

Frequently Asked Questions

I've never done archery before. Can I still join?

Yes. Beginners are very welcome, but you must complete a beginners' course before joining the club.

Our course takes place over a Saturday and Sunday, with sessions spread across the weekend. It covers the essential skills needed to begin archery safely, including full safety training. Completing the course provides a foundation for joining any Archery GB-affiliated club in the UK.

Beginners' courses cost £80 for both adults and juniors under 18. They run several times a year and are delivered by Archery GB-licensed coaches, including coaches involved with the Surrey Coaching Development Squad.

We recommend learning with licensed coaches or highly experienced archers. Your safety is paramount, so please ask to see relevant qualifications if needed.

Within two months of completing the course, new archers are expected to buy their own equipment.

If you join Thomas Wall Archers, a coach can help you choose a suitable first bow from a reputable specialist retailer.

Please do not buy archery equipment online before receiving expert advice.

Equipment that is unsuitable for you can be expensive to replace and may be unsafe to use.

Do Thomas Wall Archers offer weekly lessons?

No. Like most archery clubs, we meet to shoot together as a club; we do not operate like a weekly class or training school.

Coaching is available, but it must be arranged with a coach in advance.

How do I join Thomas Wall Archers or enrol on a beginners' course?

To enrol on a beginners' course, complete the beginners' application form and submit it, along with payment, to the Secretary.

You will be asked for personal information and must declare any medical conditions or other circumstances that could affect your safe participation. Please complete this section honestly, including relevant conditions or allergies such as diabetes, heart conditions, epilepsy, nut allergies, or an ASD diagnosis.

No one will be refused on this basis. This information simply helps our coaches provide appropriate support and tailor the course to individual needs.

Will I need my own bow to join?

Not at first. Archery equipment should be selected to suit the individual archer, so it is important to understand your preferred shooting style before buying your first bow.

Provided you have completed our beginners' course, we supply the equipment needed to get started. You may continue using club equipment for up to two months after the course while deciding what is right for you. We have recurve, compound and English longbows available to try.

If you are using club equipment, please arrive on time so that you can be properly equipped. Once you are a member, it is also worth asking other members whether they have suitable equipment for sale.

We do not recommend buying bows through online auction sites.

What will my own equipment cost?

This depends on the bow style you choose and how far you wish to take the sport. Costs can range from under £100 to several thousand pounds.

Our coaches can advise you on suitable equipment, and club members may sometimes have equipment for sale that they have outgrown.

Is there an age restriction for joining?

We accept juniors from the age of 9, provided they can safely manage the physical demands of shooting a bow. Our coaches will assess this and can provide low-poundage bows where appropriate.

There is no upper age limit, although a basic level of physical fitness is needed. There are no unnecessary physical barriers to participation, and our coaches can help identify suitable equipment for your needs.

Juniors under 12 must not be left without parental supervision. Juniors aged 12 or over may attend unaccompanied only at the discretion of the club committee and coaches. Parents remain the responsible adult and must be contactable by phone to collect their child immediately if required.

Coaches and other members are not responsible for supervising children. If we consider that a junior needs adult supervision, their parent or guardian will be asked to remain at the field.

What happens after I join the club?

All members must follow Archery GB Rules of Shooting and Thomas Wall Archers' club rules.

We are a members' club rather than a drop-in club, so everyone is expected to help with club activities such as setting up, packing away and maintaining the clubhouse.

Once membership fees have been paid, you may shoot at club sessions. You will receive proof of membership while your permanent Archery GB membership is being processed, should you wish to enter a tournament.

Our coaches are available to help you develop your archery, but they are also active members who shoot themselves. Please arrange coaching with them in advance.

Are Thomas Wall Archers' coaches DBS checked?

Yes. All of our coaches hold enhanced DBS certificates, and the club follows Archery GB's safeguarding and child-protection policies.

However, DBS-checked members cannot take responsibility for unaccompanied juniors.

Are coaches available to work with all archers?

Yes. Our coaches are active within local and county coaching structures and continually develop their knowledge through Archery GB and regional coaching seminars. They are committed to ongoing professional development as part of maintaining their coaching licences.

All coaches are volunteers and active archers. They are happy to help, but coaching should be agreed in advance.

If you would like coaching, please approach a coach and ask. Coaches will not normally approach an archer to offer coaching, as you may be happy with your current shooting and not want assistance.

A coach wearing a black coaching top is not shooting and can be approached at any time. If they are not wearing a black coaching top, they are attending as a shooting member; please speak to them before or after shooting to arrange support.

Disabilities and archery

Disability is not a barrier to taking part in archery. We make every reasonable effort to support members with disabilities.

Our field is flat and wheelchair accessible, with parking next to the shooting field and accessible toilet facilities. Our coaches have training and access to specialist advice for supporting people with a wide range of disabilities. One of our coaches has particular training and experience in supporting members with ASD.

Please contact us before attending if you would like to discuss how a disability may affect your participation. Disabled archers have the same rights and responsibilities as all other club members.

Can I shoot at the club or compete in tournaments without a current Archery GB membership card?

No. For insurance purposes, anyone shooting at the club must be a current Archery GB member and may be asked to show a valid membership card.

If you cannot provide evidence of current membership, you may be asked to complete our beginners' course and join the club before shooting.

Beginners enrolled on one of our courses are insured for the duration of that course only.

I am an experienced archer. How do I join?

Please contact the Club Secretary to discuss your experience.

If you are a current Archery GB member, you will need to show proof of membership when you visit. If you are not currently a member, one of our coaches will assess your safety and general shooting knowledge.

We reserve the right to ask an experienced archer to complete a beginners' course if we believe further training is needed for safe shooting.

Members of other archery clubs are welcome to apply for associate membership on production of their current Archery GB membership card. All applicants must provide relevant personal information and declare any conditions that may affect their ability to participate safely.