



# Welcome to Ivanhoe Archers

## New member information

### Background

Ivanhoe Archers was formed in 1990 by former members of Charnwood Archers. It is a small, friendly club based in Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age, gender, ability or bow style. All sessions and competitions are open to both juniors and seniors, with integration encouraged (although juniors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult when shooting).

Whether you shoot just for fun or take it more seriously and are keen to break records and enter competitions, whether you just want to turn up occasionally when the sun is shining or attend every session even through the cold, winter months, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

We shoot outdoors all year round and also indoors over the winter.

The club has four coaches, one with Level 2 coaching qualifications and three with Level 1.

In addition to holding regular shooting sessions for members, the club also runs beginners' sessions, taster sessions and attends events to encourage participation in archery, increase the profile of the club and raise funds.

Ivanhoe Archers is also a member Ashby Sport, a collaboration between multiple sports clubs and associations in Ashby and the surrounding area. The focus is to celebrate sports, help increase awareness of everything sport-related that Ashby has to offer and encourage engagement for all local people.

Ivanhoe Archers is affiliated with Archery GB, L&RCAA (Leicestershire & Rutland County Archery Association) and EMAS (East Midlands Archery Society).

The club is fully GDPR compliant.



Ivanhoe Archers is a friendly club so please ask if you require any advice or assistance, as members are always happy to help.



## Fees

Club fees are collected on two occasions during the year, March and September. Fees cover club membership, outdoor range fees, Archery GB affiliation and L&RCAA/EMAS i.e. county affiliation. Affiliation fees provide your insurance cover as well as allowing you to participate in competitions and shoot at other clubs as a guest.

March fees include club membership and outdoor range fees.

September fees include national, regional and county affiliation fees only.

Fees vary for seniors, under 25s and juniors (under 18s), as their affiliation fees differ depending on age. When payment is due, members will be notified via Facebook and an e-mail will be sent. You will be informed of the amount due and the date by which it needs to be paid. Prompt payment of fees is appreciated.

Payment by bank transfer is preferable and please include the archer's name as reference.

### Bank details

Account name: Ivanhoe Archers

Account no: 00713918

Sort code: 30-92-15

Cash or cheques are also acceptable, if preferred, and can be given to any committee member to pass on to the Treasurer.

For indoor sessions, a small fee is charged per session for both seniors and juniors to contribute towards the hire of the hall.

Guests are welcome to shoot at the club (on the condition that they are Archery GB members and must show their card as proof) and are asked to pay a small fee per session. Guests can shoot only by invitation from a club member.

Please see the membership fees information sheet for further details.

## Sessions

Indoor shooting takes place at Hood Park Leisure Centre, North Street.

Outdoor shooting is held on the rugby field at Ivanhoe College, North Street. The club shoots outdoors all year round, weather permitting. New members will be given the code to the padlock on the gate at the side of the school which allows access to the playground and field.

Sessions typically last 2-3 hours.

### October – March

#### Outdoor

Saturday morning – from 10.00

Sunday morning – from 10.00

#### Indoor

Saturday – times to be confirmed

Sunday – times to be confirmed

### April – September

#### Outdoor

Tuesday evening – from 19.00

Thursday evening – from 19.00

Saturday morning – from 10.00

Sunday morning – from 10.00

The start and finish times on summer evenings are dependent on the hours of daylight, with shooting starting earlier in April/September (18.30) and finishing at dusk.

In all cases archers meet about half an hour before the scheduled session time to help set up the range first and then their own equipment and are expected to help clear the range/take down the equipment after shooting has finished. This applies primarily to senior archers and parents of juniors, although there are often jobs that juniors can assist with too. Co-operation from all is encouraged so the job can be completed quickly and does not become onerous

for any members. If you are unsure what needs to be done just ask and any club member will be happy to advise.

Sessions are booked in advance using the ClubEvent booking app. The app can be downloaded and, when asked, you need to enter the club code IAQA.



## Shooting

Different archers have different objectives when they shoot. Some come primarily for fun, some to practise and some to shoot scoring rounds (for example to improve personal bests or handicaps or to break club records). There are opportunities for all, whether you shoot simply for enjoyment or more competitively.

A shooting calendar is prepared and shared with club members. This includes a combination of specific designated rounds, training sessions and sometimes fun shoots e.g. lottery shoot, five bird roast on New Year's Day and Halloween pumpkin clout.

The majority of the shooting at the club is target shooting but regularly over the winter and occasionally over the summer we shoot clout. In clout the archers shoot arrows at a flag from a relatively long distance (generally 125 metres for seniors and 90 metres for juniors) and score points depending on how close each arrow lands to the flag.

Generally you are able to choose the distance you want to shoot (from 10 yards upwards, with the maximum dependent on the size of the hall or field), the number of arrows you shoot and the size of the target face.

Shooting distances can be measured in yards/imperial (where 5 zone scoring is used) or metres (using 10 zone scoring).

The size of target faces also varies, including 122cm, 80cm, 60cm and 40cm, although other smaller faces are used for specific indoor rounds.

There is huge number of different rounds that can be shot, some specific for shooting indoors and some for outdoors. If you need any advice on rounds please speak to a senior archer or one of the records officers.



Target days are when a recognised round is shot under Archery GB rules. If you shoot a scoring round you need to ensure that the score sheet is completed fully, signed and passed on to the records officers or left in the container for them to collect. They will then record the scores.

Junior archers are encouraged to mix in and shoot with seniors to ensure that they are fully integrated into the club and have an easy transition once they become seniors. However, juniors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult when shooting.

In addition to the coaches there are numerous experienced archers at the club who are happy to offer shooting advice. Please just ask if you would like some assistance.



## Competitions

Should you wish, there is the opportunity at Ivanhoe Archers to taking part in both internal and external competitions.

Internal competitions take place indoors at the end of the indoor season (March) and outdoors at the end of the summer (September). Award ceremonies are held, with trophies, medals and certificates handed out to recognise achievements.



External competitions are occasionally held at clubs across the county (for seniors and juniors, individual and team events). The Tournament Officer is responsible for co-ordinating our involvement in these and will inform club members of the competitions and compile lists of those interested in participating.

L&RCAA also runs 'postal' inter-club competitions for all clubs within the county where specific rounds are shot (generally monthly through the indoor shooting season over the winter) and scores sent off. This is often for both individuals and teams.



Occasionally, shooting doesn't go as planned so Ivanhoe Archers celebrates the shots that hit the wooden stands or the strings holding the stands secure, with two wooden 'trophies' which can be signed and dated. These are kept in the container and all are invited to add their names and be proud of their achievements.

## Safe shooting/club etiquette

The Archery GB code of conduct/rules of shooting can be found on their website. However, some general guidance is provided here, most of which will have been covered on the beginners' course.

A field captain is always appointed to ensure safe shooting.

All archers should follow the whistle or verbal commands of the field captain with regard to when to approach the shooting line, begin shooting and collect arrows.

If the Fast/Stop command is given by the field captain or any other archer it is essential to stop shooting immediately.

When waiting to shoot it is important to stand behind the waiting line or, if there isn't one, well back from the shooting line.

Only nock the arrow when standing on the shooting line and only draw the bow when facing the target.

Do not "dry fire" your bow (i.e. draw it and let go without an arrow in it) as this can damage the bow and be dangerous to the archer.

Archers should wait until others shooting with them have finished before stepping back from the shooting line.

Do not talk loudly on the shooting line as this can distract other archers.

Archers must not step over the shooting line unless the command has been given to collect arrows, even if an arrow or other equipment has been dropped while shooting.

When approaching the boss to collect arrows archers should walk to the side and not directly in line with the boss, looking out for any arrows that may have bounced out.

Do not touch any arrows until they are ready to be pulled out i.e. once all archers have completed scoring or had the opportunity to review their shots.

When scoring, an archer calls out three scores at a time, pointing to each arrow but not touching it.



Usually one or two archers pull out all arrows (not just their own) and distribute them afterwards. When removing the arrows take care that this can be done safely and that all other archers have stepped back.

It is important that everyone ensures they have all six arrows (or however many were shot) before returning to the waiting line.

Any arrows that have missed the target should be retrieved after those on the target have been removed. Other archers are expected to help in the search if necessary and the club owns two metal detectors which can also be used. If a lost arrow can't be found it is essential to notify a committee member so this can be recorded.

If an archer causes any damage to another's arrows it is expected that they will offer payment to replace the arrow.

## Equipment

The club's beginner bows can be borrowed for 3 months to allow you to get used to shooting. This will help you buy the most appropriate bow and arrows when the time comes.

However, basic items which you can buy immediately are:

- Finger tab - provides protection for the fingers which draw the string.
- Arm bracer - is used to keep loose clothing from getting in the way of the string, and to stop the string hitting the arm.
- Quiver – is used to hold an archer's arrows and is attached to a belt and worn around the waist.
- Bow stringer - is used to string and unstring a bow.
- Arrow puller - gives you a better grip on the arrow shaft and makes it easier to remove an arrow from the target.
- Bow stand - a support used to hold a bow off the ground when it's not being shot.
- Bow/finger sling - attaches the bow to your hand/wrist, so you don't need to grip the riser.

Even within these more basic archery items there is a lot of variation so it's advisable to do your research and speak to other archers first. Although some of it is personal preference, it's helpful to be aware of the pros and cons before buying any equipment.

When you are ready to buy your own bow and arrows, please speak to one of the club's senior members who would be happy to offer advice.

### Bow

There are three main types of bow – recurve, compound and longbow. Beginners will often start with a recurve bow, which is the easiest to learn with. These are left-handed or right-handed to suit the individual.

Sight – archers centre the sight in the middle of their target to help with aiming.



## Arrows

Usually 6 arrow ends are shot but you will need to buy more as spares in case of damage or loss.

You need to ensure you choose the right arrow stiffness and length. It is dangerous to use an arrow that is too short as it can fall off the rest and damage the bow or the archer.

Arrows are made up of four parts:

1. Shaft – this is the main body of the arrow and can be wooden, aluminium, carbon, or a carbon/aluminium combination, although carbon arrows are not allowed on the field.
2. Nock – this is the groove at the end of an arrow that clips onto the string.
3. Fletchings – are made from plastic or feathers and are attached to the end of the arrow shaft, to provide stability during the arrow's flight.
4. Pile – this is the point of the arrow and is often made of a heavier metal than the shaft to help the arrow fly straight.



## Contributing to the club

In order for the club to run smoothly and be successful, it requires the goodwill of members to help out when necessary.

At every session members (or parents of junior members) are expected to assist with setting up equipment before shooting can begin. The field/hall is to be prepared before archers set up their own equipment. Likewise at the end of each session everyone is expected to help put away the equipment.

All sessions require a field captain to ensure safe shooting. The field captain uses whistle or verbal commands to advise when to approach the shooting line, begin shooting and collect the arrows. Anyone can fill this role and the necessary training can be given.

In order to encourage enjoyment in archery and participation in the sport, the club runs regular have-a-go/taster sessions, the first Tuesday evening of the month during the summer months, in addition to two 4 week long beginner courses every year. Additionally, there are occasional ad hoc events such as Ivanhoe College activity days and the NW Leicestershire School Sport Partnership archery event. The club is also present at events such as the Ashby Show and Jim's Tractor Run, to promote the club, offer the public a taste of archery and to raise funds. Volunteers are required to help with these and, again, no experience is necessary as relevant training and advice can be given.



Shops to buy archery equipment:

Merlin - 1 Great Central Rd, Loughborough LE11 1RW

<https://www.merlinarchery.co.uk/>

## Archery awards/classifications

### Handicaps

A novice usually starts out with a high handicap, which reduces as they achieve better scores. To obtain a handicap, three scores from a recognised archery round need to be shot and passed on to the records officer. Separate handicaps can be achieved for both indoor and outdoor shooting.

An Archery GB handicap improvement medal is awarded annually to the archer who has improved their outdoor handicap the most over the course of the year.

The club also awards an indoor handicap shield to the archer who improves their handicap the most over the indoor season.

### 252

The 252 awards provide an incentive to archers to improve. They are for achieving a score of 252 at different distances (15 yards upwards) using 122cm target face during the outdoor season (for recurve, although differences exist for other bow styles). The idea is that if you get all 3 dozen arrows within the red zone of the target the score would be 252. 252 has to be shot at a particular distance on three different occasions to qualify for the award.

### Classifications

The classification system provides archers a goal to aim for. There are six classification levels. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, 1<sup>st</sup> Class and Bowman are all awarded by the club. Master Bowman and Grand Master Bowman are awarded by Archery GB. Archery GB produces tables detailing exactly what scores you need in each round to achieve a certain classification. To gain a classification you need to shoot three scores that meet that classification level. You can hold different classifications for different bow types, but you can only hold your classification for the calendar year in which you shot your qualifying scores. You must re-qualify each year to maintain it.



## Key contacts/committee

Ivanhoe Archers is a friendly, welcoming club and members are always happy to offer advice and assistance so please ask if you are unsure of anything. Or if they can't help they will no doubt know who can.

However, key members of the committee can be contacted at:

[chairman@ivanhoearchers.co.uk](mailto:chairman@ivanhoearchers.co.uk)

[secretary@ivanhoearchers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@ivanhoearchers.co.uk)

The Ivanhoe Archer's AGM is held annually around November and any member of the club can put themselves forward to be on the committee. The available roles are:

- Chair
- Vice chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- PR officer
- Equipment officer
- Tournament officer
- Records officer
- Coach representative
- Novice representative
- County representative
- Junior representative
- Web officer
- School liaison officer
- Development officer
- Social events officer
- Child protection officer

Further information can be provided on any of these roles if required.

