

Deer Park Archers Para Archery FITA 2016

The third para archery FITA18 took place on Sunday 21st February 2016.

This truly unique event was held at Leisure@ in Cheltenham. The size of the venue meant that we were able to use fifteen targets, with three specifically placed at a shorter distance to allow inclusion archers and archers with more severe disabilities to access the event.

8 scores were recorded by para archers and 9 by visually impaired archers – an increase in numbers on last year. Five archers from the Enham Trust, a leading disability centre, attended to have a fun shoot and four of our own Inclusion archers shot at a short distance. As in previous years, the rest of the places were filled with local able bodied archers. Overall 77 archers took part.

The para archers travelled to the venue from all over the country, with one couple coming all the way from Newcastle !



The profit that was made by the event will be ploughed back into our inclusion club and has already been earmarked for coaching and adapted equipment.

The event was well received by those taking part and all archers were also asked to complete a small survey in order to inform how we can make the event even better next year.

Among the comments received were :

‘Many thanks for a great day and for all the attention shown to us ‘Blinkies’’

‘Thank you for a brilliant day’

The survey also shows that over 70% of the participants felt that there were not enough truly inclusive tournaments, which supports the decision to continue to run such an event.

A key output from this event and hopefully a defining moment in growing the number of tournaments of this type will be a promotional video encouraging other clubs to have the confidence run more inclusive competitions and our thanks must go to Cheltenham Film Studios for their support. We will of course send you a copy when complete.

To continue to build on the success of the indoor tournament, our Club is planning to run an equivalent outdoor competition in 2016 at our new ground as soon as we have developed suitable facilities. As this event will be using our facilities and equipment the overheads will be far more manageable.



The experience, skills and motivation of our coaches, volunteers, supporters and our sport, are benefiting considerably from this event which provides an ideal focus for networking and creative thinking which is essential if we are going to move our sport forward. In terms of participation in the event, it was clear that there were as many carers/coaches/field crew/officials supporting the event as there were archers !



Our thanks go to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers , Wales Archery, Active Gloucestershire and TenZone Targets and Leisure@ for supporting this event.

Alison Pine
Inclusion Officer, Deer Park Archers