



Pastures Company of Archers

www.pasturesarchers.co.uk

Guidance for new members

In accepting you as a new member we believe you are safe to shoot. This usually means you have completed a beginners' course at a GNAS affiliated club or are an experienced archer and have been assessed and accepted by our club committee. If this is not the case, then please contact the committee before shooting at the club.

New members are automatically on a 2-month probationary period during which time you are encouraged to shoot during club practice sessions and may be assessed for safety reasons. After the 2 months' probationary period you may request the combination number for the locks on the equipment containers. Once a committee member has given you the combination, you are free to use the field for archery when it is safe to do so and in accordance with the following rules and guidelines.

Note; it is forbidden for regular members to divulge the lock combination to new members without committee approval.

Our outdoor club venue is the Mickleover Country Park Social Club Sports Field.

Vehicles must be parked in the car park or on the road so as not to damage the field.

Although in theory we can shoot any day of the week (rules apply), we have regular club practice sessions which new members / inexperienced archers are encouraged to attend.

During the outdoor season (typically March to October) club practice sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoon. Typically on Tuesday and Thursday members start to arrive at the club around 17:30 hrs and will continue to shoot until around

20:00 hours or when the light starts to fail. On Sundays members usually start to arrive around 12:00 midday and will continue to shoot until around 16:00 hrs.

However, so long as there are two adults in attendance we may shoot at other times outside club practice sessions when it is safe to do so (rules apply).

The club hosts several club competitions throughout the season as well as league shoots, which all club members are encouraged to attend.

The Sunday outdoor session continues throughout the winter season for both regular practice sessions and the occasional 'frostbite' winter league competition.

Before attending your first club shoot it is a good idea to get a handicap so you increase your chances of success. To do this you will need to shoot a minimum of 3 recognised GNAS or FITA rounds witnessed by another archer and enter your scores in the club records folder. Contact a club committee member who will show you how to do this the first time.

Our **club indoor venue** is Allestree Woodlands School sports hall. During the indoor season (typically October to March) we hold club practice sessions on Friday evenings from 19:00 hrs to 21:00 hrs each week (fees apply). The club also enters a winter postal league where members shoot a Portsmouth round approximately once a month (Tuesday session).

Setting up the field

This is a club of volunteers and as such are required to help out with the day-to-day setting up and taking down of the field. Slackers will be frowned upon and not tolerated! Please do your share of work.

Our field is shared with footballers (and sometimes cricketers) and you will also encounter dog walkers or members of the public on the field. For these reasons it is important that the field is setup correctly so we may keep ourselves and others safe.

The method to erect targets properly should have been explained to you and practised during your beginner's course. If not, please ask an experienced archer to show you how.

Generally we shoot in one of two directions on the field. Either long-ways from the bottom of the field toward the football pitch which allows up to 100 yards shooting when the football pitch is not in use, or short-ways from the cricket pavilion side of the field toward the housing estate / bowls pitch

Under normal circumstances please set up the field long ways. Even if you are not shooting long distances other members arriving after you may wish to (please consider others). The barrier tape should be set up as per the diagram below. The 'arrow' indicates direction of shooting.



If the footballers are using the field, it will be necessary to erect the field short-ways. In this case please erect the barrier as per the below photo and shoot from the cricket pavilion side toward the housing estate.



Set up the targets you're going to shoot as a minimum. It is helpful to set up a few extra targets for others on club nights. Although this is not mandatory, it may help you make a few friends! Some bosses are harder or softer than others; please select something appropriate for the bows being shot.

The shooting line should be set up on a level part of the grass where possible. There are four marked points on the field, which can be used to ensure the field is setup square if site mark accuracy is required

All able-bodied members are required to help with erecting and putting away the field / targets. When putting equipment away please ensure nothing is left behind on the field. All metal T-bars, pins etc. must be accounted for. Also all arrows must be found - no going home until they are! Lost arrows represent a real hazard for other users of the ground and we are liable for any injuries caused.

No matter which direction of field is set up please ensure there is adequate over-shoot typically this should not be less than 50 yards behind the targets and 25 yards to each side.

Shooting etiquette.

Club and external competitions are run under GNAS or FITA rules of shooting and these documents should be read to understand the particulars of each. The documents can be found using the following links:

GNAS rules of shooting: <http://www.archerygb.org/support/operations/rules/index.php>

FITA Indoor and Outdoor Archery Rules: <https://worldarchery.org/Rules>

During club practice Sessions the following basic rules should be followed:

1. For insurance reasons at least two people (adults) must be on the shooting field while shooting is in progress. For clarity this can be two archers or one archer and one non-shooting person.
2. Generally no more than 4 people to one boss. If you wish to join another archer on a boss that is already in use then ask first. If the bosses are full, don't be lazy - get another boss erected.
3. If it is necessary to shoot with more than one detail (2 max) on a boss then please make sure the first detail go to the line promptly on the first whistle then proceed with the second detail ASAP. If you're not at the line in a reasonable time from the whistle then wait until the next end before shooting. Don't start shooting when most of the other archers have nearly finished. It is disrespectful of their time.

4. Generally during practice a maximum of 6 arrows should be shot per end. If you are able to shoot more than 6 arrows without holding up others then this is acceptable. If you are the last person on the line and you have shot 6 or more arrows then please leave the line.
5. Although practice sessions are run informally and we all want to have fun, please respect other archers by keeping noise to a sensible level during shooting.
6. If a member has set up a boss a considerable distance to one side of the majority of bosses, it is likely that they are bow tuning. Please respect this and leave them alone (don't ask to join the target unless this has been pre-arranged)
7. We have nominated Target Captains whose instructions should be followed during shooting. If there is no Target Captain present, the archers should between them nominate a Target Captain to control shooting. The normal signals for shooting and collecting arrows etc. apply during practice.
8. Scopes may be left on the line during practice sessions so long as the archers sharing your boss agree.

Respect for club equipment

Please take care with all club equipment. The cost and volunteers' time to repair is not insignificant. Please put things back where they belong. If you don't know where things go then ask someone who does.

Beginners' bows etc. are primarily for use by beginners on the beginners' course. If you wish to use the beginners' bows etc. after the beginners' course, please speak to a committee member who may be able to arrange this for a small fee.

If items of club equipment become damaged or lost please bring this to the attention of a committee member.

Coaching after the Beginners' Course

During the outdoor season (roughly March to October) there is no organised club coaching for new / developing club members. However should a member be interested in additional coaching, please contact a member of the committee to discuss your requirements. It may be possible for a more experienced club member or coach to work with you on a one-to-one basis by mutual agreement. Alternatively we can put you in touch with external coaches who may be able to help.

During the indoor season at Allestree Woodlands School, there is coaching for juniors provided by experienced club members. Please contact a committee member for details.

The Derbyshire County Archery Association arranges coaching sessions throughout the winter season (fees apply). Contact our club Secretary or visit the DCAA website for details.