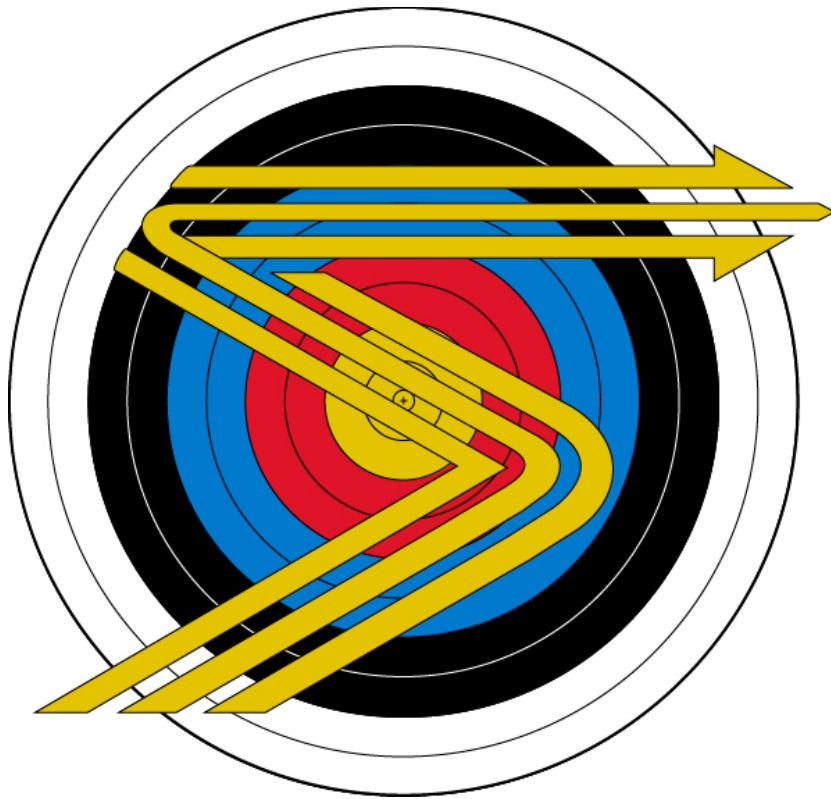


Sherbrooke Archers.

Presidents Report 2025-26



President: Paul Bowen.

Introduction.

Welcome to my 3rd Presidents Report for Sherbrooke Archers. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of not just me, but the entire committee. Over the last year we have continued to grow as a club and provide new and exciting changes to the club and its membership.

Although this report is termed the President's report, it is a report on the progress and changes at Sherbrooke Archers over the last 12 months.

This summary is presented to you all to give everyone an appreciation of how much your committee and the coaches do for you, the members we are all here to represent and support.

It will give an outline of some of the projects we have undertaken, what we have been able to give back to our membership, changes we have made and so much more.

Club Growth.

In July 2025 our membership was 121, with a 39% retention rate of membership.

Currently we have 180 members, with a retention rate of 61%.

A membership growth of 50%.

We have welcomed back 3 life members in Ross Pillar, Barrie Lindsey & Andrew Rowney.

Club Coaching.

If you wanted to see a major change in our clubs growth, this is it. Club coaching was restructured just over 12 months ago to try to provide something for all members, be it a new archer who has just joined or a member of over 20 years. And I don't think I am overstating it to say that we have succeeded.

A huge thank you must go out to our amazing and unrivalled club coach, James Park, who is strongly supported by his left-hand man, David Giulieri. Together they continue put together a coaching and training program that helps all archers at our club.

When it is raining, coaching has switched to inside the club rooms, with video presentations and demonstrations of everything from new apps from Archers Diary to string picture, aiming, arrow flight and holding a laser focused on the target. These sessions have grown so much that we now have 3 more coaches assisting.

Sticks Without Sights.

Although not a formal coaching session, sticks without sights has become a monthly shoot for many of our barebow, longbow and horse bow members. These events have also turned into mentoring sessions for several members.

Mentoring.

Speaking of Mentoring, there have been so many new members who have taken up the option of mentoring, approaching many of our coaches for advice, tips and informal coaching and assistance. Our mentoring structure is very casual, but we want to make sure all members know that help is always available for all of our members.

New Club Coaches.

We welcome 3 new level 1 coaches.

- Tony Johnston
- Emma Benbow
- Andrew Rubins

Come & Try and AIP.

Over the last 12 to 18 months there have been a lot of changes to the way we do our Come & Try as well as our AIP.

We have made several decisions to ensure we look after our coaches as well as encourage more members to help in a supporting role.

You may have noticed that this month there has been no AIP or Come & Try. This has been a deliberate move to allow our coaches to have a break as a lead into the State & National Indoors. The new online booking system has also allowed us to track all attendees, get statistical information off them and ensure that we meet the AA insurance requirements for temporary memberships.

Here are some of the new changes:

- We have developed an online calendar for coaches to put up their availability, which has made scheduling of AIP and Come & Try so much easier.
- We are now using a combination of Genesis bows and recurve bows at Come & Try.
- AIP attendees now get fitted out with quivers, finger tabs, 6 arrows, recurve bows without finger savers and safety equipment such as arm guards. This gives them a clear distinction between AIP and Come & Try.
- AIP attendees all do a stretch and warm up as part of their session. This has ensured we can help them correct their form before they shoot, get them using the correct muscles and instil good habits early in their archery journey.
- We have also been able to get new equipment for this group.
- The AIP structure has been tightened up and we are seeing some fantastic new members coming through the program.
- We have 5 coaches who are involved in the AIP, meaning the new archers get to meet many of our coaches, not just 1 or 2.
- We have introduced a financial reimbursement for our qualified junior coaches (under 21).

Thank you to all our coaches, mentors and all others who assist.

Working Bees.

The working bees are crucial to our club continuing. Thank you to our Working Bee co-ordinator, David, who is very well supported by so many of you. It is wonderful to see so many people turning up and assisting in small and large ways.

This year we introduced a couple of ways to say thank you to members who attend working bees and help around the club. The big one is doughnuts at the end of the working bees and the other is a 5% or 10% discount on your next years membership. This discount is based around the number of times an individual has helped at the club and will be a code given to them once they reach the required number. Volunteers log the number of times they have assisted in the Working bee log book.

Other Changes.

Introduction of Club Cards.

We have seen too many people just turning up to the club to shoot without being members. We now have a way to see if the people shooting are members of our club with the introduction of the club card to everyone's quiver.

Replacement of the Field Butts.

We have new portable target butts that can go into the field, allowing us to make more changes to the field as required.

Changes to the field layout multiple times a year.

With these new butts we have been able to change the layout of the field prior to tournaments and to rechallenge our members.

Filtered Water System.

We have installed a complex filtered water system that is a combination of multiple particle filters and a UV filter to allow us to safely drink the tank water. Thank you to Pearl Filtration, who donated the UV filter component.

Motorised roller door number two.

This year we added a second motorised door with pin code access to the storeroom. This has been a priceless addition for everyone who needs to access the storeroom.

More equipment for members.

We have purchased a new arrow saw and a draw board.

The Tower is back.

The tower was modified to make it safer for the current generation. We have put a catch net on the front, extra support on the stairs and a gate on the front to allow archers to shoot without obstruction.

Relocation of the Shipping Containers.

This year the 3 shipping containers were all moved and brought in line with each other to make a clear open space in front of the clubhouse.

A Dart Board.

Although only a small item, we have installed a dart board in the clubhouse in case the weather turns and you are wanting an activity before you head home.

Grant Success.

We were successful in 2 grants these 12 months. One for \$800 worth of Come & Try / AIP arrows and the other to build a raised bench style seat for our senior members.

50th Anniversary Uniforms

We returned to the previous version of our uniform, moving away from the sublimated tops. We introduced vests, hats and reintroduced club hoodies. Thank you to Penny for organising these uniforms.

Honouring our Members.

Late 2025, it was wonderful to see Dr James Park awarded a Lifetime Membership to Archery Victoria for his services to Archery.

- James is also a current Archery Australia Board Member.
- Leanne is Vice President of Archery Victoria.
- Paul Emms is CFO of Archery Victoria.
- Congratulations to Alicia Ferrier for making the Victorian Junior State Team.
- We are currently constructing a Life Members Board for the club rooms to honour our Life Members past and present.
- Trudy Scott's family donated some of Trudy's archery equipment to the club. We have been able to use Trudy's Barebow, quiver, arrows and other equipment for our AIP archers. Trudy's sister was informed and she felt Trudy would be delighted that new archers would benefit from using her equipment.
- We have also had an incredible amount of donations of equipment from so many members of the club. Some of this equipment is being used for AIP and we are slowly building a limb library for new members to borrow when they first join the club. More details to follow in the next year. Thank you everyone.

Club Events:

1. The return of the Shering Cup. Indoor was 2 weeks ago, clout, field and target to follow.
2. Traditional Shoot.
3. Indoor sessions at The Big Green Shed.
4. Weekday club rounds.
5. Matchplay Practice.
6. Field and target QRE's.

Tournaments:

Over the last 12 months, Sherbrooke continues to be one of the key AV clubs for tournaments hosting multiple state and club events.

Here is a summary of the last 12 months tournaments at Sherbrooke Archers:

Silver Cup 2025. (August 25)

This year we tried something a bit different with a 2-day event. The first day was a mix of 12 targets unmarked and 12 targets marked, all mixed through the course. The event received a great response from all who attended.

State Matchplay (November 25)

In 2025 Sherbrooke was asked by AV to run the State Matchplay for a 3rd year in a row. It was an amazing success. We had 60 places available and sold out the event in less than 2 hours. Following on from that success, Paul was invited to be part of the AA Matchplay development committee, where a whole new tournament structure has been developed based on our format.

Silver Cup 2026. (February 26)

Another successful event, this time only 1 day. We had over 70 entries - the largest attendance at a field event in Victoria for the last 12 months.

State Field (April 26)

Another successful event, AV scheduled this event as a 1-day event. Again, a large turn out with 69 archers competing. We reintroduced the tower for this event with great success.

Coming later this year

Sherbrooke 1440. September.

Shoot the Line. (A 2-hour Matchplay tournament) September.

Sherbrooke Matchplay. November.

The Committee.

Thank you to the entire committee for everything that they do to ensure you have the club you all enjoy.

Thank you especially to the committee members who are up for election or are stepping away from the committee.

The committee members who's latest term expire this year are.

- Andrew as Vice President
- Damien as Secretary
- Penny as committee
- David as committee
- Darrin as committee
- Alan as committee
- Leanne as committee

All have given so much of themselves and should be congratulated.

Developments at the club.

We continue to apply for Grants as they become available. Here are some of our current projects.

- Shelter at the shooting line (Grant under consideration. We won't hear until November)
- Solid Shelter behind Come & Try. (Grant and plans drafted.)
- Some form of indoor facility. Multiple ideas planned and discussed. Next step is to have discussions with Melbourne Water to find out exactly what we can do.)
- A sheltered walking path to the target range.
- Develop a workshop for members when they need to do repair on their bows and arrows. (We have already purchased most of the needed archery equipment.)

If you have any ideas please speak with a committee member, it's your club, we are here to help you to get the most out of it.