

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I've never done archery before, can I still join?**

No you will need to complete a beginners course before you can join.

We welcome all prospective new members, experienced or beginners. We run a beginners course for all new beginners which comprises training sessions over a Saturday and Sunday, so you can do the course over one weekend. The sessions are broken up over the weekend. This course will give each beginner all the basic skills they require and most importantly all the safety training necessary to enjoy archery. A training course if you have never done one before is compulsory if you wish to join an archery club but taking this course with Thomas Wall Archers will give you a foundation to join any Archery GB affiliated club in the UK. This course costs £65.00 for adults and juniors (under 18 years of age).

These courses are run twice a year. These courses are run by our Archery GB licensed coaches who have experience of delivering beginners courses. 2 of our coaches are also involved with the Surrey Coaching Development Squad. Whether you choose to learn archery at our club or not, it is always advisable to ensure that you are being instructed by licensed coaches or highly experienced archers. Your safety is paramount - ask to see their certificates if necessary.

Within two months of completion of any beginners' course, new archers are expected to have purchased their own equipment. We do have a few bows that can be hired (ask for cost). If you decide to join Thomas Wall Archers, one of our coaches will advise you in purchasing your first bow from a reputable archery supplier. We cannot stress the following enough:

### **Do Thomas Wall Archers do weekly lessons?**

No we do not, as with all archery clubs we meet to shoot as a club. We do not run like a 'dance class or martial arts class'.

### **Please, please do not be tempted into buying equipment from the internet.**

It will probably prove to be a costly mistake financially and may result in injury if inappropriate for your needs.

### **What do I need to do to join Thomas Wall Archers or to enrol on the beginners course?**

In the first instance, complete the beginners form and submit payment to the Secretary to enrol on the beginners course. You will be required to provide some personal information when applying to join the club/course and must declare any conditions that may impact upon your ability to safely participate in archery. There is a medical/conditions section at the bottom of the application form, please complete it honestly. We have found that people forget to say if they are allergic to nuts/have diabetes/heart disease/epilepsy. If you or you child has a ASD diagnosis. All of these things are vital for us to know. Nobody will be refused on these basis but it will enable the coaches to tailor the way we conduct the course to meet your individual needs.

### **How much does the beginners course cost?**

£65.00 for adults & juniors (under 18 years old) paid in advance. Please note that we plan our courses in advance, therefore you must confirm your wish to attend the course in advance of the first session, including payment, as resources will be allocated according to confirmed numbers.

### **Will I need my own bow to join?**

No not initially. Archery equipment is generally specifically tailored to the archer and it is important to understand your archery style before you purchase your first bow. We therefore provide all the equipment you require to get started (as long as you have attended our beginners course). Once you've completed your beginner's course you may continue to utilise the club's kit for up to 2 months while you decide upon the best bow for your needs. We have suitable recurve, compound and English longbows that you can try. If you wish to use the club equipment, you must arrive on time to get equipped. Once a member, it is always worth asking around as other club members may have kit to sell. We do not recommend the purchase of bows from on-line auction sites.

### **What will it cost me to buy my own equipment?**

It all depends on what you wish to get out of the sport and what bow style(s) you choose to pursue. Equipment prices vary an enormous amount from under £100 to £1000's. Our coaches will be happy to guide you in your equipment selection and you may find that some club members have items for sale that they have 'grown out of' that may be suitable for you.

### **Is there an age restriction for joining the club?**

We accept juniors from 9 years old as long as they can safely cope with the physical aspects of shooting a bow. The decision on the ability to shoot safely will be taken by our coaches. Although we make every effort to accommodate juniors and will provide low poundage bows, we will not allow juniors to take part in archery if they cannot safely handle the low poundage bows. There is no upper age limit, however you will require a basic degree of physical fitness. There are no physical barriers to participation and the coaches can help you select the most appropriate equipment for your needs.

Juniors may attend unaccompanied at the discretion of the club committee and coaches. However the parent is still held as the responsible adult even if they are not in attendance. It is not the job of coaches/other archers to look after your children. No junior can be left without parental supervision under the age of 12. If we feel that they cannot cope without adult supervision then you, the parent, will be required to stay with your child. If your child is left unaccompanied at the field then you **MUST** be contactable by phone to come and collect them immediately if required.

### **What happens once I join the club?**

All members are required to adhere to the Archery GB rules of shooting and Thomas Wall Archers club rules. Please bear in mind that we are a club rather than a drop in shooting range and you will be expected to play your part in the running of the club i.e. setting up, putting away, maintenance of clubhouse.

You will be given a proof of membership while your permanent membership is processed by Archery GB if you wish to attend a tournament. You will be free to shoot at the club sessions on payment of membership fees. Our coaches are available to help you develop your shooting ability and we encourage you to approach them for any assistance you may require. Please note that the coaches are also active club members who also shoot, therefore you would need to book a time with them for coaching.

### **Are Thomas Wall Archers coaches DBS cleared?**

Yes, all our coaches hold enhanced DBS clearance certificates. The club complies with Archery GB policy on the Protection of Children. However our DBS cleared members will not take responsibility for unaccompanied juniors.

### **Are Thomas Wall coaches available to work with all archers?**

Yes, our coaches are active as part of the local and county coaching structure. Our coaches are constantly improving their knowledge and ability to deliver best coaching practice through attendance of Archery UK and Regional archery seminars. They are all committed to continuous professional development as part of the renewal process for their coaching license. Please note that our coaches are volunteers and are also active archers. They are in the sport to enjoy their own shooting too. While our coaches are always willing to help, they will make a pre-arranged time with you when they are available to coach. If you want coaching then it is up to you to approach a coach

as our coaches do not approach archers to offer coaching. This is in accordance with the coaching conduct. We may feel that you may require assistance, but you may be happy with your shooting and do not wish us to assist, therefore you must ask us if you wish for help/coaching. If a coach is wearing a black coaching top then they are not shooting and can be approached at any time. If they are not wearing a black coaching top then they are at the field to shoot as a member, if you require assistance please approach them either before or after shooting.

### **Disabilities in Archery**

Disability is not a barrier to participation in archery. The club makes all reasonable efforts to encourage & assist members with disabilities. Our field is flat and wheelchair accessible and the car park is adjacent to the shooting field. We have disabled toilet facilities access. Our coaches have received training in assisting individuals with a wide variety of disabilities and have access to specialist advice if required. We encourage you to contact us in advance if you wish to discuss any aspect of how a disability may impact on your ability to participate in archery. Disabled archers will be treated the same as other archers and enjoy the same rights/responsibilities as other club members.

One of our coaches is highly trained on working with members with ASD.

### **How much does it cost to join?**

Adult membership is currently £99.50 and Junior £59 per annum. This including insurance and affiliation fees to the county, regional and national archery bodies. Membership fees renewals are payable by mid September.

### **Can I attend your club and compete in tournaments if I do not have a current Archery GB card?**

**Sorry but no.** For insurance reasons, we must be sure that you are a current Archery GB member if you wish to shoot at our club, therefore we require you to produce a current valid archery GB membership card. In the absence of a valid membership card, you may be required to complete our beginner's course and join the club before we allow you to shoot.

Beginners who are registered on our courses are insured for the duration of the course only.

### **I am an experienced archer, how do I join?**

In the first instance, you should contact the club secretary to discuss your experience. If you are an active Archery GB member then you will be asked to provide proof of current membership so bring your membership card with you when you come to see us. If you are not a current member of Archery GB then you will need to come and be assessed for your safety to shoot and general shooting knowledge by one of our coaches. We reserve the right to ask you to complete a beginners course if we feel that you are unsafe on the archery field. Members of other archery clubs are welcome to apply for associate membership with us upon receipt of us seeing your Archery Gb membership card. You will be required to provide some personal information when applying to join Thomas Wall Archers and must declare any conditions that may impact upon your ability to safely participate in archery.