GVA Club Newsletter - December 2023

Dear GVA Club Members

As we draw to the end of 2023, we can once again say what a great year the club has had. This was our second full year at our new venue at Stowmarket Golf Centre - thanks to Duncan and his team for making us welcome. Gipping Valley Archers has been running since 1998, so this was our 25th year of existence, here are some of the highlights of 2023.

Purchased new and second-hand targets which has more than doubled the club's target capacity. Resulting in our three ranges being fully populated with sufficient targets to leave them in a winter or summer layout. Made much easier with the range distance markings that have been added.

We have held further field shoots at the range a discipline the club intends to extend in 2024. We held five clout shoots on the golf driving range on Saturday evenings after it closes for golf at 6pm. Very few clubs can boost being able to host those three archery disciplines in one location. Archery Golf anyone!

The new Archery GB outdoor classification scheme has proved very popular this year with 23 club members participating and receiving badges ranging from Archer 3rd class to Bowman 1st class. Several members have ventured into local competitions thus representing the club – something the club hopes to support and extend next year. What's also been great is these have been across several types of archery, with David, Jasmine and Will achieving success at several Archery Rove events. Stephens L & D and Micky on the Field Archery side and Andres and Simon Target Archery.

Easter, Halloween and Christmas fun shoot were well attended and popular as usual. A monthly sale table for members to sell equipment was established. We completed the hut extension and installation of secure lockers. Acquired outdoor seating and tables. Added rubber matting and started a shed to store equipment.

Sadly, St Edmunds Archers have decided to call it a day and are in the process of winding down. But the positive out of this is the remaining members have joined us and assets are in the process of moving to our club. So welcome St Edmunds and thanks for your generosity.

We ran more than 75 hours of training / events (including Start Archery) with more than 360 people participating! We are fortunate to now have six coaches, three development (L2) and three session coaches (L1), one of whom is in training. As a result, we are refocusing coaching next year to run fewer taster and beginner's courses and increase the development of our existing archers.

So, to close a big thank you to the club committee both outgoing and new following the AGM for continuing to support the club and make it the success it is. Remember it's only through these volunteers' hard work that the club continues to run, develop and grow. If you feel you could contribute next year and help, in whatever small way, we would love your input. And finally, to our 75 members for helping the club so we can continue the hobby and sport we all enjoy.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
GVA Committee