Final report for the 2022 AA ASA Tour

The 2022 Archery Alberta ASA Tour was a huge success. The archers in the province as well as some from British Columbia and Saskatchewan were very excited and appreciated all of the hard work and dedication that was demonstrated by the AA ASA Tour Committee, clubs, volunteers, and fellow competitors.

As this was the initial year of the program, there were some growing pains and issues that were resolved in an efficient and equitable manner by the AA ASA Tour Committee and the Tour Coordinator.

Two shoots were held in the southern part of the province and two in the northern part. The final shoot (the Classic) was held just south of Sundre which is in the central area. In order to be considered for the Shooter of the Year belt buckles, the archers were required to shoot two tournaments and the final competition as well as be members of Archery Canada. Participants were from AB, BC, SK, and MN. A total of 194 different archers participated in the tour shoots. Of these, 7 archers shot all 4 of the qualifying shoots, 18 archers shot 3, 64 shot 2, and 105 shot at least one. There were only 8 archers from outside of Alberta that participated at least one tournament.

At all of the shoots, Jamie Brehaut and Dean Thornton with some help from Cameron Herbert and Erin Paterson video-taped and gave live commentary for the Shoot-Downs. If it was possible, the broadcast was live. Monica Higgins (the other "face of the Archery Alberta ASA Tour") helped at the desk with calculating scores for the archers when asked.

Southern Shoots

The first tour shoot was hosted by the Lethbridge Bowbenders Archery Club at the Gladstone Mountain Ranch west of Pincher Creek on May 28 & 29, 2022. Sixty-four archers participated in the shoot. The weather did not cooperate with wind and rain being the major issues. Participants commented that the courses were long and the walking was difficult. However, when renting a facility, the club must abide by the requests of the facility owners. Rental accommodations were available as well as some camping sites (with and without power). Six Shoot-Downs were held.

The second tour shoot and the 2022 Outdoor 3D Provincials was held at Elkwater Park by the Medicine Hat Archery Association on June 11 & 12, 2022. Eighty-one archers participated in the tournament. The 3D Provincials was altered so that the participants shot ASA targets. The weather cooperated and the courses were well thought out. The courses had well-traveled trails with some hills to climb. However, many of the targets were close with very few past 40 yards. Again this was a rented facility, so the club had limited freedom in target placement. There were 5 Shoot-Downs on Sunday afternoon. The archers brought to the attention of the ASA Tour Committee that time for ranging the targets was necessary. The Tour Coordinator added 15 seconds of ranging time for the remainder of the shoots which was appreciated by the archers.

Northern Shoots

The third tour shoot was hosted by the Lakeland Archers in Lac La Biche on June 25 & 26, 2022. Fifty-five archers were in attendance. As usual, this club offered the archers an organized and well-run tournament. It also offered breakfast and lunch for a minimal cost. Because this club has its own outdoor range and facility, it was able to create more variety in distances shot though most were in the mid-range. The walking was easier and the targets were well placed. Seven Shoot-Downs were held on Sunday prior to a storm setting in. The 15 seconds of ranging time prior to shooting worked well for all of the participants.

The fourth and final qualifying shoot was hosted by the Yellowhead Arrow Launchers at the Hinton Fish and Game range on July 9 & 10, 2022. One hundred and fourteen archers were in attendance. The weather was excellent although there was a little wind to contend with. The courses were well laid out along excellent walking trails. The targets again tended to be set at midrange distances with few short or long shots. The club arranged for food trucks to be at the range for lunch. Seven Shoot-Downs were held on Sunday afternoon. Volunteers (Janessa Daniel and Naython Fleet) helped tremendously by getting archers to an "on deck" area. Again, minor tweaks in the procedures were welcomed by the participants.

The Classic

The final shoot (the Classic) was hosted by the Elkridge Archery Club at the Painted Warriors Ranch south of Sundre on August 13 & 14, 2022. One hundred and ten archers participated. The weather was excellent and the trails were pristine. Most of the walking was flat so it was even accessible for a para-archer with an all-terrain wheelchair with tracks. Again, the club had a food truck in attendance which was appreciated by the competitors. The targets were set in interesting places with most being in the mid-range. Seven Shoot-downs were held with money being presented to the top three archers in each of the seven classes. The Shooter-of-the-Year buckles were presented to the archers who had attended the qualifying shoots and shot the Classic. If more than two qualifiers were attended, the two highest scores were used to determine the final ranking. It is unfortunate that the buckles did not reach the Tour Coordinator in time for the presentation, but they we resent out as soon as they arrived. The winners were presented with certificates that showed the buckles that they will be receiving. The under 18 years of age classes also received buckles based on their scores from the Classic.

A budget for the ASA Tour was approved by the Board of Directors which allowed for the purchase of 71 3D animal targets, a trailer with advertising, the required paraphernalia for the running of the Shoot-Downs, and the money for the payouts at the Classic. It should also be recognized that Jamie Brehaut personally bought what was required to host the live broadcasts. This was very much appreciated by the Archery Alberta clubs and the members who participated. Even after paying the $750 target rental fee, all of the clubs showed a profit. Obviously, those clubs with their own ranges were able to gain more, but all of the clubs were very happy with the end result. Over $31, 000 was taken in by the clubs from registration fees alone. This is a significant monetary boost to our member clubs especially after two years of little activity. Clubs are already talking about plans to use the profits as well as the 2023 ASA Tour.