

### For new members 'starting out', anywhere in UK, in any club.

If you have just recently joined a club, you can start here as it has general notes on what we must do to be safe in the sport and how to feel as if you know what the basic set-up is. I suspect that most members may read this only once, but it does remain as a reference whenever you need a reminder? If you had taken a beginner's course with our club you should have been shown a straightforward way to erect or dismantle a target stand and boss. Once coming to club days or evenings it is beneficial if everyone can help set up and take down to allow the maximum time for shooting. Many hands, they say, make light work!

### Simple sports Etiquette...

Etiquette? Yes, I'm afraid so. Let me give a few do's and don'ts for shooting, advice on taking part and tips on sporting etiquette. Important if you ever enter a competition but still polite if only around the club.

1 – If scoring, do point to the arrow nock but do not touch the arrow itself. (see 'line-cutter' in glossary). This ensures that if you ever enter competition, then you will be used to the stricter application of the rules that will be used then and will avoid any distress at what may be your first competitive attempt away from the club.

2 – Learn to call out scores in groups of three arrows e.g. 999, 731. This makes it so much easier for the person scoring to write down your scores as the scorers' concentration must be on the score-sheet AND all the arrows in the target, not just his/her own.

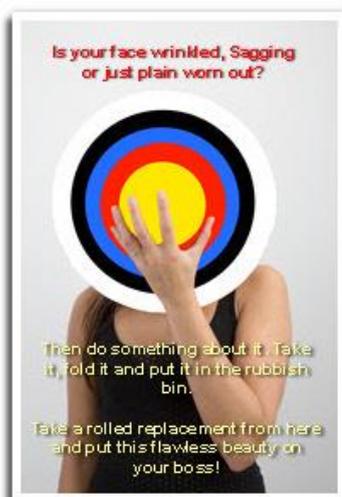
3 – Thank your target captain (see glossary) and/or your scorer for their help. These are often extra jobs that are carried out by archers in addition to shooting. It's not always the easiest job when trying to shoot at your best AND score for everyone on the target, so some polite 'thanks' is the least we can do?

4 – Try not to distract others while they are shooting. Distractions, when learning to shoot, especially when you're a novice, can spoil much of the fun. Also, it makes some of us down right grumpy!

5 - Our sport is open to all from the age of 10, at our club, and most often you will be in mixed company. Please be aware of those with you.

6 – If you are taking part in a 'round' (the name given to a complete 'game' in archery) and you miss the target, please call out your scores before going behind the target to look for arrows.

More usual when shooting outdoors than indoors, you will find that far more help will be given to assist you in looking for missing arrows if you follow this recommendation. If you disappear to look for your arrow(s) scoring comes to a stop. My advice, get the scoring done and you'll usually find all your target companions will then help you look! Arrows can mysteriously disappear even in the shortest grass and will 'tuck' themselves flat to the ground to make life more difficult for you! Usually a metal detector is available to help in finding hidden arrows and I suggest you do not choose light-weight 'solid' carbon arrows too soon in your archery career as they cannot be found easily with a metal detector AND should be avoided until your skill level is good enough for you to get the benefit from their technology.



7 – While shooting or setting up the field, if you find that the face on the target you use is worn then please change it. We try to provide several faces ready for use to cover for those damaged or weathered and you don't need a 'more experienced' member to give permission.

8 – If you finish shooting and the person either just behind or just in front of you is at full draw please wait until their arrow is shot before leaving the shooting line. This is just good archery manners. It's highly likely you will still be visible from the corner of your companion archer's eye.

9 – Finally, please keep the range clean of our own litter ..... take it away with you!

## Handicaps

The sport of Archery, like golf, is based on a 'handicap' system, but in Archery, where the lowest level is 100 and the highest level is 1. Unlike other sports we have no 'league' system so any club will have a variation in ability, possibly up to international level within the membership.

### **Please do not feel intimidated by this possibility upon starting!**

Firstly, it must be stressed that as Archery is a projectile sport, as you have seen, and safety is paramount in its running and all rules concerning safety **MUST** be enforced. Please ensure that you look at the information on this site and advertised at various venues, and fully understand why these requests are made.

Through the G.N.A.S. (Grand National Archery Society / ArcheryGB) we ensure ourselves against liability provided that certain precautions are taken.

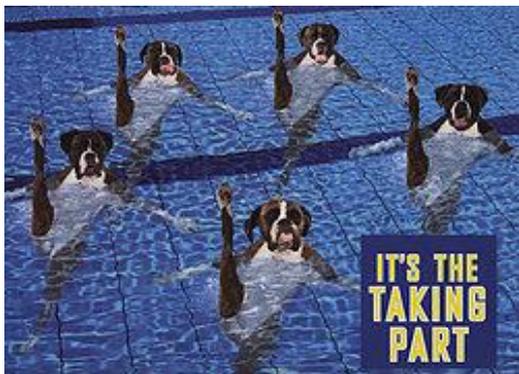
**Outdoors:** On the outdoor range, these rules result in us having to create a boundary around the targets called a 'safety overshoot zone'. This area is a minimum of 20 yards to the side of the range and 50 yards behind the range, where no-one can pass without coming up against the barrier. At the club, we set the safety zone to be the maximum always. Also, you must never shoot alone! You must always have someone available to be with you to act as a 'spotter'. This does not infer that the second person must shoot, but must be a registered member of G.N.A.S.

The public tend to believe that arrows do NOT stick in people and often ignore notices or warning tape! Please be aware also that a junior may NOT act as a spotter, you must have a second adult for two adults to shoot. If either rule is not enforced the insurance becomes invalid.

**Indoors** at any venue, often back-stop netting is provided. This may slow down an arrow missing the target but is not arrow proof! Where space is at a premium please be aware of the whereabouts of others to prevent any accident happening. We normally use a designated 'field captain' who will control shooting, but it benefits us all if we work together to shoot in safety.

These notes, however pedantic, are in the interests of safety but should in no way remove the enjoyment gained from Archery. Other rules may seem a little 'fussy' but please remember that we must work within a structure of competence.

It is best if, in the early stages, you try to adopt the basic skills of being on the range in the Archery environment. That is vastly different to the 'nuts and bolts' of learning to shoot, but still important. Please have a look at the web-site entry of 'Archery etiquette'. It will appear a little 'fussy' but does help make the experience a little easier.



### **Improving performance once you have started, and some internal club events.**

**IMPROVING YOUR ABILITY:** No one can know exactly how seriously you will take archery as a leisure activity. You will find that the club develops a range of abilities as some members become very enthusiastic and achieve very high standards whereas other wish only to have a 'hobby' and have no desire to compete at any level.

*Club coaches and experienced archers are always willing to give as much help and advice as you would need, often too much, but will often avoid commenting in case this is taken as a criticism. If you*

*begin to feel that you would benefit from help and none has been suggested feel free to talk to any club member who will either be able to help directly OR will suggest who you should consult.*

The club attempts to include all members by providing incentives to shoot that are achievable. The more often you shoot, however, the easier it is for the club to provide incentives that can be gained and the more proficient you become. Without practice, unfortunately, no-one becomes more proficient, so I can only advise that the more enthusiastic you are the more likely your progress will be seen. The following paragraphs will give details of many of the club managed incentives for shooting.

### **THE CLUB PAIRS.**

The 'club pairs' is a short round shot outdoors on the club evening closest to midsummer in June. From those present two archers in the club will be paired together, based upon handicap.

The accepted round will be 2 dozen arrows at 20 yards, followed by 2 dozen arrows at 30 yards and then 2 dozen arrows at 40 yards. The Field Captain can use discretion to shoot only 2 of the distances, or to reduce the number of required ends per distance, due to failing light or conditions. The round to be held on the nearest Tuesday to 21st June.

The resultant 'Pairs' winners, based on handicap scores, receive both trophy and certificates at the bi-annual Club Presentation Evening held in the Autumn.

### **INDOOR POSTAL & FROSTBITE LEAGUE.**

From November to March, over the winter season the club usually takes part in postal league systems.

All matches are shot at one of our normal indoor venues and the results 'posted' to the league manager who returns the league tables to the club. We compete in 'recurve', 'compound' and 'longbow' league matches

The selected dates for these 'postal' matches are normally displayed in the 'diary' entries on the home page of our site

### **Archery 'Tips' at Killingworth.**

Tips and information when shooting outdoors at the club.

After a season indoors OR if shooting for the first time outdoors at the club you may find the following information helpful?

When we set the field up at the start of the season we try to lay down most of 'lines' and 'target centre' markings, when at all possible.

If we are able we will lay the imperial distances lines starting at 20 yards and the metric distance lines starting at 30 metres. If this isn't possible we will use whatever marking paint that we have in stock.



Although an experienced club member can quickly calculate which line is required for the distance required you may not always find this easy? As a second clue Terry has painted the distances, where possible, onto the posts at the container side of the range as shown here. By looking at the posts you should have an idea which line is at which distance, but please remember that this is only a gauge and the posts are not inch perfect?

lines should be set out at:

20 and 30 yards, then 30 metres.

40 and 50 yards, and then 50 metres.

60 yards, and then 60 metres.

70 yards, and then 70 metres.

80 yards, and then 90 metres, finally 100 yards. The 90 metres and 100 yards only

on the 'far' side of the range.

We also set out 'target centres' along each distance line and your target should sit with both front legs on the distance line and with the target centre mark equidistant between the two front legs. then you should have plenty of space way back at the shooting line. Allowance has been made for this in the measurements.

## KILLINGWORTH ARCHERS INFORMATION

When it comes to target faces, once again, I suggest that if the face on your target is either mud covered or torn badly. If it has been soaked and has seen better days **please change it** for a better face and place the old one into the rubbish.

Do not think that you must wait for someone else at the club to decide to scrap the face. The club have an ample number of faces, of most sizes, for your use as we collect between 40 and 60 of the 122cm faces and 30 and 40 of the 80cm faces from our 'open' competitions.

For the moment, I cannot think of anything more to add, but if I do then I'll change this and 'tweet' a note about it!