

Dear GVA Club Members

Hope you are all enjoying the start of the outdoor season – even though the weather could be better!

Out here in the fields.....artical kindly penned by Wayne.

We were fortunate to be guests of The Kings Forest Bowmen (one of whom is our club member Stephen, who kindly arranged the day) at their spectacular site near Wordwell on Sunday 21st April.

A bright, if crisp, day saw some 12 members (all ages and bow styles) from GVA attend for a day of field shooting. Set in a large woodland site (primarily Conifer and Beech), the club benefits from a 14-target course, with assorted standard field faces and picture challenges, as well as 3D animals to shoot. We were given a warm welcome, as well as hot beverages and doughnuts, in the well-appointed club house. The eco-toilets were pretty funky too.

Two rounds were shot, one before, and one after, lunch. Personally, I was pleased that one of our hosts Alex was the instructor from the course I attended when KFB were based at our current range about 15 years ago! KFB are members of the English Field Archery Association, which is itself affiliated to the International Field Archery Association. Each have websites if you wish to find out more.

Club Ranges

The **Main Range** has now been set up for the summer season, with bosses set at 2 x 20yd, 3 x 30yd, 4 x 40yd and 3 x 50yd to make the summer classification rounds and 252 easy to shoot. Distance markers for yards up the right-hand side and meters on the left, with corresponding posts opposite each distance and a rope with an elastic loop at one end, hanging under the clock. If you want to shoot a different distance to the preset configuration, use the rope to get a correct distance line and move one of the wheeled bosses to your distance.

Always ensure the distances run from long to shorter from left to right. Never set a shorter distance boss in the middle for safety as it can obscure longer targets. When you have set your boss up, please put the rope back. Ideally return the boss to its previous distance when you have finished. So, we now have a very simple and easy to use system for changing the range to suit any round we want to shoot.

Backstop netting will be in place for the main range very soon and we will run a short session on its use as soon as it is completed. The target bosses have been repaired and reworked leaving only 2 of the less popular Damage types on the main range.

The **Training Range** has 10 & 20 yd lines burnt in, with both raised and ground targets in place.

The **Long Range** has 2 x 60yd and 1 x 80yd but is still a work in progress with regard to 100yds and 90M. We cannot yet shoot it until it is signed off in terms of safety etc. The 100yd boss is in a set position and must not be moved once that part of the range is signed off as open.

The shooting and safety lines will be maintained throughout the season too.

County Coaching Clinics

The club will be hosting the May event on Saturday from 10am-2pm on the 25th May. You can attend as many or just one if you wish. They are £5 per session and is a great opportunity to meet other archers and a range of coaches at different levels including County and National level. Why not join the event and help run it.

Club Coaching Clinics

The next club coaching clinic will be on 5th May at 2pm. As usual is open to all members, ages, abilities and bow styles. If you would like to attend this clinic, please book in by emailing gippingvalleyarchers@outlook.com, with 'Coaching clinic 5th May', your name, bow style, and any other information you think is important prior to the session.

What has happened in April?

This year we have started to mix up the outdoor classification rounds between imperial and metric to try and give an overall experience of what you may expect when starting to enter competitions. Remember we are kind to you and let you move along to the next target distance; at a competition you stay on the same target and all shoot at the same time then move the target boss closer.

We have also had several members visit a local field archery club to have a very enjoyable “field archery experience day” with very positive feedback.

What's going on in May - Club Programme – Sunday Club Days.

5th Long and Short metrics

12th National

18th Saturday - First of the **monthly clouts** on the golf driving range after SGC has closed at 6pm

19th NEW *** mixed field round*** 6 field faces and 6 3Ds

26th Warwick

The 252 scheme, can be shot anytime and as part of an imperial round with several awards have already been claimed.

County

Keep an eye on the county website for local shoots. <https://ecaa.org.uk/tournaments-records/2024-events-in-essex-suffolk>

County Representation

The County Team Manager has stated there is a mixed-team inter-county field competition on 28th July. There is a call for female archers, to represent the county in compound, recurve, barebow and English longbow. To enter a team in each bowstyle there needs to be 1M & 1F for each bowstyle. Either email the team manager at the above website to express your interest or for more general information ask Stephen.

National events

25/26th May - All British Open (ABO) Field championship. For Field events the best place to check is <https://www.gbnifield.co.uk/shoots>

For target/Clout/Field events there is the AGB website <https://archerygb.org/competitions/find-a-competition>

Clout

SCAS clout tournament 2nd July in Bedford

[Home - National Field Archery Society \(nfas.net\)](https://www.nfas.net)

[I.F.A.A. – The World Family of Archers \(ifaa-archery.org\)](https://www.ifaa-archery.org)

Future events

The clubs open Field competition on June 30th, starting to get a trickle of offers of help for the event the club is hosting at Haughley Park. However more help is required. This can be leading up to the event (weds 26th-sat 29th) on the day helping with admin and catering, on the Sunday afternoon and possibly Monday to bring everything back to the club.

The venue has now been registered as a GVA range so if we make a good impression with this event, there is room to potentially host both target and clout competitions so the more help the better. Even if field is not your thing, then this is the time to help on the working party and the people who shoot this event can help on a target or clout event. Please contact Stephen with any offer of help.

Feedback

The club now has a membership of 80 but with a number of members we have not seen for a while.

What can we do to encourage you get along and enjoy our improving club facilities and activities?

What do you want from **your** club. As ever the club committee wants to ensure you get the best from your club, hobby and sport.

Are these monthly Club Newsletters useful? How could they be better?

What would you like your club to do to help you enjoy your archery more?

Let us know what the club does well and where it could improve. Your suggestions of how to improve are always welcome.

But please remember the club is run by volunteers passionate about our sport but always appreciate help to run the club.

Any thoughts of feedback can be made via gippingvalleyarchers@outlook.com

Let's hope the weather improves during May.

Regards
GVA Club Committee