SPORTS

This page will offer you a variety of texts about the sports you, probably, know very little about. The first one is about

ARCHERY

ORIGINS

Mediaeval archery tournament

Bows and arrows have been used for hunting and fighting the enemy since prehistoric times. But, archery as a sport, developed in Mediaeval England, where tournaments were held to encourage the military art of archers in peacetime. It was considered so important for the defence of the nation that the English law of that time (14th century) made it compulsory for all men between the age of 7 and 60.

The first ‘official’ Archery Contest was organised in Finsbury, London, in 1583. It was so attractive for the archers all over England that 3,000 of them took part in it.

MODERN ARCHERY

Bows and arrows at modern competitions are made of special aluminium alloy. They are designed to fire arrows at speeds of more than 150 mph.

ARCHERY AT THE OLYMPICS

Archery made its debut at the Olympic Games in the 1900s. It was dropped from the Olympic programme in 1920, but returned in Munich in 1972. The competition includes both individual and team events for men and women. Sixty-four men and sixty-four women compete head-to-head through a series of knock-out championship rounds until only the medalist remains.

ARCHERY JARGON

BOSS: a target
BOWMAN: an archer
ROBIN HOOD: a shot that splits the shaft of the arrow which is already in the target
SPOTTER: an official scorer who uses a telescope to identify the arrow’s exact position
NOCK: to place an arrow on a bow string