

Mike Head

11 June 1944 -25 March 2018

Mike joined the Archers of Teme in 1992, became treasurer in 1993 and continued serving on the committee of the club in numerous roles including secretary and chairman until he stepped down in 2011. We made him an honorary Life member in 2013. Archery played a big part in Mike's life, and Mike played a huge part in the life of the club for over 20 years.

I think he especially enjoyed the post of records officer and his archive of records and score-sheets we still have for safekeeping; it is an amazing collection. Mike was of the old school; he began the job before computers and continued with meticulous handwritten records until it became too much for him with the onset of dementia.



I joined the club in 2001 when Mike was records officer and treasurer and we soon became good friends. When I joined, Mike was the lynch pin of the club. Through difficult times with fluctuating membership, Mike was the constancy that held the club together and is one of the main reasons that AoT survives today. Without fail, he was there, every week at practice on Sundays, and without fail, he was always the first one there often setting out the whole field of 8 or so targets before anyone else turned up.

Always smiling, fondly eccentric, preferring to wear shorts and flip flops in almost all weathers (he wasn't one for formality or GNAS health and safety nonsense). He particularly loved clout shooting, and he and I would often pace up and down the 180 yds shooting away the sheep at Easton Court looking for arrows. Although he did win the Shropshire clout competition a couple of times I think, during my time, he was not so worried about competitions or record scores, he was an archer for the fun of it; he just loved getting out on a Sunday afternoon shooting arrows.



Many comments have been made about what a gentleman he was, how kind and friendly he was to new members. Mark Dunn was particularly grateful for his help and commitment when Mark was training to make the national squad and Mike would go out of his way to drive Mark to training most days.



The first signs of dementia that we noticed were probably around 2009 when Mike was in his mid sixties and as it began to take hold, he would openly tell us (with a smile on his face) how his mind was going and he couldn't remember things. Sadly during the last couple of years with us, he would sometimes forget how to set up his bow and would spend the afternoon watching the rest of us. Sometimes others would set up his bow but he would come up

to the shooting line, and was only able to loose a couple of arrows all afternoon.

However I shall remember how Mike absolutely loved playing skittles with us every Wednesday evening. How he looked forward to it every week and interestingly he continued to score as well as any of us, right up until he moved away. He was part of our championship winning team in 2013.



I shall remember holding committee meetings in Mike's living room with him serving us tea and biscuits, and surrounded by his jigsaws (he was a fanatic puzzler).

I shall remember Mike dressed in medieval garb doing Have-a-go archery in Ludlow Castle with Roger and Rosemary Richards over the summer holidays for many years. Once his loyalty with the sport clashed with his other passion of cricket! The shooting area was all roped off ready to start when somehow, inside it, appeared one of his cricketing heroes, Phil Tufnell doing a radio interview. While the rest of us were rather annoyed that the said cricketer had commandeered the area and was interrupting the archery session ... Mike stood and watched in awe as his hero blathered on about Ludlow castle!

I shall also remember his rather dubious practice range at home. His small garden in Castleford road was not really conducive to archery practice but such was his passion for shooting, he was going to make it work. So with a target set up against the back fence, opening both sets of garage doors he could shoot almost 20 yds!

An outdoorsman through and through, Mike was an avid surfer and skate boarder. He worked for the Ordnance Survey, mapping in the field. He spent a lot of time in Scotland, climbing mountains and wild camping with his young family, and he was a fanatical cricketer both player and supporter.



The Archers of Teme owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike for his passion and commitment to the sport and to the club.

Mark North