

# LINKS ARCHERS



# MEMBERS HANDBOOK

## **Welcome to Links Archers.**

## **NOTES:**

This booklet will give you important information about the club and archery in general.

### **About us**

Links Archers is one of the best archery clubs in Scotland with a long history of producing top level archers competing for Scotland and GB. We are affiliated to the Grand National Archery Society (Archery GB) who provides our insurance cover. The club has both adult and junior sections and is very family friendly.

We also run school clubs at Lathallan School, Mearns Academy, and Montrose Academy

### **Club sessions**

Montrose sport centre – September to May  
Saturday 10:00-12:00

Fee adult £7, concession £4 per session

Mearns academy outdoor - May to September

Wednesday 18:30 to 20:30 weather permitting

Fee - adult £1 per hr, junior 50p/hr

### **Additional facilities**

Hillside maltings indoor range. This facility is restricted to members who have met a minimum standard of

## **Useful websites:**

Scottish Archery Association  
[www.scottisharchery.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchery.org.uk)

Archery GB  
[www.archerygb.org](http://www.archerygb.org)

A useful free book filled with archery information  
[www.archersreference.co.uk](http://www.archersreference.co.uk)

More useful links are on the Scottish archery website.

shooting as set by the head coach. Access times, by arrangement, are subject to a range supervisor being available.

Lathallan School on Saturdays 10am to 1pm – May to September when venue and coaches are available. Check with club officers on availability of shooting sites.

## **Visitors**

Visitors are welcome provided they are members of GNAS (AGB) or a non UK society affiliated to FITA. They are subject to normal session shooting fees

## **Membership**

We have 3 levels of membership.

Full member – affiliated to AGB and SAA – fee approx £79 including SAA, AGB and county fees.

Junior member (U18) – fee £15

Associate member – who is affiliated to AGB directly or through another club – Fee £10

There are discounts available for multiple members from one family.

## **Beginners courses**

AGB insurance rules allow 6 sessions for beginners before having to become a member. After the first

session there is a course fee of £20 (junior £10), for the following 5 sessions, plus session fees.

If you become a full (junior) member the course fee will be deducted from your membership fee

## **Club Officers**

### **Chairman**

The chairman is responsible for the overall running of the club, and ensuring that club meetings are held smoothly.

### **Secretary**

The secretary handles the correspondence to and from the club, and to the members of the club. They process the annual membership returns and take minutes at the club meetings.

### **Treasurer**

The treasurer is responsible for all the clubs financial operations

### **Records Officer**

The Records Officer handles all the scores shot by the members. From the scores handicaps can be calculated and tracked, and a Classification given to each archer.

### **Head Coach**

The head coach is responsible for the overall coaching framework and approval of Maltings range users / supervisors.

An additional 3 members plus a junior representative make up the rest of the committee.

## **After the Beginners Course**

### ***Equipment***

It is advisable to continue to learn with the club equipment until the basic skills are mastered and only then consider the purchase of personal equipment. Please be patient as this may take several weeks of regular practise. Archery equipment is varied and can be expensive. It is with this in mind that care should be taken with the Club Equipment and most particularly, that care is taken not to handle equipment of a fellow archer without permission and supervision. A number of less expensive items such as arm guard, finger tab and quiver may be purchased as soon as you feel capable of making a choice.

Once you have established your basic skills, thought should be given to a basic archery equipment setup, tailored to your own style and physique. Generally the first major items to purchase will be a intermediate bow handle and a set of interchangeable limb (ensure that both have 'International fittings'), a sight and some aluminium arrows. You will find that over time your style and physical abilities will change as your technique is refined, and this may cause the necessary changes in equipment before your final setup is complete. It is for this reason we do not recommend buying the best (and most expensive) equipment until this period of adjustment is complete. The club coaches and some of the more experienced archers will be able to give you some good advice as they have all been through this learning curve.

smallest to largest) Gold, Red, Blue, Black and White. Each colour on the target is split into an inner ring and an outer ring. The scoring is based on a number of points awarded for hitting the relevant colour.

For GNAS rounds (distances measured in yards) the colours are scored as Gold = 9, Red = 7, Blue = 5, Black = 3, White = 1.

For FITA rounds (distances measured in metres) the colours are scored as Inner Gold = 10, Outer Gold = 9, Inner Red = 8, Outer Red = 7, Inner Blue = 6, Outer Blue = 5, Inner Black = 4, Outer Black = 3, Inner White = 2, Outer White = 1.

No arrow should be touched or removed from the target until all the arrows scores have been recorded.

No alterations to the value of scores written down may be performed, except by a judge. All scores must be recorded in ink.

When calling the scores of arrows the archer does so in groups of three, in descending order of value e.g. '9-7-5' pause '5-3-1'.

### **Club Protocol**

If other club members are already shooting on arrival at field:-

Check what round/distance is being shot.

**Always be courteous on or off the line, do not shout or talk loudly, this is distracting when members are shooting.**

Juniors should therefore be reminded that an archery field is not a playground.

### **Safety**

**...safety comes before shooting in archery.**

You must learn how to shoot safely in order to protect yourself and others. Archery is a sport, but you must always be aware that you hold a lethal weapon in your hand. You must shoot with safety in mind.

### **Equipment**

Make sure that you use the correct equipment, seek advice from coaches and experienced archers before you buy any equipment. It is particularly important that you use only arrows that are long enough for you. A short arrow is dangerous because it shatters if it lodges behind the bow; it can even embed itself in your arm. Inspect your equipment before you shoot for any sign of damage also ensuring the correct assembly of bows. If in doubt consult a coach or other experienced archer.

Everyone is responsible for putting out the bosses and stands that they intend using, ensuring that outdoor they are properly anchored with ropes and pegs. Once they have finished shooting, also returning them to the store leaving it in a safe and tidy condition.

### **Dress**

When dressing to shoot, avoid baggy shirts and sleeves, chest pockets with buttons. Remove any objects from chest pockets such as pens. Also avoid necklaces and broaches. Secure long hair by tying it back. Always wear an arm guard/bracer

**A bowstring could catch on any of these causing injury to yourself as well as others.**

## ***RANGE ETIQUETTE***

### ***While shooting***

Only nock an arrow on the bow, when on the shooting line with bow facing the target. Never point a bow at anyone with or without an arrow.

The range is usually set out with a shooting line and a short distance behind this is a waiting line. When not shooting stay behind the waiting line. This gives the range captain a clear view of the action and maintains safety.

You must obey all instructions given at shoots; these are usually given by either a whistle, or voice command.

Take your position on the shooting line when instructed to do so, by whistle or voice command. If an arrow falls off the arrow rest restart the shot rather than attempting to replace the arrow at full draw.

If any of your equipment falls forward of the shooting line when you are shooting **DO NOT CROSS THE LINE TO RETRIEVE IT**. Wait until all the archers have shot and the range captain gives you permission to retrieve it. If in a tournament step back off the line and hold your bow up to attract a Judge's attention.

Stop shooting immediately if you hear the word **FAST** called; lowering your bow carefully and removing the arrow. This command is given if a stray person or animal has come into the shooting area or if any occurrence compromises range safety. Only start

shooting again when the command to do so is given again.

### ***After shooting***

Step back from the shooting line when you finish shooting your arrows. However it is courteous to remain in place if an archer next to you is at full draw. **YOU MUST NOT COLLECT YOUR ARROWS UNTIL ALL THE OTHER ARCHERS HAVE FINISHED SHOOTING. A SIGNAL WILL BE GIVEN WHEN IT IS SAFE FOR YOU TO COLLECT YOUR ARROWS: TWO WHISTLE BLASTS OR THE VOICE COMMAND 'COLLECT ARROWS'.**

Never run towards the targets and approach the target with caution. Running or tripping into the nock end of an arrow could cause a serious injury, especially to your eyes.

Be sure there is no one behind you as you pull your arrows from the target, and ensure the bow is adequately braced when the arrows are pulled. Always pull the arrows back along the path they entered the target to eliminate any bending of the arrow.

Be careful with arrows because the points are sharp. Carry them in a quiver, or if in hand, with points in your palm. Never leave notepads, pens or other objects at the target while shooting is in progress.

### **Scoring and Target Etiquette**

Several regulations apply to scoring arrows (which form part of the GNAS Rules of Shooting). Each target has 5 colour scoring areas. The colours are: (from