

# Cheltenham club setting a target for others to follow



on target: Beckie Hutchings from Deer Park Archers was victorious at the National Championships at Lilleshall. below, James Howse

DEER Park Archers hit the bullseye at the recent National Juniors Championships at Lilleshall.

The Cheltenham-based team sent five of the top sharp shooters to the event and enjoyed notable success.

[James Howse](#) led the way in the Under-12 Compound category.

The ten-year-old from Shurdington School followed up his Indoor National Title won late last year by recording the highest score of any competitor in all categories.

Despite a gusty wind, Howse's score was just two points off the National Record.

His coach, Steph Crang, said "James has worked extremely hard to earn this, both mentally and physically. It is a product of teamwork with his parents and two brothers supporting him.

[Bournside School](#) pupil Beckie Hutchings, 14, had strong competition in her category but managed to record victory by just two points, finishing ahead of a GB squad archer.

Alex Fraser, a previous National Champion from [Kingshill School](#) finished fourth in his category.

In addition to the normal club practice sessions, all three of these juniors support their respective after school clubs, helping pupils who are trying the sport for the first time.

Deer Park Archers are currently running archery programmes in ten local schools and doing activity days at many others.

As a result of their efforts Gloucestershire has just been selected as a lead County by the National Governing Body (Archery GB) and Sport England to introduce this Olympic Sport to many more schools.

The club organizes a County Schools Championships each term with Bourton-on-the-Water [Primary School](#) the current holders.

Deer Park Archers are working with Archery GB to put a structure in place that can provide coaching qualifications for interested teachers so that they can set up sustainable archery clubs in their schools.

These school clubs will then feed the senior clubs and universities with well trained junior bowmen.

Deer Park Archers, with a membership of over 200, are committed to supporting both recreational and performance archers but they do want to expand their elite squad and will shortly be commencing a selection process to identify juniors with archery potential.

Those selected will be offered a free eight-week beginners course working with excellent coaching staff. For further details anyone interested should visit the website [www.deerparkarchers.com](http://www.deerparkarchers.com). It is hoped that this initiative will add to their growing list of junior National Champions.

14<sup>th</sup> July 2010