

Winter Archery League Handbook

1. Introduction

The Winter Archery League is a community-driven initiative designed to bring together archers from across Glasgow and surrounding areas during the winter indoor season. Its purpose is to encourage participation, build confidence in non-competing archers, and create a friendly competitive environment between local clubs.

2. Background

The League was inspired by the long-running Ayrshire League format, which has been active for decades. To set up a Glasgow-based winter league, the organiser personally visited local clubs to gauge interest and discuss the feasibility of running events. The minimum requirement was access to a venue with at least 8 bosses and 20 yards of space to shoot a Portsmouth round, ensuring capacity for around 30+ archers (with a minimum team size of 4 plus additional attendees).

Initial positive responses came from East Kilbride, Monklands, Strathclyde University, and Orion's. Glasgow were initially hesitant due to venue difficulties with their landlord. It was later confirmed that Orion's venue was too small to host, though Monklands offered their venue as a backup option for clubs unable to host.

In the end, East Kilbride agreed to host two events, Monklands hosted two events (including those for Glasgow), while Linwood declined due to their busy internal competition calendar. All clubs were invited to send members to take part regardless of hosting.

To coordinate effectively, a WhatsApp group was created, with each club nominating a representative to relay information, gather interest, and manage team inclusion. This ensured broad communication and encouraged maximum participation. I'd like to recognise James Ross, Chris Murray, John Strang, Benji Harmer, Erin Ann Dobin, and Alun Ap Rishairt for their support and activities to get the league started.

The WhatsApp group also discussed and agreed on costs, aiming to keep fees consistent and low, covering only venue hire, medals, and target faces. While some venues were cheaper than others, clubs agreed to maintain a consistent entry fee based on dividing costs across 36 spaces. In the first year, clubs absorbed any shortfalls or filled additional spaces to balance costs.

Additional help came from club representatives: Erin Ann Dobin, who designed the league emblem and created an event calendar; and Alun Ap Rhisiart, who built a webpage to display results and league tables. The results process was supported using a spreadsheet adapted from the Ayrshire League.

These foundations set the stage for building a league focused on community, inclusion, and friendly competition.

For current information, results, and league resources, please visit:

👉 Scottish Archery – Leagues: <https://www.scottisharchery.org.uk/leagues>

3. League Format

- Six monthly events take place across the winter season.
- Each participating club fields a team of 4 archers.
- Clubs may rotate archers between events, allowing wider participation.
- Teams can consist of archers from different bowstyles. Compounds shoot on a 40cm 3-spot face, while all other styles use a Portsmouth face at 20 yards.

4. Round Details

- Portsmouth round (60 arrows at 20 yards).
- Compounds: 40cm 3-spot face.
- Recurve, Barebow, Longbow: Portsmouth face.
- Ends of 3 arrows.
- Shooting controlled by a nominated Field Captain (not a formal judge).

5. Scoring & Points

- Each event awards medals to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placed teams on the day.
- League points are awarded as follows:
 - 1st place: 5 points
 - 2nd place: 4 points
 - 3rd place: 3 points
 - 4th place: 2 points
 - 5th place: 1 point
 - 6th/7th place: 0 points
- A live leaderboard is maintained online.
- At the Final Event, medals are awarded for the day, and the Champions Trophy is awarded to the overall league winners.

6. Venues & Hosting

- Events are hosted across participating clubs' venues.
- Venues must provide at least 9–10 bosses at 20 yards to accommodate ~30 archers.
- Monklands is available as a neutral/alternative venue for clubs unable to host.
- Hosting duties are shared to distribute workload and opportunity.

7. Costs & Entry

- Entry fees cover venue hire, medals, and target faces only.
- Costs are standardised across all events, based on 36 entries.
- Clubs may subsidise if entries fall short.
- No spot prizes are awarded – focus remains on team achievement and consistency.

8. Governance & Communication

- The League is run collectively by club representatives via WhatsApp.
- Each club provides one representative to relay information and coordinate members.
- Decisions (e.g., costs, format changes) are made collectively to maintain fairness.