

## GOSPORT BOWMEN – established 1979

### Constitution



- The Club shall be called GOSPORT BOWMEN hereinafter referred to as the Club. The funds and property of the Club shall be entrusted in the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. All monies and sums received on behalf of the Club shall remain the property of the Club and there will be no distribution of such funds amongst club members. The object of the Club shall be the promotion and encouragement of archery in all its forms except with regards to crossbows, which shall not be permitted indoors. The shooting regulations as prescribed in the Archery Great Britain (hereinafter referred to as AGB) 'Rules of Shooting' shall be accepted as governing the relevant branches of the sport of archery practised by the Club and its members. Nothing will be included in this constitution which conflicts with that of AGB. The postal address of the Club shall be that of the current Secretary. The Constitution of the Club shall not be amended without the approval of at least 75% of the club's committee. The management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Club Committee. The Club Committee shall consist of:

- Chairperson/Vice Chair
- Secretary/Asst Secretary
- Treasurer
- Equipment Officer
- Training Officer
- Records Officer
- Website Coordinator(s)
- Welfare and Safeguarding Officer
- Assistant Welfare and Safeguarding Officer(s)
- Junior Representative
- Social Secretary
- New Member Representative
- AGB, SCAS and HAA representative

The election of the above officers shall be determined by members at the AGM and the list of appointees published in the minutes. Committee member unable to fulfil their duties will be expected to resign. The Committee shall meet not less than five times per year. Any member having a complaint shall give written notice to a Committee member who will submit it to the Committee and their decision will be final. At club meetings, whenever necessary, the Chairman is entitled to an additional deciding vote. Voting is to take place on a one person one vote basis, no matter how many positions one person may hold. The Club Committee may appoint Sub-committees and may delegate to such Committee powers within defined limits. All responsibility remains with the club committee.

#### Membership

There shall be the following classes of members determined by the different cost of membership to AGB, SCAS and HAA and monthly club fees:

Senior Shooting Members (21 and over)  
Senior Shooting Members (18-20 years old)  
Senior Shooting Members (disabled)  
Junior Shooting Members (under 18)  
Affiliate Members  
Non-shooting Members  
Honorary Life Members.

Any person interested in archery, having attained the age of 18 and completed a beginner course shall be eligible for admittance as an Senior Member, or under age, as a Junior Member. Acceptance of an application for membership is at the discretion of the Committee.

Junior Members are accepted from the age of 8 although this is subject to an assessment by a Club Coach as to whether the individual is capable of managing a bow. Their decision is final. At all club meets, Parents/Guardians of Junior Members are required to be in attendance except by prior arrangement and agreement with a Club Coach or Welfare Officer, or if a Senior Adult Member will accept responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of the Junior Member. Juniors will not shoot unless an Adult Club Member is present. If Senior Members accept responsibility for a Junior Member, it is expected the Senior Member will not shoot.

Any person whom the Club may wish to honour for distinguished service to the club may be elected at a General Meeting of the Club as an Honorary Member for the whole period of their club membership or for a specified period of time. The Committee shall, at its discretion, accept Affiliate Members into the Club. Such affiliate members must have AGB membership, either through an Archery Club or AGB direct. They will pay a monthly membership fee as determined at the AGM and shooting fees for each visit. Affiliated members may not shoot under the Gosport Bowmen name at any competition outside of Club control. If an affiliated member has been as such for continuous 12 months, they will be eligible for Club records, and to vote at any Club AGM and EGM. All members shall accept the jurisdiction of the Club and shall conform to such conditions, shooting rules and regulations as may be determined from time to time.

#### Expulsions and Resignations

To expel a member from the Club, either notice shall be sent to the Secretary (or Committee Member) signed by three (3) members acquainting him/her with the circumstances that give rise to such notice or three separate individual signed complaints from a minimum of two members or parents may be received by the Secretary (or Committee Member). If one of the signatories is a member of the committee then they will forfeit the right to vote on the expulsion. The Secretary (or nominated Club representative) shall then communicate with such member (so that he/she may have the opportunity of explaining, or withdraw from the Club), and shall call a meeting of the Committee who are empowered to decide the question. If a two thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Committee present vote for his/her expulsion, the member shall be expelled. Any member expelled in accordance with the rules or otherwise ceasing to be a member of the Club shall forfeit all such rights to, or claims upon the Club or its property or funds as he/she otherwise would have by reason of membership. Any member expelled may have a proportional part of his/her subscription returned at the Committee's discretion. If a member of the club resigns he/she may reapply for club membership. This application will be considered as a new application and acceptance is at the discretion of the Committee.

#### Subscriptions

All members as defined in Clause 3, other than Junior members and Honorary Members, shall pay monthly subscriptions to the Club at rates to be determined from time to time in a General Meeting. However, subscriptions may be paid yearly, half yearly or monthly in advance, with prior arrangement with the Treasurer. All Junior members' club subscriptions shall be paid yearly and will become due on the 1st October. One month prior to the date on which these subscriptions are due, the Secretary will give Junior members notice. A Junior member who has not paid their subscription by the October AGM shall cease to be a member of the club unless the Committee considers there are extenuating circumstances. A non-member of the club shall be eligible to shoot at the club on production of a current Archery GB membership card and payment of a guest fee. Any club member who falls into arrears for 3 months or more will not be eligible to shoot, except as a guest, on providing evidence of current Archery GB membership and paying the guest fee.

#### Finance

The Treasurer shall cause to be prepared and shall present at the Annual General Meeting a Balance Sheet showing the financial position of the Club up until the end of September of the preceding year, together

with an income/expenditure sheet. The accounts are to be audited by a person approved by the committee at the earliest opportunity. A Bank Account shall be maintained in the name of the Club. All cheques and orders withdrawing monies from the Account shall be signed by two persons, from either the Club Secretary, Chairperson or the Treasurer. In the event of dissolution of the Club the assets shall be disposed of as directed by the General Meeting approving the dissolution.

#### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during the last two weeks of October at a place to be determined by the Club Committee. Not less than twenty-one clear days' notice of such Meetings shall be sent to each Club Member. Nominations for the Club Committee may be received by the Secretary in writing FOURTEEN DAYS prior to the AGM, or verbally at the Meeting in the case of no written nominations. Adult Shooting Members only may vote at the AGM.

#### Extraordinary General Meeting.

The Club Committee, or at the request of one fifth of the membership, shall call an EGM. Not less than twenty-one clear days' notice of such Meetings shall be sent to Club Members. Notice of any Proposition, which it is intended to move, shall be sent to all Club Members entitled to receive notice of the Meeting.

#### Voting and Quorum

At all General Meetings: A majority of Adult Members present shall form a quorum. Each Adult Member shall be entitled to vote. The Chairman shall, if required, be entitled to cast an additional deciding vote. In the case of emergency, the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall together have full powers to act.

#### Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved by a resolution of two-thirds of the members of the Club at an EGM. In the event of dissolution of the Club the assets will be realised by the Treasurer. The net assets after repayment of the current years subscriptions will be given to Archery GB or affiliated archery club or to a registered sports related charity as decided by the attendees of the EGM.

### General Information And Guidelines For Membership To The Gosport Bowmen

#### Children

Children from the age of 8 can join the Club, however, younger children may be considered for membership at the discretion of the club coaches once an assessment has taken place. Parents/guardians etc must stay with their child on club nights. They will be responsible for the child's safety and behaviour and may only leave their child if they have the permission and agreement with a Club coach or a Welfare and Safeguarding Officer who will then act in loco parentis.

#### Trial Period and Acceptance of Membership to Gosport Bowmen

Acceptance of Membership to Gosport Bowmen. All potential members must attend a Taster Session and a Beginners' course in Archery. After completion of a Beginners' course, an acceptance period is available. This is valid for up to 1 year after completion of the course, in which case a further course may need to be taken. The cost of courses are determined at the AGM. Club fees will be payable after completion of the course and joining the club, by standing order, cheque or cash payment. Monthly fees must be paid by cash/cheque until the standing order becomes due. The current years' AGB, SCAS and HAA fees are payable upfront on joining the club as a lump sum payment.

#### Fees

##### Club Subscriptions – reviewed at each AGM

Senior Membership (21 and over as at 1st October): £17.50 per calendar month. Senior disabled members:

£14 per calendar month. Senior Membership (aged 18-20 as at 1st October): £14.00 per calendar month. This includes AGB, SCAS and HAA fees for the following year. Affiliate membership: £12 per month. Junior Membership: £36.00 per annum A discount of £3 for each adult parent is offered when a family of at least 2 adults and 2 Juniors join and full payment is received. (to be reviewed at AGM)

#### Shooting Fees – payable for each attendance at the Hub

Seniors £1.00

Juniors £0.50

Guests £5.00 [Juniors £2.50 ]

No person shall shoot unless they have taken a Beginners course, have paid club and AGB fees. Failure to comply with above rule means the club could be held responsible should an accident occur. Please note that you invalidate your own AGB insurance if you shoot with another archer who does not have current AGB membership.

Club shoots are in The Hub sports hall and field at Bay House School and at Monckton Playing Fields (with the potential for other venues to be added). Shooting fees are reviewed annually and voted on at the Annual General Meeting. Archers must have been a member of Gosport Bowmen for at least 6 months before they can request through the committee additional days/times for shooting.

NO ARCHER MAY SHOOT ALONE AT OUR ARCHERY RANGES OR IN THE SPORTS HALL. AT LEAST 2 ARCHERS MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES. This is a strict rule enforced by AGB and the Club. AGB Insurance covers only shoots shot under AGB/FITA Rules and on designated Club Target Days.

SHOOTING IN THE BACK GARDEN OR PRACTICING ELSEWHERE ARE NOT UNDER AGB RULES OF SHOOTING. THIS MEANS THAT NO INSURANCE IS VALID.

#### Coaching

Official coaching sessions and workshops are available. Please ask for more information.

Shooting times indoor:

Wednesday and Friday Evenings 7pm - 9.15pm

During the Summer, we would like all members to shoot outside subject to favourable weather conditions.

Shooting times outdoor:

Monday and Saturday afternoons 2pm – 4pm

During the Summer, these times can be extended as long as there are at least 2 archers present.

#### Dress

Whilst shooting outdoors members are encouraged to wear the AGB colours of white or dark green/bottle green. This is not compulsory on club evenings but is to be encouraged to promote the club, enhance discipline and give a sense of identity to club members. However, it is expected that members will wear correct club colours if they shoot at another club or competition. Club colours currently consist of:

Tops:

Green Tops with club badge over any breast pocket. Names of club members may be embroidered below club badge "Gosport Bowmen" circular motif may be shown on the back.

Gents: Either black, bottle green or white full length trousers or below the knee shorts

Ladies: As above or skirt of approximately knee length

#### Open Shoots

Gosport Bowmen aim to hold an annual Fort Gomer Tournament in December, shooting a Portsmouth round, at Bay House Sports Hall. Club Members are expected to help out at these shoots, and at other club events, with the initial setting up of the hall, registering applicants, helping with refreshments, running a raffle, checking and ordering scoresheets etc.

#### Have a Go's

During the course of the year Gosport Bowmen are invited to local events such as Open Days, Galas and

Fayres in order to offer a "Have a Go" at archery for members of the public. You are encouraged to help at these events and your assistance is gratefully appreciated. All these events help raise money for Club funds which in turn, buys new equipment and helps keep membership fees down.

### Beginners' courses and Taster Sessions

Gosport Bowmen normally run 5 Beginners' archery courses per year, in alternate months (where possible), starting on the first Wednesday in February. There is a maximum of 6 people booked on a course. Each course lasts for five consecutive club nights and covers the basic principles of archery, safety, equipment and shooting technique. The courses are run by AGB qualified club coaches. The club provides all the archery equipment you will require. At the successful conclusion of your beginners' course you will be invited to apply to join the club and AGB. Membership of AGB provides you with ongoing liability insurance, an essential requirement if you wish to shoot. You are not permitted to shoot at any venue, including the club venues, if you do not have AGB membership. Club equipment is available for hire to members who have just completed a beginners' course, until they have obtained suitable equipment of their own. We strongly recommend that you do not purchase any archery equipment until you have completed the course. Club coaches and members can offer advice on the purchase of equipment. Furthermore, a 10% off voucher for Quick's Archery Shop is issued to everyone after they've joined the club following a Beginners' course. Please note that Juniors (under18) must be accompanied by a parent or designated guardian for the duration of their beginners' course.

Taster sessions are run on selected Fridays of alternate months starting in January. There is a maximum of 3 people booked on each course. A Taster is a two hour session giving participants an archery session to try out, to see if it something they might pursue as a hobby. Once a taster has been completed, participants can then apply for a space on a beginners' course.

### Etiquette

A good archer:

- calls scores in groups of 3, for example 10-9-8 pause 7-6-5
- offers to pay for another archer's equipment if they break it through their own carelessness
- thanks the Target Captain at the end of each round for work on their behalf
- ensures their mobile phone is either switched off or on silent
- leaves the shooting venue to take a mobile phone call

A good archer does not:

- talk in a loud voice whilst others are shooting
- talk to another competitor who obviously prefers to be silent
- make any exclamation on the shooting line which might disconcert an archer in the act of shooting
- go behind the target to retrieve arrows before their score has been recorded
- walk up and down the shooting line comparing scores
- touch anyone else's equipment without permission
- leave litter

Reviewed every October at the AGM