A Guide to:
University Archery
Why do archery at university?

There are so many opportunities for new students to join societies and sports so why do they choose to do archery? University archery offers something for everyone. It’s a great sport to try as you can join a club with no previous experience! University clubs are keen to get beginners shooting quickly so you can enjoy it at whatever level suits you. Competitions are open to archers of all levels and provide a ‘novice’ category so you can shoot against other people who have just started out too. For experienced archers, university clubs provide; regular shooting opportunities, access to competitions, and of course a fantastic social side to university life.

How do I get involved?

Find out if your university has an archery club. If it does, the club will provide at least one beginners course at the start of the academic year. Some clubs may get as many as 100 students at their beginners’ sessions as new people look to join at the start of their university life whilst many current students also decide to turn their hand to archery.

If your university does not already have an archery club, perhaps look to set one up using the information within this guide as a starting point.
Information for university clubs

Membership and setting up a new club

There is a one off annual fee of £140 (2016/17) to set up a university archery club. For details on joining, call Archery GB (details at the end of the guide). For information about how to set up a new club, download a Guide to Setting up a New Archery Club.

Funding

There is a range of information about funding on the club area of the Archery GB website. A funding guide can be found here and is updated every three months to make sure it provides the latest information about various pots of funding that may be available. Visit www.archerygb.org for more information.

Facilities and equipment

With access to university facilities, many university clubs have good access for the indoor terms. However, securing good time slots may prove difficult as you compete with all of the other sports. Start to build a relationship with the key sport development staff at the university to find out how they may accommodate you best.

Equipment is the biggest cost for clubs starting up, and for those wanting to expand, catering for beginners through to experienced archers. Some clubs are supported by their university towards equipment costs and other clubs finds community clubs are willing to donate bows to them. Some university clubs have also set up kit hire schemes to provide support.
Competition drives many university clubs and many students feel this is the best aspect of university archery. There are a range of competitions you can access. Many clubs will have a competition against other university clubs within a couple of months so training beginners quickly is a priority for clubs. At most university competitions there are special novice categories (anyone who has not had experience of archery before the start of their university life). Approximately a third of archers competing are in the ‘novice’ category.

There are five regional leagues in Britain for university archery that are run by students. These are very friendly shoots allowing many students to compete in their first competition as well as being very sociable events (HOW TO FIND OUT MORE). There are two BUCS competitions a year; the Indoor and Outdoor Championships. The regional leagues and BUCS competitions are hugely popular and attended by all levels of archers. The BUCS University Indoor Championships held every year is believed to be the biggest single day archery competition in the UK. There is also the British University Team Championships (BUTC) which is independent of BUCS.

Information about university club administration

Archery GB Membership Renewals

The Archery GB membership years runs from 1 October to 30 September. Membership Services sends out an annual return to each club, normally, in August.

Along with some guidance notes, the annual return includes the following:

A. List of Members
B. Member Details
C. Disclosure
D. Archery GB Membership Fee Receipt

The annual return will be sent to the registered address of the club secretary (in the case of University Clubs, usually, the Students’ Union). On your return to university, after the summer break, please check. If you have not received your annual return paperwork by 1 September, or to confirm your club’s registered address please contact Membership Services at Archery GB.

Ideally, your initial return should arrive at Membership Services by 31 October. This initial return should include:
- Returning members from the previous year who have paid their club fees (Enclosure A – List of Members).
- Early joining new members (Enclosure B – Member Details).
- A compliance disclosure (Enclosure C - Disclosure).
- Payment (details in annual return guidance notes). If you require a receipt, contact Membership Services.

In order that these members can shoot at other clubs or enter competitions, please issue them with a receipt (Enclosure D – Archery GB Membership Fee Receipt).

**New Members and Late Payers**

Having submitted an initial return with Membership Services, all subsequent new members or late payers who join your club will be covered by the Archery GB insurance policy provided they have paid their club fees. However, before these new members/late payers get an Archery GB membership card you will need to send us their details (Enclosure B – Member Details). Please remember to give them a receipt.

You may not get all your members signed up at the same time on one form and you will probably need to send several additional returns during a year. You only need to pay your Archery GB University Club membership fee once, with your initial return.

We do not require the postal addresses of university club members we will send their membership cards to the club address, usually the Students’ Union. To assist with identification please include dates of birth.

**Taster Sessions and Beginners’ Courses**

To be covered by Archery GB insurance, before your club can run taster sessions or beginners’ courses, you must have submitted your initial annual return to Membership Services. Guidance on running beginners’ courses can be found at: [www.archerygb.org/archery/intro_archery.php](http://www.archerygb.org/archery/intro_archery.php)

Beginners, prior to becoming members of Archery GB, are covered by Archery GB insurance for a maximum of their first six lessons/sessions. Therefore, you do not need to send in the details of novice archers or beginners who join your club until they have completed a standard beginners’ course.

**Non-Student Members**

Only students who are registered and studying with your university are covered by the Archery GB University Club Membership fees. If university staff, club coaches, alumni, spouses, friends of the club or anyone else who does not currently study at the University wishes to shoot at your club they must join Archery GB as Direct Members or as members of another club.
If you have members of your club who are not students registered at your university and who have not paid the appropriate Archery GB membership fee, the insurance of all your members could be invalid.

**When to join Archery GB**

1. **Expressions of Interest**
   - Freshers’ Fair or Similar

2. **Taster/Have-a-go Session**

3. **Beginner’s Course**

4. **Become a Club member**

   **Covered by Archery GB insurance, Membership not required**

   **Join Archery GB**

If you have any questions regarding the membership process, please contact Membership Services.

**Membership Services:**

- ☎️ 01952 677888
- 📧 enquiries@archerygb.org
Useful organisations and contacts

Where to go for more information

Archery GB is the recognised Governing Body for all forms of archery in the United Kingdom and has over 35,000 members. University archery clubs pay a block fee for all students in the club to be members of Archery GB. This includes insurance cover for the sport.

Your Archery GB region supports the running of coaching and also distributes funding for various activities. Each regional association has a website for contact details.

Each county association will be able to support you in setting up your club. Many counties also have county teams you can shoot for.

British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) is the governing body for university sport in the UK. BUCS organise competitions for 50 sports including archery. Working with the governing bodies for sport, they are also responsible for organising UK students for international university events.

Archery for Students (AFS) is a group of experienced students and alumni who assist in the running of the BUCS competitions.
Local Community

There are many advantages for both club and county when links are developed. This creates a support network to share equipment, access county coaching and attend tournaments more regularly with reduced mileage, support for new or struggling clubs, advice, development and funding. Getting a university rep onto a county committee will allow the university to be involved in county activity and benefits begin to run both ways. Being part of the local county allows members to compete more regularly which has a strong effect on the confidence and experience of novices in particular. Also encourage the non-university clubs in your county to field full teams to tournaments to develop a sense of competition. It may help you to access coaching development programmes and strengthen county teams. Loughborough University became a stronger club because of these links and advise your club looks into your local links too.

Archery GB is the trading name of the Grand National Archery Society, a company limited by guarantee no. 1342150 Registered in England.
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