

Glenn Taylor – courtesy Long Buckby Archery Club

My first experience of archery was in 1972 when I was about 10. My Dad and older brother were keen on having a go at archery and one of the guys who worked for my dad was an archer and coach at Northampton archery club, at Delepre Abbey in Northampton. We went along for a few weeks but they felt that I was too young (in those days they liked you to be 11), my Dad lost interest once he realized he would have to buy some kit and my brother didn't want to go on his own! I seriously got into archery a few years later in early 1978 when I was 15. I went along with my brother who was still keen on having a go at the sport. I joined Northampton Archery club who were by now shooting at the Casuals Rugby Club in Northampton. They didn't have beginner's courses as such in those days, it was a case of turning up and having a go whilst a more experienced archer watched over you. The archer who helped me was Joe Joyce, some of you may know him through field archery. He set me up with a 1 piece fibre glass bow with a pin stuck on with tape as a sight, six odd arrows and a target at 30 yards. My first six arrows were gold's! Putting this down as beginners luck they got me to shoot another 6, resulting in another 6 gold's and the end of my coaching. It lasted all of ten minutes and I have had almost no other coaching since (some say it shows!).



Shortly after joining Northampton Archery Club, I purchased my first bow, with money saved from my Saturday job; a one piece wooded, 36lb Marksman Forest Knight and a set of aluminum xx75's. Take down, composite bows were rare at the time at club level but top archers were using them. My clearest memory was of Darrel Pace winning the Olympics in 1978 using a Hoyt take down composite bow (a bow I really lusted for if only I could have afforded it). I shot as an adult from day one, and entered full day York rounds in my first year whilst still only 16. I regularly won medals but can't understand now how I managed to hit 100 yards with a 36lb wooden bow and aluminium arrows.

