



May 2025 Newsletter

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The Chair Chats



Welcome to May's edition of the club's newsletter.

Hope you have all enjoyed the move to the "outdoor season" don't those targets look a long way away! But at least the faces are bigger!

This month we will continue with the "***you asked- we listened/actioned***" - so exciting times ahead.

At the last Committee Meeting we had a presentation from the AGB's Regional Development Officer (RDO) responsible for our area. This coincidentally was on the plans for the "On Target" scheme and how it is changing/developing before its relaunch, later this year. The Committee, like the membership, knew very little about the scheme and found the presentation enlightening and very surprising as it virtually parallels the direction that we have started to go in!

The goal of "On target" is being the best club we can be, with what we want/do. We have therefore decided to do the audit of the club that is required before applying to join, so we can see what work is needed to proceed (and if we want to proceed with applying to the scheme). We would like as wide a view as possible to progress this and thus we are putting a call out to any member who would like to be involved at this stage so we can have a broader view than just the committee. See "membership matters"

On a personal note, I feel I have taken the newsletter development as far as I can, therefore we are looking for someone to volunteer to take on the production for future issues if you would like to know more, please contact me.

Stephen

Chairperson

Congratulations and good news

This section is to celebrate archery achievements of members and please let us know if you have anything to celebrate or just how you got on at a local competition/coaching event that you have attended.

Congratulations to all those who have just completed their recent beginner's course and have joined the club to start their archery journey. I am often reminded of the saying by my driving instructor when I passed my driving test, you have reached the standard required to be allowed on the road, now you need to learn "how" to drive. You have met most of the coaches please don't be afraid to ask for help to progress.

Well done to those who took part in the easter fun shoot photos and results are now on the website.

Membership Matters

The committee have agreed to do a "audit/action plan" of the club which needs to be done before making the decision to apply to join the AGB "Ontarget" scheme. As part of the scheme is about inclusion the committee would like to ask if any of the members would like to be part of this process and be a part of the "sub-committee". Please email the clubs email if you are interested.

Last year saw the move from a club target day once a month on a Sunday to both Saturday and Sunday every weekend – and this really helped with members obtaining and progressing their nationally recognized achievement awards. Ps In last month's newsletter I forgot that Wednesday evenings were also previously agreed as a target session.

"You asked- we listened" After discussion at the last committee meeting, the following was agreed - that on the second weekend of the month, the Sunday target day will be known as Club competition day and run as if at a competition to give members the experience to shoot under competition conditions. Therefore, on those days there will be a single start time AM and PM on the main/long ranges. Kit inspection/advice 10am, briefing on the round, and then sighters followed by a uniform start at approx. 10.30am (1.30 and 2pm for afternoon session). We have worked on the background information needed and will be ready to start this exciting new development from June.

The practice range - if no organised activity is taking place - will still be available for casual start time/practice, and for all other target days will be as currently with the "rolling start".

The field competition is a big event in the Club's Calander and if all goes well could be a good source of income so we can reinvest in the Club. Anyone who can spare their time to help setup during the week leading up to the competition would be

gratefully welcomed. Also anyone with a trimmer they could lend we would like to hear from you. Please let Stephen/Chris W/Martin know.

The Committee are in the process of reviewing the Club policies and procedures and as they are approved and adopted, they will be published on the website. Please check regularly, as these are what you have agreed to as members of the Club.

“You asked- we listened” Since January the field range at the weekends have been included in the “target days” and set up so that classification scores can be achieved just like the Indoor and outdoor Bowmen awards. This will continue to be available to the members. If unsure speak to Stephen, Chris W or Martin.

“You asked- we listened” There were requests for 3D days, and this is something that we will consider at the next committee meeting as to how best to resource this request.

Archery Round Scoresheets Submissions

A Reminder that we have set up a dedicated e-mail address for the submission of scores from apps. gva_club_scores@outlook.com . A fantastic problem to have is, that as everyone's scores are improving, we need to distinguish whether it is a practice day or a Club target day. Archer level awards can be shoot on practice days, but Bowmen level must be on a Target/Competition Day - so please indicate whether it is a practice or target day on the email.

Paper scoresheets will continue to be collected from the folder in the Club hut for those members who prefer this method. Please tick the box that says practice or target day.

Down the Range

After several weeks of hard work your summer season ranges are ready to enjoy. No worn out "Danage" types anymore you will be pleased to know. Every distance from 10yds to 100yds plus most Metrics are now marked and posted for you, most also have lines burnt in to make it even easier if you want to change a boss position. 10 Bosses on the main range. 4 now on the Long Range too. The new cabinet is in place for all things training etc. The sheds have been reworked to make it easier to set up / take down your bows. Also more comfortable to sit in between ends.

We have plans afoot to make the area in front of the huts " hard standing" to eradicate the mud issue next winter season.

We do hope you enjoy your ranges and feel as we do that, we really do have a club to be proud of.

Communication

“You asked- we listened” from the survey most replies were in favour that the newsletter and website were the primary sources of information about upcoming events and news, therefore if you have information to share this needs to be

forwarded to the club's email mid-month before the upcoming issue if you want it included in the newsletter.

Reminder The WhatsApp group should only be used for what it was intended, to arrange shooting partners outside of club days. Or emergency closures of the range for example.

The website is continuing to undergo updates and reorganising so there may be some disruption and moving of information as this progresses.

“You asked- we listened” There was feedback that either people didn't know who was on the committee or a lack of connect between the committee and the membership. Hopefully the newsletter is starting to bridge the gap so that members know what is being decided on their behalf -reminder minutes of meeting are posted on the website.

The other item will be addressed by doing short “archery” profiles of the committee and our club Chairperson Stephen List has agreed to be first.

Members Profile



I was introduced to archery approximately 20 years ago when as part of my job involved taking young people on various holiday activities and the leaders were then invited back after the school holidays to have-a-go ourselves!

Roll onto 2012 and wanting to do a new activity, my mind turned back to my previous archery experience, so like most people at the time, I used the latest thing a “search engine” on the internet and found a local target club, so I rocked up on one of their club nights to find out more about the sport and how to start, only to encounter what I was later to discover was very prevalent at the time “archery snobbery” because I was wearing jeans and that I couldn’t join as the beginners course started the previous week. I went elsewhere!

My first club competition resulted in me receiving the wooden spoon for coming last, since then I have improved slightly and currently still hold 2 county records for Hampshire and since moving back to Suffolk currently hold 3 county records (Recurve, AFB and Longbow) and am the reigning Recurve County field champion. I have represented Hampshire and more recently Essex & Suffolk Counties in inter-counties competitions.

I also shoot NFAS and have been placed 5th nationally, and more recently Shooting EFAA in 2023 won the 50+ UK and Ireland field championship. I love travelling around the country shooting at different venues and meeting other archers, the book of archer excuses for missing the target keeps getting bigger and bigger as I meet new people!

When time allows, I also enjoy coaching and am a Development (old school level 2) Coach - I have coached at junior county squad training sessions, have assisted county coaches with individual archers when they return to their local clubs. I always happy if someone comes up and asks can you have a look at..., I may need to finish my round if I am training for a competition but happy to help on the quick fixes, however I would say if you were looking for something a bit more involved, contact the coaching team for what’s on offer i.e. clinics, individual programmes.

I joined GVA in September 2022 and got involved straightaway in the committee as the senior member representative.

In 2023 I became the Tournament Officer and organised the club’s first open competition, this was a field event held at Haughley Park and was well received both by those who helped and the competitors, so much so, that this year we have gone one step further and made it a record status shoot. We have got several members and ex members of England/GB archery teams entered so far. That is the great thing about archery - you could be shooting with a novice or an Olympian. If you haven’t entered yet do go on the website and give it a go - most archers will always help others if you haven’t done anything like this before and it’s right on our doorstep! If walking round the woods isn’t your thing you could always help the club by helping even if its directing people to the car park to taking photos, any profits from the shoot are put back into the club i.e. for new equipment or to keep the membership fee down. So why not help it’s for the benefit of everyone.

In 2024 I was elected Chairperson in part, due to my vision for the club as to how do you want to see the club develop in the next 2-5 years. This resulted in the club survey that was sent out earlier this year and we are starting to see the results being actioned and auditing where we are as a club, we can then plan a way forward. So, if you have any ideas for the club please come up and have a chat.

Judge and coaching corner

This year the coaches are running multiple Beginners Courses. For this we could really use the help of the membership, to assist the coaches (help set up run the line, change bows/ broken arrows, and blow-up ballons type of jobs).

If you can spare your time and for the dates below it would be greatly appreciated by the coaches and the Committee.

Beginners Courses.

22nd June - 6th July August

3rd Aug - 17th September

28th September- 12th October

Taster Sessions; 4th May

Coaching Clinics

“You asked- we listened”

The first topic for a coaching clinic has been decided and will be a Field archery clinic. 11th May AM from 10am -12noon

Content; kit inspection/checks, overview of field shoots/classifications, for those new to field and wanting to know more followed by individual Q&A/practical for those wanting guidance for the upcoming competition.

Journament Officer

What's happening in May and beyond?

The summer programme is now viewable online

<https://www.gippingvalleyarchers.co.uk/new-events-calendar-2/>

Reminder that May we move to a metric round so back to 10 ring/zone scoring.

Clout shoots will resume once a month on the 3rd Saturday evening of the month from May once the golf range closes at 6pm, Thank you David for agreeing to run them again this year.

Again, this is something that makes our Club unique in that we can offer the three main disciplines of archery with AGB - Target, Field and Clout. Last year we also built an archery “wand” that is another interesting form of archery, hopefully we will bring it out again this year.

If you enjoy the idea of the club's field competition in June then the County Championship is in October, this is a 24 marked course so no guessing distances!

Entries via the link [Essex Field Shoot](#):

The Essex and Suffolk county events calendar is always being updated and is worth a look for local competitions and the new outdoor season events are starting to be listed - <https://ecaa.org.uk/tournaments-records/2024-events-in-essex-suffolk>

Club Championship feedback

Following the recent Club's winter Championships, as TO I would like to make the following feedback/observations.

Most competitions still run on at least one paper scoresheet, so please make sure you know how to fill one in if you are entering a competition. This is something we teach on the beginners' course so please ask any of the coaches if you are unsure.

Things to remember –

- write scores in dozens horizontally
- complete the end totals
- complete the dozen's total
- then the running total on each line - It is worth doing this as you go along so scores can be submitted quickly at the end of the competition and the presentations can get underway (so that those that are travelling leave at a reasonable time!)
- enter the number of hits and number of golds per line
- Call arrow values in groups of 3 in descending order i.e. 10, 9, 9 not ten and two nines as the recorder could hear 10,2,9 you have just lost 7 points!
- You are signing to say you agree with the recorded score so check, we all make mistakes! TO's will not correct bad math upwards but will to correct down.
- If you touch an arrow before all have been scored (or the target face) then arrows could be marked down, so wait for the person recording the scores to say happy to pull etc.

I think all the beginners know what to do if you have a "bouncer" or "hanger" after their last week as there was so many, (thanks to the field crew recently tightening all the bosses!) but do you?