



IN MEMORY OF GER

*Ger Swayne- Archer - Friend -
Inspiration. 1965- 2014*

Ger lost her long running battle with Cancer on Saturday 26th April but it goes without saying that she put up a determined and courageous fight in that time.

Ger was a long standing founder member of the Blue Arrows Archery club located in Co. Waterford. The early days of IFAF saw a select few clubs nationally and Blue Arrows though small in size were a friendly bunch who we quickly became acquainted and familiar with. Ger and partner John were at the helm and were very welcoming to us newer archers who were fortunate to visit their well laid out venue. A trip to the local pub for a chat was almost always on the cards once the 3D targets were rounded up after a shoot.



Ger was instrumental in tempting other ladies into the sport of field archery. From a mere handful of sporadic female archers at the start, there are now dozens participating in the sport and this is largely down to Ger and her passion for the sport.

Ger stood on the IFAF executive committee on occasion too.

As well as being widely known in Ireland Ger was also well known in the UK too through her relationship with the National Field Archery Society (NFAS). It was for this reason that many Irish archers now include NFAS events as part of their yearly calendar. Several of us accompanied Ger and John on trips to NFAS events where they introduced us to the rules, the criteria, the venues and the people. Recent years saw Ger and John appointed first NFAS representatives for Ireland.



Ger was stylish and a fine competitor and dominated ladies archery for a long while. We saw her as a talented archer, who wasn't afraid to give her opinion and stick by her guns on issues that cropped up. She had an outgoing personality who often spoke highly of her family whilst out in the woods.

We enjoyed her tales of shooting in events abroad, where she would recap on certain challenging shots that she remembered.

She informed many of us about her health issues early on and shared her progress with us throughout, although we were gobsmacked to hear the sad news last weekend. She had been through so much and we believed she had turned a corner after that long wait for vital

treatment and the disappointments in the run up. Therefore it was unexpected news to hear of her passing. She had been delighted to get back to the woods at the end of 2013 and told some of us that although tiring easy, it had been lovely to get out there.

Ger will always be someone who influenced us and we will hold fond and cherished memories of her, - those who met her, shot with her, got trained up by her, travelled away with her, watched her competing, sampled her hosting skills, shared her interest in traditional equipment, and enjoyed her company were wholly enhanced by this experience. She was definitely an inspiration and alas was taken far too early.



You will be missed Ger but won't be forgotten.

On behalf of Irish field archers in this country, we extend our deepest and sincere condolences to partner John, her children, and All her family and friends at home and abroad.



Below are just a sample of feelings from archers who thought highly of Ger...

“Truly lovely lady, It was lovely to have known her for the short time Shannon and I did” Mary Nolan

“I am very sad to hear of Ger's passing. I've known Ger for the past 9 years through archery. She was the only woman partaking in field archery when I joined and I looked up to her. She paved the way for the rest of us. She had a great sense of humour with a warm, generous spirit. I'll miss you Ger.” Therese Dalton Kelly.

“A strong and brave lady with more fight than most, Xxx” Nikki Carroll

R.I.P Ger.

