



'Vae Victis'

Chronicling  
the History of  
Laleham Archery Club

Roy Smither

with foreword by George and Graham Potts

1956



**T**HIS EXHAUSTIVE volume, written by the Club's current Chairman, tracks the history of Laleham Archery Club over more than half a century, detailing its ever-changing life at four homes.

The Foreword was jointly written by George and Graham Potts, both of whom have substantial "history" with LAC, and who both actively continue to support its development, by contributing to our indoor efforts at Leacroft and elsewhere - you can't keep good men down.

1969



It is ideal for browsing, as it is lavishly illustrated with close to 400 evocative pictures.

For those wishing to understand the Club in more depth, the author has analysed much historical data and compiled numerous tables, with detail for example, of the numerous tournament winners.

1986



The book incorporates a selection of wide-ranging Personal Profiles - in depth reviews of key individuals who have contributed so much to the Club's development and success over five decades, including our two Olympic archers, Sue Wilcox and Mark Blenkarne.



Detailed specific chapters on the Laleham Bowmaster (Lew Smith), the popular Laleham Albion Tournament and the notorious Club Split of 1985, reveal more on the Club's strength and historical standing, as well as the resolve and fortitude of various key players.

## *A Selection of Anecdotes*

The whole book is knit together with hundreds of factual, hilarious and sometimes tongue-in-cheek anecdotes, told by former Club members and friends of the Club, bringing life to the historical facts, with the examples below typifying the humour.

1. Paddy O'Neill recalled another amusing incident involving Eddie Hood, which he smugly described as Eddie's "suicide attempt", and entailed him "weighing" one of his first homemade bows. At the time he had no proper bow scales, so he rigged up the bow in a vice and attached some scales to a string on the bow which held a bucket into which he could add weights. He nocked an arrow and then carefully added known weights into the bucket to estimate the poundage.



Moments later, just as the arrow was about to clear the clicker, there was an almighty bang as the string holding the scales to the bowstring snapped. The arrow was released immediately missing Eddie's face by inches, before burying itself in the ceiling - apparently the bucket was lucky to survive!

2. Another occasion was recalled by Ted Baker, when he, Ted Gordon and others were shooting at Worple Road in the early 1970's. A gentleman came over to them

and asked whether they would mind him taking a photograph of them. Ted Gordon had a particularly good stance, and so it was suggested that he should oblige the person. Well, Ted drew up and expected the man to complete his photograph fairly quickly, but instead, he continued to fiddle with his light meter and other settings, and very soon Ted, still at full draw and despite being strong, started to get tired. He eventually brought his bow down and was asked by an apparently annoyed photographer why he had done that. It was recorded that several profanities exploded from Ted's lips, but the guy was then asked if he would like to draw the bow himself to demonstrate why Ted had to come down. He tried and failed miserably but did apologise apparently! It is unsure whether he ever completed his photograph though.



3. Pete Green recalled the Croydon Municipal Officers (CMO) York tournament, shot in Purley, Surrey, some time in the mid 1990's. It was an intensely hot day and he was shooting



a target close to Grant Knightly. Grant's new wife, Karen, who had a quasi-medical qualification and who was shooting further along the line, reminded them that it was a very hot day and that they would be advised to prevent the onset of dehydration, by consuming plenty of liquid! Well, as you can imagine the boys took her advice literally and when Karen returned at lunchtime, both of them were somewhat squiffy but they shot a blinder so the story goes!



*"The archers themselves were the epitome of grace and agility"*

1962



2006



2002

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As a preview, see the Foreword and part of Chapter 1, along with the name index on LAC's website at [www.lalehamarcheryclub.co.uk](http://www.lalehamarcheryclub.co.uk)

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