GVA Newsletter - August 2026

Range Safety – Field Captain

As a reminder these are the key range safety rules the Field Captain and all archers must follow.

- Targets must be placed left to right diagonally (longest left – shortest right)
- Adult archers will take turns as Field Captain (can shoot if they wish).
- Audible "Shoot" and "Collect" signals must always be given (Voice, Whistle, Bell or Squeezy)
- Field Captain must be identified and not be disturbed or distracted (high vis tabard or arm band). They will check range is safe to commence shooting at the left-hand side of the range. A Field Captain sign will used to indicate location.



- All archers to be on or behind the "Waiting Line" when not shooting.
- Field Captain handover must be made known to all archers on the range.
- No target can obscure another target when viewed from the left of the range.
- Targets can only be moved if the left to right diagonal is maintained (diagram in hut).
- If an archer needs to go behind a target, another must stand in front of it before they do so.
- Shooting (and non-shooting) Parents/Guardians are responsible for the under 18 safety at all times.
- An additional person is required for each group of 10 targets if in use.

Golden Records Online

What is it? The Club decided to invest in software to manage members scores. This holds members scores, displays your current classification, handicap, PB's, PW's! and the club records you hold - the highest club score (so far) for a given Round, Bowstyle, Gender and Age group.



How do I access it? You first need to request access via GVA_Club_Scores@outlook.com You will then be sent a link to access your scores on Golden Records. Just requires your e-mail and a password you setup.

How do my scores get added? The are three ways to add your scores.

- Self-input (the clubs preferred method). You access your account on Golden Records and input your scores. You also need to provide a picture of your score sheet or an electronic version during the input.
- Electronically – you send your electronic scores to the above address so they can be added.
- On paper – completed scoresheets can be left in the "completed score sheet folder" in the club hut for collection or photographed and send to the above address.

GVA Newsletter - August 2026

In all cases the scores are validated before inclusion into Golden Record. A guide to help you understand how to input your scores is available at
Golden Records- how to add your score

Any questions talk to the clubs Records Officer Chris P

BBQ Fun Shoot

For the first time ever, the Club is to run a Summer Fun Shoot, with the targets designed with Summer in mind. The event will take place from 10:30am on Sunday 23rd August. It's appreciated that this is holiday time, but we hope that most of you will be able to make it.

We would like to include a barbecue, if we can find some willing volunteers to cook and arrange for the purchase of food. We can use the Golf Centres barbecue and other equipment. Please speak with Trevor G or Caroline if you are able to help.

AGM – 20th September 2026 2-4pm

The Clubs Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at the Golf Centre Club House on Sunday 20th September from 2-5pm. All GVA members are invited; food and drinks will be provided.

The meeting will decide the committee members for the next year. Receive reports from Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Decide club fees for next year. Plus, anything else that requires a club wide decision. The agenda and committee member nominations and other info will follow nearer the time.

Club Coaching Clinics - feedback

Great coaching combination coaching team – one Sunday 'form' tutorial and the next Sunday recurve bow tuning - has transformed my shooting!
Thanks Wayne (S)





GVA Newsletter - August 2026

ASHFORD FIELD WEEKEND
A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Three members of our club travelled to Ashford for a fantastic weekend of field archery, and what a weekend it turned out to be!

The weather couldn't have been much better. We were treated to glorious sunshine throughout the weekend. It was warm without being too hot, making for perfect shooting conditions and a pleasure to be out on such a superb field course.

The biggest success of the weekend was the performances from all three of our archers. Steve and I both shot personal bests, improving on our previous scores from last year. It's always rewarding to see the hard work and practice pay off, and we were both delighted with how we shot over the weekend.

Joining us was Peter Boyd, who was competing at the Ashford Field Weekend for the very first time. Although Peter is no stranger to field archery, tackling a new course and a new competition always brings its own challenges. He took it all in his stride and came away with a personal best on his first visit to Ashford—a fantastic achievement and hopefully the first of many successful weekends there.



From left to right: Steve, Peter Boyd and Michael after a successful weekend at Ashford, where all three archers achieved personal bests.

EXPERIENCE OVER WINNING

For us, field archery isn't really about winning. Of course, everyone enjoys shooting well, but the real reward is the experience. Every course is different, every target presents a new challenge, and the friendly atmosphere makes weekends like this so enjoyable. It's about challenging yourself, enjoying the outdoors, and spending time with fellow archers who share the same passion.

DON'T LET DISTANCE OR COST PUT YOU OFF

If you've ever thought about giving Ashford a try, we'd thoroughly recommend it. Don't let the travelling distance or the cost of accommodation put you off. We stayed at the Hilton International, which was very reasonably priced, but there are plenty of cheaper hotels in the area if you're on a budget. Better still, if you enjoy camping, you're welcome to camp at the venue, making it an even more affordable weekend away.

A BIG THANK YOU

As always, Ashford put on an excellent event. The course was challenging, well laid out and enjoyable to shoot, and the organisers and volunteers deserve a huge thank you for all their hard work in making the weekend run so smoothly.

Three archers, three personal bests, perfect weather and a brilliant weekend of field archery – what more could we ask for?

We're already looking forward to returning next year, and hopefully we'll see a few more familiar faces from the club joining us.

GVA Newsletter - August 2026

252 Awards

The 252 Award scheme is designed to encourage archers to improve their accuracy and increase the distances they can shoot. Badges are achieved with qualifying scores from distances between 20 yards and 100 yards. The score must be achieved twice on two separate days.



The objective is to score a minimum total of 252 for archers over the age of 10 and a minimum total of 191 for archers below the age of 10. These scores are based on the use of a sighted recurve bow. Higher or lower scores are required for other bow types - see table below.

Target Face 122cm	Recurve		Compound		Barebow		Longbow	
Award / Age	10 & over	Under 10	10 & over	Under 10	10 & over	Under 10	10 & over	Under 10
10 yds (Under 18 Only)	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
20 yds	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
30 yds	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
40 yds	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
50 yds	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
60 yds	252	191	280	212	189	144	164	124
80 yds	252	191	280	212	164	125	126	96
100 yds	252	191	280	212	139	105	101	77

Club Records

Since 2024 the club has been maintaining a list of the highest scores achieved by a club archer for both indoor and outdoor rounds. It is subdivided by Bowstyle, Gender and Age Group. It's available on the club's website at Club Records

Have a look you might be surprised to see your name there or see what you need to score to be a record holder.

New Committee Member – Frank

Frank has kindly agreed to take on the role of Club Representative. He will be responsible for liaising with the club committee regarding the interests of all the clubs' members. Flagging any issues, concerns or suggestions from club membership.

So, if you have one let Frank know – he is happy if you wish to message him directly via WhatsApp – this is his image so you can find him.



GVA Newsletter - August 2026

Why did I decide to take up archery? By Trevor G

After over 45 years of working full time, I reduced my working time to two and a half days a week, it was a then that I decided how do I make good use of the additional leisure time I now had. Having said that it is good to retire and trust me it isn't hard to find things to do to fill the gaps. I continued to pursue my passion for art and was attending art courses and art groups, but I needed something perhaps more physical, something also that would enable me to socialise with others, something I missed through not working.

Whilst on holiday with my family at Centre Parcs, I recalled an archery session I had participated in with next to zero experience in the sport. After one or two ends I was able to shoot the pointy things in the right direction, eventually hitting the gold. To say I was warmed to the sport would have been grossly understated.
So, my decision was to join a local archery club and after researching the internet with Mr Google's help, I discovered the Gipping Valley Archers website. Without any hesitation, I emailed the club contact, Rob and booked a Beginners Training Session, this was to start in the Autumn of 2017, it was at our earlier location of Claydon High School.

I was very much looking forward to the session. However, as it approached, I experienced those natural emotions of trepidation, was I going to be any good at archery, was I going to make mistakes, was I going to make a fool of myself? I also had to meet people I had never met before.

I reflected on a simplistic process that everyone seems to go through when learning something new, the stages of this process go something like this:

Unconsciously Incompetent, Consciously Incompetent, Consciously Competent, Unconsciously Competent.

From the time of booking to the end of the four training sessions, I am sure I was (Unconsciously-Incompetent) I am also pretty certain I went through these four stages, and still do to this day when encountering something new.

Back to the training sessions, I need not have worried, my concerns were unfounded, the coaches Caroline and Rob were very welcoming, they explained very clearly what I needed to do, at no time did I feel intimidated. I was allowed to make mistakes, and these were corrected by the coaches. It was also at those sessions, that I felt a positive sense of community, members went that extra mile to help where they could.

Joining the club was a no brainer for me.

GVA Newsletter - August 2026

So, after nine years I am still at the club, which had moved to its current location. I have seen the club membership grow, the facilities at our Onehouse location have been developed exponentially since we have been here with the help of some willing volunteers. I would like to add, to whom I am very grateful.

Just a few examples of this development can be seen with the improved surfaces at the shooting line, new easy to move target bosses, additional storage and shelter and the long-distance ranges, there are many more. I believe that the club has a purposeful governance and hard-working committee which represents the club members well.

I am currently working with a team on the On Target Archery GB programme. The programme challenges us to consider development changes we could make as well as valuing what we already have as a club. The reason I mention this, is that I had a recent discussion with the team on what club members might want from the club.

Interestingly, we identified three categories for members.

1. Aiming for the highest national or international levels
2. Members who like to compete at a local club level
3. Members who are wanting to shoot merely for leisure

The club must cater for all

I would say that over the years I have been more of a leisure archer but have always enjoyed setting challenges for myself when on the shooting range.

What do I enjoy most about the club? The social side and banter with friends. Fun shoots, we have a Summer Fun Day coming up in August. The professional lay out of the range.

I have worked with a dedicated committee and have happily taken on the role of Safeguarding/Welfare and Data Protection and will continue in these roles if nominated again at the AGM in September.

I look forward to the next club day on Sunday.

GVA Club Committee
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