

# STAYING OUT FOR THE SUMMER

*Duncan Busby takes us through some of the best outdoor competitions that you can get involved in in 2018*



Whatever you enjoy about archery, whether it's the chance for a social occasion or the opportunity to improve your scores, competitions are a great place to find likeminded archers. Tournaments can measure your ability and they can drive you to improve, but even the least competitive amongst us can gain valuable experience attending one. Competitions offer more than just the opportunity to win medals; they also allow you to see new places and make new friends.

Find out where you can go this year in my guide to the best outdoor competitions of 2018. There really is something for every

archer, so you have a chance to make this your best season ever!

Whatever your archery dreams; whether it's competing on an international stage alongside the best in the world, becoming national champion or just doing something you enjoy there's a tournament out there for you. Many people arrange holidays around an archery trip, too, so you can combine a tournament with some time relaxing.

Archery brings people from every nation and ability together, so don't be afraid to try somewhere new - you never know where it will take you.

# UNITED KINGDOM

There are hundreds of tournaments held every weekend throughout the UK; from small local competitions to national events, shooting every round you can imagine. But for those of you who are serious about competing these are sure to be top of your list:

## AGB NATIONAL TOUR

New for 2018, the National Tour is a refresh of the National Series; there are 6 events in total held over 4 weekends across the country in which archers shoot a World Archery ranking round and a head to head competition. A finals event for the top 8 archers in each category is to be held in Birmingham later this year.

The biggest change to the format is the introduction of a new points based national ranking system; in order to allow senior archers to follow their position and progress throughout the year and to ensure greater parity across all competitions Archery GB have devised a new rolling ranking which divides all world record status competitions in the UK into one of three tiers. Points are awarded to the top 64 archers in both the ranking round and head to head rounds and as the National Tour events are tier 1 competitions they award archers the maximum amount of points for the highest ranking.

Remember in order to qualify for the National Tour final you must shoot the same bow style at every event and there are prizes to be won for the top 3 archers in each category along the way.

### Event Dates:

Stage 1 – Bucks or Bounty, Lilleshall, Shropshire – 5th May 2018  
 Stage 2 & 3 – Evesham, Worcestershire – 9th & 10th June 2018  
 Stage 4 & 5 – Kingston, Surrey – 14th & 15th June 2018  
 Stage 6 – Oxford, Oxfordshire – 25th August 2018

**Entry Fee:** £25-£45 depending on the event

**Entries** open early for these events and they fill up fast. Some are likely to be sold out, although most operate a waiting list for those unlucky enough not to secure a place.

For more information go to [www.archerygb.org](http://www.archerygb.org)

## BRITISH TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Like the National Tour events, the British Target Championships offers the highest level of national ranking points. But even if you're not interested in improving your position it's an ideal opportunity to shoot alongside the best archers in the UK.

The format is unusual in that it's the archer who has accumulated the lowest amount of points over the weekend who wins. Saturday consists of a WA 720 round (72 arrows at 50m for compounds and at 70m for recurves) followed by head to head eliminations. On Sunday archers shoot a WA 1440 round, your ranking position in each of these competition elements will be added together so the higher your rank the lower your overall score will be. Entries are open to compounds, recurves and long bows and prizes are awarded for the top 3 gents and ladies in each category. The winner of each category will be crowned British Target Champion 2018.

**Event Date:** Lilleshall, Shropshire – 11th & 12th August 2018

**Entry Fee:** £40 for both days

For more information go to [www.archerygb.org](http://www.archerygb.org)





## 3DA TOUR



If you are looking for something a bit different, why not try your hand at 3D archery? The 3DA UK National Series was set up a few years ago by Tony Weston, owner of The Archery Company, in order to better promote the 3D discipline in the UK. The tour consists of five events held across the UK throughout the year and gives archers of any ability the chance to experience this exciting and varied form of archery.

The competitions are divided according to style (that is the type of bow you use; there are 10 different bow styles to choose from) and class (that is the level at which you'd like to compete i.e. amateur or professional, senior or junior) shooting at known or unknown distances.

Archers shoot 20 different 3D foam animal targets each day, if you're put off by the thought of shooting at an unknown distance (which isn't as difficult as you might think) choose to compete at the known distances instead; you could even try shooting both rounds if you want to fully experience the 3D world.

At the end of the round the top six archers from each category enter a shoot-off comprising of five targets. Your score from these is added to your total, which gives you the opportunity to move up the final ranking. Cash prizes are awarded to those competing in the professional class.

The 3D Tour also offers archers the opportunity to enter two further competition elements which run alongside the main event; the K50 or K30 and the long shot.

The K-50 or K-30 event consists of a ten target known-distance course and depending on your discipline you'll shoot either the 50 yard or 30 yard round. You can shoot as many times as you like, and your highest score will be used to determine your final position and your prize winnings. You'll also be entered into a grand prize draw, which takes place at the end of the year, every time you enter, so you have even more chance of winning something.

The long shot event consists of six arrows on a small single spot target, the distance you shoot will be dependent on your style and class but the longest range is up to 101 yards away. If you hit the correct spot you'll be entered into the grand prize draw and get yourself a space at the final long shot shootoff at the 3D British Championships for the special prize bundle. At least half of the proceeds from this competition will be donated to charity, so it's well worth a go.

### Event Dates:

Series 2 – Liberty Archers, Suffolk – 20th - 22nd April 2018

Series 3 – Aurora Archers, Essex – 8th - 10th June 2018

Series 4 – Long Eaton Field Archers, Leicestershire – 20th - 22nd July 2018

Series 5 – Fleet Ixex Field Archers, Surrey – 5th - 7th October 2018

### Entry Fee:

Annual 3DA Registration: £15

Pro/Am Entry: £30- £75

K50/K30 Entry: £7.50 - £15

Long Shot Entry: £4

For more information go to [www.3darchery.co.uk](http://www.3darchery.co.uk)

## 5 Tips For Travelling To Competitions Abroad

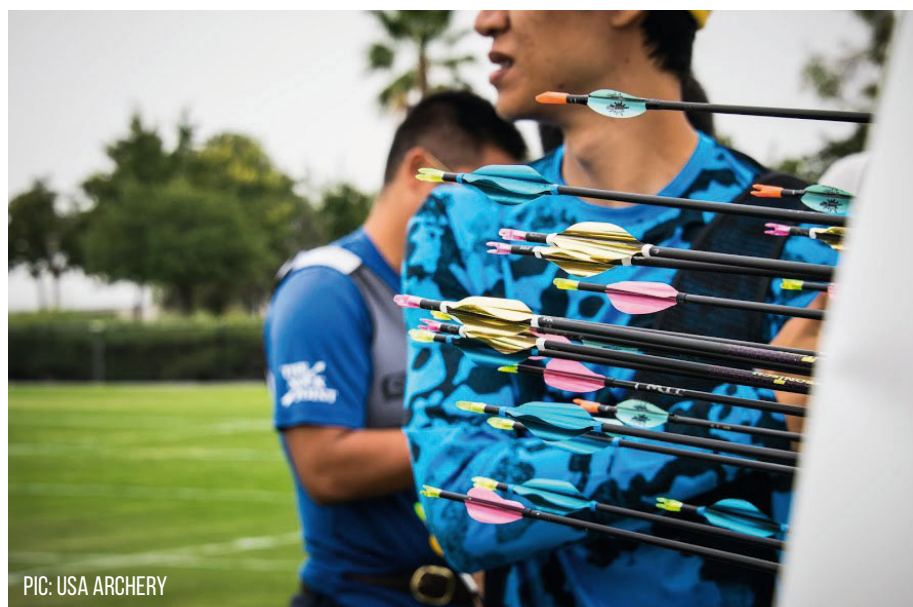
● **GET A STURDY BOW CASE** – airlines aren't always as careful as you are with your equipment and cases can get quite a beating when travelling, so you really should have a well-built hard case if you want to keep your kit in perfect condition. Check the total baggage rules for your airline, too.

● **DON'T FORGET YOUR SUNSCREEN** – this may seem obvious but you'll be surprised how many sunburnt Brits I've seen! You can easily forget that many other countries further south have a lot stronger sun than the UK, so make sure you're properly protected. Don't forget your sunhat, either.

● **SPARE KIT IS ESSENTIAL** – If you're shooting half way around the world and something breaks on your equipment you can't just go home or to your local shop to fix it. You need to make sure you have a back-up in the eventuality something goes wrong; it would be a shame to have to retire from a tournament that's taken time and money to get to just because you didn't bring spares.

● **PLAN WELL** – there's nothing more stressful than when travel plans go wrong especially when you're trying to get to a tournament on time. It's important you know exactly how you are going to get there as you can't always rely on local transport when you're on a tight schedule and there isn't a taxi to be found. So make sure you plan each part of your journey and take all your booking information with you.

● **CHECK YOUR PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS** – some countries require you to have at least six months left on your passport and for you to have a visa before they'll let you enter, so make sure you know what is required before you travel. Travelling to the USA will usually require an ESTA, which is completed and paid for online. Sorting out a visa at the airport can be costly and time-consuming so don't leave it till the last minute.




PIC: USA ARCHERY

# INTERNATIONAL

If you are looking to compete a little further afield there are tournaments across Europe which are easy to travel to and offer a wealth of archery experience. There are several world ranking target events you can attend in the USA, too.

## WORLD ARCHERY EUROPEAN GRAND PRIX

 If you are serious about your target competitions, then why not make the trip out to Sofia, Bulgaria, where World Archery are hosting their annual Grand Prix event between the 31st July and 4th August.

This event was previously restricted to national team members but entries are now open to all compound and recurve archers, making this a great opportunity for you to shoot alongside some of the best archers Europe has to offer.

As a world ranking event you'll be able to collect points, depending on your finishing position, towards a place on the prestigious world ranking list, so don't be surprised if you see some well-known names on the shooting line.

The competition consists of a WA 720 ranking round followed by head to head matches, cash prizes and medals are awarded to the top three archers from each discipline. This is a great opportunity to experience an international competition from the opening ceremony to the closing party, so if you've ever wondered what shooting at a World Cup event was like now's your chance. The total prize fund for the event is 8000 euros.

### Event Date:

Sofia, Bulgaria - 31st July – 4th August 2018

**Entry fee:** € 30 plus travel and accommodation

*For more information go to [www.archeryeurope.org](http://www.archeryeurope.org)*



## EASTON FOUNDATIONS GATOR CUP

You may be just in time to make The Gator Cup, which takes place between the 11th and 13th May at the Easton Newberry sports complex in Newberry, Florida. The shoot follows the standard World Archery format of a 720 ranking round followed by a head-to-head elimination and is open to compound and recurve archers, in the usual senior junior and cadet categories. As well as being a great opportunity to pick up world ranking points the Gator cup is also the second leg of the US team trials, so you'll be sure to see all the top American archers there shooting it out for a space on their national team.

What better opportunity to shoot against some of the best archers in the world?

### Event Date:

Newberry, Florida – 11th – 13th May 2018

**Entry fee:** \$180 plus travel and accommodation

USA Archery Membership: \$15

*For more information go to [www.gatorcup.com](http://www.gatorcup.com)*

## EASTON FOUNDATIONS SOCAL SHOWDOWN

If Florida doesn't excite you then how about California. The SoCal Showdown is the third leg of the USA team selection but is open to all compound and recurve archers. The event takes place at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Centre in Chula Vista between the 15th and 17th June and runs to the same 720 head to head format as the Gator Cup. There's world ranking points up for grabs as well as a bit of prize money, so it's definitely worth the trip, you could even check out the sights of San Diego while you are there.

### Event Date:

Chula Vista, California – 15th – 17th June 2018

**Entry Fee:** \$175 plus travel and accommodation

*For more information go to [www.socalshowdown.org](http://www.socalshowdown.org)*

*The full tournament schedule will be available soon with details on registration. Go to [www.eastonarcherycentercv.org/tournaments/socal](http://www.eastonarcherycentercv.org/tournaments/socal) for more information.*



PIC: USA ARCHERY