

Archer takes aim at the 2012 Paralympics



Paralympic hopeful Mark Dunn, from Ludlow, has his eye on representing Great Britain. *Picture: Simon Williams*

Hobby now his career

A Shropshire archer is targeting the 2012 Paralympics as he aims to fulfil his “ultimate dream” of representing his country.

Mark Dunn, 35, of Weyman Road, Ludlow, has picked up medals in his last three events and is being closely watched by selectors for the GB Paralympic team.

He hopes to break into the team in September after deciding to turn his lifelong hobby into a serious sporting career.

Mark, who is a member of Longmynd Archers in Church Stretton and Archers of Teme, based in Little Hereford, suffered a head injury in a bike accident in 1997 which left him with damaged muscle nerves.

He constantly endures joint and muscle pain and is forced to rest for long periods between archery competitions, while also suffering from ME.

“I have never represented my country before but I’m pushing for a place in the GB Paralympic squad and I’m reporting directly to head coach Tim Hazell, who is keeping a close eye on me.

“My aim is the 2012 Paralympics which will be held in London straight after the Olympics, and that would be the ultimate dream for me. I get a lot of muscle and joint pain, which can mostly be attributed to the head injury, and with the ME I also suffer from chronic fatigue. The archery can cause pain and I need to rest an awful lot between shooting – but if I could get a place in the GB squad it would be worth every second of it.”