

Aurora New Year shoot February 2024



After an unplanned and unwelcome postponement due to a fly-tipping incident at the ground a few days before our original date, we were delighted and relieved to welcome close to a full house to our 2024 Aurora New Year open shoot - if being in February still counts as New Year of course....

A fantastic level of support as just over 100 expectant and eager archers joined us for a great day of archery in our amazing woodland. We never take your support for granted and send our sincere thanks to each of you from every one of us, especially bearing in mind the inconvenience of the last-minute change of date.

This was a special day for us at Aurora as we remembered our dear friend and fellow Aurean Peter Gillard by awarding an engraved tankard in his name to the top Compound Unlimited score on the day. Peter shot many styles in his time, UL being one of them, with previous winners being in the Longbow and Hunting Tackle classes. Peter's Daughter Helen had planned to present the award but sadly was not able to make the new date (she was elsewhere shooting and winning medals herself!) – next year hopefully.

It was an overcast but dry day offering excellent shooting conditions throughout. Even the car park was on our side with few issues getting folks in or out other than navigating around the fly tipping remnants – a massive relief bearing in mind how boggy it was in some places.



I am delighted to report that everything ran pretty much like clockwork, we were all done and dusted including medals and folks heading home by 4.30pm with plenty of daylight to spare – as Hannibal Smith on the A Team would say; "I love it when a plan comes together." (one for the older generation there!).



Being ever conscious of the limited daylight hours, we adopted our proven format that has worked so well for this event in previous years. A 2x20 course was laid with each target double-pegged, restricting it to two-arrows max per target with any second arrows to be taken from the same peg as the first. This allowed us to have six archers per target, which under normal circumstances would be a real struggle but, in this format, isn't a problem.

Massive thanks and congratulations to Steffan and the whole course-laying team for creating such a fantastic course. A creative, varied, deceptive and ultimately challenging track taking full advantage of the unusual terrain, trees, and natural water features. Well done everyone, a brilliant job fully appreciated by all those who attended as demonstrated through some truly excellent feedback.



Bearing in mind the challenge, some excellent scores were returned across all classes and many congratulations go to Gary Cole who won the Peter Gillard tankard by 6 points with an awesome score of 944 and 37 Spots in Compound Unlimited.

On now to the final round of thanks to everyone that made the day possible and such a success. To every member of Aurora who helped in any way over the weekend and during the run up, a sincere thank you, you are all brilliant and we couldn't do it without you.

Specifically, and in no particular order (apologies, I'm bound to have forgotten someone...), Nadine, Jason, Bryany, Phil, Kieran, Hazel, Sew Peng, Kwan and Garry in the catering tent for keeping the assembled masses fed and watered throughout – always fantastic fare gratefully devoured by everyone. Some of the homemade cakes were particularly delicious.



Hazel, Bryany and Elliot for keeping everything in order in the admin tent amidst the mad rush of returns and scorecard signings, and the wonderful Elliot Tricker for presenting the medals and Peter's tankard – so wonderful to see you Elliot – it's been a long time!

Adam for some fabulous photos including some perfectly timed action shots.

To Tom from Radical Bikes for your tireless support and humour in allowing us to take over your ground for the day, and last but no means least, Lord Petre for kindly allowing us all to enjoy his fabulous Parsons Spring woodland.

We look forward to welcoming you once again for more fun in the woods at our next shoot on September 8th but before then at the 3D Champs later in the year when Aurora will be setting one of the courses for your delight – enjoy!

In the meantime, stay safe, be well, shoot straight and keep smiling.

Martin Joy

