



Southampton Archery Club Limited

20th September 2024

This statement has been prepared in response to numerous enquiries received from individuals across the country within the archery community. This does not constitute advice or an opinion on the recent changes implemented by Archery GB, merely a summary of our position and the actions we have taken.

Background

Archery GB have remodelled their membership to remove pro-rata fees aligned to 1st October and introduce individual renewal dates for AGB membership. SAC have previously managed access to their facilities by changing site access codes on 1st October every year and issuing membership fobs which show that members have valid membership of AGB and hence insurance to shoot.

The introduction of individual renewal dates means that SAC can no longer be confident that all members accessing our facilities on any given day of the year will have valid AGB membership (and hence insurance) in place. Our facilities are available to members 24-7 and as such, unlike at a competition or a scheduled shooting session, we have no feasible way of checking the AGB membership status of every individual when they arrive to shoot.

The Howdens Archery GB Insurance Centre ^[1] clearly states that AGB members are not insured if shooting with non-members. This leaves the club vulnerable to a claim if a member shoots at the club with an expired AGB membership. The club committee feels this is not an acceptable insurance risk.

Mitigation

The club committee have discussed the options at great length and believe we will be unable to manage this risk if we are reliant solely on the insurance cover provided by AGB membership. We therefore conclude that the only way to completely mitigate this insurance risk is to arrange private insurance from another insurer to cover all club members and guests, regardless of their AGB membership status.

This insurance cover will be provided by Protectivity and will start on 1st October 2024. It will provide almost identical cover to the Howdens Archery GB policy, covering day-to-day shooting, competitions, guests, beginner courses, coaches and club officials. This cover only applies at SAC facilities, it does not extend to cover SAC members shooting at other clubs or at competitions held elsewhere.

Ramifications

With private insurance in place and bearing in mind that SAC have many social archers who do not shoot competitively, the club has decided to restructure into two separate clubs, the existing club which remains affiliated with AGB and a new independent club which has been established for all members, regardless of AGB membership status. There are many other clubs who already operate like this and have done successfully for years.

Both clubs will operate in accordance with the AGB Rules of Shooting & Codes of Conduct. SAC is still committed to providing an environment where everybody can learn and participate in a sport free from harassment and abuse. We will continue to adopt the AGB Safeguarding Policies and have identified appropriate resources and external safeguarding support to ensure peace of mind for all our members.

SAC is not leaving AGB. We are simply restructuring to be able to offer club-only membership without the requirement to also be a member of AGB. SAC launched a "Participation Fund" during Covid-19 to provide financial support to those members who struggle with the costs of membership but wish to engage with the sport. This change will give the option to reduce participation costs for a wide range of archers, especially families and those on low incomes or benefits.

Mission

Our goal remains to make archery available to as wide a range of people as possible and to encourage participation in the sport at all levels and abilities. Our coaching team and club committee are firmly committed to supporting and developing both grass roots and competitive archery by working closely with Archery GB, in the local community, and with other archery organisations across the county and further afield.



James Wilson

For and on behalf of the board of directors
Southampton Archery Club Limited

[1] <https://www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/archery-gb-insurance-faqs>

"What are the recognised activities insured by the Combined Liability Policy?"

"Please remember Archery GB members are not insured if shooting with non members as per the Rules of Shooting."