



Bowmen of Ardleigh  
Small Newsletter No. 116  
October 2020

*I started preparing this newsletter in August so what follows has been a little delayed. There also hasn't been much going on either so news is a little restricted. Although nothing much is happening presently on the Archery scene, I've issued this as one of our recipients expressed a concern that I might be dead!*

As I write this, looking through hair that is now the longest it has ever been, even during the very hairy 1960s, we've managed to carry on shooting, albeit in somewhat constrained circumstances.

Following Archery GB's guidelines has at least made it possible for people to do a Warwick Round if they wish, so that Awards Competition is still running and people are shooting qualifying scores. Our Club Competitions dates have mostly been and gone, except for our Field Championships in September, which might be possible to run, even within Phase 1.

There has been some relaxation with the rule on sharing a target. Where it was just one archer per target unless they are from the same household, now two archers from different households may share, providing they shoot separately, and withdraw their own arrows!

All the sanitizing and social distancing requirements remain the same. Targets, trolleys and archers need to be sanitised when they're put away in our container (and when they come out).

We're reviewing what we do about our Beginners' Courses. Under current conditions we can't run the sessions as we usually do so much thought is going into what we do next.

We've had the details of Phase 2 from Archery GB for our shooting under the Corona Virus regulations and these do permit us now to shoot indoors. Our Range Officer and Secretary, together with Joe Cordaro from Abbey Bowmen have measured the target spacings in the barn and have reduced the number of bosses to three, which gives us more space between than is actually required by Archery GB. With the centre spacings we have, the guidelines do specify masks must be worn by all the people attending except when they're shooting (maximum of 6 people) and the necessary sanitizing and social distancing procedures must be maintained. Under Phase 2, shooting is also restricted to 6 archers, even where there are members from the same household

I'm booking the barn on Monday evenings for the immediate future and I can run two hour sessions, one 6.00 to 8.00pm and one 8.00 to 10.00pm. Please let me know when you'd like to shoot. Unless you specify otherwise, the earlier session will be filled first. The good thing is that indoors the bosses are already out and the safety flags, rope and warning signs are not necessary. Shooting will, as usual, be under the control of a Field Captain.

After extensive consultation with members and their Committee we are similarly booking the barn for Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons from early October. The Monday evening sessions will continue throughout the year. Sessions will still need to be booked. Presently, Paul will deal with the Friday evening and Sunday afternoon bookings and Michael the Monday evening ones. Evening sessions will be 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock and then 8 to 10. Sunday afternoon sessions will be 2 o'clock to 4 and then 4 to six. The sessions do run from 1.00pm so if people are there earlier then they can start (except on spoon shoot days, when the start is fixed at 2 o'clock or 4 o'clock if there are people booked on the second session

Hopefully we can maintain our Friday and Sunday barn bookings as usual but this is obviously going to mean committing to them and also covering any shortfall in income until things settle down a bit, possibly not until a workable Corona virus vaccine is available.

We also don't yet have the facilities of the Manor House available to us presently but this may also be sorted out fairly soon, one way or the other.

Good to have Masud back shooting again, shooting for the first time outdoors on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. Beautiful day with just enough wind to make it interesting, and a little cooler too!

Personally, in these days of sanitizing and social distancing, I miss the lack of social contact with members as much as anything else. Numbers of people shooting are much reduced and I have some concerns about how long our Club can continue as things are presently. That said, we are still in contact with the people who did one day of our March course, those who couldn't make the first day and the enquiries we've had since (lots!). We're presently considering how we can change our usual procedures when we introduce people to our sport to encourage more members.

There's really little guidance from Archery GB about how we do this so we'll probably do what we've always done best, innovate and adjust to current circumstance, using what they've given us. If we do decide to proceed, this will all be one-on-one coaching and, because of the limitations on numbers indoors, social distancing, etc., we wouldn't need as much help from members as usual (but do feel free to volunteer to give those doing the coaching a bit of a break).

Although they probably wouldn't admit to it now, the original Essex County Coaching System was based on the method used by Ardleigh in the 1960s (including the two sheets of foolscap instructions for our members who coached glued to a piece of hardboard and polyurethaned to keep it waterproof!) Since then, it's got more complicated!

Below is a picture of our socially-distanced and sanitised members shooting on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

Everyone shooting (more than it looks, with alternating details), shooting 6 arrows at a time as permitted



During September we also re-commenced shooting in the Tudor Barn at Bretons, working within the guidelines set out by Archery GB. Only 6 archers at a time, shooting alternately, sanitised, maintaining social distancing and

necessarily masked (except when shooting). Archers may shoot 6 arrows at a time, if they wish, so the time spent collecting is reduced.

We've had many enquiries about joining our Club, additional to those who commenced our interrupted course in March and we intend running a series of "taster" sessions in the barn on Sunday afternoons using the 4 o'clock to 6 o'clock slot. Unless circumstances change and we have to postpone things, we presently have enough confirmed bookings to take us through to February 2021. The people who satisfactorily complete the beginners' sessions, which will each last around two hours, may then join our club, or not, as they wish. Given the present circumstances of restricted shooting I'd quite understand if they didn't but I don't think things will change any time soon.

Presently, the weekends of the Spoon Shoots will still have the full number of sessions (2 on Friday evening and 2 on Sunday afternoons) available to members but we'll see how things progress for the Spoon Competition this month (Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October).

I understand from Andrew at Perris that their shooting range is open again. They can take only 4 archers at a time so it's probably best to give them a call first.

Archery GB and Essex are leaving their membership fees the same for the coming year and we presently have 39 fully paid-up members. Bretons memberships for which members have paid have not yet been renewed and this will wait until the next membership session begins, probably when the Manor House opens again. Those who renewed their Social Club Membership will also have this extended. The problem is we don't yet know when this will be, but certainly not until there's some change in the requirements regarding social grouping.

Just a note that members are responsible for keeping their details on the Archery GB website up to date.

There is also a degree of uncertainty about the future of the Tudor Barn at Bretons (or anything at Bretons, come to that!). We attended a meeting with the Council's representatives and they told us they intend building a replacement for the present users of the barn, with the same dimensions, possibly near to our present outdoor ground (they intended the proposed building to be on it at one stage but representations were made and it may go on the field next to us. There's also an intention to increase the size of the car park we use so our targets would be further down into the field but there won't be any football on the fields at the bottom. As noted, these are all intentions, and when (or even if) any of them come to pass isn't known. Carpe diem!