

Aurora Summer Shoot August 2014

On a glorious, late summer weekend we welcomed a grand turnout of archers to the Aurora weekend Summer Shoot at our Parsons Spring woodland near Chelmsford and a wonderful time was had by all. Big thanks to everyone who joined us, it is you who make it special and we appreciate your continuing support and positive feedback.

The 36 x 3D course traversed a variety woodland features including our signature, heavily cratered and pitted terrain making for superbly picturesque target setting with very tricky distance judgement. We maintained the same basic course layout as last time whilst changing most of the individual shots making it a very different and challenging but fair course. We had the added bonus of access to a recently wooded area offering scope for some new, contrasting shots. We decided it was very 'Totem-esque' in character and took full advantage with a big old grizzly set at around 60 yds - Course layers 1 Archers 0...

Many congratulations to all medalists who certainly earned their prize. We were delighted to have Pete Gillard as our Lord Paramount and once again all winners were awarded with our unique Aurora medals made by the very talented Madi Tricker. Thank you so much both of you.

In addition we used the occasion to introduce our new Aurora Handicap Challenge trophy to be presented annually at our future Summer Shoots. An Aurora shield (thank you Madi) on a lovely oak plinth made for a striking trophy, the winner being determined using a new handicapping system designed by yours truly based upon phases of the moon and the FTSE100, the aim being to find a single winner from across all styles and classes. We were delighted to announce that the first recipient was Alex Hare from Invicta shooting HT – Very well done Alex!

Massive thanks and congratulations are due to the course designers; Stewart Beckham, Holly Stewart and Paul Little for creating such a fabulous and well-received track and to all those who helped with the 'heavy lifting' to set it out on the Friday - great work!

Our catering team displayed their culinary talents to the max offering a

variety of delicious hot and cold foods including a new option of individual vegetarian pasta trays that positively flew off the shelves! Sue and Steve Dickenson, Pete Gillard and Agnes Stephens you did a grand job!

Thanks to Ian 'quad' Leonard our roving first-aider, Ian 'firm but fair' Malcolm for running the admin and Teresa Alger for her great photography and raffle ticket selling prowess not forgetting everyone who marshalled over the weekend looking 'pretty in pink' - we couldn't do it without you guys.

As ever, we must express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Mick Mitchell and his crew at Radical Bikes for allowing us to take over their ground for the weekend and for his boundless support of all of our club activities. We are truly indebted to you Mick.

Finally, we are truly fortunate to have access to such brilliant grounds and as ever thank Lord Petre, the landowner for allowing us to enjoy it.

We look forward to welcoming you once again to our next weekend shoot at the end of March next year but before then, we are introducing a new event; our 2 x 18 3D New Year shoot on Sunday 11th January - a great opportunity to blow away the festive cobwebs so look out for the entry form on-line at www.aurorafac.co.uk.

Martin Joy