

Burton Bridge Archers

Club Guide

Updated February 2016



A collection of information to help you get started shooting as a member

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www.burtonbridgearchers.co.uk

Being a member... What does that mean?

Club days

As a member you are entitled to use the ground 7 days a week, however most of us gather on club days. It is a chance to practice shooting, build fitness, get advice and support, shoot rounds and socialise with other members. In the summer these are Tuesdays, Thursday and Sundays. In the winter we shoot at an indoor venue during the week

Club competitions

Just for club members, throughout the summer we run a range of competitions which are informal and fun - a great introduction to competition. These are often handicap competitions so new and experienced archers have an equal chance of winning the trophies!

Fun shoots and Social events

These happen at times throughout the year - make sure you join in! Details will be emailed out or listed on the calendar and club website



League shoots

These take place once a month throughout the year, where we compete in a league with other Derbyshire clubs. A great way to build experience and meet archers from other clubs

Open Tournaments

We host our own, and on behalf of DCAA/EMAS (as we have a large ground). These are more formal competitions with an entry fee. As a member of Archery GB you can enter Open Tournaments hosted by clubs all over the UK

Supporting your club

At times we may ask for volunteers to help support the club. This may be helping out at Have-a-go's, being part of a work party to look after the club resources, or help out setting up and running Open Tournaments and the Club Open Day. Many of these bring in essential finances to the club to keep it running and the membership costs down - this is your club so please help out when you can

Entering competitions is a fantastic way to build your experience and enjoy the sport, regardless of your ability. Often you can shoot a shorter distance round if you are not confident with the set round - just ask

Affiliations

Membership fee

Your annual payment goes to the following places;

Burton Bridge Archers - for upkeep and replacement of club resources and equipment, cost of indoor venue hire, etc

DCCA, EMAS and Archery GB - insurance and admin costs

The Washlands - levy for our use of the grounds, and membership of The Washlands Sports Club



BBA - Burton Bridge Archers

We are one of many clubs which form the...

DCAA - Derbyshire County Archery Association

...who arrange the county league, county championships and provide a county team. They are run by committee members coming from clubs across the county. Any Derbyshire archer is welcome to attend meetings across the year. Derbyshire is one of the five members of the...

EMAS - East Midlands Archery Association

... who organise regional tournaments. Through DCAA and EMAS, the club is affiliated to...

Archery GB (formerly and often still called GNAS)

... who administer archery throughout the country, organise championships, training of judges, and administer the rules of shooting

You will receive a membership card with your number. This is needed for entering competitions to prove you are a member and cover you for insurance purposes.

You will also be sent 4 copies a year of the Archery UK magazine



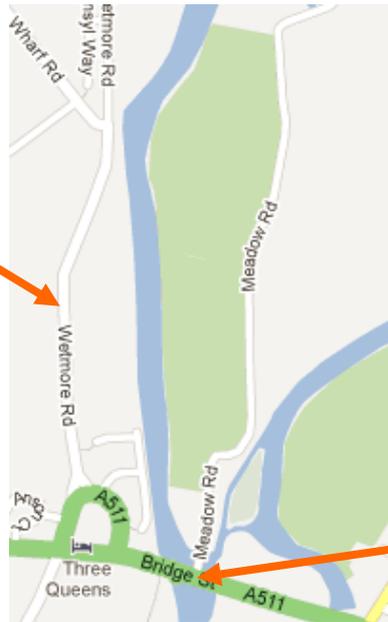
You are here... finding your way around the club



Access from Wetmore Road

Turn off into The Workout (formerly Fitness First) car park and head to the far left corner. Cross the bridge and follow the track past the bowling green

The gate at the entrance to the ground has a combination lock, which senior members can be given the code for - last out must lock up



Access from Bridge Street

The turning can be hard to spot, but it is directly opposite the green road sign. Remember that priority is given to cars turning off from the main road

The gate at the entrance to the ground has a combination lock, which senior members can be given the code for - last out must lock up



* NOTE *

Information on the layout and location of club equipment, along with unlocking/locking instructions is strictly for Burton Bridge Archers members only

The full version of this Guide, containing these details, is available by email or paper copy from the Club Secretary

Setting up the field... Where do you put the targets?

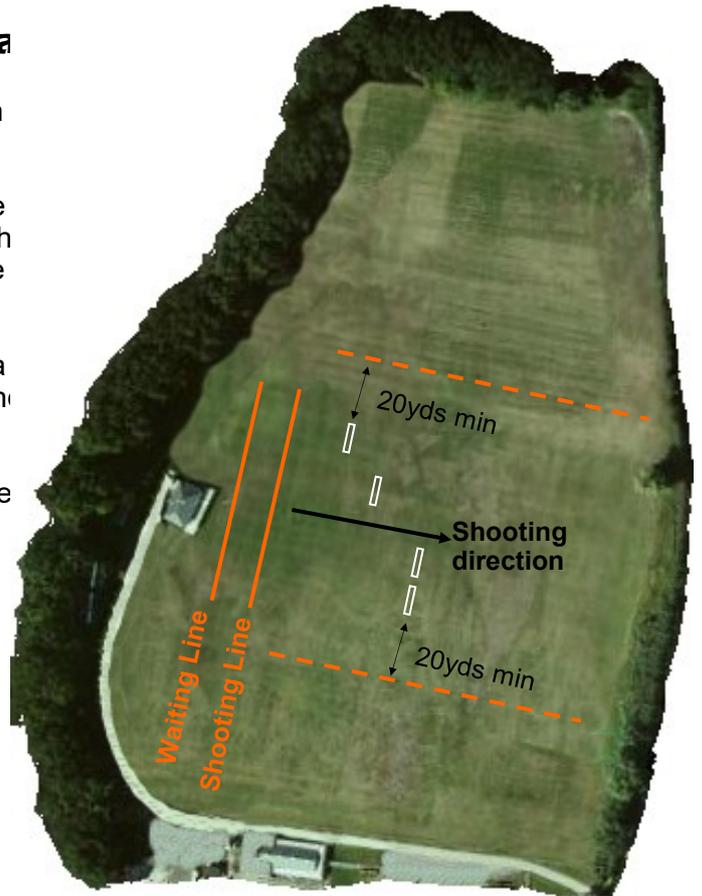
Club days, Club Competitions and Leas

Usually we set up the shooting line in front of the Pavilion the width of the field, up to targets at 100yds

There must be a minimum of 20yds distance to each side to areas where people may walk. Rarely there may be others such as footballers using the field, in which case we have bunting to indicate the minimum safe distances

There will always be a clear shooting line laid out (often a pegged rope). Five yards behind that there is a waiting line (on less formal shoots this is imaginary). Between the waiting line and the shooting line there should be no equipment or people except those moving to and from the shooting line. This clear zone gives the field captain space to see that all is well and when people have finished shooting. It is also a safety zone and space in which the archers can focus on their own shooting

On more formal shoots there may also be a tent line further behind the waiting line. Archers often bring tents to shelter themselves and their equipment from the rain or sun, and these must remain behind that line

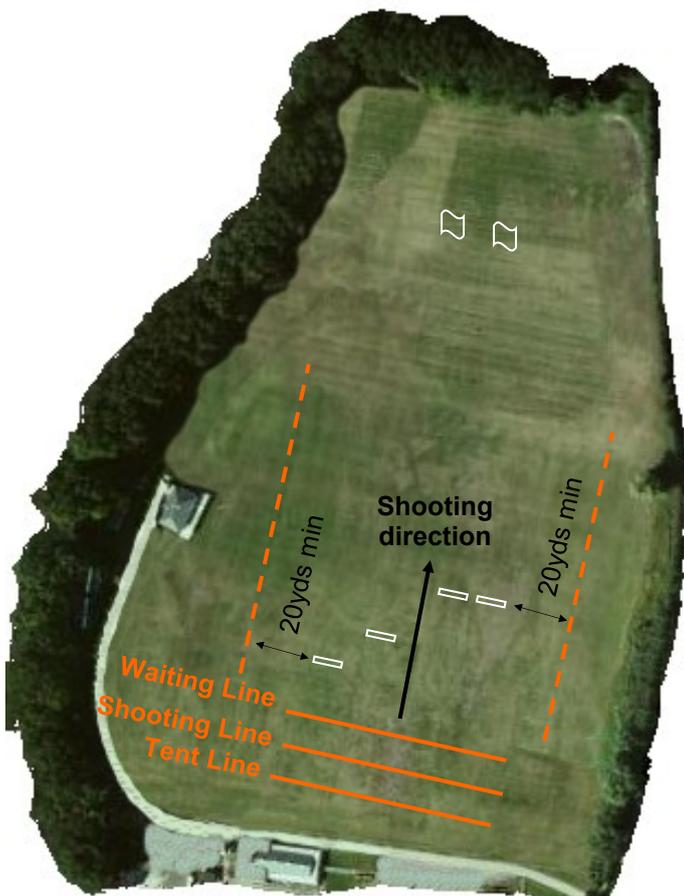


Clout shooting and Open Tournaments

For clout shooting we need the full length of the field to reach 180yds, so the shooting line is set in front of The Washlands Clubhouse

For Open Tournaments, we usually set out this way as it allows easier access to the facilities of The Washlands Clubhouse

The shooting and waiting lines (and tent line) are set out in the same way as above



Running the club... how does it work?

The Committee

The club is a voluntary group that elects committee members to play key roles in running the club. This is done each year at the AGM

The current committee members are listed in the clubhouse and on the club website, however their titles and roles are;

- President** - an honorary position to represent the club
- Chairman** - oversees management of the club, chairs committee meetings
- Vice Chairman** - acts in place of the chairman in their absence
- Secretary** - communication in and out of the club, and across members
- Treasurer** - responsible for all financial aspects, incoming and outgoing
- Records Officer** - maintains club records, handicaps and competition scores
- Equipment Officer** - checks and maintains club equipment and resources
- Child Protection Officer** - oversees child protection issues according to policies
- Committee of Four** - represent the club views in situations needing a quick decision
- Junior Representative** - support, encourage and present the views of junior members
- Field Captain** - in charge of shooting including safety and rules
- Auditor** - makes an annual check on the club finances

Meetings

All members are encouraged to attend meetings, held roughly every 2 months at an appropriate time. A minimum of 6 members are required to form a quorum (10 for the AGM). All issues regarding the day to day running, and longer term development of the club are discussed and voted on if required. It is an opportunity to raise any concerns or ideas that affect the club, and have your say on the running of the club

The AGM is held once a year to review the long term direction and issues of the club, as well as nominating and electing the committee members for the coming year

Remember, this is your club - you have a say

Communication

The Secretary is the person responsible for dealing with all communication in, out and around the club

Information on events, competitions, etc will be shared with club members in various ways, including;

- Club noticeboard
- Email
- Club website
- Twitter @BBArchers
- Facebook BurtonBridgeArchers
- Google Groups

The image shows a composite of digital content for the Burton Bridge Archers club. At the top is a banner for the club website with the text 'Burton Bridge Archers Home' and 'Welcome to the Burton Bridge Archers website!'. Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: Home, Archery, Have-a-Go, Courses, Joining, Contact, Gallery, Tournaments, Coaching, Calendar, Results, and Records. The main content area features several articles: 'We are a friendly target archery club based at The Washlands Sports Club, Burton on Trent. Our large membership covers all abilities from all ages and walks of life, with a shared interest in enjoying the fantastic sport of archery', 'Our members shoot a mix of recurve, longbow and compound bows. Whether shooting for their own enjoyment, or competing at club, county, regional, national or international level, we focus on our members being supported, encouraged, and having fun!', 'We meet informally for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Sunday afternoons. Throughout the Summer we have a varied calendar of club competitions, but also run two Open Tournaments. In the Winter, we shoot indoors at a local sports hall. Across the year we compete in league shoots against other Derbyshire clubs, as well as putting on a variety of fun shoots and social events', and 'We're a busy club with lots of things to take part in and get involved with'. There are also images of archers and bows. To the right of the website screenshot is a Twitter feed showing tweets from @BBArchers, including announcements about an Open Day and a busy club schedule.

(If you don't have a Twitter account, you can check the feed

on the website www.burtonbridgearchers.co.uk)

Your archery... help, rounds and handicaps

Coaching and advice on technique

The best time to get help with your shooting is on club days. You are unlikely to find any archer that isn't happy to talk about their own experience or offer advice - after all, we're in the club because we love the sport! Specifically for technique, it is of course better to ask the trained coaches in the club, but there is a huge wealth of knowledge available from other members too

The most important way to improve is practice! Whether its club nights or competitions, the more you shoot, the better and more consistently your shooting will become. Don't be afraid to join in competitions because you are new to the sport, nobody expects you to instantly be a top archer, and it is a great way to build your experience

Support and advice on buying equipment

It is easy to waste a lot of money buying equipment that isn't right for you, or even good quality or value. Another huge benefit from being in a club, you have a pool of equipment knowledge and shopping experience at your disposal. The more you chat to other members, the bigger the benefits for you!

The club equipment is there for you to use for as long as you need it, and there is a renting scheme of beginners equipment for the indoor winter season should you need it.

Many members make their own equipment (especially longbow archers) - ask at the club

Rounds

Competing in archery means you will be shooting a round. There are a range of rounds for outdoor and indoor shooting, with different numbers of arrows at different distances and sometimes different sized target faces. For longer distance rounds, Ladies often shoot shorter versions of the round, and Juniors shorter again depending on their age group. These will be specified for each competition - ask if you are unsure. If new archers don't feel confident in reaching the further distances, certainly for the less formal club competitions they can shoot shorter rounds than normal - its more important that you have the experience and enjoyment of joining in

A full list of indoor and outdoor rounds can be found in the GNAS Rules of Shooting on the club website

Handicap

The score you get for a particular round can be used to calculate your handicap - it is a number which represents your level of ability. The higher your ability, the lower your handicap number. Each round has its own handicap table which means you would expect to get a high score at a short distance and a lower score at a longer distance to get the same handicap

Some competitions have handicap trophies/awards which means you are effectively shooting against yourself. For the round shot, your handicap gives you an allowance to which your score is added. This is then used to judge the winners. Handicap competitions are often won by new archers as they tend to improve at a faster rate than more experienced archers, so make sure you join in!

Your handicap for indoor shooting is separate to that for outdoors. Your starting handicap for each season (summer or winter) is calculated as an average from your best three rounds in the previous season. As a new archer, your first three rounds will be used. As you go through the season and shoot more rounds, your handicap will be adjusted, but only upwards ie if you shoot below your handicap, it remains unchanged

If you are still unsure, most experienced archers will be able explain the system to you, but the Records Officer is in charge of calculating members handicaps so is a key person to ask

Your archery... classifications, awards and records

Classifications

As your handicap improves so does your classification, although the rules are slightly different as only certain rounds count towards it. As a beginner almost any round you shoot will count towards a classification if your scores are high enough, but as you progress to the higher classifications you can only qualify shooting the longer distance rounds

Outdoor classifications

Novice
3rd Class
2nd Class
1st Class
Bowman
Master Bowman
Grand Master Bowman



To qualify for a classification you must shoot 3 rounds in a single calendar year at a competition or club day. For Master Bowman or Grand Master Bowman they must be shot at competitions held by FITA or GNAS, or at competitions with National Record Status

Indoor classifications - start at H and progress through G, F, E, D, C and B to A. To qualify for a classification you must shoot 3 rounds in an indoor season at a competition or club day

Awards

There are a variety of awards that you can claim when entering competitions...

Six Gold End Award - claimed for six golds in one end (not including sighters) at a competition or club day round, but only at 80yds/70m or more



Rose Awards - claimed for achieving over certain scores on York/Hereford/Bristol rounds in competitions with National Record Status. Badge colours represent increasing scores; white, black, blue, red, gold and purple



FITA Star Awards - claimed for achieving over certain scores on a Gents FITA round in competitions with World Record or FITA Award Status; white, black, blue, red and gold



FITA Target Awards - claimed for achieving over certain scores on specified FITA rounds in competitions with World Record or FITA Award Status. Again, badge colours represent increasing scores; white, black, blue, red and gold



Six Clout Award - claimed for six clouts in one end (not including sighters) at a GNAS organised competition



Tassel Awards - claimed for achieving over certain scores on a GNAS Double Clout round in competitions with Tassel Award Status. Badge colours represent increasing scores; white, black, blue, red, gold and purple

Records

There are records of scores for every round, at club, county, regional and national level. Club records are available on the club website, and in the club hut

Club records can be claimed at competitions, or on club days if recorded formally ie scoring witnessed, signed by another member and passed to the Records Officer. County, regional and national records can only be claimed at formal shoots

For details on how to claim awards and records, ask the club Records Officer

Competing... club comps, leagues and open tourna-

Club Competitions

Throughout the summer, the club runs a range of competition rounds for club members only. Whilst formal shoots, they are always run in a friendly and relaxed manner. It is a great chance to build competitive experience, improve your shooting and handicap, socialise with the other club members, and even win some trophies and medals! Taking part in club competitions (and league shoots), is an important part of being involved and supporting your club, and of course enjoying the sport you signed up for!

League shoots

As a club we enter several leagues, and of course we need you to shoot in these to help us win! Even if you don't feel your scores are good enough, its more important that we enter into the spirit of being a club and have a good turn out of archers shooting

DCAA Summer and Winter Leagues - once a month in the summer from May to September, we shoot a Long Western round (shorter Western round for juniors) against the other Derbyshire clubs to compete in the league. The clubs take it in turn to host the shoots. Each recurve team consists of 5 archers, and the longbow, compound and junior teams consist of 3. The teams are selected on the day as the top scoring archers from the club. New members may shoot shorter rounds, and still be entered for the handicap team. Over the winter months November to March, we compete in a Winter League in the same format, but shooting an outdoor Frostbite round and an indoor Portsmouth round (also used for the postal leagues below)

Postal Outdoor and Indoor Winter Leagues - once a month from November to March, we shoot a Frostbite round (aptly named!) outdoors at our home ground as part of a national postal league, entering several teams including juniors. Similarly we shoot a Portsmouth round at our indoor venue.

Open Tournaments

Most archery clubs in the UK will host their own Open Tournament. These are formally run competitions that have an entry fee, but usually have Award and Record statuses. County and regional club open shoots are advertised on the DCAA and EMAS websites, and all UK club open shoots in the Archery UK magazine

We run two Open Tournaments each year, a Western round and a Double Clout round. As well as entering, we need club members to help with the setting up and running of these. Often we also host DCAA and EMAS Open shoots, as we have one of the largest grounds in Derbyshire

Longbows only!

If you shoot longbow then there are two leagues, summer and winter, which we run within the club. If you shoot any club competitions or club league shoots, you will automatically be entered



For each shoot, you are awarded points for the number of golds you score on the round. Most golds=10 points, second=9, etc. Each archers league scores are updated throughout the season, and the trophy awarded at the end



Speak to a longbow archer for more information

Competing... etiquette and how competitions work

Etiquette

A good archer...

- will wear the traditional colours of white and dark green, or their club colours
- keeps their equipment behind the waiting line
- does not touch anyone else's equipment without permission
- does not walk up and down the shooting line comparing scores
- does not talk in a loud voice whilst others are shooting and does not talk to another competitor who obviously prefers to be silent
- does not make any exclamation on the shooting line which might disconcert a neighbour in the act of shooting
- will wait until their fellow archer has finished shooting before leaving the shooting line together
- retrieves arrows in front of the target before scoring
- calls scores in groups of three
- records their scores before retrieving their arrows from behind the target
- thanks the target captain at the end of the round for scoring
- helps put away the clubs equipment before their own
- does not leave litter

What happens on the day

The time advertised for a competition is the time that shooting begins with sighters. You will be expected to arrive roughly an hour before this. For competitions at our club, you would be expected to help set up the field before setting up your own equipment. For competitions at other clubs you need to register on arrival, then set up. It is usually a good idea to bring a folding chair with you, some archers will also bring a tent for shelter. You will also need to find space on a target, and make sure your name is written on the scoresheet for that target (for Open Tournaments there is normally a target list displaying your allocated place)

Shortly before shooting starts, the field captain will blow their whistle to gather the archers together, then introduce the judge and Lady/Lord Paramount, clarify the round to be shot, point out the location of facilities (including toilets and first aid), and any other important information. After returning to your position, the whistle will be blown to begin shooting with sighters

There are usually 4 archers to a target, shooting in alternating pairs ie A+B then C+D, followed by C+D then A+B on the next end, etc. Usually archer C has the role of target captain and therefore scores

About halfway through the competition, usually at a change of distances, there will be a break for lunch - remember to bring something to eat with you! Also there will often be someone with raffle tickets for sale

After the last end, you will be required to sign your score, and you may be asked to sign the score of the target captain. The scores are then collated whilst you clear away your equipment, and the host club clears away the field. There is usually a clubhouse with food and drink provided to relax in whilst the raffle is drawn and the prizes awarded

Who does what on the day

Lady or Lord Paramount - a traditional role to oversee the shoot and present the prizes

Tournament Organiser - oversees running of the tournament, collates the scores and allocates the prizes

Judge - qualified through GNAS training, adjudicates on all matters during the shoot

Field Captain - in charge of controlling the shooting safely

Target Captain - one on each target (usually the third archer), in charge of scoring

Rules and constitution... the serious stuff!

Burton Bridge Archers Constitution

1. The Club shall be called "BURTON BRIDGE ARCHERS"
2. The object of the Club shall be the practise and promotion of Archery in all its aspects, excluding bowhunting.
3. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held in every year, not later than the 28th February, to elect a Club Chairman, Officers and Committee to make or alter rules, constitution, etc., to receive and, if approved, adopt a statement of the Club's accounts for the preceding year, and to agree a scale of subscriptions. The Chairman will also be Chairman of the Committee, and shall have a casting vote or additional vote in the event of an equality of votes at both Committee and General Meetings.
4. Notice of any proposal to be included on the Annual General Meeting Agenda to amend the constitution of the club duly proposed and seconded must be forwarded to the Secretary not less than four weeks prior to the date of the meeting. The Secretary shall ensure that any such proposal is displayed prior to the meeting on the Club notice board and at any venue at which the club shoots.
5. The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Committee, which shall consist of the Club President (if any) Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and four members duly elected at the AGM.
6. At Committee Meetings, 6 members shall form a quorum. At General Meetings, 10 members shall form a quorum.
7. The Club President (if any) shall be nominated by the Committee and elected by the Club in General Meeting.
8. The Secretary has charge of and legal possession of all club property.
9. The club shall have the facility to have honorary non-shooting members, nominations for the new honorary members shall be duly proposed and seconded not later than four weeks before the Annual General Meeting and voted for under special business at the meeting.
10. Non-shooting and honorary members shall not be entitled to vote at Club or Committee meetings.
11. All applications for membership shall be made on a form from time to time prescribed by the Committee, signed by the applicant and accompanied by the appropriate subscription, and election shall be at the discretion of the Committee who shall not be required to give reasons for their decision.
12. Each member shall pay an annual subscription, such sum to be displayed on the notice board, and which shall be due on 31st July each year.
13. Any member who is 1 month in arrears shall be liable to have his/her name removed from the List of Members, and will not be re-elected or entitled to shoot at the Club Meetings until all arrears have been paid.
14. Visitors to the club may shoot an unlimited number of times if accompanied by a senior member on payment of target fees, provided that they are already a paid up member of GNAS.
15. Any member who shall offend against the Rules of the Club or who is guilty of conduct prejudicial to the good name of the Club shall be liable to expulsion. But such member shall be given the opportunity to defend his/her case before the Committee, whose decision shall be final.
16. The shooting regulations of the Grand National Archery Society or any other authorised governing body shall be observed.
17. The club will adhere to the Archery GB 'Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults' Policy. Any matters relating to such will be reported directly to the appointed Child Protection Officer who will follow the appropriate procedures laid down by Archery GB. In the event of the CPO not being available and concern about the immediate safety of the child or vulnerable adult is a worry, then Social Care or the Police will be informed.
18. The Committee shall arrange the Prize Meeting, Handicap Meetings, Championship Shoots, and Novelty Shoots, the dates of which shall be displayed on the notice board.
19. Anyone presenting a prize to the Club, shall have the right reasonably to regulate the terms on which it shall be awarded, subject to the approval of the Committee.
20. No archer shall be awarded more than one Club Prize at any one meeting.
21. Members will be entirely responsible for their own equipment
22. Any assets remaining after creditors have been paid shall, in the event of the Club being wound up, be sold and the proceeds distributed between the existing Full Senior Members in equal shares.
23. Any matters not covered by the foregoing rules will be dealt with at the discretion of the Committee.