

## **VALLEY BOWMEN –RECENTLY ESTABLISHED IFAF CLUB WITH BIG AIMS.**

**Club established: 2013.**

**Inaugural shoot on own course: Feb 2014.**

**Founded by: Elaine Foran, Andy & Allannah Vagg, & Matt Coxall.**

**Course location: Near Kilmeaden Co. Waterford.**

**Crest: Silhouetted Archer at full draw in shield**

**created by Tamara Vagg.**



For many years, the founding members of Valley Bowmen, Elaine, Andy, Alannah and Matt travelled around the country as independent roving (raving!) archers. However, in the summer of 2013 a fantastic opportunity fell their way in the guise of a beautiful and expansive course in Co. Waterford. Valley Bowmen, based near Kilmeaden, was founded in October 2013. They were very quickly overwhelmed by the support and kind wishes of fellow archers from across the country. Their new Facebook page reached 100 likes within weeks, Tamara Vagg kindly created a fantastic new club crest, as friends donated targets, raffle prizes and equipment, and Warbow kindly allowed them the opportunity to use their woods to host a fundraising shoot to get their feet off the ground.

They had a manic winter equipping themselves and setting out their first course, and preparing for Santa's first visit to join them on St. Stephen's day. The interest in the sport and the club has been phenomenal and they have had so many people looking for training. Their hope is to eventually have a small but dedicated club of archers who want to shoot regularly and who are willing to just enjoy the occasion. Their club motto 'Nam gaudium ludus' means 'For the joy of the game' and they firmly believe in the fun of the sport and the friendships they have all made through the years.

They were extremely lucky during the storms of early February, escaping with relatively little damage where other clubs were nearly devastated, and they were able to host their first shoot on St Valentine's weekend as planned. Thanks to the devious mind of Andy and his band of merry (grumpy!) bowmen, many people were thrown (deceived) by what looked like very straightforward shots that turned out to be much nearer/further than expected. The strategic positioning of targets behind twigs and low branches certainly demonstrates the difference between field and target archery. Vive la difference!!

The future is bright for Valley Bowmen and they have lots of work ahead of them training new members, and ironing out the wrinkles of the course ready for upcoming shoots. Onwards and Upwards!!

**(by Elaine Foran)**

Elaine's sincere synopsis of the club was too fitting to carve up and edit myself so all I can do is add to her input.



**Enjoying the April shoot at Valley Bowmen woods.**

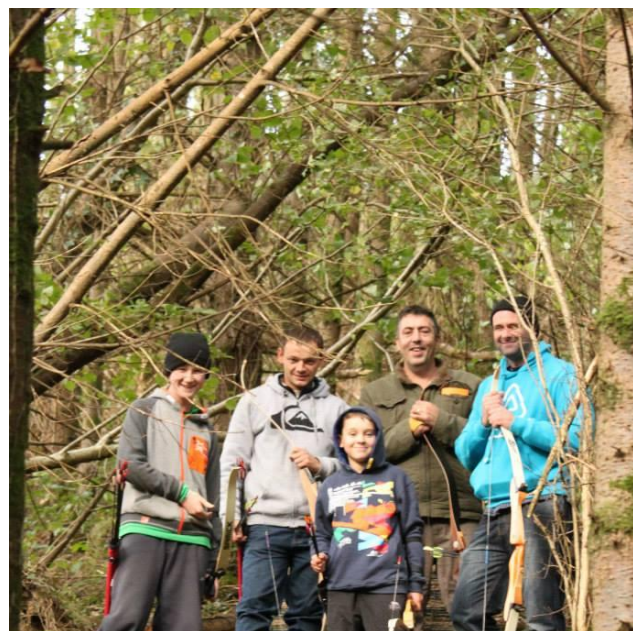
All four founding members are well known in archery circles. Andy, a proven craftsman and extremely skilled archer is IFAF President while Elaine,- another very talented longbow archer has recently become IFAF Membership Secretary. Alannah is perhaps best known for her interest in archery almost as much as her regularly changing hair styles /colours. As for Matt, he is an archery purist especially when it comes to

traditional equipment. He too is a skilled archer and has shown he can produce fabulously crafted traditional arrows and accessories.



**The Valley Bowmen  
course**

**Valley Bowmen 2013  
Initial shoot at Warbow  
(Nov 2013)**





The members of Valley Bowmen have competed overseas in several countries to date.



**Elaine in action on  
home turf**

So what is ahead for the club?... Hosting segments of this years champs as well as other open shoots. In June they will host the 28 target UAR round and 3D Standard round of the IFAF champs. They will also hold shoots in September and November. (they already have two shoots under their belt this year. (Feb & Apr))

Valley Bowmen will always strive to make their courses varied and interesting. They have a fine sized area to work with, an exciting course created already, and an abundance of motivation. Their courses are already noted for providing trickery and challenging shots. With no shortage of imagination in this club you can expect anything in the future.

Earlier this year they submitted a proposal to host UKIFAC 2015. Their detailed presentation was well thought out and has been accepted by IFAF and organisers so it will be an event to really savour next year, showcasing the region to those travelling from around Ireland and the UK.



UKIFAC will be a great event for this new club. 150 archers from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales in the Bowmens woods will be an experience to savour. This will be the third time that UKIFAC will take place in Ireland following Loughcrew in 2007 and Dunbrody in 2011. It will be a busy period of preparation for the club but will inevitably bring out the best from their band of archers. And just how many members will they have by then?

**Views from the V B  
course...**



**The V B shoot held at  
Warbow last  
November...**

They now have many Facebook likes. As IFAF expands so will Valley Bowmen no doubt. Anybody interested in joining this club check out their Facebook page or the IFAF website.





**Hard at work setting  
out their course in  
January**

**Andy in action**



**Matt taking aim...**

Wishing Valley Bowmen the very best for the future.

Compiled by Andrew Wayland (IFAF P.R.O) 2014

