

**Return to Archery ~ Archers of Bingham Position Paper**

**Updated 10/12/21**

Under AGB’s Guidance on return to archery the following arrangements have to be in place for archery to take place in Aslockton:

* Anyone testing positive or contacted by NHS Test and Trace must self isolate when told to do so.
* Maximum of 5 bosses at any time, set out at 4/5m centres.
* Wearing Face coverings is mandatory, except for those medically exempt or under the age of 11. This means that except when actively shooting face covering must be worn.
* We also encourage archers to wear gloves, in addition to face coverings, while setting out the bosses, roping off the field and by archers from different family groups sharing a target when at the boss to retrieve arrows (ideally they should only pull their own arrows)
* All equipment to be sanitised as required
* We are able to have mixed groups on each boss but will aim to have family groups together where possible
* We recommend that, where possible, two archers from different families on the same boss shoot separately and only pull their own arrows, face masks and gloves are recommended at the boss for this purpose
* All bosses to be booked in advance. This helps with both setting out the correct number of bosses and advising archers if and when we have to cancel shooting. ***Please bring correct shooting fees.***
* All archers should aim to walk within their own shooting lane in order to limit contact with others as far as possible, with the exception of the person controlling the metal detector (see Risk Assessment)
* For most sessions shooting will be at just one distance on each boss, moving bosses during sessions is to be avoided where possible.
* Care to be taken to have bosses set at achievable distances in order to avoid lost arrows
* Lost arrows only to be looked for by the archer(s)/family on that boss (see Risk Assessment)
* If that fails a nominated detectorist will look for the arrow but *not dig it up or touch it in any way* once found
* Toilet facilities are available in the pavilion and should be cleaned after use.

The following notes cover the position as we see it in more detail.

**Setting out the field**

Early in the pandemic AGB required a minimum of 4/5 metres between target centres and that all archers remain in their lane. We measured the Aslockton field and, if to avoid shooting over the cricket square, we were limited to a maximum of five bosses. Restrictions have been relaxed to some extent and so we can fit more bosses in now but will aim to keep to the 4/5 metres as this provides some assurance over potential contact with others.

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 field each time we shoot. To achieve this we need members of “families” (people living in the same household), or two individuals wearing appropriate face-coverings and gloves, prepared to take out, put up and return to the container five bosses and stands. They should sanitise the bosses when they put them up and put them away, probably using dilute bleach spray or similar.

On the assumption that we cannot permanently mark out the field we would need at least one person, probably wearing appropriate face-coverings and gloves, to lay out the shooting line, mark out the target centres and measure distances. That person would have to sanitise all equipment in the same way before and after use.

It is important to note that in order to maintain safe distancing behind the shooting line we moved it forward but over time have moved it slightly back towards the pavilion. We will monitor this and seek to have it in a position that gives space where it is needed. Moving the shooting line forward allows archers to set up in the “equipment area” directly behind their target lane, or better still by their vehicles behind the pavilion, and to store their kit there well away from other archers and their equipment. Moving the line forward means we are restricted to shooting at no more than 80 yards, but the position of the shooting line was found by those taking part in the trial to be very comfortable and in many ways preferable to our normal shooting line.

We would need at least one, possibly two people to put out the rope, fence posts and warning signs, they too would need to wear face-coverings and gloves, as appropriate, and to sanitise the equipment before and after use in the usual way.

**Arrangements for shooting**

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

Booking (at least 24 hours in advance to allow for any possible cancellations) will be via an on-line form available at <https://binghamarchery.co.uk/bookings> or by telephoning Simon or Alex Petts (Alex is looking after the on-line system for us.

Shooting fees will be the same as indoors £5.00 senior and £3.00 junior , please bring the correct cash as no change can be given.

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 at least seven days 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. We recommend regular testing to provide assurance that archers are not infected with Covid.

Archers should arrive fifteen minutes before the sessions are due to start so that they can have roles allocated for setting up the field and this can be done without delay. Sessions start 6.30 so arrive at 6.15 please. In winter the start is 10.00 so please aim to arrive around 9.45. We recognise that this may be a problem for some people from time to time, so long as we know in advance we can make a start on setting things out but please remember that you may be crucial to that process and try to be there on time if at all possible. Archers should try to maintain social distance (ideally 2m) between one another at all times.

Archers should arrive with as much of their equipment already set up as possible, this cuts down the potential time spent close to others. Any equipment being set up at the field should be kept within their shooting lane and in the equipment area behind their shooting lane, in line with their boss ~ setting up beside vehicles behind the pavilion is highly recommended. Once set up all kit must be left in the equipment area behind the archer’s shooting lane and not spread around across space behind the shooting line.

Archers will be allowed to shoot as many arrows as they like per end, subject to the needs of other archers present ~ it is envisaged a number will be agreed at the start of the session. We recommend all archers shoot at distances they are comfortable with in order to reduce the risk of any misses and to ensure that they are able to rebuild their form after several months not shooting.

We need to stress the importance of avoiding misses. It is important as staying within their own shooting lane and maintaining social distance between archers means that only the archer(s) in that lane are able to look for any arrows that miss the boss. The Club’s Risk Assessment states:

***The archer should search for their own arrow, if they can't find it then they stand back (giving an indication of where they think it might be). It can then be looked for using the metal detector.***

***There will be one archer per session in charge of the metal-detector, when it is found, that person (the detectorist) stands back and the owner retrieves it. This helps ensure that no one is in another archer’s lane at any time.***

***The detector must be cleaned thoroughly after use.***

You will note that we envisage just one person using the metal detector. This is aimed at limiting the number of times the detectors need to be sanitised as well as avoiding the risk of people going to pick the detector up at the same time and breaking the rules on social distancing.

In order to avoid handling of bosses archers will normally also be requested to shoot at one distance only per session. They should indicate their preferred distance in advance, when booking. We will try to provide that distance but it may not always be possible.

**Other issues**

Archers should note that the ***toilet facilities in the clubhouse are now available for use but*** if you do use the facilities they need to be thoroughly cleaned after use. WAPFT, who own and run the pavilion, have provided cleaning materials.

Simon Barnicott

Club Secretary, Archers of Bingham