

THE 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES

*Results for All Competitors
in All Events, with Commentary*

by Bill Mallon
and Ian Buchanan

RESULTS OF THE EARLY MODERN OLYMPICS, 5



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Archery

Archery had been contested at the 1900 and 1904 Olympic Games. In 1900, the sport was held virtually as a French national archery contest, with thousands of entrants qualifying from around the country. In 1904, only Americans competed at the St. Louis Olympic archery events. It was only marginally different in 1908. There were three events, two for men and one for women. Most of the competitors were British with a number of Frenchmen shooting in the men's events. One American also competed. The events were all held on the grass in the center of the main stadium infield.

The first day of shooting, Friday, 17 July, was devoted to the Gentlemen's Double York round and the Ladies' Double National round. Competition began at 10 in the morning, and was frequently interrupted by rain, with a strong wind also bothering the contestants. Still, the day's shooting finished by 2 P.M. (1400). The next morning, competition started at 11, as those two events were finished. It did not rain, but *The Archer's Register* noted that "For the time of year it was bitterly cold, the wind being again very strong and trying, as it eddied round the huge arena with its towering array of seats."

The third event, shooting in the Continental style, took place on Monday, 20 July. As the name would suggest, most of the competitors were from the continent — France. Officially, of the 17 archers, there was only one from Britain and one from the United States. However, eight British archers took part unofficially. Their scores are found in *The Archer's Register*, not having been published in the *Official Report*.

Site: White City Stadium
Dates: 17-18, 20 July
Events: 3 [2 Men—1 Women]
Competitors: 57 [32 Men—25 Women]
Nations: 3 [3 Men—1 Women]

	<i>Competitors</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Totals</i>
France	15	1	1	1	3
Great Britain	41	2	2	1	5
United States	1	—	—	1	1
<i>Totals</i>	57	3	3	3	9
<i>Nations</i>	3	2	2	3	3

The 1908 Olympic Games

Men	Competitors	1st	2nd	3rd	Totals
France	15	1	1	1	3
Great Britain	16	1	1	—	2
United States	1	—	—	1	1
<i>Totals</i>	32	2	2	2	6
<i>Nations</i>	3	2	2	2	3
Women	Competitors	1st	2nd	3rd	Totals
Great Britain	25	1	1	1	3
<i>Totals</i>	25	1	1	1	3
<i>Nations</i>	1	1	1	1	3

Officials

Judges: Colonel Henry Walrond, Eyre W. Hussey, Count Albert de Bertier de Sauvigny
Stewards: General Frederick Ernest Appleyard, C. E. Nesham, G. B. S. Walrond

Men**Gentlemen's Double York Round**

A: 27; C: 3; D: 17–18 July; T: 1000 each day; F: 72 arrows at 100 yards, 48 arrows at 80 yards, and 24 arrows at 60 yards on each day (288 arrows in all).

William Dod led after the first day, scoring 403 with 91 hits, to lead Reginald Brooks-King, who posted marks of 393 and 93. John Penrose was third after day one, with Henry Richardson only in fifth place. On Saturday, Richardson had the highest score, with 417 points and 93 hits, followed by Dod who scored 412 with 94 hits. However, Dod's marks sufficed to keep him in the lead and earn him the gold medal.

William Dod was certainly not favored. Since 1900, the British National Championship had been divided among Brooks-King (five titles—1900, 1902–03, 1906, 1908), with John Penrose, John Bridges, Eyre Hussey, and Hugh Nesham each winning a single championship. Dod would win his only British title in 1909. He was the brother of Lottie Dod, the runner-up in the women's archery, and likely the greatest female all-around athlete in British sporting history. They were appropriately descended from Sir Antony Dod of Edge, who commanded the English archers at Agincourt. From a wealthy family, William Dod never had to worry about school or work, and spent his time in the pursuit of his sporting interests. He was also quite accomplished in golf and big game hunting.

		100y	80y	60y	Hits	Pts.	Gold
1. William Dod	GBR	70/292	71/299	44/224	185	815 ^{1*}	13
2. Reginald Brooks-King	GBR	68/250	72/300	44/218	184	768	7
3. Henry Richardson	USA	60/248	67/291	43/221	170	760	8
4. John Penrose	GBR	69/259	62/244	41/206	175	709	9

*See Notes on page 43.

Archery

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		100y	80y	60y	Hits	Pts.	Golds
5.	John Bridges	GBR	54/194	67/253	44/240	165 687	15
6.	Harold James	GBR	58/212	61/275	37/165	156 652	- ²
7.	Theodore Robinson	GBR	63/267	48/188	42/192	153 647	17
8.	Hugh Nesham	GBR	54/181	61/267	41/195	153 643	7
9.	John Keyworth	GBR	68/244	64/234	30/144	162 622	9
10.	C. J. Perry Keene	GBR	44/166	50/204	37/173	131 543	6
11.	Capel Pownall	GBR	63/237	46/184	35/111	141 532	7
12.	John Stopford	GBR	44/182	48/204	32/144	124 530	17
13.	Robert Backhouse	GBR	28/100	54/222	40/194	122 516	9
14.	Robert Heathcote	GBR	34/118	44/198	40/160	118 476	7
15.	Geoffrey Cornewall	GBR	37/165	42/144	33/121	112 430	7
16.	H. Berton	FRA	28/128	38/156	29/141	95 425	8
17.	Eugène Richez	FRA	38/142	43/157	29/119	110 418	3
18.	Charles Coates	GBR	36/148	47/165	26/100	109 413	3
19.	Eugène Grisot	FRA	21/89	42/162	37/159	100 410	10
20.	Louis Vernet	FRA	30/104	36/138	37/143	103 385	5
21.	R. H. Bagnall-Oakley	GBR	30/104	33/149	31/121	94 374	4
22.	L. A. Salingne	FRA	11/39	40/158	36/150	87 347	6
23.	Albert Dauchez	FRA	21/95	20/86	27/99	68 280	4
24.	Charles Quervel	FRA	7/21	24/90	32/130	63 241	1
25.	E. Baudoin	FRA	16/42	26/92	17/81	59 215	4
26.	Gustave Cabaret	FRA	19/71	6/14	28/106	53 191	4
27.	A. Poupart ³	FRA	5/19	5/17	--/--	10 36	-

Continental Style

A: 17 [25]; C: 3⁴; D: 20 July; F: 40 arrows shot at 50 meters.

Continental style refers to the fact that the arrows for this distance were shot one at a time, as opposed to proper rounds in which the arrows are shot in flights of three. Eight British archers competed unofficially in this event, at the request of the French archers, according to the Official Report. We have listed them among the official contestants to indicate approximately where they would have placed, but they had no official placings. All eight had also competed in the Gentlemen's Double York round. The leader among the unofficial contestants, Robert Backhouse, would have finished second and was awarded a Diploma of Merit for his efforts.

Little is known about the winner, Eugène Grisot. But 12 years later, at the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp, Grisot competed in the Olympics again in archery, winning three medals in the team events that year, finishing his Olympic career with one gold, two silvers, and one bronze medal.

		Hits	Score	Golds	
1.	Eugène Grisot	FRA	39	263	9
	<i>Robert Backhouse</i>	GBR	40	260	9
2.	Louis Vernet	FRA	40 ⁵	256	7
3.	Gustave Cabaret	FRA	39	255	10
4.	Charles Aubras	FRA	39	231	8
5.	Charles Quervel	FRA	37	223	9
6.	Albert Dauchez	FRA	37	222	10

Golds

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		<i>Hits</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Gold</i>	
	<i>Hugh Nesham</i>	GBR	37	221	7
7.	L. A. Salingne	FRA	39	215	7
	<i>R. H. Bagnall-Oakley</i>	GBR	34	214	5
8.	H. Berton	FRA	40	212	8
9.	Eugène Richez	FRA	38	210	9
10.	E. Baudoïn	FRA	34	206	3
11.	C. Vallie	FRA	37	193	5
12.	John Keyworth	GBR	38	190	4
13.	Émile Fisseux	FRA	37	185	6
	<i>Robert Heathcote</i>	GBR	37	183	4
	<i>John Stopford</i>	GBR	34	182	4
14.	L. S. de la Croix	FRA	37	177	3
	<i>Capel Pownall</i>	GBR	35	171	2
15.	Henry Richardson	USA ⁶	33	171	4
16.	A. Poupart	FRA	35	155	3
	<i>John Bridges</i>	GBR	35	155	3
	<i>Geoffrey Cornewall</i>	GBR	32	144	—
17.	O. Jay	FRA	34	134	—

Women

Ladies' Double National Round

A: 25; C: 1; D: 17–18 July; T: 1100 each day; F: 48 arrows shot at 60 yards and 24 arrows shot at 50 yards on each day (144 arrows in all).

Lottie Dod took the lead on the first day with a score of 348 points and 66 hits, with Queenie Newall trailing, scoring 338 despite hitting the same number of targets. Nobody else was really close. On Saturday, the eighteenth, Queenie Newall scored well, leading the archers that day with 350 points but by a slim margin, as Beatrice Hill-Lowe was second on the day with 343. Lottie Dod collapsed completely on the second day, scoring only 294, which trailed five other archers.

Sybil Fenton "Queenie" Newall's victory still allows her the claim of being the oldest woman to win an Olympic medal or gold medal — she was four months short of her fifty-fourth birthday during the archery event. Newall won the British championship in archery in both 1911 and 1912 but she was far from the top female shooter of the era. That honor falls to Alice Legh, the greatest British archer ever, who won 23 national championships between 1886 and 1922. Legh elected not to compete at the Olympic event, which she almost certainly would have won. The following week at Oxford, she defeated Newall by 151 points.

The runner-up, Lottie Dod, who was the sister of the men's 1908 Olympic champion, never won a British title in archery. But she is certainly the greatest all-around British sports-woman. She remains the youngest ever champion at Wimbledon, having won the ladies' singles in 1887 when she was aged only 15. It was her first of five Wimbledon singles' titles, but she retired from tennis in 1893 and turned to other sports. She played hockey (field) for England in 1899–1900 and in golf, won the British Ladies' Amateur Championship in 1904, after reaching the semi-finals in 1898 and 1899.

Archery

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		60y	50y	Hit	Pts.	Golds	
1.	Sybil "Queenie" Newall	GBR	84/398	48/290	132	688 ⁷	23
2.	Charlotte "Lottie" Dod	GBR	80/388	46/254	126	642	16
3.	Beatrice Hill-Lowe	GBR/IRL	76/390	42/228	118	618	15
4.	Jessie Wadworth	GBR	79/357	44/248	123	605	13
5.	Mrs. G. W. H. Honnywill	GBR	79/377	44/210	123	587	10
6.	Mrs. S. H. Armitage	GBR	73/393	39/189	112	582	13
7.	Mrs. C. Priestley Foster	GBR	74/324	43/229	117	553	9
8.	Lillian Wilson	GBR	75/367	37/167	112	534	8
9.	Miss Mary Wadworth	GBR	79/321	43/201	122	522	3
10.	Mrs. Boddam Whetham	GBR	67/305	47/205	114	510	11
=11.	Gertrude Appleyard	GBR	65/281	42/222	107	503	9
	Mrs. E. Nott Bower	GBR	69/297	40/206	109	503	11
13.	Mrs. Norman Robertson	GBR	74/328	38/172	112	500	8
14.	Margaret Weedon	GBR	69/301	35/197	104	498	10
15.	Albertine Thackwell	GBR	65/303	39/181	104	484	11
16.	Doris Day	GBR	72/322	37/161	109	483	7
17.	K. G. Mudge	GBR	67/237	44/228	111	465	8
18.	Mrs. S. C. Babington	GBR	64/258	39/193	103	451	9
19.	Christine Cadman	GBR	67/233	40/194	107	427	3
20.	Martina Hyde	GBR	66/256	37/163	103	419	8
21.	Mrs. Everett Leonard	GBR	57/261	35/149	92	410	8
22.	Ina Wood	GBR	57/217	36/170	93	387	4
23.	J. Vance	GBR	58/228	37/157	95	385	7
24.	Mrs. H. Rushton	GBR	52/222	37/201	89	323	6
25.	Hilda Williams	GBR	51/179	31/137	82	316	4

NOTES

1. FW gave the scores for the first three by the numbers of hits made.
2. Number of golds for James is not given in any source.
3. Listed as DNF by OSVK, which, since he did not shoot at 60 yards, depends on one's interpretation.
4. DW and OSVK have two nations. OSVK incorrectly lists Henry Richardson (USA) as GBR.
5. FM incorrectly has 39 hits.
6. Incorrectly listed as GBR in OSVK.
7. FW gave the scores for the first three by the numbers of hits made.

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