

Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle



Your Basic Kit – check and care

Equipment list:

You've been away from your kit for a while (some longer than others). It's time to get it out and do some basic checks so that you are ready to re-start (when we are allowed, of course).

As a basic kit, I would expect to find the following items as a minimum – you may have more.

Bow handle (Recurve)	Stabilisers	Bowstringer
Bow limbs (Recurve)	Bow bag or case	Bracer
String	Quiver	Spares
Arrow rest	Arrows	Clini-band
		Tab

For the compounders within our ranks, replace the recurve items listed as necessary. You don't need a bowstringer. Your compound bow will need checking in much the same way as a recurve bow.

All of these items can deteriorate over time, but with regular care most will give you sterling service for decades if you wish.

Now for a basic kit check – you are going to do the minimum checks necessary for any of this equipment. It is a good habit to do these on a regular basis. In every case, just looking at the item, in detail, and seeing any scratches, degradation, or breakages. Then its specific items, a scratch on a bow bag will not render it useless, a scratch on a sight may well mean a replacement.

1. Bow handle (Recurve)

Check for its general condition – are there any dents or cracks in its surface. Small scratches are generally nothing to worry about, but anything more serious should be checked by either your coach or local archery shop.



Contact details

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2. Bow Limbs (Recurve)

We are once again looking for deep scratches or cracks -if you find anything that looks serious, talk to your coach. He or she can check them over and give you a verdict on whether they are still okay.

Other than that, make sure any bolts or clips attached to the limbs are secure.



3. String

This is an easily replaceable item. Check for any broken strands or loose servings. If its dry, use some bowstring wax to lubricate the strands. (there is a club wax, ask the coaches) Check the nock points are secure, and the loops are not damaged.



If you are in doubt about your string talk to John/Robyn or Dennis and they will make you a new one for a minimal cost.

4. Arrow rest

I know that most of you have basic plastic arrow rests fitted to your bows. Just check that it is not missing any bits and is still secure on the riser. Spring rests can lose their 'spring' – it is best to replace at that point.



5. Sight

This is a precision-built piece of equipment, and can be damaged very easily. Look at its general condition – are there any loose or missing components. When set up correctly, the T-bar should be parallel to the sight window and the track should appear in the 'sight window'. Check the sight block (the bit with the sight pin) – does it have all the necessary screws? Is the sight pin bent? All the moving parts of the sight should move smoothly throughout their entire span.

Check the mounting block on your bow – are the screws tight? The mounting knob should screw in to the block smoothly and without any tight spots.

If you find any issues, talk to your coaches. They should be able to help in most cases.



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6. Stabilisers

Check the mounting threads for any damage. Are the weights secure? Look at the general condition, we don't need cracks – but scratches aren't a problem.



7. Quiver

Again, its general condition you're looking at. Is it still secure on the belt? Is the belt the right size for you – comfort is important.



8. Bowstringer

Easy one this – Are the pocket and loop still in good condition? Check the length of the strap – you don't want any splits in the material.

9. Bracer

Another easy check – look at its general condition. Does it have any broken clasps or straps?



10. Tab

A little more involved here. Is it very worn? Tabs take a real beating in archery – make sure it is still in good enough condition to protect your fingers. Does it fit correctly?



11. Clini-band

I'm hoping that you all have one of these – if not, talk to me (John). Check its general condition, and look at the knot. You don't need one of these to give way in use – it hurts!



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12. Spares

Every good archer should have spares for their equipment. Bowstring wax, nocks, fletchings, and points as a minimum. A replacement string and nock points would also be useful. Keep some glue in your bag (I use Gorilla Glue Gel) to effect emergency repairs in the field.



If you are unsure about any of these sundry items chat to the coaches and they will point you at the right place or the club may have a stock it can sell to you for cost price.

13. Bow bag or case

Check general condition, and make sure handles are still secure.

14. Arrows

Last but not least – check the general condition. It's important that there are no dents or cracks for obvious reasons. Make sure that points, fletchings and nocks are in good condition and secure in/on the shaft. If you find any issues that you are not sure how to fix – talk to your coaches.



The last image is a broken arrow but this is just one example of how damage can occur with arrows. Would you shoot an arrow that looks like this?

Can we also suggest that an old tea towel or soft cloth for general wiping down is a good idea, and also that you check all equipment for any forms of damp, mould or insects.

Please remember that in these new COVID-19 days, we are not allowed to share equipment with each other. Try to make sure that you can be self-sufficient in the basics at least. If you need assistance or advice please talk to your coaches. Any equipment we do have "in stock" we will ensure that it is sanitised and appropriate, we can deliver in a COVID safe way.

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