City of Cambridge Bowmen

Shooting Outdoors

Jack Atkinson – CCB Chair

Abstract

This document details key information for shooting outdoors as a member of the City of Cambridge Bowmen (CCB). The document has been written to be as concise as possible. Members are expected to read through carefully and follow these guidelines when shooting as part of the club. A copy of this document is available on the club website.

1 Location and Timings

As detailed on the club website, CCB shoots outdoors at:
Downing College Sports Grounds, Grantchester Road, Cambridge, CB3 9EA.

During the **outdoor season** (April-September) timings are as follows:

- Tuesday from 4pm
- Friday from 4pm
- Sunday from 2pm

All members are welcome to shoot at all sessions. Friday evenings are designated as junior and awards evenings; coaches will be available to support newer and junior members and assist those following any awards schemes. Summer postal league shoots are held on the first Sunday of each month.

During the **indoor season** (October-March) timings are as follows:

- Sunday from 1pm

Frostbite postal league shoots are held on the first Sunday of each month.

2 Field Setup

2.1 Overview and facilities

The image below (figure 1) shows Downing College playing field from above. Entry is via a gate off Grantchester Road. The gate is secured by a combination padlock, the code for which is provided to members. Parking is available on the tarmac by the pavilion or on the grass to the right. Club equipment is kept inside the shed at the south-east corner of the field secured by a combination padlock, the code for which is provided to members. The main pavilion will be open when a committee keyholder is present and can be used by members for shelter. There are toilet facilities inside for use by members.

Please avoid wheeling trolleys across the football pitches. Trolleys should be taken down the southern side of the range to the pavilion end, and then out to the required distance. Archers should also refrain from walking across the cricket square at all times, unless necessary to retrieve an arrow.

Figure 1: Aerial image of field setup showing the location of main facilities at Downing playing fields and the positioning of safety signs.

2.2 Safety signs

Before shooting can begin safety signs need to be placed around the shooting area to prevent intruders. On the left/North side of the field 6-7 signs should be placed close to the edge so as to be seen by residents. On the right/South side of the field 6-7 signs should be placed between the shed and hedge in a straight line so as to be seen by other users of the fields. Finally 2-3 signs should be placed between the parking area and the shooting line. Signs should *not* be placed along the back of the field.

2.3 Ranges

The rest of the field should be set up according to the Archery GB Rules of Shooting (Appendices C and D). There must be at least 20 yards between the targets and the edge of the shooting range. When multiple ranges are in use there must be at least 25 yards between them. The shooting line is located in front of the pavilion (usually marked) with space for a waiting area behind.

On club evenings the field is typically grouped into two independent ranges, short and long, so that archers shooting a shorter distance need not be held up by those shooting further. *'Short'* is typically 50 m and below, situated to the left side of the field, whilst *'long'* is 50 m and beyond and to the right. There is a limit of 50 m for all targets in front of the cricket square. Note that there are no hard rules on where to place a shorter target provided you are happy to wait.

When the club is running a beginners' course this will take place in front of pavilion and members' ranges should be set up as independent ranges to either side.

3 Setup Procedure

To ensure efficient setup of the range the following steps should be followed:

1. Members should aim to arrive on time for the start of the session where possible. The range should be set up before any personal equipment.
2. Members assemble at the sheds to decide how many targets are required at what distances and on which ranges.
3. Two members take safety signs and place them along the edges of the field as detailed in section 2 and figure 1.
4. The remaining members should load the required bosses onto the large trolleys, along with tape measure, pegs, and anything else as required, and then wheel them to the ranges.
5. The tape measure should be reeled out from the shooting line and markers placed at the required distances. Bosses should then be set up as required.
6. Once a range is setup, clear, and a field captain appointed then shooting may commence. Trolleys should be left behind the waiting line.

Due to school/work commitments not all members are able to arrive for the start of each session. If you are arriving later you may set up a new target during arrow collection, or join an existing target provided there is space and others are happy for you to do so. If you have arrived later please try to stay until the end of the session to help with clearing away.

If you are likely to arrive particularly late it is advised to use the club WhatsApp group to check that there will be others shooting.

3.1 Boss Setup

There are two types of boss available, straw and Danage. Both have two guy-ropes which should be securely pegged down with yellow plastic pegs. The feet of each target stand may be secured using metal pegs. All pegs should be placed in the ground using the hammers available; do not use feet as this can snap or bend the pegs.

To avoid injury archers should seek assistance with assembling bosses where they do not feel comfortable doing it themselves.

Figure 2: How to secure a target boss. See also the Anchor Bowmen boss setup guide.

Archers may change or replace target faces as required when shooting. If the old face remains useable then it should be returned neatly to the storage are in the shed when a new one is retrieved. Worn out faces should be placed into the black bins at the shed for disposal. Faces should be securely attached to each boss using plastic target pins. Excess pins should be returned to the shed.

4 Shooting Procedure

4.1 Field captains

Each independent range *must* have a designated field captain who is in charge of shooting. This individual must be agreed between archers before shooting may commence. They are in charge of calling 'shoot' when the range is clear for shooting, and 'collect' when shooting has finished and archers are back in the waiting area. Where possible this should be done using a whistle with one blast for 'shoot' and three for 'collect'. If the field captain has to leave for any reason a new field captain should be appointed before shooting may continue.

4.2 Waiting area

Each range will have a shooting line marked on the field. 5 m behind the shooting line is the waiting area. All archers and equipment (with the exception of scopes and line quivers) should remain in the waiting area when not in use. This is so that the range captain can safely and effectively control shooting. This arrangement is illustrated below in figure 3. Often the waiting area will not be explicitly marked in which case archers should leave sufficient space, marking with pegs or rope if deemed necessary.

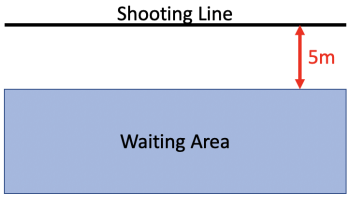

Figure 3: Diagram showing a shooting line, and waiting area 5 m behind

4.3 Safety procedures

Should any archer notice anything on the range that could pose a safety hazard (intruders, stray footballs, etc.) they should immediately call 'fast' or blow a series of whistle blasts. Upon hearing this command all archers must cease shooting, remove any arrows from their bows, and step back from the shooting line. Once the hazard has been assessed and dealt with then the range captain may restart shooting with the usual command. When there are intruders along the back of the field you must wait until they clear the range before restarting.

Under no circumstances is any archer to cross the shooting line unless the signal for collect has been given by the range captain, even when shooting has been suspended.

5 Packup Procedure

Members may finish shooting at any time. When you have finished shooting please adhere to the following guidelines:

- If no-one else is using your target then pack it away by loading onto a trolley during arrow collection and return it to the shed. Remember to return the trolley to the shooting line.
- At the end of the session two members should collect the safety signs.
- The remaining members should pack the remaining bosses onto trolleys and return them to the shed. Ensure all metal pegs are removed from the field as these can damage lawnmowers and injure other users.
- The shed should be left tidy, and the doors secured with bolts before the combination lock is attached.
- The last member to leave should padlock the main gate.

6 Arrow Policy

Downing playing fields is a multi-purpose sports field. As such all arrows *must* be found before the end of each session. The club has the following policy on outdoor arrows:

- All arrows must be clearly labelled with an archer's name or initials, and individually numbered (Archery GB Rules of Shooting (Appendix F)).
- Archers must know at all times how many arrows they have in their possession, in their quiver, and how many have been shot each end.
- If an archer misses the target and is unable to locate their arrow they should bring it to the attention of other members present. Other archers at the field should assist with locating the arrow before leaving. The club has metal detectors available to aid searching. If you are unable to locate the arrow before sunset please notify the committee immediately and they will make arrangements.
- The club does not allow the use of 'all-' or 'pure-carbon' arrows outdoors. Arrows should be of wooden, aluminium, or aluminium-carbon-composite (A/C) composition to aid in locating them.
- Archers should avoid shooting at distances significantly beyond their capabilities. We advise new members participate in the 252 scheme to guide their progression.

The club adopts a no-blame culture with missing arrows and it is understood that everyone misses occasionally. However, the club reserves the right to issue warnings and, if necessary, terminate membership for those contravening the above regulations. Arrows will be checked as part of general equipment safety inspections throughout the year.

Archers planning on purchasing arrows are advised to ask the committee for guidance when in doubt. The full policy, including a list of suitable arrows, can be found on the club website.

7 WhatsApp and Weather

In the case of inclement weather sessions may be cancelled or numbers severely reduced. For these cases the club maintains a WhatsApp group that can be joined by emailing the secretary. Notification will be sent to this group whenever a session has to be cancelled.

The WhatsApp group is also used by those arriving particularly early or late to ensure others will be shooting.