, making its almost first appearance at a 'Scorton Arrow Meeting', was the steel bow, with its efficient sight, which quickly became so popular that it ousted the good old longbow. A.G. Banks began the shooting and with his second shaft scored the first Red – it was only one eighth of an inch from the edge of the Gold. At the seventh end the shout went up that the first Gold had been scored. When we gathered round the target, to everyone's amazement – and most of all the young archer who claimed it – the arrow piercing the Gold had been shot by a boy of twelve years old, Michael John Leach of Heywood. Lancashire. He had come to the meeting with his father and he had brought with him his new 30 lb lancewood bow and some arrows. Before the shooting started, his father asked A.G. Banks and Frank Petty if his son could take part in the shooting. After looking at the boy and his bow it seemed doubtful if he could reach the 100 yards, so they gave their permission, if his father looked after him, never expecting this remarkable result. I congratulated him and told him he had taken from me my proud boast of being the youngest archer to win the Arrow. I believe this was the last time the Arrow was won by a shaft from a longbow. It was fortunate that A.G. Banks had won the Lieutenancy, therefore arrangements for next year's meeting were in good hands. It was my first 'Scorton' since 1905. My old friend Harold Ellis shot with me at the target. At the end of this enjoyable shoot C.B. Edwards won the Gold Medal for the most hits and the Horn Spoon, the Gold Medal for Highest Score was won by J. Thompson and the Cup for Best Gold by K.L. Dames. The following year, in September, the 'Northern' and 'Scorton' were again held at Ben Rhydding Sports Ground and again a good number of archers attended from various parts of the country. The Scorton Arrow Meeting was held on the 10th, 48 archers taking part. On my target were five good men from Nottingham. The Red was struck at the first end by C.H. Bayliss and at the fourth end Anthony Wood scored the first Gold, so the Arrow and Bugle went to Birmingham. At the meeting after lunch a proposal was put forward that 'in future no one under the age of twenty-one could compete for the "Ancient Scorton Silver Arrow"'. After some discussion this was agreed to 26 to 14 – to be added to the Rules as an amendment. A discussion started about the winning of the Arrow, now that steel bows with their greater accuracy had made the 9 inch diameter Gold an easy mark. There was no time left in which to discuss this, so it was agreed to bring

the subject up again at next year's meeting. Also it must be noted that on the 9th the inaugural shoot for the 'Ilkley Arrow' took place. This contest is for ladies only, the idea being suggested by some of the ladies who attended the previous year's Northern, and Frank Petty gave it his full support. It was hoped that it would become a permanent traditional meeting in the same manner in which its big brother – 'The Scorton Arrow' – had done so. Mrs Macquoid gave a perfect trophy, an Antient Silver Arrow, 25 inches long, triple fletchings, weight 4.5 oz., made in London 1768-9, possibly by William Grundy. Other trophies were given by Frank Petty, and Rules were drawn up following the lines of the 'Scorton Silver Arrow Articles'. The distance between targets was set at 82 yards.

1950. September 9th. The weather was fine, a pleasant September day, and how truly grateful we were, for the preceding three days of the Northern had been lashed by a terrific gale that roared down the Wharfe Valley. On the Thursday, the York round had to be postponed until Friday. It was estimated that at least 80 arrows were broken during the three days. It was 50 years since a lucky hit had won the Arrow for me, therefore I received many wishes for 'the best of luck'. At the target with me were A. G. Banks and T. R. Walker. The former and I were shooting together and at the second end he put paid to my hopes by scoring the first Gold, piercing it with his first shaft and placing the next in the Red. He was shooting in a steel bow. I still clung to my old long-bow. For the first, and only time, so far as I know, two representatives from Punch attended this meeting, J.B. Boothroyd, a journalist, and 'Iconicus', an artist. They spent the day with us and an amusing story illustrated with clever sketches was published in the September 20th issue of this old and respected magazine, under the title 'First Gold to Worst White'. The meeting after lunch was a long and important one. After the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, John Yates, proposed and John Phillips seconded, 'That now the exercise of Archery had been revived so thoroughly it is only right and proper that the Meetings of the Antient Scorton Silver Arrow should be held in Yorkshire as agreed in 1869 and that the amendment made in 1920 be rescinded'. This generous gesture was unanimously agreed. It was also proposed that the Sweepstake for the Best Gold be limited to £10 and that 20% of monies deposited in the two sweepstakes be claimed for use towards the expenses incurred at the next yearly meeting. This was carried unanimously. Another proposition was that the Captain and Lieutenant should have a permanent badge, presented each year, the cost to be provided out of the funds of the Society of Archers, also carried unanimously. Also proposed that the wine at the lunch should be included in the cost of the meal, carried unanimously. (In the early 1900's it was the custom for the Captain to provide wine, sometimes champagne, in honour of his Captaincy). Now came the discussion of the proposal brought up at the previous meeting regarding steel bows and the 9 inch diameter Gold. A.G. Banks led the traditionalists and Tony Wood was strong for the moderns. A.G. proposed that long-bows be used until the Arrow had been won (defeated).

He then proposed that the targets should be set up at distances laid down in Item IV of the original Articles (defeated). Then J Quinn proposed and P.E. Mackenzie seconded that in future all target faces used at Scorton Arrow Meetings should have an 'Inner Gold' in the form of a black spot 3 inches in diameter in the centre of the 9 inch Gold and the first shaft to pierce this spot should win the Arrow, 'subject to being nearest to the pinhole at the end'. This was carried by 23 votes to 11, and so the 'Black Spot' was born, and we rushed out somewhat late to shoot for the final two hours.

This is the last Report in the Record Book for 1911 to 1950. This book was given by Hutton Coates. A very detailed 'Index' has been compiled from this and all previous Record Books and inserted at the end of this book.

A.G. Banks died on December 9th, 1950, and Ben Rhydding Archers, 'The Society of Archers', and archers everywhere felt the loss of this staunch friend and supported of the Antient Sport.

1951. Scorton. T.R. Walker, Captain of the Arrow, arranged with Charles Robson of Scorton to hold this year's meeting in the village where the first meeting took place (almost 130 years had passed since the 'Meeting' was last held there. Charles Robson was born in the village and is highly respected and resourceful. Almost the whole village rallied round and helped him put on a meeting worthy of Festival of Britain year and the history of the village. On the 18th August, a nice fine day, 50 archers assembled on the College sports ground, where a double row of targets were set up, each with the 3 inch Black Spot in the centre of the Gold. Before the shooting started, the general opinion was that eight or nine ends would be shot before the Black Spot was pierced, but at the third end, Frank Newbould hit the 'Spot' and won the Arrow. Lunch was taken in the village hall where the tables were tastefully arranged and decorated with small targets on stands. An excellent lunch was served by members of the village and the newly formed archery club. At the meeting after lunch, questions about the small Arrow Brooch for the Captain's permanent badge were raised. During the Second World War the original die for this had been lost and to replace it would be rather expensive. Wing Commander Wooley said he would be leaving the country soon, and to commemorate his long connection with the Scorton Silver Arrow Meeting, he would like to pay for the cost of a new die. This kind offer was gratefully accepted. Frank Petty followed, saying he would like to be associated with this gesture by giving a brooch to all captains of the Arrow who had not received one. This was applauded and then it was agreed that in future all Captains would pay for the Arrow Brooch Badge. The BBC sent a recording van to this meeting and the camera and sound crews were very active. After lunch, we staged a little play for them, bringing up to the Captain an archer accused of swearing, to be fined one shilling, as stated in Item VII of the Articles. They also recorded a number of interviews. At the end of a most enjoyable day, Lady Lawson of Brough Hall presented the trophies. An ancestor of hers won the Scorton Arrow Bugle and Lieutenancy in 1823.

The 279th Meeting was held at Harrogate on the Stray, and what a day for the 9th August. Rain poured down from early morning. We were very sorry for ourselves and for Frank Newbould, who, with the splendid help of Harrogate Corporation, had made excellent arrangements for the meeting. A large company of archers, between 60 and 70, had assembled for the Shoot and while the rain poured down we packed ourselves into the small official tent. We were far from downhearted; the repartee and laughter almost drowned the sound of the heavy rain on the canvas. Sometime after 11 o'clock the rain eased to a drizzle, and it was decided to make a start. As we walked out to the targets in various styles of waterproofs, John Phillips said to me, 'Well, Ben, I would like to get the Bugle today. It's the only trophy I haven't had', and when the shooting started he got the First Red with his second shaft. Not long after this, the shout went up that the Arrow was won. When we got to the target, the shaft in the Black Spot was Leonard Sarjeant's but, to his great disappointment, it was in the wrong target. Some ends later there was a shout at two targets and we found Charles Robson had scored a Black Spot and a Gold; and on another target, J.H. Hayhurst had also pierced the 'Spot'. After measurement, his arrow was nearest to the pin hole by a fraction of an inch. All were agreed it was real hard luck for Charlie, who had hit gold with both arrows. Except for a 20 minute break during another heavy shower, we completed the two hours' shooting and were glad to reach the comfort of the Prince of Wales Hotel, and our discomfort from damp clothes was soon forgotten when we sat down to a good hot lunch. At the meeting, a proposal was made, 'That in view of the increasing numbers of archers taking part in the Scorton Arrow Meetings, the Captain should be given power to limit the number of archers permitted to shoot'. A number of objections were raised, for this was in direct opposition to Item I of the Articles. Finally it was left for further discussion at the next meeting. Fortunately, after lunch the wind changed and we had no more rain, so the afternoon shoot was quite enjoyable, as also was the final event of the day when we were the guests of the Harrogate Corporation at a splendid tea served at the hotel. This kind gesture was very much appreciated and a vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

1953. Ben Rhydding. We were back again on this pleasant ground on June 6th with a fine day of sunshine. Seventy-two archers signed the book and paid their entrance fee. (This is a record for the meetings.) Shooting started at 11am but in spite of the number of arrows shot at each end, almost 45 minutes passed before the Black Spot was pierced and the Arrow won by John Yates. A very popular win, and he received many congratulations, this being the third time he had won it. He was Captain of the Arrow in 1929 and 1938.

A disturbing feature during the early ends was the haste of many of the younger archers who, as soon as they had shot, rushed off to the scoring tents to record their scores and collect cash for colours. Some were standing behind the targets at the other end before others had finished shooting, which quickly created a state of chaos. Frank Petty, who was judge, had to stop the shoot and call all

archers together and, after remonstrating, he insisted that no one should leave the shooting line until all arrows had been shot. After this the meeting continued in an orderly and pleasant way. At the meeting after lunch, it was agreed to send a telegram to H.M. the Queen, as follows: -

'We the Captain and Lieutenant of the Antient Scorton Arrow and the whole company of archers assembled send their humble and loyal greetings from this the 280th year of shooting'.

The proposal to give the Captain powers to restrict the number of archers allowed to shoot was not brought up again.

Another veteran of the Scorton Arrow Meetings, Tom Kelly, was shooting today, easily recognisable in stand-up collar, spats, black Homburg hat and cardigan of Lincoln green. This was the costume he always wore at the meetings. He won the Arrow twice, in 1933 and 1937, but this was the last meeting in which he took part. The afternoon shoot passed very pleasantly and at the end of the day the trophies were presented by Mrs Stothert-Scott.

John Yates held his meeting at Ben Rhydding the following year. The day was fine, after a stormy week, but there was a strong wind blowing down the Wharfe Valley. Seventy archers took part. Shooting started at 10.45am with a most remarkable first end, when five Golds were scored, two shafts piercing the Black Spot. When these were measured, the shaft shot by D.V. Connell had won the Arrow by an eighth of an inch. Also at this end, six Reds were scored and when these were measured, it was found that Fred Wells had won the Bugle. Shooting continued leisurely until lunch. At lunch we were provided with bottled beer, the gift of Mrs Phil Taylor, in memory of her husband who died in March. He was a founder member of Ben Rhydding Archers. The meeting after lunch was uneventful and so was the afternoon shoot. Tom Kelly came to the meeting in his son's car. He had been very ill and died later in the year. John Yates asked my wife to present the trophies, a kindly gesture we appreciated very much, and the meeting ended with the presentation to her of a lovely bouquet of flowers.

1955. Leeds. The meeting was held on June 18th on a new and very suitable ground for Archery, the Sports Stadium at Roundhay Park. It was a perfect day for shooting. Between 50 and 60 archers took part. The Arrow was won at the first end by John Hatton from Morecambe, Lancs. At the same end, Albert Dobson of Bronte Archers, Bradford, got the first Red and Bugle. At the meeting a proposal was made that the Bugle and Lieutenancy should be awarded to archers whose arrow scored the best Gold after the Arrow was won by piercing the Black Spot. This was defeated, and some of the older 'Scorton Arrow' supporters pointed out the danger of altering the Original Articles, which would soon destroy the characteristics of this old meeting. At the end of the day the trophies were charmingly presented by Lady Croysdale, Lady Mayoress of Leeds, supported by the Lord Mayor.

The following year, the meeting was again held on a fresh ground. The arrangements were made by Albert Dobson of the Bronte Archers (on behalf of John Hatton, whose home was in Lancashire) to hold the meeting on the sports ground of Thornton Grammar School, Bradford, which is on the hilltop between Bradford and Leeds. Excellent arrangements had been made, which unfortunately, were ruined by bad weather. Strong winds and rain continued all day and we got the full force of both. An attendance of 60 archers were expected, but only 45 turned up. It is occasions like this that make things so difficult for the organisers and throw extra and heavy expenses on the archers who do turn up. A large number of spectators had been expected and three policemen were in attendance to keep order, but few came. There was no sign of the wind and rain abating, so, all clad in waterproofs, we made a start. At the first end, Frank Newbould scored a Red and won the Bugle again, but it was almost an hour later before the Arrow was won and at that end there were two shafts in the Black Spot on the same target, one shot by W Wales and the other by Gerald Dyson, whose shaft being nearest the pin-hole won him the Arrow. At the meeting after lunch, the difficulty of estimating the number of archers attending the meeting was raised, but the majority were in favour of keeping it an open meeting. Fred Wells then reported on his application to the firm who had supplied the 'Arrow Brooch Badges' for the Captains. They told him all the Badges had been disposed of, and the die – contributed by Commander Woolley – had either been lost or destroyed. A new die would cost about £40. This was a shock for us, as the cost was prohibitive. After some discussion, it was decided that enquiries should be made to find a commercially produced brooch of similar design. John Phillips was judge at this meeting. It was the last he attended, as he died the following year. Jack Flinton braved the weather and came after lunch. We shot through the two hours and by then were thoroughly soaked and all breathed a sigh of relief when the last end was shot.

1957. Harrogate. August 10th. We were lucky to have a fine day, although there was a tricky cross wind (most of that week and the week following was wet). The attendance was down by 50%, only 32 archers came to shoot. Could this be due to the disastrous meeting at Bradford? The time of starting was put back to 11.30am for the benefit of archers coming from a distance. At the first end, the Bugle was won by Allen Berbeck of Guiseley, and at the eighth end, Sam Henderson of the Bowmen of Adel won the Arrow. Fred Wells showed me a Silver Arrow Brooch with a rose in the centre for the Captain's Badge, also a small silver bugle for the Lieutenant's Badge. Both are retailed by jewellers. They were not displayed or officially accepted at the meeting, but they are now the recognised Badges. Nothing of interest was raised at the meeting, which followed its usual course.

1958. Harrogate. Due to my wife's illness, I did not attend this meeting and how very sorry I was to miss it, especially because my very good friend Charles Robson won the Arrow. Everyone was delighted at his success, for he suffered

a bitter disappointment at the 1952 meeting. He is the first man from Scorton village to win the Arrow and bring it back to where the meeting was inaugurated in 1673. To do this had been his desire ever since he took up archery in 1949 and now he has become one of its leading enthusiasts. The Scorton Archers' pavilion contains a fine display of antient archery equipment from home and abroad and photographs and references to 'Scorton Arrow Meetings' collected by him. When Charles returned to Scorton with the Arrow, the village gave him a royal welcome, inscribed banners were strung across the road and a big party gathered in the archery pavilion to congratulate him and to drink his health. This meeting was an anniversary, being the 250th at which the Arrow had been shot for, and the 286th year since its inauguration. Sam Henderson commemorated it with a 'Souvenir Programme', which included the names of all the Captains of the Arrow from 1673 to 1958. Also, as a more lasting memento, a 'Souvenir Badge' was given to all archers taking part. He very kindly included me, saying that he was sure I was with them in spirit if not in person. Rain again made an early part of the meeting uncomfortable, but it cleared later to give a pleasant afternoon. 33 archers took part. At the third end, Frank Newbould won the Bugle for the third time, and at the fourth end, Charles Robson pierced the Black Spot and won the Arrow. The Antient Horn Spoon was won by Stan Smith of Bradford. John Yates was judge of the meeting.

Again the Harrogate Corporation gave valuable assistance in erecting the targets and tents on the Stray, and the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs B.H. Wood, entertained the company to tea. Afterwards the Lady Mayoress presented the trophies in the West Park Hotel.

Chapter 4

MEMORIES OF RECENT YEARS

At the end of July, 1959, I was staying with Harold Ellis at Menston when Charles Robson phoned me to say the Tyne-Tees TV Studio had asked him to take part in a 'Sport in the North' programme broadcast before the six o'clock news on Friday, August 7th, and he was asked to bring with him Mrs Sully, who was to be Lady Paramount, and myself, who was to be Judge at the meeting. I spent the weekend with him and he took us to Newcastle in his car. We were told at the studio to return at 4pm for rehearsal and it was arranged that Charlie would shoot four arrows at a target 18 inches in diameter. We got back in good time and it was very amusing to watch the safety precautions being taken, the act might have been the exploding of an atom bomb instead of the shooting of four arrows into a target at 10 yards. Charlie was given so many awkward instructions, that a miss would have been excusable, but all his arrows struck the target. Each of us were given a short interview and it was all over in about ten minutes. Friends who saw it said it came through very well.

Ernest Mann came up from Southampton to take part in the meeting. He had been pressed to accept accommodation, but he preferred to camp out in his bivouac tent. When we got back to the village, he had found a sheltered spot in an old lane near the archery field and had settled in. Fortunately it was a fine, warm weekend. I called for him on Saturday morning and we went along to the College Sports Ground where the meeting was to be held. He had brought his old black-painted lancewood longbow that he had always used since Ye Grene Companye days, and some homemade wooden arrows. At the draw for targets, I was pleased to see that his partner was Sam Henderson. Dressed in brown corduroy knickerbockers, green cardigan and with his white head of hair, he was a conspicuous figure and soon everyone knew who he was and gave him a real welcome. On learning that he was a Professor at Southampton University, he was referred to as 'The Professor' by one and all. The sun was shining and the meeting got off to a good start. At The first end, four Reds were scored. J Walton's arrow was nearest the pin-hole – he won the Bugle and Lieutenancy; and at the next end, Frank Berry hit the Black Spot and won the Arrow and Captaincy. We gathered round the target, where a new and happy innovation took place. Drinks were provided and all the archers drank to the health and success of the new Captain. During this break, six shillings collected in fines for swearing were handed to me – the result of a bit of joking. There was a parson amongst the spectators, so it was given to him to distribute amongst the poor of the village. (It was learned later that the parson, who was coloured, was a high dignitary of the family of Haile-Selassie.) All this caused a break of twenty minutes or more in the shooting, but there were no objections and the meeting continued in a friendly and leisurely way until 1 o'clock, when we went for lunch in the school-house, where a good meal was served. At the meeting, a proposal was made that the old Parchment be deposited in the Northallerton Record Office, where Mr Andrew, the antiquary, would have it specially treated to ensure its preservation. This was carried unanimously. When the second two hours' shooting were finished, we were all invited by Charlie Robson to tea in the school-house and, after a substantial meal, all the archers were given a half-pint glass goblet inscribed 'The Antient Scorton Arrow Contest, Scorton, 1959'. These gifts were to commemorate his Captaincy. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed to him and all his helpers for a most enjoyable meeting, which was carried with acclamation. Mrs Scully then presented the trophies and Ernest Mann was called upon to present to her a very nice bouquet of flowers. Then we all strolled out to the village green for final chats and goodbyes, all hoping to meet again next year.

1960. Abbeydale Park. Frank Berry had arranged for this meeting to be held at Sheffield on the large ground of Abbeydale Sports Club, on July 2nd. It was a memorable meeting for Ernest Mann and myself, being sixty years since we first shot for the Arrow. I promised to join him in shooting in a longbow with wooden arrows, as of old. Frank Berry gave me a kind invitation to stay with them on Friday night. Ernest came up the same day, but determined to camp out again in his bivouac tent. Mr Bishop, the Park Superintendent, found him

a sheltered spot near the archery ground. On Saturday morning, between 50 and 60 archers turned up to shoot. To our delight, Ernest and I were drawn on the same target with Frank Berry and Charlie Robson. Jack Flinton was Judge. Shooting started at 11am and at the sixth end Don Harkness had a very near miss for the Black Spot, and then it happened!! A million to one chance; H Batty, secretary of Abbeydale Archers, and W. J. Kirk, the Club Captain, were drawn on the same target and, shooting together, each with his second arrow pierced the Black Spot. When they were measured by Jack Flinton he pronounced them a definite tie. So Master and Pupil – Batty taught Kirk to shoot when he took up archery four years ago – asked if they could share the Arrow and Captaincy. This request was agreed by all the archers assembled. Another outstanding event took place during the afternoon, when John Oldfield, Bowmen of Sheaf, scored six Golds in succession, i.e. three consecutive ends. M Robinson got the first Red and Bugle and John Oldfield, Captain of Numbers and Horn Spoon.

In view of later events, it is my opinion that it was a mistake to share the Captaincy. I would suggest that, should another tie occur, the two archers should shoot off for the honour and save a divided responsibility. Our old comrade Harold Ellis came to the meeting. He did not shoot, but took some good snaps of our anniversary.

1961. Abbeydale Park. For a number of reasons I did not attend. The Arrow and Captaincy was won by William Wales, well known to all as 'Billy Wales'. Sam Henderson won the Bugle and Lieutenancy. At the lunch-time meeting, the following proposal was made: 'That the "Articles" drawn up in 1673 to govern the Meeting and the amendments passed during the ensuing years should be clarified for the benefit of present day archers, but keeping to the original Articles and Amendments as laid down on the old Parchment'.

As events proved, no better pair could have been chosen for the task (by the Goddess who guides our Shafts at this antient meeting), for in the period before next year's meeting a service of revisions had been drawn up by them and typed together with copies of the Original Articles and these were sent to all Captains of the Arrow available for their comments and approval, before being presented at the 1962 meeting.

1962. This very important meeting was held on the ground of the 'Bowmen of Adel' on June 2nd. Between 40 and 50 archers took part. The Arrow was won by Derek Holt at the third end. Previously at the first end he had got the first Red, but on winning the Arrow he relinquished the Bugle to C H Barstow, who had got the second Red at that end. The compilation of the Rules was the chief topic of the morning and the general comments were very favourable. When lunch was over, the Captain, Billy Wales, addressed the members saying he would like to take each item separately. For the vote he prefaced the items saying, 'Arising out of last year's meeting at Sheffield, we the undersigned have

closely examined the Records of the Society and whilst we have come to the conclusion that there has been no major conflict between the Rules and the Meeting as they have been conducted recently, we nevertheless feel it desirable in order to facilitate the operation of future meetings to make the following recommendation for your approval at this year's meeting.

1. VENUE. To be held anywhere in Yorkshire.
2. CLOSING DATE AND ENTRANCE FEE. The closing date for entry be two weeks before the date of the meeting and be accompanied by an entry fee of £1 0s. 0d. towards the expenses of the Meeting, Luncheon, etc. Any additional expenses to be borne by the Gentlemen Archers competing.
3. ADVERTISING AND NOTICE OF MEETING. That at least two months' notice of the meeting be advertised in the 'Dates to Remember' section of the British Archer and that notice of the meeting be in the hands of all members of the Society at least four weeks before the date of the meeting.
4. CAPTAIN'S POOL PRIZE. The Captain shall have 20/- from the monies deposited at the NEXT ANNUAL MEETING on returning the 'Arrow'. (Additional to the customary 10/- from the Pool on winning the Arrow.)
5. DIVISION OF VOLUNTARY SWEEPSTAKES. The Sweepstake for the best Gold entry (10/6 be divided as follows: -

For the BEST GOLD	50% of Sweepstake
For the second BEST GOLD	30% of Sweepstake
For the third BEST GOLD	20% of Sweepstake
And Similarly for the MOST GOLDS	(entry 5/-)
6. The Rule requiring 20% of the monies from the Sweepstake to be carried over to the next meeting, be rescinded.
7. The balance left in the Pool at the end of the meeting be awarded to the winner of the Antient Horn Spoon.
8. The first archer to obtain two hits in the inner Gold at one end be entitled to collect one shilling from each competitor.
9. The description of the Competition, minutes of the A.G.M., and results of the meeting be compiled by the Captain and passed by him to the Captain Elect for entry in the Record Book. Likewise the Captain to be responsible for reporting to the press the results of his meeting.
10. The Captain to appoint a Judge, who should be a Gentleman Archer of high esteem, to assist him in his duties during the shooting, but be it remembered

as per Rule 6 of 1823, should any dispute arise during the shooting in respect of the Prizes, the same to be determined by the majority of the archers present. It will therefore be the Judge's duty to determine any such majority and the Captain and Lieutenant to verify.

11. The title 'Lady Paramount' be dropped from our proceedings and that the prizes be distributed by the Captain's Lady or some other person appointed by him.

12. In addition to the Insurance of the Trophies, the Captain shall insure against any claims arising from accidents during the meeting. The necessary premiums to be included in the expenses of the meeting.

13. Notes for the 'Guidance of Competitors' shall be issued as part of the notices sent to each intending competitor.

1963. Abbeydale Park. May 25th. About 40 archers took part The Arrow was won at the third end by Stanley Smith of Bredelec Archers. At the meeting after lunch, Derek Holt reported the purchase of 1,000 leaflets, 'Notes for the Guidance of Competitors'. It was proposed and carried that the cost of printing should be paid for by the archers taking part on this day. The cost, including lunch was 31/6 each.

1964. Harrogate. Held on the Stray on May 30th. Over 50 archers took part. John Crockett scored a Red at the first end and Bill Marshall also scored a Red, but Crockett was nearest to the pinhole. However, John Crockett with his eighth shaft hit the Black Spot and won the Arrow, so the Bugle and Lieutenancy was awarded to Bill Marshall, and both chief trophies went to Lancashire. The Mayor and Mayoress of Harrogate presented the prizes and invited all of us to tea at the hotel, and so ended another very pleasant 'Scorton'.

1965. The 257th meeting was held on the Stray, Harrogate, on June 26th. The weather was dull, with strong wind, and a rather persistent drizzle of rain. The Arrow was won by Albert Kiddy of Dearne Valley A.C., with his first arrow; it was only the second time he had competed. The Bugle was won by W J Alexander of Scorton Archers. Joe Woodhouse also hit the Black Spot, but Albert Kiddy's arrow was nearest to the pinhole. Don Harkness won the Gold Medal for Highest Score.

1966. The 258th meeting was held at Wentwood Woodhouse on August 13th. This is one of Yorkshire's most beautiful mansions, set in a magnificent park. The lawn in front of the house made a grand setting for an archery tournament. What a pity the sun did not shine! For the first two hours' shooting the weather was wet, but for two hours after lunch it was fine.

A very unfortunate incident took place before shooting started. Don Harkness forgot to bring the Medal to the meeting. He had left it at his home in Birmingham. A hurried and unconstitutional meeting of some of the archers was held in the entrance hall, and a proposal that he must produce the medal before being allowed to shoot was carried. A very disgruntled archer, who had taken part in many meetings, packed up and left for home.

Shooting started at 11am in a steady drizzle. At the first end, David Alderson got the First Red and won the Bugle. At the fourth end, Ron Shiel, of the Mossley Hill Athletics Club, won the Arrow; L Canette won the Gold Medal for Highest Score; H Ashcroft, Medal for Most Hits; W Wales, cup for Best Gold; Dennis Theaker, Horn Spoon.

1967. On August 5th the 259th meeting was held at Adel, Leeds. Shooting started in fine weather, with a strong wind blowing across the targets. With his first arrow, W G Pearson hit the Red and won the Bugle. At the same end, with his second arrow, Albert Kiddy again pierced the Black Spot and won the Arrow for the second time. He also won the Medal for Highest Score, and Thirsk Bowmen's Arrow and Belt.

At the A.G.M., the Don Harkness incident was very briefly entered in the Minutes of the last meeting, and was passed over without further comment. At the end of the meeting, they presented me with a good photograph of my page in the Record Book for 1900.

As promised, Frank Newbould brought his cameras, and we spent most of the morning taking some very good photographs of the Scorton Silver Arrow Trophies. I owe Frank a big debt of gratitude; that was the only reward he would accept for all his work.

John Yates came to this meeting but he did not shoot, and it was the last of the many meetings of the Arrow he attended. He won the Arrow three times. He died on May 9th, 1969.

1968. The 260th meeting was held at Scorton on June 1st. The weather was good; the sun shone all day. At the first end, Albert Kiddy got the first Red, and won the Bugle. The Arrow was won at the fourth end by Dennis Theaker, of Dearne Valley AC. At this end, George Pearson also hit the Black Spot. He missed winning it by a fraction of an inch.

At the A.G.M. a proposal was made that this old Society of Bowmen, with their 'Ancient Silver Arrow' trophy, should apply for a Royal Charter. This was carried. Then it was proposed that on the anniversary of 300 years since the first meeting, a very special meeting should be held to celebrate it. This was carried unanimously. The Scorton Arrow Captains were asked to form a Council to discuss ways and means, to be put before the members at next year's A.G.M.

also that collections for a fund be made at each preceding meeting. The Captains met and elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

1969. The 261st meeting was held at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, on July 5th. The weather was fine, with a variable cross wind. Both the Arrow and the Bugle were won at the fifth end. David Aitken, of Bowmen of Adle, won the Arrow, and J J Harrison won the Bugle. Three arrows later, I hit the Black Spot! Too late again!

At the A.G.M. the proposal made at last year's meeting, 'That the Tercentenary of the first meeting in 1673 should be held in 1972', was discussed and carried. At a meeting of the Council of Captains, a number of suggestions were made for the Tercentenary for presentation at next year's A.G.M. Also, Major R M Crees was appointed to draw up a letter of application for Royal Recognition of the Arrow.

1970. The 262nd meeting was held at Adel Memorial Hall Ground on July 4th. The weather was fine but with a gusty cross-wind. The Arrow was won at the tenth end by B A Lockwood of Huddersfield. He got another Black Spot at the next end. The Bugle was won earlier by Clifford Taylor of Southport, when K D Low, also of Southport, missed the Black Spot by one-eighth of an inch. Had he hit the spot, both main prizes would have gone to Lancashire for the first time in the history of the Scorton Arrow Meetings.

At the A.G.M., the Council's proposals were put before the members for their consideration. Major Crees reported that the application for Royal recognition had been sent to the officials concerned; and evidently was still being considered.

1971. The 263rd meeting was held on the Athletics Ground, Huddersfield, on June 5th.

THE TROPHIES AND MEDALS

The Antient Silver Arrow

This is of a plain design, conforming closely to an old-time wooden target arrow. The original specification taken from the insurance policy gives the length as 27 1/2 inches, diameter of shaft 3/8 of an inch and weight 8 ounces, but due to its having been broken and repaired, the actual sizes are now 25 1/4 inches long, weight 7 ounces, diameter the same. The repair was made by a half lap, at about the centre of the shaft. There is also a silver ferrule just below the three fletchings which is not connected with the repair. Also another about three inches lower down. A likely assumption is that they were put there to discourage anyone attempting to shoot it from a bow. The arrow carries no hallmark. The following extract is taken from a report by the Assay Master, Birmingham Assay Office, of November, 1966:

Report on the Scorton Arrow

As it was not possible to take samples for testing from the Arrow, only approximate reports of the Standard of the Silver can be given. "The Arrow is not Hall Marked, and none of the silver is of Sterling (.925) quality. The flights and tube at the flight end report about (.900), the remainder between .800 and .830.

The main tube and point seem to be the oldest part of the Arrow, and could date back to c. 1600. The flights and flight end tube are more likely to date from c.1700. However, it is possible that the whole of the existing Arrow was made at one time from two different pieces of silver during the 17th century, for example, it could date from 1670.

The Silver Bugle

Is of plain hunting horn shape with some decorative engraving at the larger end. It carries the following inscription: -

'The archers assembled to shoot at Middleton-One-Row on the 21st day of August, 1834, purchased by subscription this Bugle to be worn as a Transferable Prize by the Lieutenant of the Target.'

The cost was £4 19s 0d. In 1840, at Dinsdale Spa, a proposal was made that a silver link bearing the name and date of each Lieutenant should be added. Only 11 links have been put on. Had the proposal been fully observed, there would have been to date over 100 links.

The Gold Medal for Captain of Numbers (i.e. most hits)

In 1840 a proposal was made to purchase a Gold Medal for Most Hits. This was first presented in 1842 at Thirsk, when there were 26 archers present. Hargrove in *Anecdotes of Archery* writes:

'The design which is exceedingly chaste was furnished by Henry Peckett Esq. of Carlton Husthwaite, Nr. Thirsk and has been highly approved by all who have had the pleasure of inspecting the original. Peter Muir Esq. of Edinburgh kindly undertook to see the design properly executed and through his exertions, the Medal is at once everything that could have been wished for.'

One side of the Medal is inscribed: '1842. Subscription Medal transferable to the Captain of Numbers at the annual shooting for the Antient Silver Arrow which was shot for at Scorton Yorkshire in 1673'. On the other side a target of five colours is crossed by two bows diagonally, crossing these in the centre are three arrows. The gold rim of the Medal is a moulding of leaf design.

The Antient Horn Spoon

This trophy is acknowledged to be contemporary with the 'Arrow' and like that trophy its age and origin is not known. Made of horn, it resembles an ordinary tablespoon in size and shape, except the handle which is round. Attached to the end of the handle is a silver chain having in the centre a small oval plate inscribed 'Ancient Horn Spoon'. At the end of the chain is a hook in the form of a swan's head and neck by which the spoon can be hung from a buttonhole. Quite half of the end of the bowl has been repaired with silver and on the back of this three Latin words are inscribed, 'RISTUM, TENEATIS, AMICA'. A translation would be 'Restrain your laughter, friends'. There appears to be a definite connection with this spoon and the Darlington Archers. In the old Record Book of this Society, which is deposited in Darlington Records Office, is the following entry: -

'Debtor to Phillip Carter for Silver Gorget £2 2s 0d. To Horn Spoon, tipping with silver, 1 ounce, 7/6'.

Also, one of the Rules reads:

'Such person who shall break or enter the white circle shall wear in succession in their hats or some other conspicuous place a Horn Spoon. It is inscribed 'RISUM, TENEATIS, AMICA'.'

Surely this must be the same spoon! The Society of Gentlemen Archers of Darlington was formed in March, 1758, and disbanded in 1839, but some years before this there was a serious decline in membership. From 1827 to 1834 no meetings were held. The members were closely associated with the Scorton Silver Arrow Meetings and it is very probable they, like the Thirsk Bowmen,

gave the 'Horn Spoon' to the Society of Archers as a trophy. In the Record Book of the Arrow (No. 2) the first mention of an Antient Horn Spoon for worst white is in 1830. Another item in the Darlington Archer's Book, although not connected with the Society of Archers, is of sufficient interest to be entered here.

'Sept. 1st 1839. Additions to add to the dignity of the Society were purchased. A Silk Banner and clothed a poor boy in green.

Debter -	To bil for boys cloath	12/-
	To tailor for making same	3/-
	To pair of boots	2/6

What a quaint and generous act!

On one side of the Medal of the Darlington Archers, the 'boy' is shown standing between two archers holding a six-foot longbow in one hand and an arrow in the other. Evidently he acted as a kind of caddie, as in golf.

At the 1926 meeting, each archer gave five shillings to buy a replica of the Horn Spoon to be presented to the North Ribblesdale Archers in recognition of their generous hospitality to the Society of Archers.

Gold Medal for Highest Score

At a meeting in 1845, it was proposed that there should be a Gold Medal for Highest Score.

This medal is larger than the one for Most Hits, otherwise it is somewhat similar. It has an ornamental gold rim round a white enamelled circle enclosing a centre of Scotch pebbles, crossed by four arrows, equally spaced with the piles meeting in the centre.

On the back is engraved:

'1848 Subscription Medal, Transferable to winner of Greatest Score at the Annual Shooting for the Antient Scorton Arrow which was shot for at Scorton, Yorkshire, 1673.'

Silver Brooch, Captain's Transferable Badge

The Brooch is in the form of an arrow about 3 inches long (similar in shape to the 'Ancient Silver Arrow'). From a small ring at the centre hangs a round a round medal; resting on this is a replica of the Scorton Silver Bugle hanging on a small chain. Henry Peckett presented this Badge in 1846.

Inscriptions on Captain's Transferable Prize:

Reverse:

Transferable
Prize
to accompany the
Antient Silver Arrow
Scorton – Yorkshire
1673
Presented by Henry Peckett
Thirsk Bowman
1846

Obverse:

Captain's
Prize

Silver Cup for Best Gold

This can be won outright by getting the Best Gold three times in succession. The present Cup was given by John W. Phillips, Pendle and Samlesbury Archers, when he won the Hutton-Coates Cup in 1935 (at this meeting he also won the Arrow).

The first Cup for Best Gold was given by Robert Farrer in 1859. It is described as a 'Silver Gilt Cup'. This was won by the Rev. C. Hutton-Coates of Burton Agnes at Settle in 1902 (who also won the Arrow on the same day). The Cup he gave in replacement was a large bowl-shaped silver cup with two handles.

The Thirsk Bowmen's Insignia

1884. Henry Peckett, died on the 29th January, and having in his possession the insignia of the Thirsk Bowmen, an extinct Archery Society, his family presented them to the Captain of the Scorton Arrow. The insignia included: The Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Arrow; the Silver Bugle; Silver Medal; and Gold Embroidered Belt. The following conditions were specified: -

1st. They shall henceforth be held in the custody of the successive Captains of the Scorton Arrow Meetings, or their deputies, or by such persons as shall be entitled to the same or any of them separately for the time being by virtue of the next condition.

2nd. All or any of the said Insignia may be competed for as transferable prizes at the Annual Scorton Arrow Meetings and be awarded in such manner as shall be decided upon at a Meeting of Yorkshire Gentlemen archers to be convened by notice to each such archer as name appears in the Archers Register for 1884, or by advertisement in the York Herald, at such time and place as the

Captain for the time being shall consider expedient and in default of the attendance of at least three Archers at such meeting, then at the next Scorton Arrow Meeting.

3rd. Each of the said Insignia shall be distinguished from the original Scorton Arrow prizes by the appellation of 'The Thirsk Bowmen' being prefixed, for example, 'The Thirsk Bowmen's Silver Arrow'.

4th. The Shooting for the said Insignia, like the Meeting for the Scorton Arrow, shall be strictly limited to the County of York.

5th. On the event of the resuscitation of the old Society of 'Thirsk Bowmen' or the formation of a new Archery Society at Thirsk, the latter to comprise not less than ten gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood, the said Insignia shall be handed over to such Society. But, such transfer shall not be made unless application for the transfer has been made to the Captain of the 'Scorton Arrow' for the time being under the hand of the Secretary of the Thirsk Bowmen, or such new Society, as the case may be, to the Archers competing at the Scorton Arrow Meeting held next after the application aforesaid.

6th. In the event of such transfer as aforesaid, the Captain for the time being shall make an entry of the transaction in the Scorton Arrow Record Book then in use and the Captain and Lieutenant shall both append their signatures to such entry.

1885. At a meeting of Yorkshire Archers held at York on September 4th it was determined that the Thirsk Bowmen's Insignia shall be awarded as follows:-

The Silver Arrow and Gold Belt to the Yorkshireman who has made the highest score.

The Silver Bugle to the Yorkshireman who has made the greatest number of hits.

The Silver Medal to the Yorkshireman who makes the Best Gold.

No person to take more than one prize.

Description of the Insignia: The Silver Arrow is heraldic in design with a barbed pile, and two feathers. It is about 24in. long. The Silver Bugle is of fine craftsmanship. A dog's head forms the mouthpiece and round the rim are figures of an archer in pursuit of animals of the chase all of which being beautifully engraved.

The Gold Belt is a clever example of gold braid embroidery; a silver clasp of artistic design fastens it. Suspended from the belt is a quiver, also embroidered with gold braid, a silver sliding pencil case, a silver pot for holding beeswax and a coloured silk tassel. The Silver Medal is an ordinary round medal about 1.5 in. diameter.

THE TROPHIES
Plate 1



The Silver Bugle
Lieutenants Prize

The Silver Cup
for
Best Gold

The Antient Horn Spoon
for
Worst White

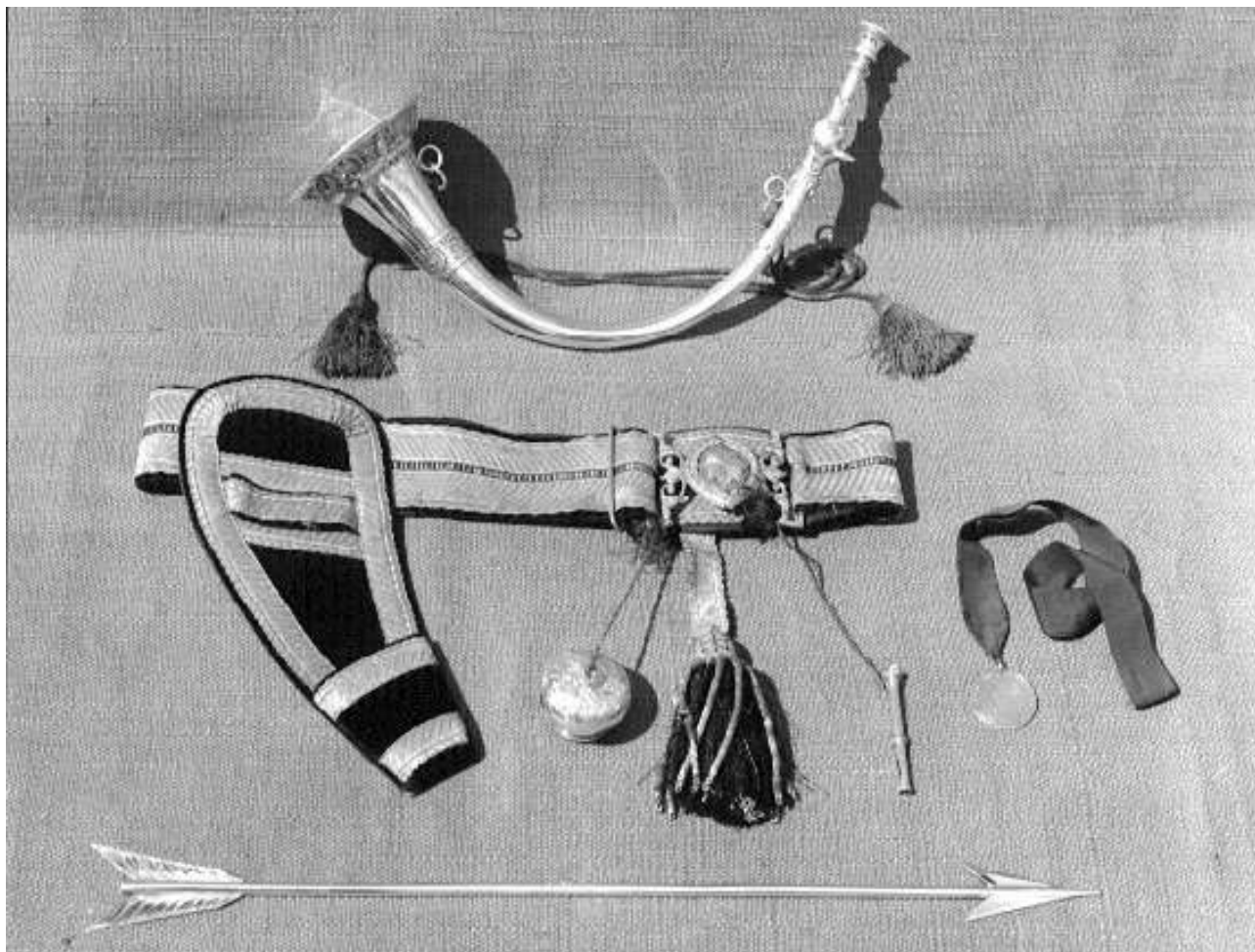
Gold Medal
for
Captain of Numbers

The Antient Silver Arrow
for
First Gold

The Silver Brooch
Captain's Price

THE TROPHIES

Plate 2



The Thirsk Bowmen's Insignia (Awarded to Yorkshireman only)

The Silver Bugle
for
Greatest Number of Hits

The Gold Belt
for
the Highest Score

The Silver Medal
for
the Best Gold

Silver Arrow
for
the Highest Score

CHAPTER 6

A MISCELLANY OF ANECDOTES

Over a period of 300 years it is not surprising that a number of stories about the Arrow have circulated and it is certain that many more have been lost. Up to the present, nothing authentic is known about the origin of the Arrow, although various guesses have been made. The earliest mention of the Roger Ascham story that I have found is in a news cutting from *The Field* of August 11th, 1877, in the account of the meeting held at York in 1869. The story is that the Arrow was given by Queen Elizabeth I to be the principal trophy at an Archery Tournament. Roger Ascham won it and eventually took it to his home at Kirby Whiske, Yorkshire, leaving it with his family or a friend. Roger Ascham died in 1568, and 105 years later, Henry Calverley got it from some unknown person and formed the Society of Archers. Thus began the 'Scorton' in 1673. After a close search through a number of biographies, which included Roger Ascham, by Laurance V. Ryan, published in 1963, I can find no clue to connect Ascham with the Scorton Silver Arrow.

In my opinion, the most likely story is the so-called 'Scorton Story'. On the site where the Hospital of St. John of God now stands was formerly the manor house of Scorton. In 1616 it was bought by John Wastell and remained in that family until 1748. He had two sons, Leonard, the eldest, and John. Both went to Cambridge, Leonard to Trinity College, June 18th, 1647, and John to St Catherine's College, Lent, 1653-4. While John was at Cambridge, he took part in an archery tournament and won a Silver Arrow which he brought to Scorton. Some years later he fell in love with one of the housemaids. They eloped and married. For this disgrace to the family name, he was disinherited. Henry Calverley, who was a friend of the family asked for the Arrow to use as a trophy. It was given to him on the solemn promise not to reveal its origin.

It is significant that after the first meeting held at Scorton, it was only held there twice in the next 150 years. Henry Calverley was the first Captain of the Arrow and as a further recognition of his gift, the village of Eryholme on Tees (where he lived and owned the Manor) was made the centre of a six-mile radius within which all further meetings were to be held.

A wall memorial tablet in St. Mary's Church, Bolton on Swale:
Here lyeth John Wastell of Scorton, Esq
Councillor of Law, Justice of the Peace, and Master in Chancery who dyed
Dec. 4th 1659

Also Lady Ann Relict of Sir Richard Tanckred of Scorton and wife of the
above John Wastell, who dyed April 1st 1665

Also Leonard Wastell, Esq who dyed 1st October 1664

There is no mention of John Wastell, Junior.

The Wastell Coat of Arms: On field Argent Bend Sable, bearing 2 sheaves of corn, Or between two Birds Sa close.

From History of Richmond, by Chris Clarkson:
1814, referring to the Antient Silver Arrow, he says:

‘There is no memorandum from which it can be guessed with certainty by whom the Arrow was given, yet it is generally supposed that it was by some member of the Percy family.’

It is he who also states, in reference to the Rules on the Parchment:

‘These Articles were signed by the 22 members present’.

In Darlington Annals, 1854, by Hilton Dyre Longstaff, F.S.A., referring to the Silver Arrow, he states: ‘It is said to have been given by Henry Calverley in 1673’. There is some justification for the idea that the Arrow was given by Henry Calverley. He was the first Captain of the Arrow, and Eryholme on Tees, the family seat, was chosen to be the centre of the six-mile radius within which the meetings were to be held as laid down in Article II. Was this in appreciation for the gift of the Arrow?

Adventures

The Arrow must have had many more than those already mentioned. How was the Arrow broken and when? (Certainly before 1900.) Who repaired it? I have found no mention of this incident in the Record Books. There was a story circulating in the early 1900’s, that an archer who had indulged in more wine than was good for him, put the Arrow in his bow, drew it to the pile, then accidentally, or otherwise, loosed it and it struck a wall and broke. One of the silver fletches gashed his knuckle very badly.

I have a news-cutting from a paper published in 1935. The journalist writing about the Scorton Arrow states: ‘The Arrow has had some shaves in its time. Once it was stolen. This happened in Leeds and the thief was only captured after a long chase. On another occasion, distressing to relate, the winner for the year pawned it and it had to be redeemed by the Committee before the next contest could be held’.

One year in the late 1890’s the Captain of the Arrow had a mental illness and lost his reason and the Arrow was found only after much difficulty. After another meeting it was left on a seat in a park all night. Fortunately it was discovered by a park-keeper next morning.’

The Story of the Antient Horn Spoon

This story was evidently passed on down the years to the winner of the 'Spoon' to explain why the end of the Spoon had been repaired, and for the humour of it. When I won it in 1900, John Foster said to me: 'Now you have won the Spoon I'll tell you the story. Many years ago it was won by an archer who had a large family of young children. They were fascinated by the Horn Spoon, with its silver chain and its swan-neck hook, and they persuaded a lenient father to allow them to eat their porridge with it. Soon it became a fetish – no porridge would be eaten unless they could use the Horn Spoon. As a result, when the time came to return the Spoon, half of the soft horn of the bowl had been worn away. Later on it was repaired with silver and inscribed on the back, *Rusum Teneatis, Amica*, which, translated, reads "Restrain your laughter, friends" '. This seems to tie up very closely with the Darlington Archer's Horn Spoon. The Thirsk Bowmens's Silver Medal for Best Gold a Lancaster in 1935 was won by A.G. Banks. He being an enthusiastic collector of medals, he had this one photographed. During the time it was in his possession he and his wife were attending a small local dance; she asked him, could she wear the Medal and he agreed. Next morning the Medal could not be found in spite of intensive search. A.G. was very distressed and finally decided to have a replica made from the photographs he had taken. This was done by an expert in Liverpool. At the next Scorton Arrow Meeting, he handed in the duplicate and no one was any the wiser. A few years passed and Mrs Banks died. Later, during rearrangements in the bedroom, the original Medal was found under the carpet behind the wardrobe. At the next meeting, under a pretence of examining the trophies, he exchanged the original for the duplicate, no doubt with a sigh of relief.

Antient Silver Arrow Captains' 'Who's Who'

Henry Calverley. Born c.1630 at Eryholme in Gilling West Wapentake. At the age of 24 he was at Queen's College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1655, He was knighted in 1694. He won the Antient Silver Arrow in 1673, was elected M.P. for Northallerton in 1678 and died in Paris in 1684. Mary, his widow, conveyed the Manor to Bennet Sherard in 1696 and he, when Lord Sherard, conveyed it to Sidney Wortley, alias Montague, in 1714. Later his descendant, Mrs Wellesley, conveyed the Manor to Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., in 1906.

The Manor was granted to Thomas Calverley by Queen Elizabeth I in 1580. It was held by the family until Timothy Calverley fought on the King's side in the Civil War. Cromwell imposed fines and confiscation, but when Charles II came to the throne, John Calverley appealed to him and was successful in recovering the estate.

In the old days the Arrow was won frequently by the same archer. In 1678, Leo Brakenbury won the Arrow five times. 1708, R. Robinson won it seven times. 1733, Joseph Coates won it six times, three times in succession. 1740, T. Kelly shot for the Arrow for 38 years. He won it seven times, three times in succession, '75,'76 and '78. I have been told he was an ancestor of Tom Kelly of Otley, who shot for many years for the Arrow, winning it in 1937. 1745, Sir Hugh Smithson shot several times for the Arrow. He won it in 1745. He made a fortunate marriage to Elizabeth, only child of Algernon, Duke of Somerset, on whose death he succeeded to the Earldom of Northumberland. He then discarded the name Smithson for the noble name of Percy, which his descendants have since borne.

