



Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle

Basic Range safety

A reminder, or cheat sheet for those who need it, and even a refresher for those others.

Do you remember what all the whistles mean?



Two whistle blasts indicate to waiting archers that the first detail can approach the shooting line. We do not tend to use this one as there are usually so few of us. However, it could be used at external tournaments so you need to be aware.

One whistle blast indicates that shooting can commence.

Three whistle blasts indicate that shooting has finished and it is now safe to collect your arrows from the target.

Multiple blasts (or a continuous blast) on the whistle, (or the word "**FAST**") mean that there is a hazard on the range and shooting has to be halted immediately. Once the hazard has been resolved, shooting will re-commence after a single whistle blast.

Anyone can call/shout **FAST if a potential hazard is spotted or an issue that could be a danger is noticed.**

Which way does your bow point?

I know this is obvious, but people do forget. Your bow should point down the range at all times that you have it in your hand. At all other times, it should be mounted on its stand. At no time is it acceptable to wave your bow around.



Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com



Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle

Do you remember what all the lines mean?

There are three lines on the range that you should always adhere to.

First is the Spectator line – this line is the limit to which any non-shooting attendees can get to watch the shooting line. Only shooting participants are allowed to cross this line. Our spectator line at the Focus Centre is essentially the Café area. (Please note that with COVID spectators must only attend as carers or parents and they MUST comply with all regulations in place)

Second is the Waiting line – this line means that the shooters may not cross it unless they are shooting. All equipment must be behind this line. We indicate this line using signs at each end of the line on the floor.

Third is the Shooting line – Archers have to stand astride this line in order to shoot at the target, they may not cross it until such time as the appropriate whistle has been given. Again, we indicate with signs.

Lastly, we have the target line. This is where the targets stand, and is the point from which the range distance is calculated. At the Focus Centre we use one of the existing lines indoors, and a tape measure outdoors.

How to stand on the shooting line

Stand with your feet shoulder width apart, Weight should be evenly distributed across both feet and the shooting line should remain evenly between your feet pointing to 12 and 6 o'clock or north and south.

(For these photos, we have utilised Deniss, and a drainage grid to demonstrate positioning.)



Here's the correct square stance used by most archers.



Alternatively, we have the open stance. This is used by some archers.

Unfortunately, this is so easy to get wrong, or accidentally miss, we have seen many variations of this – the important point is that no-one should be any further forward or back from the line than anyone else. Weight should be evenly distributed across both feet and the shooting line should remain evenly between your feet pointing to 12 and 6 o'clock or north and south.

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com

Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle



Standing too far back



Standing too far forward

Walking to bosses – what are the recommendations?

It is recommended that when walking to the targets you should take a line which takes you to the side of, or between, the targets. Please do not collect arrows from behind the bosses until scoring on the boss has been completed. Any arrows that have fallen short of the target can be collected before scoring.

Can we also remind you to concentrate as you approach the target, if you are not careful or looking you could walk into the nock ends of the arrows in the target. They are held firm so will not give way and therefore usually leave a mark!

Pulling arrows – how to do it

Firstly, DON'T STAND DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOUR OWN, OR ANYONE ELSE'S ARROWS.

Always be to the side. Never stand behind someone who is removing arrows, as their elbow or the nock end of the arrow will be moving at speed and a great deal of force towards you and potentially your face! Leave space around you and place arrows directly into your quiver or hold in the advised way (beginners course way – arrow point down, hand above point and tucked under arm). If holding them, it is usually best to lay down the ones already collected under the base of the target until you can pick them all up collectively.

Arrows should be pulled at the same angle as the shaft is in the boss. This is important as it could bend the arrow, or damage it. The best way to do this is:

Grip the arrow as close to the point as is possible, with your forearm in line with the shaft of the arrow. Pull back on the arrow in line with the shaft WITHOUT twisting the shaft – this could cause the point to be unstuck from the shaft and left in the boss. Any points left in the boss must be found – they could cause damage to other arrows or cause the bouncing back of arrows to the archers.

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com

Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle



There are both good and bad examples here – do not bend your arrow whilst pulling from the target.

Okay, I know the last one is a bit of fun – but how often do you have arrows that are stuck fast in the target? Just a quick tip – if you have a stuck arrow, ask someone else to help you pull.

What is the most dangerous end of the arrow?

This is an easy one – the answer is BOTH!

After the previous points about pulling arrows, you should remember some of the hazards. Nocks can do as much serious damage to toes, faces and hands. In fact, Nocks are more likely to cause harm than the points. Take care when retrieving arrows from bosses, and from the ground. Points are, obviously, quite sharp. You must take care in handling arrows. Make sure that they are carried safely at all times.

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com



Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle



Report breakages, missing nocks/tips or fletchings and unfound arrows.

As detailed previously, broken bits can be a danger, the point tip left in a target can cause damage and danger to anyone who shoots at that target. Nocks fallen on the range can still be a hazard if stepped on. A broken arrow should be shown to a coach or the line captain, so they can ascertain if there may be a need to pull more pieces from the target or if there are shards that may be a danger left on the range.

Unfound/lost arrow – all your arrows that get shot from you during the “end” MUST be safely collected and accounted for. Any missing arrow is a potential hazard. Outdoors where arrows can drive themselves into the ground, indoor where they can lodge into random bits of the safety net or the target stand, even another target entirely. The range captain/line captain will not be able to declare the range safe for shooting if there is a missing arrow.

Equipment failure

Any kind of equipment failure can be traumatic – especially if you are in competition at the time. Make sure that you have spares available and that they are shot-in or adjusted to match your setup. Nothing is more annoying than having to give up shooting because you don't have a replacement for a broken item.



Dropped, blown or misfired equipment that has landed on the range.

If during your shooting you drop, misfire or through no fault of yours a piece of equipment falls onto the range, DO NOT immediately step over to retrieve it.

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com



Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle

Indicate to the line captain you have an issue by raising your hand, they will decide if they need to call FAST, stop shooting, or if there is a way to safely retrieve your item. (Please note, any arrow that has travelled beyond 3 metres from the shooting line is classed as having been shot! No return, it is scored as a missed arrow)



Not like this!



Like this

Behaviour on the line and behind it

It is important to be respectful of everyone on the shooting line. Regardless of age or ability.

Do not make a lot of noise and create disturbance behind the shooting line. Some archers wish to be alone with their thoughts – please do not disrupt them.

Remember that your archery and your score is personal, if you choose to share details that is up to you.

Coaches may well offer advice to archers during shooting. But they will always ask permission to offer a suggestion. If you see an issue with another archer point it out to the line captain or coaches and one of them will deal with the matter.

Every archer has the right to call FAST if a potential hazard is spotted.

We celebrate personal successes, no achievement is too small.

Generally don't speak in a loud voice during shooting.

If you are having a loud conversation with attendees who are not participating in the shooting, take it away so that you are not disturbing others.

Do not touch others equipment (unless you have express permission from the owner).

Stay behind the Waiting Line until it's your turn to shoot.

Do not leave a solo archer to shoot on the line, it is polite and the right thing to wait for them to finish and leave the shooting line together.

Listen to the line captain, always be ready for a potential FAST.

Handling bosses, backstop net, range equipment

We all have a responsibility to be involved with the club equipment

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com



Return to Archery – 2021

Written by John Searle

Remember, this equipment is HEAVY! Do not lift bosses of any kind without help – it seriously is a two-person lift.



The backstop net is another example – it takes more than one person to properly erect this piece of equipment.



We also have a good example in our rope reel – this thing is heavy! We use it on our Have-a-Go days to rope off the range. It really is a two-person lift to be safe.

Whilst other equipment can be lightweight, care must be taken not to trap fingers (or anything else) whilst carrying, setting up, and breaking down the range.

All in all, be aware of the dangers involved in moving range equipment.

Contact details

Coaches: John Searle 07593 429275 | jhsearle67@gmail.com
Robyn Searle 07783 663427 | rsearle113@gmail.com
Secretary: Dianne Searle 07938 554604 | Dianne.searle91@gmail.com