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**ARCHERS SHOWCASE THEIR SKILLS AT NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

* **Young BBC SPOTY finalist Penny Healey retains title**
* **World number one Ella Gibson shoots to success**
* **British Record broken by impressive junior Max Oakley**

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Left-Right: Penny Healey celebrates a great performance, Max Oakley shoots to a new British record and Ella Gibson rejoices in retaining her title. *(Image credits: Archery GB)***

**05 December 2023:** Over 1,000 international and British archers descended on Warwickshire at the weekend to take part in one of the UK’s largest indoor archery competitions.

The National Indoor Championships and the Junior National Indoor Championships were held at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire from Friday 1 December to Sunday 3 December.

**British record broken**

On Saturday, at the National Indoor Championships, a trio of talented female athletes successfully retained their titles. On a roll following the announcement of her short-listing for the prestigious BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award, 18-year-old [Penny Healey](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/penny-healey) was triumphant in the recurve women's competition. World number one [Ella Gibson](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/ella-gibson) stayed on fabulous form, winning the compound women's category and Shelia Hudson completed her year by taking the longbow women's title.

In the junior competition, history was made by recurve archer Max Oakley, who successfully shot a new UK record for U21 and U18 recurve men with a score of 589 out of a possible 600 points. The previous record was 588 points.

**Back2Back winners**

In the TRU Ball AXCEL Back2Back competition, 12-arrow head-to-head matches pit archers against each other across two to three rounds of adrenaline-filled archery. In this unique eliminator competition, every arrow is a ‘match’ arrow. There is no qualification, just large rounds of matches, where the final consists of six archers and the lowest score of each round is eliminated.

The recurve women's title was fought out between world number 4 Penny Healey and world number 20 Gaby Schloesser for the third year in succession.

With the Dutch athlete taking victory, Gaby later praised the competition, saying; “You shoot and all the arrows count. That’s the reason we keep coming back, because of the feeling of the competition. It’s so different to other competitions. To be honest, I got kind of emotional. I know that Penny is a really good shot, so I wouldn’t even look at her target or anything, just because I wanted to do my thing. I felt like I had everything under control once again.”

The recurve men's title was won by fourth-place finisher at the National Tour Final, [Alex Wise](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/alex-wise), who celebrated his first indoor victory by beating 2022 National Indoor Champion [James Woodgate](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/james-woodgate).

In the compound competition, the men's title was fought out between world number 5 Mathias Fullerton and 2022 champion Mike Schloessar, with Danish athlete Fullerton securing victory by shooting 25 perfect 11s in the final round.

After the competition, Mathias said: “I really like this platform. It takes away the kind of luck you can have at a normal event because you have so many matches; one loss isn’t going to make you go out. There are no lucky winners. I feel like I shot amazing. I’m going to come back every year now.”

Ella Gibson continued her dominance in the female compound category by taking her second win of the weekend, beating [Grace Chappell](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/grace-chapell) to second and [Izzy Carpenter](https://archerygb.org/performance/national-squads/izzy-carpenter) to third.

The exciting competition is one of the few times in sport that grassroots competitors can line up and take part alongside archers who are ranked number one in the world.

With 1,016 archers registered to take part, a staggering 63,000 arrows were shot over the weekend.

Ruth Hall, Archery GB Chief Executive Officer, rounded off the weekend by praising all those who took part and staged the impressive event: “This is my first National Indoor Championships in the role of CEO. I was immensely proud to see everybody, hundreds of people from up and down the country. I think what’s impressed me the most was to see our volunteers, and the amount of work that’s gone into setting up this event has been incredible."

**An incredible 2023 season for GB Archers**

The tournament marks the end of a brilliant year for GB archers as many of the recurve and para-athletes will begin to focus their sights on securing quota places for Paris 2024.

A positive year on the field has seen multiple world records broken by members of the team, with gold medals won in major European competitions and at World Cup stages. 2023 has seen British archers reinforce their position as some of the top archers in the world, with numerous athletes now consistently battling to be at the top end of the world rankings.

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**Notes to Editors**

Hi-res images can be found [here](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/j1y0k4ii7xnh88h9bwsv1/h?rlkey=45t9v4q4qqawk2cpmcu8psrqj&dl=0).

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**About Archery GB**

Archery GB is the British body for all forms of archery in the UK, an inclusive sport which lends itself to all spectrums of the population - regardless of age, disability or gender. With over 820 clubs and over 34,400 members, Archery GB is affiliated to World Archery, British Olympic Association & British Paralympic Association. More information [www.archerygb.org](http://74n5c4m7.r.eu-west-1.awstrack.me/L0/http%3A//www.archerygb.org/1/01020180a98cbda9-8e57777e-d0bb-407b-a1f6-bec693ced52b-000000/U7Sj-5aARbXnfwerq3W-89GEnIQ%3D269). Beginners can visit [www.startarchery.co.uk](http://74n5c4m7.r.eu-west-1.awstrack.me/L0/http%3A//www.startarchery.co.uk/1/01020180a98cbda9-8e57777e-d0bb-407b-a1f6-bec693ced52b-000000/ayOC_KwdMGgFiFQeNx2rNl-3JBM%3D269) to find beginners’ courses and clubs near them and to learn more about the sport.