

Deaf Archery Group UK

Brief Report - March 2023 – May 2024



History of Deaf Archery Group UK

The Deaf Archery Group UK is a newly formed group started last year March 2023 between five deaf archers from the Archery clubs of Bowmen of Harrow and Laleham Archery club. (Middlesex County Archery Association) We are all archers and have hearing losses ranging from hard of hearing to profoundly deaf.

At present our main aim is to work with Archery GB in an advisory role - to draw up projects and plans to promote Deaf – Hard of Hearing archers needs and requirements to enable them to fully participate in the sport at all levels.

At the present we do not have any formal structure i.e. do not have any official committee members or a constitution or any financial funds.

We do have a term of reference and meet twice a year formally but have a continued dialogue throughout the rest of the year how on the planned projects are going.

To date: we have formally met three times

Inaugural meeting: 12th March 2023

10th June 2023

23rd February 2024

Summary of joint work done so far with Archery GB

We have had six joint meetings.

Dates:	Time:
20 July 2023	11:00-11:45
29 August 2023	11:00-11:45
26 September 2023	11:00-11:45
25 October 2023	11:00-11:45
06 December 2023	14:00-14:45
31 January 2024	13:30-14:30
25 April 2024	12:00-13:00

Completed Projects.

- Archery GB Survey for Deaf and Hard of hearing archers: conducted a survey to help identify how many archers might be Deaf or Hard of Hearing, the barriers they may have faced and ideas to overcome these barriers.
- Deaf Archery Group UK Collated the results from Survey: this will form the bases of drawing up Deaf Archery Tool Kit to be made available for all members of Archery GB
- Memorandum of Understanding: between Archery GB & Deaf Archery Group UK- this formed the bases of how the joint working partnership will work and what each party commitments are.
- On-line Deaf Awareness UK sports course – some of Deaf Archery Group UK members reviewed this resource and agreed that it is an excellent resource to recommend to Archery GB members who wish to gain a basic understanding on Deaf awareness.
- Session Coaching level 1 course with BSL interpreters: two members of the Deaf Archery Group UK have completed the level 1 Session coaches' course with British Sign language interpreter present (funded by The Fletchers' Trust *The Worshipful Company of Fletchers*) and are now qualified coaches.
- Pascal's Johnson article on the Archery GB website: Pascal Johnson member of the Deaf Archery group UK drafted an article which was published on the Archery website May 2023. Which was well received.
- 2D drawn BSL archery signs leaflet was published in Archery GB magazine and on the membership Archery GB web page to promote basic British Sign language archery signs.
- Net working day with dhtrailblazers:www.dhtrailblazers.co.uk: Attend by three members of the Deaf Archery Group UK to promote archery in the Deaf community.
- Safeguarding course in British Sign Language: three members of the Deaf Archery Group UK attended the UK Coaching safeguarding course run by dhtrailblazers which was presented in British Sign language.
- Archery GB Disability Championships 2023: Two members of the Deaf Archery Group UK attended this 2-day event in Lilleshall and promoted the Deaf Archery Group UK and distributed BSL archery leaflets.
- UK Deaf Sports: now have added Archery links to their sport finder directory promoting Deaf Archery Group UK

On- going projects

- BSL archery signs project-- aim of this project to create videos and 2D drawings of British Sign Language archery signs so that Deaf people who use sign language can access Archery information.
- Deaf Archery Resource Tool Kit- to produce a toolkit on outlining how to make Archery clubs, Tournaments more inclusive for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Archers.
- Deaf Spotters document: to draw up a guide specially aimed at Deaf and Hard of hearing archers – so to promote the idea that Deaf and Hard of hearing archers do have specific needs around safety issues, information receiving and giving and shooting i.e. arrow strikes- calling out scores and may need a hearing assistant (called a spotter) to support the archer.
- Promoting Deaf Archery Group UK at various archery competitions and will members of the Deaf Archery Group UK will attend Disability Championships 2024 at Lilleshall September 2024 and Deer Park Archers Inclusion Series 2024-25
- Requested Joint e-mail address Archery GB solely for Deaf Archery Group UK matters – so enquires can be made without the use of a member's personal email address.
- Deaf Archery Group UK web page: looking into having a website page on Archery GB website to promote Deaf Archery Group UK
- Funding for BSL interpreters: to seek funding for British Sign interpreters for on-line meetings and at archery club meetings.

Future identified projects in the pipe- line

- 'Have a go Archery Week 2025' at present liaising with local Surrey based Archery club for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate during their 'Have a go sessions' for next year May 2025
- To produce a comprehensive British Sign language Archery directory with video and 2D drawings / photos to enable Deaf Archers who use BSL to have full access to the sport of Archery.

Written by

Kathy Johnson 'member of the Deaf Archery Group UK'

I want to thank everyone that has been involved in setting up, supporting, attending meetings in partnership with Archery GB. Without everyone's input and great teamwork, every bit helps we would not be where we are now. We have achieved a lot and now moving on to stage where some of the on-going projects will be producing tangible results.