

History of the Silver Arrow Archery Competition

The Silver Arrow Archery Competition has remained throughout its four hundred year history, an important event in the Scottish archery circuit, attracting competitors from all over the country and playing a role in the selection of the Scottish team.

As one of the oldest archery tournaments in the country it has a long and distinguished past with previous winners including Robert Son of Struan (1687), Tullibardine (1706), Dempster of Dunnichen (1750) and the grandson of Archbishop Shairp (1710-1714). The competition archives also have the oldest medal in the University, which is believed to date back to 1618.

The event, in May, now takes place on the university playing fields and takes the form of a standard archery tournament. However for many years the event involved firing an arrow over St Salvators tower into the quad trying to hit a marker in the centre. One year the Marquis of Montrose, while an undergraduate sent an arrow over the tower which split the Dean of Art's hat, narrowly avoiding slaying the man! After some rigorous training the Marquis went on to win the competition in 1628.

