

Where do I go from here with Auckland Archery Club?

A guide to getting your own gear



Congratulations if you have recently completed the AAC beginners' course! Perhaps you are wondering where to go from here—what equipment to buy, where to buy it and how much it might cost. The notes below are a guide only, because everyone is different. There is room for everyone at the AAC—recurve or compound, beginner or veteran shooter. The important thing is to have an outfit that fits both your present ability and your long-term goals, whatever they might be.

The best advice you can get is from a Club coach. We know (because most of us have been there!) that you probably want your very own outfit as soon as possible. But the less you rush into buying something, the more “asking around” you do, and the more information you look for on-line, the happier your long-term shooting experience is likely to be. And the longer your first outfit is likely to last you before you need an expensive “upgrade”! The Club is here to help—*so just ask!*

Unlike many other sports, the important items in an archer's outfit (bow, arrows...) do not come “one size fits all”. Bow weight (the poundage you have to pull, time after time), bow length (related to your personal stature) and draw length (and hence the arrows you need) are ideally tailored to you, and you alone. This is true if you are thinking of shooting recurve. Even more so if you are considering compound.

Recurve Archery

Beginners are taught archery at the AAC using recurve bows.

One reason is because “form” (technique) learned on a recurve bow will stand any archer in good stead, whether they intend carrying on with recurve, or taking up compound.

Why might you wish to consider carrying on shooting recurve?

- Some archers consider recurve to be a more “traditional” style of archery.
- Recurve is the only style shot at the Olympics. Maybe you have dreams of heading that way.....
- Recurve equipment is generally cheaper (at least at beginner level) than compound.

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Compound Archery

During the AAC beginners' course, a compound bow will be explained and demonstrated.

But, because a compound bow must be even more closely fitted to an archer's personal stature, draw weight ability, and draw length, it is simply impracticable to have compound bows available for everyone to try out on the beginners' course. Nevertheless, if you think you might be interested in shooting compound rather than recurve, there may be Club members who may allow you to try out their compound bow to "get the feel of it".

If you think compound may be your thing, again, *don't be afraid to ask!* Club members are there to help if they can.

Where to Buy?

For recurve archers

Expect to pay around \$325 for a new "basic" recurve package. Of course, you can spend hundreds and thousands of dollars more than this for increasingly sophisticated outfits.

While this may seem like a significant outlay (especially to some parents), it compares well with other sports such as golf and sailing.

To buy new, ask a Club coach, or check out the Club house notice board, for details of archery suppliers in and around Auckland.

For cheaper, second-hand options there are always those moving up and wanting to on-sell their superseded outfits. So check the Club notice board or the Club or the NZA website. Or "ask around" in the Club house. A second-hand outfit from a Club member will usually be in "as new" condition, will often cost much less than new. Most importantly, you can take time to check out that it "fits" you before you buy.

Beware of buying second-hand, sight unseen, from somewhere like Trade Me. Has it been damaged? Is the size and poundage what the seller says it is? And will it fit you, personally?

Where to Buy?

For compound archers

Again, ask a Club coach, or check out the Club house notice board, for details of archery retailers in and around Auckland.

Generally speaking, expect to pay over \$1000 for a new, target, compound bow package.

Second-hand, you may well pay significantly less for an older, good condition, outfit. Check with one of the archery retailers for a "trade-in", and around Club members for those thinking of upgrading. But be prepared to wait for something to come along that fits you exactly, and at the right price.

Of course, you will see compound bows, both new and used, advertised for very much less than the figures mentioned above. *But beware!* They are usually for field archery or hunting and—to emphasise—are generally NOT suitable for target archery.

As with recurve outfits, be very cautious when buying second-hand, sight unseen, from somewhere such as Trade Me. A compound bow could, potentially, be seriously abused. And it is even more important with compound that it should fit you exactly.

Recurve or compound, new or used—if in doubt check it out with a Club coach before you buy.

For the advice you need, the AAC Coaching Co-Ordinator can put you in touch with the right person.

Email: coaching@aucklandarchery.org.nz