

SCOTTISH ARCHERY HALL OF FAME

Mr Derek Sangster of Lasswade Archery Club

First Inductee to Scottish Archery Hall of Fame



Derek started archery in 1977 at Lasswade. An early indication of how much time and energy he was going to devote to his sport - Derek became a founding member of Lasswade Archers. He is still a member of this club. 35 years on is still giving freely of his time and vast experience to ensure that the club continues to develop and grow.

In 1987 Derek introduced the 'Remembrance Sunday' competition to the club - which is still going strong - along with a series of events and competitions that made Lasswade Archery Club once of the most highly thought of clubs in Scotland.

Derek's archery career expanded in 1989 when he volunteered for the role of East of Scotland secretary - a post he held for the best part of a decade.

Also in 1989, Derek decided to give even more back to his sport by qualifying as an archery coach. Over the next four years he extended his coaching experience and qualifications and by 1993 he qualified as a County Coach, a qualification that he holds more than 20 years later, and having devoted innumerable hours to coaching adults and juniors across Scotland in the sport that he loves.

During this period Derek produced and implemented a Development Plan for archery in the East of Scotland and organised and ran a number of highly successful 'Area Squads' to further develop and improve archery in Scotland.

The mid 1990s saw Derek add yet 'another string to his bow' and yet another level to his archery career as a volunteer. In 1995 Derek qualified as an Archery 'Judge' as an official looking after competitions. Almost every weekend, Derek gave freely of his time and expertise to ensure that archery competitions in Scotland were run to the highest possible standards of safety and adherence to the rules of the sport.

Derek pursued his Judging career over the next 18 years rising to the standard of National Judge - one of very few Scots who have managed to attain this standard. Derek officially retired from judging in 2011. On his retirement he was awarded the accolade of Judge Emeritus status by the Archery GB Judge Committee for his service and commitment to judging within archery.

Within the above timescales for his judging career Derek served Scottish Archery as Judge Liaison Officer, Senior Judge on the Scottish Archery Judge Committee and mentor for the majority of the now senior judges in Scottish Archery. Derek's commitment and dedication were inspirations to every judge who followed him and those judges now in position inevitably try to emulate his style, impartiality, knowledge and good manners. He was the senior Scottish Archery assessor for most Judge upgrades and has successfully encouraged and supervised virtually every Scottish Archery Judge since 2000.

Even while dedicating significant amounts of his spare time to his judging career, Derek took on even more voluntary roles in archery. In 2001 he was elected to be the

'Director Scotland' on the Archery GB Board of Directors - a post that he held for 6 years. This involved numerous meetings in the Archery GB headquarters in Lilleshall in the Midlands. Simultaneously, Derek also served on the Executive of Scottish Archery - all of this while still taking on judging duties at events and competitions around the UK, helping to run Lasswade Archery club and providing coaching and tuition to up and coming archers.

2005 saw Derek take on yet another role for archery in Scotland when he became the Scottish Archery representative to Commonwealth Games Scotland and in 2006 he yet again proved his worth and dedication- a lot of this while still being in full time employment. to the sport by accepting the role of the Scottish Archery representative on the Archery GB panel for Child Protection. It is difficult to appreciate just how much time and effort Derek was sacrificing for his sport.

Since retiring from employment Derek has devoted even more time to Archery in Scotland. In 2010, the finals of the Archery World Cup were hosted in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh. For the 12 months leading up to this event, Derek spent many hours and days meeting and liaising with all of the necessary contacts in World Archery, Archery GB, Edinburgh City Council and Scottish Archery to ensure that when the event was held it was a fantastic success and an event that did Scotland proud. Derek has assisted Scottish Archery in numerous other ways for many years since retiring - attending internal and external meetings, representing Scottish Archery on numerous panels and working groups when other volunteers were not available due to work commitments in their own careers.

Over and above all of this, Derek has organised and managed numerous Archery Leader courses, teaching non archers how to teach archery in locations such as Outdoor Activity Centre, Scout camps, etc, where again his knowledge of safety, coaching abilities and general enthusiasm for the sport shone brightly. Derek remains a competitive archer and is still actively involved in the club and still coaches archers.

Due to difficulties within Scottish Archery administration at the end of 2013 Derek again resumed a position of authority within the Scottish Archery management structure, bringing his experience and knowledge of the sport to the full benefit of the sport itself and the other members of the management team. This was all done despite his known intention to semi-retire from organisational duties and concentrate more on his personal enjoyment of participation within the sport.

Derek is a truly inspirational character devoting himself to the betterment of the sport that he so obviously loves, more than 35 years after he first started. He is, undoubtedly, worthy of a Queen's Honour Award.