

PINES PARK ARCHERS

NEWS & FEATURES

IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN OR ???????

**A story by
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inspired by
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Jack had always been known as one of the more eccentric members of the club. He arrived in a series of different cars, none made any later than the 1980s, he invariably wore a flamboyant hat, again these came in various varieties and colours, it was rumoured that some members even ran a small sweepstake on what hat he would be wearing each Saturday.

The legend however took a further step forward when Jack decided to change his bow. Nothing unusual in that, I hear you say, many people buy new equipment, but Jack took it to the extreme. He had been seen with a traditional longbow, an American flat bow, a simple one piece wooden barebow style recurve, a high tech, magnesium and carbon recurve with stabilisers and various different types of compounds, one with single cams, the other twin, straight limbs and parallel limbs and a bewildering range of sights.

Well variety is the spice of life or archery, and no one minded that one week Jack was a compound shooter and next a barebow, to tell the truth it made little difference to his scoring. The only frustration was that sometimes he brought the wrong arrows for

the week's chosen bow, wooden arrows and 300fps compounds don't really mix.

That aside things carried on as normal, until one day Jack decided to bring two bows with him, those present seem to remember it was a compound and a flat bow, others maintain to this day it was a recurve with bits and a longbow. In either event Jack would shot with both throughout the round, sometimes sticking with one for three or four targets before changing over, sometimes changing on every target and even on different pegs.

It was a good job that this wasn't a competition, the judges would have had a field day and the forums would have been hot with debate about whether you could enter in two classes at the same time.

Jack didn't care and in the friendly atmosphere of club recreational shooting most members were indulgent. Jack was generally well liked and was one of these people who could do and say things that another person would have never got away with. Nevertheless it did slow things down a bit as Jack considered the target, choose a bow, then sometimes changed his mind, choose again, then selected the right arrows, paused as if thinking about it before taking the shot. One thing it did was to earn him the nickname for which he became known throughout the club of "Two Bows Jack".

Perhaps inspired by the success of this approach Jack started to take liberties, he sometimes shot both bows at each target, but not always, his shooting companions still were more amused than annoyed but eventually, Jack agreed that one bow per target was enough.

Now Jack was always a Saturday man, he rarely came on any other club day, but in the summer he was seen on various days and at different times, indeed he was spotted once out with someone else, who was not identified, in the early hours of a Sunday morning.

As is usual in clubs and societies, gossip adds spice to the sport, and soon everyone was speculating about Jack's next move. They did not have long to wait and they would not be disappointed as Jack's next appearance left them speechless.

The first indication of history being made was a humming noise which approached the start peg, there was Jack, together with a companion, who on introduction turned out to be Jack's nephew, with what can only be described as a 4x4 trolley. Clearly homemade but well constructed, Jack's nephew turned out to be an engineer, it held six bows, a longbow, two compounds, a modern recurve, a barebow and a flat bow, three quivers of arrows, wood, aluminium and carbon, assorted boxes and hooks for accessories and moved over both even and uneven ground on some sort of air suspension and with power assistance for hills.

Jack strode up to the first peg, carefully assessed the situation and turning to his nephew, said, "Barebow I think with wooden", his nephew handed him the equipment and waited. Jack shot and returned the equipment to the nephew who clicked the bow back into place and waited ready to retrieve the arrow, as soon as others had shot. The others at the peg were however speechless and almost frozen to the spot. It was only afterwards that they recalled the occasion with some warmth as they retold the tale, time after time, to every new archer they met, of the day they saw the first archery trolley and caddy system in use.

Nowadays of course almost everyone has a trolley and most have a caddy, wives, partners, children or spare juniors are recruited and rewarded for this task and "Two Bows Jack" became a very rich man and a legend in archery.

The NFAS are however still debating what changes need to be made to the rules.