

Bognor Regis Archery Club



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Introduction

Welcome as a member of Bognor Regis Archery Club and if you are new to archery. to a sport which has origins stretching back in time for centuries, when man used the bow and arrow as a means of hunting and a weapon of war. However. it is a means of recreation that archery is practised these days.

Grand National Archery Society (or now known as Archery GB)

As a member of this Club you are also an Associate member of the Grand National Archery Society (or GNAS) which is the governing body for archery in Great Britain. The link from the club member to the GNAS is through counties and regions into which the country is divided for convenience in dealing with archery matters. The GNAS has issued a set of Rules of Shooting which ensure that archers shooting together all follow a common practice, and this naturally adds to their enjoyment. These Rules of Shooting contain information on matters such as the composition of rounds to be shot, organisation of tournaments, the handicap and classification schemes and many other important points. You are recommended to purchase a copy of these Rules which can be obtained directly from GNAS or from Quicks, the nearest archery supplier. Archery GB as it is currently known produces a Quarterly magazine which is distributed free to all club members. although as a new member of the club you may have to wait a while for the first of these to come through to you.

World Archery

There is another archery body which you will hear about, the World Archery (WA). This is an international organisation, and as such is responsible for putting on European and World Championship shoots. It is also the link with the Olympic Committee in organising archery for the Olympic Games. You will hear of this body first of all, however, when you shoot the WA round, in which distances are all measured in metres rather than yards. The rules for the metric rounds are similar to those for GNAS. but you will find that there are slight differences.

Handicap and Classifications

Part of the enjoyment in archery is shooting to try to attain a better standard. When shooting with someone else on a target you may elect to shoot a round. There are several rounds. Each with a separate name. and each of which incorporates a set number of arrows shot at various distances. In order for you to obtain some idea of your standard of shooting a handicap will be

calculated for you when you have shot three rounds. As your shooting and your scores improve then your handicap will be reduced. The method of calculating handicaps is contained in sets of handicap tables published by the GNAS and copies of these may be purchased or alternatively you can purchase a copy of the Rules of Shooting mentioned above which includes the handicap tables. The handicap tables also include information on a classification scheme whereby an archer is classified as Bowman, first, second or third class or if he or she is really good, Master Bowman according to the scores obtained. The club holds a Handicap Improvement Medal which is on loan from the GNAS and is awarded each year to the archer obtaining the greatest improvement in handicap throughout the previous year. An archer must have been a member of the Club since at least 1st July in the previous year and must have shot at least eight rounds on Club Target Days during the year in order to be considered for this award.

Scoring

There are five coloured zones on a target- gold, red, blue, black and white. For those rounds in which distances are in yards, the scoring for these colours is 9, 7, 5, 3 and 1 respectively. Where the distances are measured in metres, however each coloured zone is split into two. the inner of the two counting one point more than the outer. which is scored as explained above. Thus, the gold would count 10 or 9 depending upon whether it is an inner or outer. The red 8 or 7 etc.

When shooting on a target the person who is third on the target list is normally the target captain and as such is responsible for scoring, however, no person should record their own score on a score sheet, so there are various systems of scoring devised and if you go to a number of tournaments you may see different ways of dealing with this. In this club. however, the method normally adopted is that the target captain records everyone else`s score, with another of the archers shooting on the same target recording that of the target captain.

Etiquette

Unlike many activities these days archery is a pastime in which good manners still play a very large part. If you consider for a moment, in a sport in which some people use a lot of concentration unless small courtesies are extended enjoyment can easily be spoilt. So please remember that a good archer

DOES NOT talk in a loud voice whilst others are shooting.

DOES NOT talk to another competitor who obviously prefers to be silent.

DOES NOT make any exclamation on the shooting line which might disconcert a neighbour in the act of shooting.

DOES NOT go behind the target to retrieve his arrows before his score has been recorded.

DOES NOT walk up and down the shooting line comparing scores.

DOES NOT touch anyone else`s equipment without permission.

DOES NOT leave litter.

When calling scores does so in groups of three. for example, "7-7-5" pause "5-5-3"

If he breaks another archers arrow through his own carelessness pays for it in cash on the spot.

Thank the target captain at the end of each round for work on his behalf.

It is worth showing consideration for other archers by making sure that you do not distract them whilst they are in the act of shooting, for example when you are going to or are leaving the shooting line. Another small point is that if you are on the shooting line with someone who is on your target then if you finish shooting your arrows first it is helpful if you wait until your partner has shot his or her arrows before you leave the line, unless the other archer indicates that he or she is happy for you to leave earlier.

All club members are expected to help with setting out the range and putting equipment away after shooting. It is helpful when a round is being shot if you can get down to the club in time to help with the setting out the range for the shoot. Shooting then starts when all targets have been set up and everything is ready, hopefully after about half an hour. There are occasions when we all get delayed but try to keep these to a minimum and help with the setting up. If you do arrive after shooting commences then do not expect to be able to catch up with the other archers, this is actually against the rules. Also, in this event if you need to get out another target it is important that you do not interrupt the shooting but fit in by setting up whilst the others are collecting their arrows.

Dress. The GNAS or Archery GB correct colour of dress for archery is a dark green or white top with dark green or white trousers or for ladies a dark green or white skirt or trousers. The Bognor Regis Archery Club have their own Club Colours which are a White Sweatshirt with the Clubs logo. a White T-shirt with navy colour and cuffs with a blue panel on the sides which can be worn with either navy or white trousers.

On club practise evenings or internal club shoots then the club is fairly flexible regarding this, but in shoots where other Clubs are involved, such as league matches, you are encouraged to wear items of the correct colour. If you go to a tournament then the judges there will insist that you wear items of the correct colour or Club colours before you are allowed to shoot.

Badges. The 252 Award scheme. This scheme is designed to help you practice your shooting at different distances, to encourage you and measure your success (20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80 or 100 yds), badges are issued for two qualifying scores of 252 or better at each distance.

The club issue (national) classification badges to indicate your ability and a benchmark for levels of improvements; there are six classifications, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, Bowman, Master Bowman and Grand Master Bowman.

As you improve, you will will become involved in tournaments; the clubs Championships, Portsmouth rounds, Selby summer and winter postal leagues.

Special Club Activities. The Club takes part in the Sussex League and shoots against a number of clubs in this each year. The round shot for this is an Albion (or a similar round but with shorter distances for juniors and adults who cannot reach the required distances). As soon as you are able to make the distance you are encouraged to take part. Any club member can join

in this shoot as at the end of the round the four top scores made on the day are used in order to decide the result of the competition.

Every year usually in August the club holds its Club Championships in which the champion lady, gentleman, or junior archer of the club in each style of shooting is decided, The round shot at this event is a New Western for the men, A Long Western for the ladies and the appropriate western round for the juniors. There are many prizes in addition to those for the champions and this is a very important part of the club programme.

The Club also organises a number of social events throughout the year, such as Beer and Skittles evenings, Toy Crossbows or Quiz Nights with a fish and chip supper also an Annual Dinner/Dance. If you have any other ideas for social events why not mention them to a committee member as the committee is always interested in ideas from club members. Each year in February an Annual General Meeting of the club is held at which the Committee for the ensuing year is elected. It is also at the AGM that the subscriptions for the current year are fixed and once the meeting is over the subscriptions are then due.

Winter Shooting

Although archery is mainly a summer sport. the club actually operates throughout the whole year. Although practise evenings cease from the end of September until about April there is a winter programme of events at weekends. The club also takes part in postal league matches in which each team shoots a match each month throughout the winter and then sends the scores in to a central point. The club enters indoor teams for a Portsmouth League (five dozen arrows at 20 yards). Indoor shooting over the winter season is every Sunday at the Westbourne House School, Shopwhyke, Saturday morning outdoors at the Club ground is also available weather permitting

Coaching

As a member of this club you are entitled to coaching if you feel you need such assistance. The club is fortunate that it has qualified coaches and there are a number of archers with a considerable amount of archery experience who can be called upon. During the practice sessions in the evenings in the summer there is always at least one coach or experienced archer present from whom assistance can be sought. However. do remember that it is up to you to ask; it is an unwritten rule that a coach does not offer any assistance unless it is requested by the individual archer. Also please remember the coaches also like to shoot in club rounds and competitions. so do not expect to get immediate attention at weekends when such events are taking place, although by all means make arrangements at any time for a separate coaching session if that is needed.

Conclusion

The Committee hope that this pamphlet is useful as an introduction both to archery and particularly to Bognor Regis Archery Club. It is not comprehensive and only serves as a guide during your first few weeks as a member of the Club. We suggest that you obtain the publications mentioned, particularly the GNAS Rules of Shooting.

GOOD SHOOTING