

**Return to Indoor Archery**

Following certain relaxations of arrangements we were able to return to indoor shooting on 17th September. To all intents and purposes we could return to shooting as it was prior to the pandemic. However, we agreed that we still need to be mindful of the risks that remain and so the club’s intention was and continues to be that we will operate in a cautious manner.

In September 2020 AGB’s guidance meant that we felt it was inappropriate for us to return to shooting. The following bullets (updated 10th December 2021) outline the arrangements as they were then with current thoughts on how we might be able to operate now in *blue italics*:

* Bosses set out at 3.3m centre ~ meaning a maximum of 5 at any time. *We anticipate putting as few bosses out as necessary in order to maintain space between them. This is likely to be six most evenings (the hall has space for nine bosses) with an increase when a beginners course is running. We have had a maximum of seven bosses out and have not found this caused any major problems*
* Face coverings to be worn at all times except when actively shooting. Wearing gloves when setting up, taking down and pulling arrows is also encouraged. *As of 10th December 2021, wearing masks when not activelty6 shooting is mandatory for everyone other than those under 11 or with a medical exemption. Some archers have been wearing masks at all times and have said it does not cause them major problems.*
* Set-up and shooting to be supervised by a non-shooting Range Captain. *We have found we can dispense with this and anticipate this will continue ~ so long as members act responsibly.*
* All equipment to be sanitised as required. *This is encouraged.*
* Up to two archers from different families may share a boss so long as they shoot in separate details and only pull their own arrows. *We have found that numbers mean up to four archers per boss is not unusual. Wherever possible family groups will be asked to shoot on the same boss in order to limit contact with others. Pulling arrows ~ archers may pull other people’s arrows, so long as they use a puller to do so.*
* A maximum of three archers from one family group may share a single boss. *We have increased the number here where necessary.*
* All bosses to be booked in advance.
* All archers are encouraged to restricted their walking to within their own shooting lane. *In order to allow extra space behind the line bosses will be close to the net rather than halfway down the hall.*
* Archers are encouraged to maintain social distance (2m) behind the shooting line. We will move the bosses and shooting line towards the net end of the hall in order to provide sufficient space for this.
* The maximum number of arrows per end will be established at the start of the session. Good lane discipline is encouraged
* Toilet facilities will be available, subject to the arrangements within the Leisure Centre. *We understand toilets are open.*
* All archers will be required to comply with instructions issued by the Leisure Centre designed to protect their health and safety

**Setting out the range**

AGB recommends that clubs leave kit out as that would limit the number of times and people likely to touch it. Unfortunately that is not an option for us and we have to set out the range each time we shoot. To achieve this we need members wearing appropriate face-coverings and gloves, to move the trolley of bosses and stands from the store, erect them in the appropriate places and return them to the store at the end of shooting. At least two people will also be required to take down and put the net back up safely (once it is repaired).

It is important to note that in order to maintain safe distancing behind the shooting line we will move it and the bosses forward, towards the net end of the hall. This allows archers to set up in the “equipment area” directly behind their target lane and to store their kit there well away from other archers and their equipment.

**Arrangements for shooting**

The notes above detail setting out the range. Once that’s done there is a lot more to think about.

Archers should also be aware that they must not attend for shooting if they have any symptoms of Covid 19 (and to be frank any other infectious disease) until they have self-isolated for the period required by current rules and Test and Trace and are free of symptoms. Similarly if any member of their household shows symptoms they should stay away until they have self-isolated for at least 14 days and are free of symptoms.

Sessions start at 7.00 and ***archers are asked to arrive promptly***. However we should avoid congregating on the landing above the hall wherever possible. It will become clearer as the weeks progress how this will work for us. We understand that the centre has allowed us the half hour from 6.30 to set-up our equipment, certainly there have been few weeks when badminton was still going on at that time.

Ideally members should arrive with as much of their equipment already set up as possible. Any equipment being set up in the hall should be kept within their shooting lane and in the equipment area behind their shooting lane, in line with their boss. We recognise that this may be difficult as lane are not necessarily agreed in advance. Members should therefore be aware of other and avoid contact so far as possible. Once set up all kit would have to be left in that equipment area and not spread around across space behind the shooting line.

It is envisaged a number will be agreed at the start of the session. Archers will be allowed to shoot as many arrows as they like per end (probably a maximum of six), subject to the needs of other archers present ~

Simon Barnicott

Club Secretary, Archers of Bingham

10th December 2021