

Thanet Archery Club
Committee Meeting minutes.



Monday 17th January 2022 7:30pm at:

9/ Appendix A – Not for general club release until St. Lawrence College have been informed.

A possible move up to Manston. An interesting development via email from Gary Blake at RSP. Mike & Bob arranged a visit/meet last week.

Simon Charles suggested writing to Wing Commander Callander at Manston Fire training facility to ask them what they have as these facilities are going to be vacated. Bob wrote to him and he replied saying that those facilities will be used as a holding area for the migrants arriving by boat, so they wouldn't be available. However, he passed our query on to Gary Black (RSP contact at the airport), who arranged a meeting at the airport site recently with Mike Davis & Bob Gawler to discuss our H&S, space requirements, insurance, etc. The grounds are located behind the current Covid testing site (map supplied). The following seems almost too good to be true.

The offer

Benefits.

- We can shoot any time we like, daytime, evening, whatever.
- Use of a storage building, kitchen, toilets, & all the equipment space we could possibly need, with 2 entrances.
- We can leave the targets out 24/7, and purchase covers to protect from the elements.
- A possible field shoot location as well, in addition to the target shooting range.
- We will have a fixed-term contract period (we will want a 10-yr agreement).
- Secure location with locked gate.
- Hard-standing for about 50 cars.
- Cost of hire – None!

Down-sides

- Cost of services (electric, water, etc) and their maintenance will have to be met by the club, as would the council tax for the building.
- Bus route access – nearest bus stops are at either Jolly Farmer or the other end of village by the business park. Not great for those members who rely on public transport to get to archery.
- Long-term development of the airport will be an issue at some point in the future.
- There will be some redec required in the building, and some ground clearance needed outside. We will be entirely responsible for grounds maintenance. Mike has a friend with landscaping business who is going to have a look to give an assessment of the cost of preparing the grounds for archery. Though overgrown, it's actually better than the current field as it isn't at all boggy, like it gets on the shooting line at SLC. Given that there's no rental cost, we will be able to afford to pay someone to cut the grass, etc.

***Dave B** asked what happens if the airport takes off and needs to expand. **Mike** said that even if the Govt gives the go-ahead to reopen the airport tomorrow, it will take a few years to reinstate the airport infrastructure that was there previously, reapply for CAA approval. Even then, this area is not going to be developed, as the commercial airline development will be on the other side of the road. **James P** said that there's no chance of housing in that particular part of the site, due to lack of ground water, contaminants from the previous aviation use.*

***Pete V** suggested that the advantage for RSP is that they have someone on site who will maintain (or pay to maintain) the site and add a bit of extra security as a tenant on the site.*

***Jim W** said having a separate space for field archery was an advantage. **James P** commented that a 10-yr lease would be better than what we currently have at SLC, although a long-term lease with the school is still possible though taking some time to nail down.*

***Dave B** said that not having to get targets out every week would be an advantage.*