

BELVOIR ARCHERS  
MY FIRST  
TOURNAMENT

## My First Tournament

You have been shooting for a while and you want to go to your first tournament

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## General

You have been shooting for a while and have decided that you want to go to your first tournament. There are a lot of common questions asked, archers are nervous and apprehensive. Don't worry, hopefully this document may be a guide to getting you going.

### What is on where?

To find out what tournaments are on in the local area, one of the best places to go is the EMAS web site – [www.emasarchery.co.uk](http://www.emasarchery.co.uk) this website is managed by the East Midlands Archery Society web master.

All clubs in the EMAS region (Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) are encouraged to send their entry form to the web master, who puts them in the EMAS Tournaments calendar.

### There is a competition on, but I cannot shoot that far.

A lot of the larger tournaments – York / Hereford rounds are a 12 dozen round with 6 dozen at 100 yards, 4 dozen at 80 yards and 2 dozen at 60 yards (80/60/50 for Hereford), they will have a number of shorter rounds going down to 20 yards. The shorter rounds are called Bristol 1 – Bristol 5 depending on distance and may go down to 10 yards. The shorter rounds are shot by juniors, distance depending on age. However, most of these tournaments will welcome archers who cannot get to the longer distances to shoot in the shorter rounds. We all had to start somewhere. Some of these will also put a National Round on in the afternoon if you cannot get to the longer distances and cannot shoot 12 dozen arrows yet – the National Rounds are 6 dozen at time.

If you are not sure, ask your coach, your mentor or a senior archer in the club for assistance.

Good rounds to start with are

Nationals – 6 dozen arrows - 4 dozen the longest, 2 dozen at the shortest

American – 7 ½ dozen, 2 ½ dozen at each distance 60/50/40 yards

Westerns – 8 dozen – 4 dozen at the longest distance, 2 dozen at the shortest.

Windsors – 9 dozen – 3 dozen at each distance.

The County League – 3 tournaments throughout the summer based on the American Round. There are plenty of archers in their first year of shooting here.

## How Do I enter

Download one of the entry forms, complete it with the relevant fees, and send it to the tournament organiser. It is worth asking them for an email receipt to say that they have received the entry form. There is normally a cut of date a week before the competition, which allows the organisers to sort out Target lists ( a list of all competitors who are shooting and what target they are on).

If it is your first tournament, or you have only done one or two, put this on the bottom of the entry form. The Organiser will normally put you on with someone who can guide you through the day. They will also inform the Judge (archery speak for a Referee) that there are novice archers on the field. The Judge may then call you over and have a quick chat to make you feel at ease, remind you of anything you are unsure of. The Judges are normally a good bunch in this area.

## What will I need

### Indoor Tournaments

On top of your normal bow equipment, the following may be required

- Arrow puller – essential
- Pen and small note pad – useful to keep your scores in. As you call out your scores at the target, write them in your book. Add them all up, and check it with the official target scorer, you will be surprised at how many people make simple mistakes adding the scores up.
- Drink bring lots of water to drink during the day
- Food Ensure that you have food to last you the day, think about long release energy food such as pasta, bananas for the day, rather than sugar rush food like Chocolate.
- Arrows Marked with your initials and a number on (e.g. BH1, BH2, BH3...)

### Outdoor Tournaments

On top of your normal bow equipment, the following may be required

- Arrow puller – essential
- Pen and small note pad – useful to keep your scores in. As you call out your scores at the target, write them in your book. Add them all up, and check it with the official target scorer, you will be surprised at how many people make simple mistakes adding the scores up.
- Arrows Marked with your initials and a number on (e.g. BH1, BH2, BH3...)
- Drink bring lots of water to drink during the day and may be a flask of tea or coffee.
- Food Ensure that you have food to last you the day, think about long release energy food such as pasta, bananas for the day, rather than sugar rush food like Chocolate.
- Cool Box/Bag to keep your food in for the day.
- Chair
- Tent / Day shelter – it is not essential, but useful, to have a tent or day shelter with you (Speak with other archers who go to tournaments regular for descriptions) as these can keep you out of the sun / rain or wind. It will give you a place to keep all of your stuff for the day.
- Ground sheet – again, not essential – but worthwhile to put your stuff on to keep it dry
- Binoculars / Spotting Scope with Tripod – not essential, but the further distance you shoot, the smaller the arrows look when you hit the target. If you use a scope with tripod, make sure you can peg it to the ground securely.
- Sun Block
- Hat – to keep the sun or rain out

- Hair Band – if you have long hair but don't wear a hat
- Water proofs – Top and Trousers
- Hand warmer and or gloves for the cold days.
- Trolley – some tournaments can have a hike between the car park and your target, so a trolley to put your kit on can be a life saver.

## General Spares for your equipment

It may also be worthwhile building up a small spares box for your equipment

- Screw drivers
- Allen keys
- Pliers
- Spare Nocks
- Super Glue
- Spare band for the longbow archers
- Bees wax for your string and a bit of leather to rub it in with
- Spare Tab – shot in

## Tournament Day is here

When you get ready to leave in the morning, ensure that you have everything – Bows, Arrows, Quiver, Food and Drink, Spares, Chair, Tent, etc. If in doubt – make a check list. Most archers, once in their tournament life, have got to a shoot and found that their bow is still at home, I have.

Make sure that you have your ArcheryGB membership card (or BLBS for the longbowers amongst us who shoot British Long Bow Society shoots).

Be aware of the dress code for the day. ArcheryGB will normally be no denim jeans, tops to have sleeves on and not be offensive or be blazoned with football/rugby logos or similar. Long Bow shoots are normally Greens or Whites.

Double check the start times.

Try to get to the shooting ground at least an hour before the start so that you can book in, find your target, get your kit setup and relax. There is normally an Assembly or Welcome chat 30 or 15 minutes prior to the shoot.

You will be given a target number and detail. E.g. Target 1A, 1B, 1C, or 1D

Target number is self-explanatory – Target no 1. Your target will have a number board at the bottom or the top so that you can identify it, and there will be a number on the shooting line.

Set your kit up behind the Tent Line (remember from your courses – Shooting Line, Equipment Line, Tent Line)

Shooting Line – where you actually shoot from

Equipment Line – normally 10 yards behind the shooting line, all equipment behind this

Tent Line – normally 10 yards behind the Equipment Line – all tents, chairs etc behind this

Detail number A,B,C,D. The A and C stand on the Left hand side of the target centre, B and D on the Right. A and C shoot together, B and D shoot together.

C is the target captain. Normally C has the score board and scores – but it is not mandatory. If you are not comfortable scoring, tell the others on your target. But you will have to score one tournament.

Introduce yourself to your fellow target archers. If you are going to put a scope on the line and leave it there, check with your fellow target archers to ensure it is not in their way.

If it is your first tournament or you have not shot many tournaments, tell everyone your target, they will normally welcome you, make you feel at ease and help you through the day. Most people at shoots are very friendly.

Just prior to the shoot, the judges will blow the whistle and call everyone to order. The tournament organiser will welcome you all, explain where the loos are, what the shoot is, first aid, any emergency procedures and will then hand you over to the judges. The Judges will also welcome you, go through what the shoot is, how many arrows per end, whistles, any timings that need to be adhered to, when breaks are to be had. They will also go through Bouncers and Equipment failure

**Bouncers** – this is where your arrow hits the target scoring area and bounces out of the target (not the wooden leg, score board or flag). In this case, you should step 2 paces back from the shooting line and put raise bow in the air – the judge will come over to see you. They will explain the bouncer rules and what will happen next, take an arrow and mark it. You will then shoot it.

Once you go up to the target to score, the judge should go with you and ensure that you have had a bouncer – do not pick it up until they have seen it.

If you are shooting a FITA round, you will be marking the target face. In this case, the judge will stop everyone shooting (FAST), and walk with you to the target to inspect for a hole on the target that has not been marked.

**Equipment Failure** – you have a problem with your bow – sights fallen off, string broken..... Stand back 2 paces from the shooting line and put your bow in the air if safe to do so. The judge will come over and work out what to do next. You are normally given time to sort the problem and then time to shoot your arrows.

During the shoot, keep a note of your scores and check them with the target scorer at the end. There are a lot of score sheets that have been added up wrong. It is up to you to make sure it is correct. If your score sheet is 100 points short due to adding up errors, that is what will be recorded in the results.

Make sure that you sign your score sheet at the end of the tournaments.

## Shooting Etiquette

There are some etiquette rules to follow throughout the day

- Keep the noise down behind the shooting line, respect the archers trying to shoot
- Don't chat on the shooting line
- When going to or coming off the shooting line, wait until the archer to your left and right are not at full draw or starting to draw the bow.
- Keep your equipment tidy in behind the equipment line
- Don't run around comparing scores, some people don't want to know about scores until the end
- Thank your fellow target archers at the end of the shoot for their company during the day

## After the tournament has finished

Once the tournament has finished, you may be asked to help the work party take the targets, stands etc back to their container. Please spend time to assist, when it is your tournament, you do appreciate it.

There will normally be a Presentation ceremony, where medals and trophies are handed out. There could also be a raffle to be drawn. Go to the Presentation and support those that have competed. T

Once you get back to your club, send your scores into the club records officer, they will go towards your handicap.

Check the Nottinghamshire Archery Society Website under the County Records page, you may have shot a County Record. If you have, send in a copy of your score sheet or the results sheet to the records officer (details on the web). You have to claim a record within 3 months and it is up to you to claim.

## And above all, enjoy the day