

JAMA REPORT FOR 2012 AGM

It's hard to believe that another year has rolled past. I haven't quite achieved as much as I would have liked this year, but family commitments, work and training commitments seemed to take over.

Highlights for 2011.

Youth World Archery Champs – Poland, August 2011. Congratulations to Elizabeth Randle and Rachel Hughes who performed really well at this major event. Over 560 archers from 56 countries took part, and the level of competition was really high. Both featured highly in the top 8 rankings for the first half of ranking but slipped back to finish in 18 and 15th places. Luck didn't hold as they faced each other in the 2nd round of matchplay. Rachel went on to the quarter finals before being eliminate, Rachel ending in 7th place and Elizabeth 19th=. The tournament was held in the old part of the city of Legnica in the heart of Poland. It got hotter every day we were there with high humidity, the food sucked and nobody could speak much English which made things interesting. But a good experience for all of us.

The 2013 Youth World Championships are set for Wuxi China. The selection panel has set the qualifying scores and they will be posted soon on the website if not already there.

There is a decided lack of international tournaments for juniors, especially in the southern hemisphere. There are European events but as usual they are in our off-season, and expensive to get to. I have asked the board to consider a Junior Oceania championship event and hopefully this can be explored further. However, upcoming is the World Archery University Archery Championships being held in Spain in July. The qualifying scores have been set for this and posted on the website. Hopefully we can get a few archers there.

A Parents' Handbook is currently under construction to help out the "back seat archers" of the family, with basic information on uniform, tournaments, travelling kits, rounds shot and scoring, and any other helpful bits we can think up. Hopefully we can get this on the website early in the new year as a downloadable booklet that you can print out, or perhaps clubs can hand out to new members. If anyone has any specific topics they want included let us know and they can be added.

FITA's Beginners' programme. This was offered out to clubs as a possible junior training tool. It has been trialled by the Manawatu Club with great results. Congratulations to those juniors who have so far earned their badges. We are currently converting the programme for compound. It's proving to be a lot of work, but I hope it can be put out in draft soon. In conjunction with this we are working with the Athletes' Commission to establish a pathway for archer development, from beginners to high performance to coaching.

Trans Tasman 2012 is being hosted by Rotorua. The venue is the "Smallbone Park", a first class cricket ground converted for the rugby world cup training. (So we get it before they reinstate the pitch). Accommodation has been booked and all we need now is a NZ team, which will be named at the AGM. We have tidied up the rules, and they are waiting for Australia to confirm. Many thanks to the clubs who put on tournaments so our juniors could have more chances to get scores. Some had many scores at their 2011 distances but had to shoot up to prove to the selectors they could still do the scores. All was going swimmingly until Australia pointed out they changed their age

groups. (Thanks for that). ArcheryNZ has decided to align with Australia in this instance, it only affected possibly 3 of our archers, and it's easier for them to shoot down than for Aussies archers to shoot up.

It's up to JAMA now if members want to adopt these age changes permanently.

Monthly postal shoots have continued as normal with some good results scored. Don't forget that 3 pin scores either indoors or outdoors, and you can claim a pin score badge.

Archery In schools. This has continued along quietly. The change to the teams' event has evened things out a bit more and made for a tighter competition. We have now run this for 2 years, and we will now approach the Secondary Schools' Sports Council to have archery recognised as a school sport. The more clubs and students can promote their sport at school the better for archery. Congratulations to Lytton High School which has so far made a clean sweep of the Team event.

Newsletters. Sorry but these have been few and far between this year, as nobody has sent in any news to share. So at risk of repeating myself each month I pretty much didn't bother. So perhaps next year (well this year) we can report helpful topics or archery advice to pass on, so if you have any ideas please share.

The postal league we ran seemed quite popular with the younger archers, not so much the older ones. We didn't get it going in time last year, but if there is enough support for the league we can get it up and running next summer. What do the archers want?

JAMA has put together a policy on the protection of vulnerable persons within archery. This was designed to ensure a framework was in place for our young archers, and anyone else involved with archery, to ensure their safety when working with others and when on team trips. When this is accepted and implemented, it may involve police screening of managers, coaches and others involved especially working with young people.

So that's pretty much it. The paperwork continues. I want to thank everyone who has put time into JAMA: coaching, coordinating, organising, or just supporting. Without you these archers wouldn't be here, and wouldn't be able to enjoy this sport. Special thanks to Tony Walker who has printed our certificates and put material on the website for JAMA.

My last question is for the archers and parents. What do you want from JAMA?

Sandy Hughes
JAMA Convenor