## LANCASHIRE ARCHERY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION


#### Abstract

All Associations/Clubs are required to have an open Constitution in order to become members of The Grand National Archery Society (hereafter referred to as Archery GB). Please note that the Association shall NOT include within its constitution or shooting regulations any provisions that conflict with those of the relevant Region and the Society.

THE CONSTITUTION OF LANCASHIRE ARCHERY ASSOCIATION, AN AFFILIATED MEMBER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ARCHERY SOCIETY AS AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION, WAS FORMALLY ADOPTED IN 1954, IT HAS BEEN UPDATED AND WAS APPROVED BY MEMBERS AT THE AGM HELD ON $4^{\text {TH }}$ NOVEMBER 2023.


1. NAME

The name of the Association is Lancashire Archery Association, hereafter referred to as 'The Association' or 'LAA'

## 2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 The organisation is an Unincorporated Association whereby it is a "Private Members' Club", i.e. ownership of the Association and its assets rests with the general membership, and it is also a non-profit organisation.
2.2 Not withstanding the previous statement and subject to the matters set out below, The Association and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this Constitution by the members of the elected Executive Committee, herein referred to as 'The Committee', constituted by Clause 7 of this Constitution.
2.3 Therefore the Officers and Committee Members act as agents for the members and hence are entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Association and by the members against any liability, costs, expenses and payments whatsoever which may be properly incurred or made by them in the exercise of their duties or, in relation to any legal proceedings, or which otherwise relate directly or indirectly to the performance of the functions of a Committee Member of the Association.
2.4 As an Unincorporated Association, and for the efficient administration of The Association, the funds and property of the Association shall be vested in the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer for the time being
2.5 The Association is a not-for-profit organisation. All monies and sums received on behalf of the Association shall remain the property of the Association and there will be no distribution of such funds amongst members, with the exception of clause 17.5, apart from reasonable approved expenses (Clause 10.1 refers).
2.6 The Laws of Archery GB and the Archery GB Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young

People and Vulnerable Adults, the Shooting Regulations as prescribed in the Archery GB Rules of Shooting and Shooting Administration Procedures shall be accepted as governing the relevant branches of the Sport of Archery practised by the Association and its Members.
2.8 Nothing shall be included in the Constitution which conflicts with Archery GB. The Association shall at all times remain affiliated to Archery GB and the Northern Counties Archery Society.
2.9 The postal address of the Association shall be that of the Honorary Secretary, unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

## 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Association are:

### 3.1 Aims:

The aims of the Association shall be the promotion and development of archery in all its forms by all the Clubs in the County of Lancashire, as defined by Archery GB. The LAA does not promote the use of bows for hunting, which is illegal in the UK.

### 3.2 Objectives:

- To encourage and facilitate Archery.
- To facilitate coaching and participation opportunities in Archery.
- The retention of new and existing members.
- To support county clubs and direct members to promote the Association within the local community.
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the Association.
- To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.
- To ensure that all present and future members receive fair and equal treatment.
- Securing the Associations future.


## 4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Subject to clause 4.3, membership shall be open to everyone, irrespective of Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, or Sex and Sexual Orientation (together known as the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010).
4.2 The Association may refuse Membership to any candidate (whether Club or Direct Member) on the basis of conduct and/or character, liable to bring the Association into disrepute or where the candidate's application would be at odds with the Purpose of the Association, without being called upon to state the reasons for refusal.
4.3 Any Archery GB affiliated Archery Club, within the County of Lancashire as defined in Clause 3.1, shall be eligible for membership as an affiliated club. Direct membership is available to individual members of Archery GB on payment of the current subscription fees to Archery GB, the LAA and NCAS, such members to have the same privileges and be subject to the same conditions as members of an affiliated club.
4.4 A member of an affiliated club shall by reason of such membership become an Associate

Member.
4.5 The membership will consist of officers, committee and members of the Association as defined in clause 4.3.
4.6 Members Categories, members of the LAA will be enrolled in one of the following categories:

- Senior Member
- Junior (under 18)
- University Clubs (block fee)
- Juniors in a School Club (block fee)
- Disabled Member
- Honorary Member
- Direct Member
4.7 Any person whom the Association may wish to honour for distinguished service to the Association may be elected at a General Meeting of the Association as an Honorary Member for life or for a specified period of time.
4.8 All members shall accept the jurisdiction of the Association and shall conform to such conditions, shooting rules and regulations (Association Rules) as may be determined from time to time.


## 5. MEMBERSHIP FEES

5.1 All Members as defined in clauses 4.3 shall pay a subscription to the Association at rates to be determined from time to time by Members at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
5.2 The failure of a Club or Direct Member to pay their affiliation fees within one month after $1^{\text {st }}$ October in any year, shall, at the discretion of the committee, cease to be a member of the Association unless the shortfall is made up. If the fees are outstanding after two months the club may be due to expulsion, at the discretion of the Committee.
5.3 The Association may levy such further sums, by way of additional contributions, as the members in an Annual or Special General Meeting may determine. Notice of such resolution must be given in the manner described in Clause 11.1.

## 6. SPORT EQUITY

6.1 The Association is committed to encouraging a supportive culture among our Members and Partners, which reinforces our commitment to providing equal opportunities and fairness for everyone and not provide less favorable facilities or treatment because of Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, or Sex and Sexual Orientation (together known as the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010).
6.2 We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. We will treat all members fairly and with respect.
6.3 The Association will follow the governing body Archery GB's policy on Equality and Diversity.

## 7. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION (Formerly clauses 14 to 20)

7.1a The officers will be:

- President
- Chairperson (Term of office shall be a maximum of three years. No individual to hold office for more than two consecutive terms, unless there are exceptional circumstances - see 7.1 b below)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The above offices must be held by separate individuals
7.1b In the event of exceptional circumstances, whereby it is not possible to hold an AGM or SGM or otherwise elect a new Chair, the current LAA committee may propose to extend the term of office of the Chair to cover the period of the exceptional circumstance, such extensions will be for a period of one year. An election of a new Chair should take place at the earliest opportunity following the end of the exceptional circumstance.
7.2 And may also consist of the following committee members:

- Safeguarding Officer
- Records Officer
- SPOC (Judges)
- who shall be a qualified Judge
- Tournament Organisers:
* Outdoor
* Indoor
* Clout
- Team Manager (Junior)
- Team Manager (Senior)
- County Coaching Organiser (CCO)
- who shall be a Licensed coach nominated by the coaches of Lancashire
- Clout Officer
- Field Officer
- Web Master
- Northern Counties Archery Society (NCAS): Three Reps.
- LAA Club Representatives. (At a Committee Meeting, in addition to the officers above there is one vote per club).
- Any other Committee Members as the Committee shall determine from time to time.
7.3 At each AGM, except as provided for in Clause 7.4, once all relevant Committee reports have been received (clause 11.3) all other Officers and Committee Members will retire but will be eligible for re-appointment (once the President chairs the meeting). The President will then oversee the election of the Chair, who will then oversee the remainder of the meeting. Officers and Committee Members will be elected annually at the AGM. The newly elected Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the AGM. All Officers of the Association must be members of a Lancashire Club or direct members affiliated to the LAA.
7.4 The Association shall elect at the AGM an individual having knowledge and experience of archery to be its President. The President shall hold office for three years. No individual shall hold the office for two consecutive terms. If the end of the Presidents term of office coincides with that of the Chairpersons then the President will be asked to serve an additional term of one year to ensure continuity.
7.5 Past Presidents and Chairpersons shall automatically become non-executive VicePresidents for life, on their retirement from office.


## 8. COMMITTEE

8.1 A President, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other posts defined in clause 7.2 above, shall be appointed by members in an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, which shall determine the terms of their appointments from time to time.
8.2 In the absence of the Chairperson the President will officially chair a Committee meeting.
8.3 No-one shall hold more than one Officers post (President, Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer). If an officer or post holder stands down mid-term the Association committee may co-opt a person into the vacant post until the next Annual General Meeting.
8.4 The Association will be managed through the Committee consisting of the posts defined in clause 7.1 and 7.2. Only these posts will have the right to vote at meetings of the Committee.
8.5 At meetings of the Committee the Chairperson, if it is necessary, is entitled to an additional deciding vote.
8.6 The Committee will be convened by the Secretary of the Association as agreed in advance and hold no less than three (in-person) meetings per year (includes 8.12 ) subject to cancellations due to_attendance or venue problems. The committee will maintain a proper record of their meetings and decisions.
8.7 The quorum required for business to be agreed at Committee meetings will be a minimum of seven Committee members, including at least two Officers.
8.8 The Committee will be responsible for developing and adopting new policy, codes of conduct and rules that affect the organisation of the association and will be notified to all Affiliated Clubs and Direct Members.
8.9 The Committee will have powers to appoint sub-committees and may delegate to such Committees executive and financial powers within carefully defined limits and co-opt members to the Committee as necessary to fulfil its business until the next Annual General Meeting. At least one member of any such sub-committee should be members of the General Committee.
8.10 The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary hearings of members who infringe the LAA Constitution or the Archery GB Constitution, Codes of Conduct or Rules of Shooting. The Committee will be responsible for taking any action of suspension or discipline following such hearings. Following none resolution at the club. If issue cannot be resolved by the county association the issue will be deferred to the Regional Association.
8.11 All officers of the Association must attend at least one committee meeting each calendar year; if they failure to do so they shall vacate their place on the Committee automatically unless in the opinion of the Committee their explanation for the absence is satisfactory.
8.12 Online Meetings. When necessary and at the discretion of Committee, meetings may be held using electronic "online" technology such as online conference facilities, (excluding telephone conferencing technology due to the difficulty in obtaining a valid vote count) so long as the technology gives all participants in the meeting reasonable opportunity to participate without being physically present in the same place.
8.13 In case of an emergency, three of the officers (President, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) shall together have full powers to act jointly on behalf of the Committee.
8.14 Committee Members are expected to honour the content and spirit of the Archery GB "Code Of Conduct".

## 9. EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS

9.1 A Competent Person shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting or in a Special General Meeting to undertake each year an Independent Examination of the accounts.
9.2 The Independent Examination report of the annual accounts will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting.
9.3 The Committee has delegated authority to set the appropriate remuneration level for the Independent Examiner.

## 10. FINANCE

10.1 All Associations monies will be banked in an account(s) held in the name of the Association. The Associations Treasurer will be responsible for administering the finances of the Association as directed by the Committee. Expenses claims as determined by the LAA Expenses Protocol shall be made to the Treasurer who will satisfy themselves that any claim for expenses is genuine (if claimed by the Treasurer, it will be approved by the Chairperson or Association Secretary), any expenses reimbursed to members shall be detailed in the Treasurers Committee report for scrutiny by committee members. Petty Cash will be overseen by the Treasurer and recorded in the Association accounts.
10.2 The financial year of the Association will begin on the $1^{\text {st }}$ October each year.
10.3 The Committee shall cause to be prepared and duly audited a Receipts and Payments Account for a period of twelve months, ending on the $30^{\text {th }}$ of September prior to the AGM at which it is to be presented for adoption.
10.4 A copy of the Receipts and Payments Account duly approved by the Independent Examiner shall be sent to each club/direct member accompanying the AGM Agenda.
10.5 Any two of the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer shall sign all cheques and orders withdrawing monies from the account. To enable online access to the bank accounts for the purposes of checking receipts and enabling electronic payments the signatories of the Association accounts shall be granted online access to the accounts. All electronic payments will be initiated by the treasurer and checked regularly by another signatory.
10.6 The surplus funds of the Association, not required for current purposes, may be invested from time to time in such manner as the Committee shall decide, and all such invested funds shall be in the names of two trustees appointed by, and being members of, the Committee.
10.7 LAA approved sub-committees
a) LAA approved sub-committees and/or groups may have at their disposal funding earmarked to support the sub committee/groups function within Lancashire, such funding being managed by the sub-committee/group financial
administrator
b) The sub-committee or group will be free to use said funds as deemed appropriate to support the functions of the sub-committee / group, however approval from the LAA committee should be sort for the purchase of large value items.
c) A quarterly statement of expenditure / income will be presented to the LAA committee via the sub-committee or groups quarterly report.
d) The Sub committee / group receipts and payments account shall be included in the accounts for the LAA annual accounting period ending $30^{\text {th }}$ September prior to the AGM and shall be subject to inspection by the LAA appointed independent examiner.

## 11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

### 11.0 Attendance at the AGM is open to all paid up association members and registered volunteers.

11.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of November each year, or as soon as practicable thereafter, but not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting, at a place to be determined by the Committee. Notice of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be given by the Association's Secretary. There shall be attached to the notice a copy of the Minutes of the previous General Meeting and a copy of the Receipts and Payments Account for the previous year, and notice of any proposed alterations to the Constitution (Section 15 refers). Not less than fourteen (14) clear days' notice to be given to all members and registered volunteers. Notice of any proposition, which it is intended to move, shall be sent to all Association Members entitled to receive notice of the meeting.
11.2 Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of the Annual or Special General Meeting.
11.3 At the AGM the business shall be:
(i) To confirm and sign the Minutes of the last AGM and/or SGM;
(ii) To consider the matters arising from those Minutes;
(iii) To receive the Chairman's Report;
(iv) To receive and adopt the Treasurer's Report and Accounts;
(v) To receive any other relevant reports;
(vi) To consider any alteration or amendments to the Constitution.

At this point in the meeting, if the current Chairman has completed their term in office, the Chairman will step down and the President will oversee the election of new officers
(vii) To elect officers for the ensuing year;

The new Chairman will now assume office and chair the remainder of the meeting.
(viii) To consider the annual affiliation fee to the Association;
(ix) To elect an Independent Examiner;
(x) To approve the dates and venues for the following year's Championship Meetings;
11.4 Nominations for members of the Association's Executive Committee (which require a proposer and be seconded) will be sent to the Secretary not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM. Elections for those members to the Executive Committee are to
take place at the AGM. All fully paid up members have the right to vote at the AGM.
11.5 If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies for Officers and/or Committee members, The Committee may, as a last resort, appeal to the assembled members at the Annual General Meeting, for permission to ask whether anyone present is willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate for one of the vacancies. A vote must be taken on this motion and must be carried by not less than two thirds of the members present, for the request to be made.
11.6 In the absence of any nominations being received for one or more of the Officer posts, or in the event that no member of the newly elected committee is willing to take on one or more of the Officer positions, a majority decision can be taken by the Committee to ask the retiring officer(s) to remain in post until the next AGM, without the need to implement the 'consecutive terms' requirement.
11.7 The Committee has the right to call Special General Meetings (SGMs) outside of the AGM. Procedures for SGMs will be the same as for an AGM.
11.8 When the official business of the AGM is completed the Meeting shall be closed. A General Meeting may follow immediately, at which items (previously notified to the secretary in writing, and duly circulated to clubs/direct members prior to the meeting) may be discussed and voted upon.
11.9 All members of an Affiliated Club and each Direct Member may attend and vote at an AGM or SGM. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Junior members may attend but may not vote.

## 12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

12.1 The Committee, or at the request of not fewer than Three Affiliated Clubs, may call a Special General Meeting. Not less than twenty one (21) clear days notice of such meetings shall be sent to each Affiliated Club, registered volunteer and Direct Member. Notice of any proposition, which it is intended to move, shall be sent to all Affiliated Clubs, registered volunteers and Direct Members entitled to receive notice of the meeting.

## 13. VOTING AND QUORUM

13.1 At all Annual General Meetings:
a) A minimum of six fully paid-up Clubs, attending the meeting in Person or by Proxy, including at least two of the following Officers: President, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, shall form a quorum.
b) Each fully paid up member and registered volunteer shall be entitled to one vote.
c) The Chairperson shall, if required, be entitled to cast an additional casting vote.
13.2 At all Annual and Special General Meetings, if within 15 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened the request of the members, shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned to a suitable day and time as the Committee may direct, provided twenty one (21) days notice is given to all Affiliated Clubs, registered volunteers and Direct Member. If at the reconvened meeting a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum.
13.3 The use of "Proxy" voting for the AGM to enable wider participation for members who cannot attend may be used via submission of votes prior to the AGM, as directed by Committee. If the 'Proxy' is unable to attend, then the proxy vote will reside with an Officer present at the meeting.

## 14. DISCIPLINE AND APPEALS

14.1 All Disciplinary, Child Protection and Poor Practice concerns should follow the Archery GB Disciplinary Policy and Appeal Procedures which are available in the Governance section at the Archery GB website.
14.2 All concerns, allegations or reports of poor practice/abuse relating to the welfare of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults will be recorded and responded to swiftly and appropriately in accordance with the Archery GB Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults. The Associations Child Protection Officer / Safeguarding Officer is the lead contact for all members in the event of any child protection concerns.
14.3 All other complaints regarding the behaviour of members or clubs should be submitted in writing to the Association's Secretary.
14.4 The Committee will meet to hear complaints within twenty one (21) days of a complaint being lodged. The committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action including the termination of membership from the Association only.
14.5 The outcome of a disciplinary hearing should be notified in writing to the member/club who lodged the complaint and the member/club against whom the complaint was made within seven (7) days of the hearing.
14.6 There will be the right of appeal to the Association's Secretary following disciplinary action being announced. In the event of an appeal against the decision of the Committee, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall be requested to appoint an Appeal Panel of three independent individuals. No member of the Association's Committee may sit on this panel.

## 15. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

15.1 The Constitution of the Association shall not be altered or amended except at the Annual General Meeting (AGM.) or at a Special General Meeting (SGM.) of the Association. Any alterations or amendments will only be passed by a $2 / 3$ (two thirds) majority of votes cast at the AGM or SGM. Any proposed amendment to the constitution will be notified in writing (via email) to all affiliated clubs and direct members at least fourteen (14) clear days' prior to the AGM or SGM.
15.2 Members wishing to move a proposition designed to alter or amend the constitution shall submit the proposition to the Secretary twenty eight (28) days before the AGM or SGM at which the proposition is to be considered. Notice of the proposition, which it is intended to move, shall be sent to all members entitled to receive notice of such meeting.
15.3 Any member wishing to object to any proposed alteration, amendment or part thereof must notify the Committee, in writing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the AGM or SGM, detailing their objections. No objection will be heard at the meeting without prior notice as described above, this is to allow any amendment (objection) to be placed on
the Agenda and voted on first, assuming that it is duly proposed and seconded. No objections will be heard from the floor.
15.4 No amendment may be made to Clause 1 (the Name of the Association); Clause 3 (the Aims and Objectives); Clause 17 (the Dissolution Clause) or this Clause without the prior consent, in writing, of the Committee.
15.5 No amendment may be made, which would have the effect of making the Association cease to be a member of Archery GB.

## 16. DISSOLUTION

16.1 A resolution to dissolve the Association can only be passed at an AGM or SGM through a majority vote of the membership present.
16.2 If the Association Committee by a simple majority decides at any time, on the grounds of expense or otherwise, that it is necessary to dissolve the Association, it shall call a Special General Meeting of all members of the Association with not less than twenty one (21) days notice. The Committee may, by a resolution passed at the Special General Meeting by not less than $75 \%$ of those present and entitled to vote decide to dissolve the Association.
16.3 Before dissolution is confirmed, opportunity must be given to the current membership to elect a new Association Committee if a continuation is to be attempted.
16.4 Should the Association be dissolved or cease to exist all the assets of the Association, after satisfying all debts and liabilities, shall be placed into LEGAL TRUST, details of which are set out in a Section 17 entitled "Terms of Trusteeship". The details may be changed from time to time as the Association determines.
Note: please refer to Clause 2.5.

## 17. TERMS OF TRUSTEESHIP

17.1 Details of the dissolution of the Association shall be presented to the members of the Association at an SGM called by at least three officers of the LAA Committee (President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer). Attempts shall be made to save the Association and to keep it going as a viable Association. If this cannot be done then the following clauses shall apply.
17.2 The members attending the meeting will appoint three Trustees to look after the assets of the Association for a specified period of time (e.g. one year). The Trustees will be one lawyer (or solicitor) and two members of the Association. The lawyer, who does not need to be a member of the Association, will give advice on the legal aspects of the dissolution and upon the legal responsibilities of the Trustees.
17.3 During and after the meeting the Trustees will carry out the following duties:

1) Collect together (where possible) all the assets and documents relating to these assets. Any member who is in possession of any assets will return the assets to the Trustees as quickly as possible.
2) All outstanding debts and credits will be settled as quickly as possible.
3) Most remaining funds shall be placed into some form of interest earning account. A small fund will remain in a current bank account to cover any expenses
incurred by the Trustees.
4) The trophies, medals and other properties shall be valued and placed in a safe location, for example a bank. The insurance on these items will be maintained.
17.4 It is possible that another association or other associations will be formed to replace the LAA. The viability of this (these) association(s) will be checked by the Trustees and by Archery GB (or other National Association). The Trustees should satisfy themselves that the new Association(s) represents the interests of all the archery clubs that were members of the LAA at the time of dissolution. Upon acceptance of the new association(s) the Trustees will hand over the assets to the new association(s). The monetary value of the trophies and properties will form the basis of the allocation if more than one association is formed. Additional guidelines, such as the number of clubs in each association, may also be used as a basis for apportioning the assets. The new association(s) will make a claim for the assets and, if necessary, the Trustees will act as arbiters.
17.5 If no association(s) has (have) been formed to replace the LAA by the end of the specified period of time then all the trophies, medals and other properties will be sold, preferably to past affiliated clubs. The resulting funds will be divided between the archery clubs that were associated to the LAA and are still continuing. In the event of any dispute the Trustees will act as sole arbiters.

## 19. DECLARATION

LANCASHIRE ARCHERY ASSOCIATION HEREBY ADOPTS AND ACCEPTS THIS CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS DULY APPROVED BY MEMBERS AT the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE $4^{\text {th }}$ NOVEMBER 2023, as the Current operating rules regulating the actions of all MEMBERS.

END OF CONSTITUTION

DOCUMENT CONTROL TABLE


