

On a perfect Sunday morning, 33 long bow archers gathered to honour the memory of Keith Longbottom in the annual Sticke and Stringe Tournament.

This year, some amazing sights were seen on the line including Pete the Pirate King with his cabin boy Graeme, the Voluptuous Violet, gentlewoman Anne, and some incredible chain mail outfits including the result of all those Saturday mornings chain mailing by Sir Chester. Along with the usual assorted knights, yeomen, priests, ladies of the court, and random Scotsmen.

The morning shoot was a short Canberra, with the men's winner being Gary Cox with 658 and the women's winner being Gail Gibson with 555. Some fabulous (and some not so fabulous) scores were shot.

In the afternoon, archers were handicapped on the scores in the Canberra to shoot a wand at either 60m, 50m or 40m. At the conclusion of 6 ends, three archers were tied on 5 hits: Paul Salmon, David Freemantle, and Graeme Broadbent. A shootoff was held, and much sledging ensued with the eventual winner being the cabin boy.

Finally, archers shot roving marks in the shape of a pentagram, for no good reason except that it fitted on the field. A good time was had by all, although the cabin boy won again, which was a little suspicious since he had set up the field.

Enormous thanks are due to the very generous sponsors of this event: Sir Bob Cowley-Cooper, Molinor Longbows, Hoddywell Archery, and Archery West. Also thanks to all the many people who worked so hard to make this event a success. See you next year!