



Field Archery Update

During the last year Gipping Valley Archers has been investigating the possibility of hosting an Open field competition.

(It is a poorly published fact that the AGB Field and 3D teams have far more success than the Target teams (although this past year they are starting to catch up! Mainly because most of the archers are the same ones that does Field!) It has also helped that world ranking points now include field events).

This newsletter is to provide an update on what has happened and what is now needed to make this a reality.

In the past some members have travelled to other local clubs who have hosted some field competitions and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves even coming away with some medals!

As an AGB club GVA embrace the ethos of promoting all forms of archery. Target, Field, Clout, being the most popular.

Alan had already wanted to provide something for the club in the broader sense involving field or 3D, so when Stephen an experienced field archer relocated and joined GVA in Oct 2022 a focus was provided.

The first step was to get the committee to agree in principle that this was a direction they wanted the club to go in. As the club had already thought about doing something similar with clout this was (excuse the pun) another string to their bow.

Using the spare ground beside the main range a series of "Introduction to Field archery" sessions have been provided with a strong interest from the club members. The notes from these are available to read on the website <http://gippingvalleyarchers.co.uk/club-calendar/club-field-shoots-info/>

Talking to county and national representatives, the feedback was very positive with offers of support and a request to document our progress so it could be used as a "manual" for other clubs in the future who were interested in setting a field course.

The other point that was raised by these representatives was that Field archery courses / competitions are pretty scarce in East Anglia so possible funding would probably be looked upon favourably.

As a club we are restricted with distance at our current venue for target competitions so doing a field competition would be an ideal way of promoting the club within the archery community. Eventually it should provide another income stream (thus keeping membership fees lower or able to buy "extra" equipment for the club).

As a club we were still undecided whether we wanted to go down the field or 3D route. Costs being the major factor regarding both types of field archery along with the ongoing needs of the club about new / replacement bosses.

We were erring towards 3Ds and started to look around for good second-hand targets, but due to a stroke of luck (on our behalf), we came to hear of a club that was about to close down and needed to sell their bosses.

Initially we were only going to buy their smaller bosses with a view that they could be used to replace the nursery range bosses and in addition be used for a field archery competition.

After much discussion both internally and with the other club we eventually managed to buy the larger bosses as well, which you can see on the main ranges basically too good an opportunity to miss!

So Mid-May three intrepid explorers (Trevor, Jackie and Stephen) set off to Portsmouth to collect the bosses and return them to GVA club.



In the meantime, Stephen and Alan had been on the hunt for a suitable venue and after a couple of false starts found a ground that would be able to host a x12 Target field competition. Which would comply with World Archery (WA) requirements.

So far, after several visits, a course has been plotted and approved by our resident Judge, Robert.

We are now looking into the infrastructure and administration systems needed to make it possible to run an open competition.

As a club we are now looking forward and need to increase our “subcommittee/volunteers” numbers.

We are looking for members to help in the following areas.

Pre competition admin

On the day admin (booking in, collecting scores at end of day collating results)

Pre competition work party

On the day field party (Non shooting)

On the day work party (able to shoot if you want) (car park attendants, walk out guides etc.)

Catering and helpers

Job roles/descriptions for the main role are listed below but all help would be appreciated.

Our next step once people have volunteered for the admin roles (and anything else) but mainly we are needing the admin side.

We are hoping to run a proofing event at the club to test our admin capabilities and infrastructure (maybe with invited guests from other local clubs) to test the admin system, so that you will not be thrown in at the deep end and will have a practice go with the chance to be in at the beginning and able to make suggestions before the real event next year.

If all goes well we will then either go for a proper test event on location or depending on who the head judge is we may be able to go straight for Record Status (RS) which will really start to get us on the map and put us in a good position to host the county championship, as at present the county are hiring a facility from a different Archery Governing body in Essex!

For any questions, please contact Stephen List

Field competition roles and job descriptions

Tournament Organiser

- Main point of contact and organiser.
- Arrange Judges, Lord/Lady Paramount, venue, gifts for judges and others.
- Prizes and presentations.

Bookings Secretary

- Receives entries, checks detail, and ensures correct may have to contact participants to correct details especially if multiple entries from one form. (Age groups, gender, colour of peg) decides when full!
- Banks entries fees?

Allocation officer

(Often the booking secretary but can be separate to keep workloads down)

- Sorts out groups (usually 2 red and 2 blue pegs in each group) before competition.
- Spaces groups out around course if competition not full.
- Make changes on the day if dropouts or DNS.

Checking in officer(s) (2)

- On day check in archers, inform them which peg(group) they are starting at, hand out scorecards.
- Collecting scorecards at end of day produce results.
- Informing work parties and judges when safe to derig.

Judges (2 minimum)

- Inspect course before start of shoot, suggest changes if needed,
- Inspect archers' equipment on day and sign off.

Car Park Attendants (3 minimum)

- One at entrance to venue, one at start of car park and one to position the cars.

First Aider(s)

- Do what First Aiders do! (drink tea)

Field competition roles and job descriptions

Working Party on day (3)

- NON-SHOOTING on day
- Replace worn faces,
- Repair/replace anything directed by judges.
- Direct any emergency services attending to scene of incident.

Catering

- A lot of shoots now do honesty box for drinks (hot)
- Busy pre-event (breakfast) and then continues throughout the day as groups come in for refreshments.

Working Party Pre event

- Under direction of TO/chief course layer, help lay the course.
- Clear undergrowth to make safe walkways between targets.
- Clear overhangs so weak poundage bows' cast is not snagged.
- Build steps, rope supports on tricky ground.
- IF UNMARKED COURSE, NOT allowed to help with setting actual bosses or pegs unless not shooting.
- Put out/clear away directional signs on road.
- Put out directional signs around course.

Walk out leads

- Club members who are shooting show rest where to go around course (could be field party)

Everyone

- Help derig event.