



Exmouth Archers

Club Information

History

Exmouth Archers has one of the longest histories of any archery club in Devon, with sports archery in Exmouth traced back so far to 1841. We know that in 1895 Lt Col Bartlett revived the club at the Cranford Club site. With the introduction of lawn tennis at Cranford, Major Bridges moved the archery club to the Pavilion site. There have been many moves and breaks in history since then. The present club was reformed in 1984 following a beginners course at the Exmouth Community College.

Exmouth Archers has used many grounds, initially the drill hall and grounds at Lymstone Commando Training Centre, then the Pavilion on the seafront at Exmouth, before finally obtaining a long term lease on our own Ground.

Facilities

Our Ground, at Withycombe Raleigh Common, includes an outdoor range which can accommodate up to 28 targets, and a permanent Clubhouse equipped with a common room, storage and a fully fitted kitchen. The outdoor range is mainly used during the 'outdoor season' (May - September), but also during the winter should the weather be good. We shoot at Exmouth Community College during our 'Indoor Season' (October - April).

We also have a permanent Field Course of 28 targets set out in nearby woodland.

The Club

The Club currently consists of about 75 members, of all ages from Junior members to senior citizens. Club shooting sessions are relaxed and sociable but at all times upholding strict archery etiquette since, obviously, safety is paramount.

Although the Club is well represented at competitions throughout the region and beyond, many of our members shoot simply for relaxation and for the social atmosphere that exists. Social events such as meals, barbecues, outings to the bowling alley etc are a regular feature of the Club and the Committee is always looking for new ideas.

Membership Fees

Membership fees to the Club consist of two parts:

- i. Annual GNAS fees.
- ii. A Club Membership Subscription.

GNAS fees (due for each year starting 1 October) are payable to the Club in August of each year, and currently stand at £42.00 per adult. This is paid on by the Club to GNAS (the National Governing Body of the sport) with a proportion payable to the County and Regional associations, and provides insurance for you and for the Club, and supports such things as Coach and Judge training.

The Club Membership Subscription is £108 per annum for adults, or £72 per annum for juniors under 18, and is payable by Standing Order at £9 per month for adults, or £6 per month for juniors.

The Club Subscription pays for the upkeep of the Ground, Clubhouse and equipment, and is kept at a low level by fund-raising events carried out by Members. The major events are four Car Boot Sales held on our Ground each year.

For indoor shooting at the Exmouth Community College over the winter months, one session a week is included within the Membership Subscription. Archers who shoot at additional sessions pay £2 per session towards the hire of the Gym.

Visiting archers (providing they hold current GNAS or equivalent membership) may shoot for £2.00 per visit, either indoors or outdoors.

Club Days and Access

In the summer the Club shooting sessions are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.00pm, and Sunday morning from 10.30am. During the winter we switch to Exmouth Community College and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.30pm.

The Field Course is available on Sunday mornings, on the second Sunday in each month.

Junior and new archers should try to use the Wednesday sessions, when coaching will be available.

Members, following their 6 month probation period, can ask the Club Secretary for a key and swipecard which gains access to the Grounds and Clubhouse. This means that you can use the grounds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week should you wish! The key is used to open the 2 gates on the driveway, and the main lock on the Clubhouse door. The swipecard provides the access control, and opens the second lock on the door. We can disable any individual card, should fees lapse.

Although the Club tries to give Members 24/7 access to our Grounds for shooting, note that to comply with the GNAS Rules of Shooting archers should not shoot alone! There must be a minimum of two adults present whenever shooting is taking place. One of these adults can be a non-archer, to act as a look-out. If there are only two adults present, and both are there to shoot, then they should alternate on the line, not shoot together, again so that there is a lookout. If you are taking a Junior, including your own child, to shoot then there still needs to be two adults present, one of them an archer and one who need not be.

Juniors

The Club accepts Junior Members from the age of 10, and exceptionally may accept Junior Members from the age of 8. The Club operates in accordance with our own and our national governing body's strict Child Protection rules.

The following rules apply to Junior Members:

For Juniors under the age of 14, a Parent must remain with and supervise their child during archery sessions to ensure that they behave in a suitable fashion and adhere to all safety requirements.

Juniors age 14 and above may be left provided that the Committee are satisfied with their behaviour and responsibility towards shooting requirements, and subject to the following:

- a Parent must remain with their child until the session commences and collect their child on time at the end of the session,
- Juniors must not be left unless there are at least 2 adults present,
- and provided that adults present on the night are happy with the pickup arrangements and have a Parent's contact telephone number for emergencies.

At the discretion of the Committee and on the sole responsibility of the Parent, another responsible adult may be appointed by the Parent to deliver, supervise or collect their child on their behalf, provided that:

- the nominated adult has agreed beforehand and is present at the session for that purpose,
- and the nominated adult is known to and acceptable to the Committee.

Parents must note that minor physical contact from the Coach may be necessary as part of coaching, and Membership of Juniors is subject to the Parent accepting this. All Club Coaches have undergone CRB (criminal record) checks in accordance with our Child Protection rules.

Neither Junior Members nor their Parents (unless they are also Members) are entitled to a key or swipe card to the Grounds.

The Club has designated a member of the Management Committee, Sarah Harwood, as Child Protection Officer. Her task is to ensure that any concerns that you might have about the treatment of Junior members is properly dealt with.

Club Organisation

The Club is run on a day to day basis by a Management Committee which is elected at an Annual General Meeting of all Members held in September each year.

The 2008 / 2009 Committee is made up of:

President	Mrs Pauline Stott
Chairman	Mr Tony Brown
Secretary	Mr John Russell
Treasurer	Mrs Sarah Harwood
Tournament Organiser	Mr Timothy Pratt
Equipments Officer	vacant
Records Officer	Mrs Barbara Finney
Coaching Organiser	Mr Rob Drew
Field Course Officer	Mr Gerry Lavell
Public Relations Officer	Mr Glen Montgomery
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Sarah Harwood
Senior Shooting Members	Mr Paul Wood
	Miss Diane Dixon
Junior Members Representative	Mr Tony Brown

Photos of Committee Members are displayed in the Clubhouse, so that you know who to approach – and they are all very approachable! Contact telephone numbers can be found either on the club notice board or on the gateposts.

Refer also to the Club Constitution, copy of which is attached.

Rules

Shooting at the Club is conducted in accordance with the GNAS Rules of Shooting, a copy of which is available in the Clubhouse. Other than the Rules of Shooting, the following general Rules apply:

- Members may not shoot if GNAS fees are outstanding.
- Members whose Subscription is two months or more in arrears forfeit the privileges of the Club until outstanding fees are paid up to date.
- Members must be responsible for the safety and security of the Club premises and ensure that services are switched off and locks secured before leaving.
- Members must take good care of the grounds, buildings, machinery and equipment belonging to the Club.
- Members are expected to assist whenever possible with the general running and maintenance of the Club and to help with tournaments and events held by the Club.

Data Protection

Information on Members will be kept and used only for the purposes of running the Club, including affiliating to GNAS, and for supporting Members in their archery.

A list of Members and their contact details is kept in the Clubhouse so that Members can contact each other – to arrange to meet at the Club so that you don't shoot alone, for

instance, or to arrange transport to a competition. For Child Protection reasons this list does not include Junior Members. It also excludes any other Member who doesn't want their details to be included. If you do not want your name and details to appear in the list on the noticeboard then please let the Club Secretary know.

Club Colours

For normal shooting at the Club the dress code is relaxed. However, when you progress to shooting at formal competitions you will be expected to conform to the GNAS dress code. This requires that you wear either green or white for both upper and lower garments or, alternatively, wear registered Club Colours. Exmouth Archers have registered Club Colours for upper garments that you will probably prefer to wear.

Club Colours can be worn either as polo shirts, sweatshirts, or fleeces and in all cases are specified as:

“Mid blue with Exmouth Archers logo and name on front. Optional 'Exmouth Archers' in red on back with or without club website name underneath.”

Suitable garments can be purchased from Personal Touch in Exeter, who have the specification and artwork already set up. For juniors preparing to shoot at their first tournament the Club will reimburse the cost of a polo shirt in Club Colours.

Joining the Club

Following completion of a beginners course, Members join by:

- completing and returning the Application for Membership form (including the Agreement of the Parent or Legal Guardian of Junior Members),
- paying GNAS fees at their current annual rate,
- and setting up a standing order to pay Membership Subscription.

Probation

Membership is subject to an initial 6-month 'probationary' period. During this period we request that:

- You shoot only on the designated Club sessions.
- You should try to attend at least once a week over the period.
- You use only equipment approved by the Club.

At the end of the probationary period your Membership will be confirmed, except in the unlikely event that the Committee decides that your membership would be detrimental to the Club. In this case we will notify you in writing, stating the reasons why, and you will then have the opportunity to respond.

In return, during your probationary period we will supervise you shooting and help in any way we can. Club coaches are available if you feel you want help and will guide you through building your own shooting style. Don't be afraid to ask if you feel you need help: as time goes on we will tend to be less hands on and will only help if asked.

Equipment

During your probationary period you will be free to use the Club equipment until such time as you feel you want to purchase your own. Although we request that you purchase 'personal' equipment (at least a tab and bracer) early on, we advise that you should not purchase your own bow and arrows for some months. Other Club members and Club coaches will be happy to advise on the purchasing of equipment, when you reach that point.

If after 6 months you are still using Club equipment, we will charge you a minimal hire fee of £5 per month for the use of Club bows and arrows. This money is used in turn to repair and replace the beginner's equipment.