

# South Wansdyke Archery Club

## Members' Handbook

2023



[www.southwansdykearchers.co.uk](http://www.southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

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## Introduction to the Club

Welcome to South Wansdyke Archery Club, SWAC for short. The club is a small, friendly, but competitive club, formed in 1989, currently with around 30 shooting members. Members shoot longbow, barebow, recurve, and compound bows, and it's a mix of social archers, who shoot for fun, social interaction, and gentle exercise, all the way to competitive archers, competing in national competitions.

## Membership

The club is registered with Archery GB, which is the governing body for archery in GB. The club is also affiliated with Somerset Archery Association, Grand Western Archery Association, and the England Archery Federation.

The membership subscriptions are taken in two parts, AGB membership and affiliations, which are paid in September, and club membership, which is paid in March. To shoot at the club, you must be members of both the Club and AGB and affiliated regional organisations. Green fees are also due for each session that a member shoots at, and these are charged quarterly.

The current costs of membership are:

Category	AGB	GWAS	SCAA	Total Payable	Club	Green Fees (out / in)
Junior <18	£12.00	£2.00*	£1.50*	<b>£12.00</b>	<b>£12.50</b>	Free
Senior 18-24	£12.00	£3.00	£1.50	<b>£16.50</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>£1 / £2</b>
Senior 25+	£47.00	£6.00	£3.00	<b>£56.00</b>	<b>£25</b>	<b>£1 / £2</b>
Member with disabilities	£12.00	0.00	0.00	<b>12.00</b>	<b>£12.50 (J) / £25 (A)</b>	<b>£1 / £2</b>

\* Junior regional subscriptions are paid by the club.

The club can provide a bow, a set of six arrows, a quiver, arm guard, and tab for new members while they are considering purchasing their own equipment.

Members joining between September and March will pay half of the annual club memberships for the first year, and between April and September will only pay a pro-rata amount of their Archery GB subscriptions

## Club Officers

Chair: Andy Young – [chair@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:chair@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Secretary: David Aldridge – [secretary@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Treasurer: Clair Crook – [treasurer@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Equipment Officer: Clive Jarrett – [equipment@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:equipment@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Records Officer: Simon Whittle – [records@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:records@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Welfare & Safeguarding Officer: Janet Ross – [safeguarding@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Youth Archer Representative: Sophie Young – [youth@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:youth@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Head Coach: Andy Young – [coaching@southwansdykearchers.co.uk](mailto:coaching@southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

## **Shooting Organisation and Etiquette**

### **Booking**

All shooting sessions need to be booked before attending, either by using the WhatsApp group, or emailing or phoning the treasurer, who will register the booking on the booking sheet, which can be viewed by members to check whether sessions are taking place, and how many archers are shooting.

### **Venues & Shooting Sessions**

The club meets throughout the year at Prattens Social club on Monday evenings, arriving at 7 to set up and start shooting at 7.30. These are Portsmouth rounds, and usually take around one or two hours to complete depending on the number of archers. Shooting indoors for beginners is not always appropriate, and archers should be able to score 252 at 20 yards before shooting indoors.

During the winter, the club shoot outdoors at Writhlington on Saturdays and Sundays, with sessions available in the morning arriving at 10am for shooting between 10.30 and 12.30, and afternoon arriving at 1.30pm for shooting between 2 and 4, with thirty minutes after for clearing away. During the summer, the club also shoot on Tuesday and Friday evenings, arriving at 6pm to start shooting at 6.30. Sometimes the evening shoots are shorter rounds to cater for early sunsets during the spring and autumn.

### **Minimum Numbers**

To ensure a safe shooting session to take place, there must be:

#### **Range Set Up and Pack Away**

- A minimum of two club members (or their supervising adult or carer), one of whom must be an adult member, and both must be physically capable of setting up the archery range and hold a key.
- Note that, because of the weight of the target bosses, it is unlikely that anyone aged under fifteen would be physically strong enough to assist.

#### **Shooting**

- A minimum of two competent archers, one of whom must be an adult member.

### **Safeguarding**

Janet Ross is the Club's Safeguarding Officer and is responsible for child protection, vulnerable adults, and the welfare of club members. The club's Welfare and Safeguarding Policy is available on request, or for download from the Club Website.

Should you have any concern, then please report that to Janet and she will take appropriate action. If immediate action is required at a shooting session, then one of the coaches should be approached, and they will take the necessary action.

Members aged under 18 must be supervised by an adult (Parent/Guardian/Carer) at all times, and that means that they must be in the sight of the supervising adult, even when child is not shooting.

## Setting Up

When attending a shooting session, all members should arrive thirty minutes before the start of the session and should help with the set-up of the shooting range before setting up their own equipment.

This usually includes taking out warning signs for around the field, setting up the shooting line and waiting line, measuring out the distances for target bosses, setting up the boss stands, bosses, and target faces.

## Shooting Rounds

The type of shooting round will normally be established before the session and will be advertised on the club calendar, however, sometimes it is possible to shoot different rounds, or example, if someone is shooting in a postal competition. Please mention this when booking the session.

The club regularly takes part in postal competitions, which are usually held over the winter, when there are less face-to-face competitions available. These are usually the Frostbite competition (30m outdoor) or Portsmouth competition (20y indoor).

There are different types of shooting session that are run at the club, and each month there is usually a 252 shoot, and either a handicap shoot, or a fun shoot. The club also attends several tournaments during the year, like the Battle of Britain WA1440, and the SCAA Indoor Championship.

Different rounds are shot throughout the year, and all of these can be submitted to the records officer, and the scores are then used to create a shooting handicap. This is used in handicap competitions, and to map progress of archers. Popular longer rounds shot at the club are the National Rounds, and the WA metric rounds. Shorter Warwick, Frostbite, and 252 rounds are regularly shot too. Occasionally, whole day shoots are held, which might be a Western or 1440 Metric round.

## Scoring

When shooting, there are a few rules to remember about scoring. You should call out your arrows, in two groups of three, in order of the highest scoring first, to the lowest scoring last. You should not touch your arrows until everyone has scored, and should there be any arrows that may have broken or are touching the line between scoring zones, another archer on the target boss should confirm what the arrow should score, and any disputes should be settled by the field captain.

Care should be taken of other archers' arrows when drawing them from the target boss, and make sure that they are not damaged by bending, or carelessly treading on them when they're on the floor.

## Scoring App

The club use the ExpertArcher scoring app, which can be used to submit scores directly to the records officer. If you can't use that app, then you can use any other app, and take a screenshot of the score and email or WhatsApp that to the records officer. Alternatively, paper score sheets can be provided, and these are often used when scoring at competitions.

## **Shooting Competitions**

The club presents awards for high scores, and other achievements throughout the year, which includes Archery GB classifications of Archer 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> class, and Bowman 3<sup>rd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> class.

The club also organises 252 challenge shooting sessions each month, where a score of 252 has to be achieved twice at each imperial distance from 10 yards to 100 yards.(different scores are required for non-recurve bow types)

The club also holds handicap competitions, where the calculated handicap of archers is used to make the competition more equal between experienced and newer archers. Archers must shoot at least three qualifying rounds for a handicap to be calculated.

Starting in 2023, the Club now runs a Ladder competition, where archers can challenge each other to head-to-head shoot-offs, moving up and down the ladder depending on winning, and participation points.

The club participates in postal competitions, usually during the winter season, and members can take part by booking into club shooting sessions and submitting their scores.

## **Lost Arrows**

When an arrow misses, it should not be retrieved until the scoring has been completed on your target (unless it's in a dangerous position such as being short of the target). If the arrow cannot be found, then all archers should help searching for it. The archer who loses the arrow should ensure that the arrow is missing by counting arrows in their quiver, and checking the sides of the target boss, and should give an indication of where the arrow may have landed. If the arrow can't be found after five minutes of searching, then shooting will continue with the round, and at the next break in-between ends, the metal detector can be used for a further five minutes to find the arrow. If the arrow still can't be found, then the search will continue at the end of the round, and if not found by the end of the day, then the lost arrow procedure needs to be followed.

## **Noise**

It is important to remember that some archers like silence when shooting, so noise should be kept to a minimum. This is also important for safety reasons, so warning calls can be heard. Remember to mute your phone before starting shooting.

## **Safety Reminder**

It's important to remember some key safety rules that you will have learnt on your beginners' course.

## **Shooting & Waiting Line**

Usually, the forward line is the shooting line, and the waiting line is behind that by 10 metres or yards, but when shooting longer distances at our outdoor field, it is often the back line that is the shooting line, and archers waiting to shoot should stand at least two metres behind that when not shooting.

If the round being shot uses two different distances, then its normal to move to the front line for the second distance, and then the back line will become the waiting line.

Tripping over the shooting line is one of the most common accidents occurring at archery shoots, so be careful when crossing the line.

## **Start and stop shooting signals**

The club usually uses a whistle, or sometimes another audible warning sound to indicate a start to shooting or to collect arrows, and so at club shoots, it is usually one whistle that means start shooting, and then two or three whistles that means stop shooting. (The official rules, which may be used at Tournaments, you may hear two whistles to mean approach the line, one whistle to mean start shooting, and three to mean retrieve arrows.)

Word commands can also be given such as 'commence shooting', and 'clear to collect arrows'.

## **Stop/fast warnings**

Should you hear the warning "Stop" or "Fast", then you should not release any arrows, and should immediately bring your bow to a downward pointing angle and remove any nocked arrow from the bow.

Should you see any danger, then you should shout the stop/fast warning to alert everyone. This could be someone moving forward of the shooting line, and animal passing in front of the targets, or someone entering the overshoot area.

## **Safely drawing your bow**

You should remember that when you draw your bow, the arrow should not be pointing upwards, and should be roughly horizontal or lower. This is so that should there be an accidental release, the arrow will go into the ground, not potentially out of the field.

You should never point your bow in any direction other than towards the target.

## **Approaching the target boss**

Remember to approach the boss from the side, not directly in front, this is to reduce the risk of injury from arrows on the ground, or from the nocks of arrows in the target.

## **Drawing arrows**

Draw arrows from the side, and do not collect arrows below the boss or behind until the arrows are scored and drawn from the boss. Draw arrows by placing a hand against the target, and then pull from just behind the front of the arrow. Check that no one is standing behind the arrows where you might stab them with the nocks. Do not pull from the middle or back of the arrow as you may damage the shaft or fletchings. If you do that, you should offer to pay for the damage. Do not 'wiggle' the arrow to draw it. If an arrow becomes stuck in the wooden frame, there are arrow pullers available to help with this, and these are available from the field captain.

## **Making sure equipment is safe (arrows and bow)**

Before shooting, archers should check that the limbs on their bows have no damage or delamination and that the string is not frayed or otherwise damaged, particularly around the loops or nocking point. Arrows should be checked for straightness, that the nocks, points and fletchings are securely attached. Check that all attachments to bows are secure, and tightly fixed.

## **Club Organisation**

### **Committee**

The club committee consists of the club officers and two club members, and meets every six to eight weeks. The details of club officers are shown in the introduction to this handbook.

### **Club Positions**

There are a number of club positions and tasks that need to be carried out, and the committee are always looking for volunteers. We all joined the club to shoot, not to maintain websites, or negotiate with landowners, or even to be coaches or field captains, but without that help, the club can't operate. Everyone is busy with their own lives too, but the more people who volunteer, the less time and effort is required. If you feel you can contribute to the running of the club, then please contact a committee member, or the Club Secretary.

### **Club Annual Meetings**

The club holds an Annual General Meeting usually in February and holds an annual awards evening, which is usually in January.

### **Club Special Sessions**

There are a few special sessions that the club holds throughout the year, such as coaching, equipment maintenance, and bow tuning. The details of these will be on the club website calendar.

### **Club Communications**

The club communicates widely using WhatsApp, and members can ask to be added to this. There are separate groups for the general club discussion and booking sessions, and for submitting scores.

The club has a website that contains a calendar of events, as well as other information about the club and its activities. There is also Facebook, twitter, Instagram and WhatsApp.

### **Data**

The club stores a small amount of information about archers, mainly to enable communications, and general organisation, and does not sell this on, or use it for any purpose other than running the club. Dates of birth (month and year) are sometimes used to correctly categorise archers into age groups, and names are published when members take part in competitions with or for the club.



## Publicity

Photographs of members taking part in archery at the club are taken and used in publicity on the website, social media and occasionally in local news. Any member not wishing to be shown should let the secretary know, and the club will endeavour to exclude them or not show them in a way that they are identifiable.

## Club Equipment

The club holds equipment for beginners' courses, and for new members while they decide on the style of archery they might like to pursue, and also to allow time for new archers to build up their strength so they can move onto their own bow and equipment. New members need to book these in advance so the club can have them ready to use, and new members should arrive thirty minutes before shooting to ensure that the equipment can be checked and set up.

## New Members

New members can use club equipment while they decide on what style of archery they want to pursue, and also the specific equipment they might want to buy.

New members are recommended to select a session where a coach will be available to assist them while they learn.

The club coaches and experienced archers will be happy to give new members advice on what to buy, and if requested, will accompany new members to shops to help them make decisions on what to buy.

Coaching days are held especially for newer archers, or those archers wishing to take their archery to a higher level such as competing in tournaments or generally improving their technique and how to tune bows. These will be advertised on the website events calendar.

## Links and Further Information

You can find further information on the club website – [www.southwansdykearchers.co.uk](http://www.southwansdykearchers.co.uk)

Archery GB's new *Start Archery* website is a very useful starting point for information about shooting, and can be found here: <https://startarchery.co.uk/>

Types of Shooting Round & Handicap Scores and Calculations can be found in a number of websites, and this is a useful resource - <http://hertsarchery.org.uk/pdfs/RSHC.pdf>

There are plenty of videos on YouTube about archery, and these are changing all the time. Search for archery, and you will easily find these.

## Organisations

Grand Western Archery Association (GWAA) - <http://www.gwas.org.uk/>

Somerset County Archery Association (SCAA) - <http://www.somersetarchery.co.uk/>

Archery GB (AGB) - <https://www.archerygb.org/>

England Archery Federation / Archery England (EAF) - <https://archeryengland.org/>

World Archery Federation - <https://worldarchery.sport/>

## Shops

The club recommends Wales Archery for equipment. It is located just over the Severn Bridge in Chepstow. If you can't travel there easily, Indigo Archery is our local shop. Feel free to ask one of the coaches to accompany you there when making any large purchases, for independent advice.

- ⇒⇒ **Indigo Archery** - <https://indigoarchery.co.uk/> - Our local shop, providing free advice, and an indoor range where you can get a feel for what you're buying, and an extensive workshop for bow adjustments and set-up. They have a good range of equipment in stock and can also order specific items, usually beating the prices of bigger stores. Pay-as-you-go shooting is also available.
- ⇒⇒ **Wales Archery** - <https://walesarchery.com/> - Highly expert advice given. They have an extensive range of bows, accessories, arrows and tools, and have a small indoor test range for tuning and testing. They give student and CSSC discounts.
- ⇒⇒ **The Archery Shop** - <https://thearcheryshop.co.uk/> - A good selection of equipment, slightly cheaper than some other shops, with regular sales and discounts, and with expert advice available.

## Club & Other Archery Contacts

<b>Chair:</b>	Andy Young	chair@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Secretary:</b>	David Aldridge	secretary@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Clair Crook	treasurer@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Equipment Officer:</b>	Clive Jarrett	equipment@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Records Officer:</b>	Simon Whittle	records@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Head Coach:</b>	Andy Young	coaching@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Youth Representative:</b>	Sophie Young	youth@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>	Janet Ross	safeguarding@southwansdykearchers.co.uk
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Simon Whittle	communications@southwansdykearchers.co.uk

### Somerset County Archery Association

Website: [www.somersetarchery.co.uk](http://www.somersetarchery.co.uk)

Secretary: Anne Lewin – [theseecretary2019@somersetarchery.co.uk](mailto:theseecretary2019@somersetarchery.co.uk)

Chair: Andrew Rees – [thechairperson2019@somersetarchery.co.uk](mailto:thechairperson2019@somersetarchery.co.uk)

### Grand Western Archery Association

Website: [www.gwas.org.uk](http://www.gwas.org.uk)

Secretary: Denise Bunce – [secretary2021@gwas.org.uk](mailto:secretary2021@gwas.org.uk)

Chair: Andrew Rees – [chairman@gwas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@gwas.org.uk)