

British Horseback Archery Association



Syllabus A

Syllabus A contains the course material required for the BHAA Club Horseback Archer qualifications (which may be taken at walk, trot or canter).

The ***BHAA Club Horseback Archer qualifications*** confirm that the participant holds basic competencies to allow him/her to participate safely in horseback archery training sessions with a degree of autonomy from the instructor.

BHAA Syllabus A contains 3 modules:

- Equine knowledge
- Riding
- Archery

Summary of required modules for BHAA Club Horseback Archer qualifications:

Syllabus		Club Horseback Archer (Walk) #	Club Horseback Archer (Trot) #	Club Horseback Archer
A	Equine knowledge	✓	✓	✓
	Riding	✓ (at walk)	✓ (at trot)	✓ (at canter)
	Archery	✓	✓	✓

Those who wish to participate in horseback archery training at a walk or trot may take the riding unit assessment at that slower pace. Children and disabled horseback archers may be on a lead rope. A person is only qualified to participate independently in training and compete at a pace equal to or slower than the pace at which they hold their Club Horseback Archer qualification.

A person who holds Club Horseback Archer qualification at Walk or Trot pace may qualify at a faster gait just by taking the riding module at the faster gait. There is no need to retake the archery or equine knowledge modules.

Accreditation of prior learning

People in possession of the following qualifications get an automatic pass on the following modules.

BHS stages 1, 2 or 3	Equine knowledge	Riding *	
Pony Club C+			
ABRS Test 6			
Archery GB 1 st class or higher			Archery *
Archery GB/ NFAS coach			

* However, everyone must be assessed on:

Riding module / section 5.4 (or section 3.1 of the walk/trot/RDA test)

Archery module / section 4

EQUINE KNOWLEDGE

For all Club Horseback Archer qualifications

Unit purpose and aims

Learners should be able to safely and effectively perform basic activities on the yard; handling and grooming horses. They should appreciate yard health and safety considerations.

Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Understand safe work practices	1.1 Operate safely around horses, with regard to: - appropriate personal dress and conduct, - yard setup - tidiness and cleanliness. Consider the safety and welfare of horses and others as well as oneself.
	1.2 Lift in a manner to avoid back injuries and recognise potential hazardous situations
	1.3 Identify fire precautions
2. Be able to handle a horse within the stable and yard	2.1 Approach and catch a horse safely in the stable. Put on a headcollar, ensuring correct fit
	2.2 Tie up the horse, using a quick release knot, noting the safety considerations of how and where it is tied up
3. Be able to groom a horse	3.1 Groom a horse and identify items of grooming kit and know how they are used
	3.2 Pick out a horse's feet
4. Be able to lead a horse	4.1 Safely and effectively lead a horse in walk
	4.2 Turn the horse safely and correctly when leading in hand

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Practical assessment and discussions with a qualified riding instructor (who must hold one of the qualifications listed under the Procedure for Assessment section of the Riding Unit)

In the case of young age or disability the assessor may settle for a description of how and why, if it is not possible for the candidate to demonstrate something practically.

RIDING
(for canter applicants)

For Club Horseback Archer (canter)

Unit purpose and aims

Learners will be able to lead and mount a horse safely. They can demonstrate correct basic riding skills but most importantly show good balance and sympathetic riding style without reliance on the reins. Learners are able to enter the demarcated track at a suitable speed and show appropriate acceleration & deceleration at the start and towards the finish; they can ride at the chosen speed, with hands off the reins and raised, going through the motions of drawing and shooting an imaginary bow and arrow, with no balance concerns.

CANTER APPLICANTS	
Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Be able to lead a saddled and bridled horse in hand	1.1 Lead the horse safely and effectively in walk
	1.2 Turn the horse safely and correctly in walk when leading in hand
2. Be able to mount and dismount a horse.	2.1 Check the bridle, saddle, girth and stirrups for safety prior to mounting
	2.2 Mount a horse safely and correctly using a mounting block
	2.3 Dismount a horse safely and correctly
3. Be able to warm up the horse	3.1 Use a progressive warm up system to warm up the horse
	3.2 Discuss what warming up is, and why we do it
4. Be able to maintain a secure and balanced position that is independent of the reins	4.1 Walk, trot and canter in a secure and balanced position
	4.2 Use an appropriate technique to help ensure a correct strike off in canter
	4.3 Use a suitable stirrup length for the work undertaken
5. Be able to maintain a balanced seat, in preparation for shooting on the track	5.1 Maintain a balanced position at trot/canter in the light seat with stirrups at a suitable length
	5.2 Enter the track at a suitable gait, and proceed to canter up the track in a balanced seat
	5.3 At the end of the track, ride safe downwards transitions to trot and walk, in a straight line
	5.4 Be comfortable to ride the track, without reins, shooting an imaginary bow, re-taking the reins at the end of the track and stopping as per 5.3
6. Be able to show a basic understanding of natural aids	6.1 Use natural aids for riding the horse forward
	6.2 Use natural aids for riding circles, turns and straight lines
7. Be able to ride on the correct diagonal	7.1 Use the correct diagonal for rising trot
8. Be able to ride safely and in harmony with the horse	8.1 Show respect for the horse and build up a basic rapport when riding
9. Know that horses are herd animals, and be able to ride sympathetically to this.	9.1 Understand that some horses may be uncomfortable leaving the group, so the order you are sent up the track in will often reflect this
	9.2 Be aware that although herd animals, they appreciate their own space. Ride with at least one horse's distance (the approximate length of a horse, nose to tail) between you and other riders, as some horses may kick or bite

10. Be able to cool down the horse	10.1 Understand why we cool the horse down after work, and what would be suitable
11. Know the footfalls of the horse's normal gaits and whether the horse is balanced	11.1 State the beats and footfalls of the horse's gaits
	11.2 Give an example of when the horse may be unbalanced

CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – skills and knowledge

Leading a saddled and bridled horse in hand. The horse must be seen to move actively and be turned in the correct direction.

Checking saddlery for its fitting and soundness. A quick check of the saddled horse which will be standing in the school.

Mounting and dismounting from the ground or from a mounting block. Mounting should be quick and agile, with care taken how the weight is lowered onto the horse's back. When dismounting the candidate should land on the ground in a light and balanced manner.

The correct basics in the ability to maintain a correct, secure and balanced position when riding with stirrups. Showing some ability to maintain a straight line from ear – shoulder – hip – heel, and move in harmony with the horse which is the result of a balanced position.

The correct basics in the ability to maintain a correct, balanced position in light seat. Showing some ability to ride the horse forward in light seat, with a steady lower leg and independent hand.

A basic but effective use of the natural aids, and appropriate technique to achieve a correct canter lead. In event of an incorrect strike off the candidate should trot and then try again for a correct canter.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Candidates will ride in a group of up to six candidates. The session will last approximately forty minutes. They will ride with stirrups both in the school and on the track in the light seat. Canter work will be shown on both reins in the school. An instructor will be in the school to call out the exercises to be ridden.

The track must be of a minimum length of 40m. This may be straight or curved, and may be around a school.

This Module must be assessed by a person who holds one or more of the following instructor qualifications:

BHS PTT, BHS AI, BHS I, BHS II, BHS F

ABRS ITA, ABRS TC, ABRS F

RDA GI (can only assess RDA participants)

And who has been presented with the detailed "Notes to Assessor" (unless they also hold the BHAA RSO(m) qualification, or are examining in conjunction with somebody who holds BHAA RSO(m))

RIDING
(for disabled / walk / trot applicants)

- **For Club Horseback Archer (Walk)**
- **For Club Horseback Archer (Trot)**

Unit purpose and aims

Learners will be able to lead and mount a horse safely. They can demonstrate correct basic riding skills but most importantly show good balance and sympathetic riding style without reliance on the reins. Learners are able to enter the demarcated track at a suitable speed and show appropriate acceleration & deceleration at the start and towards the finish; they can ride at the chosen speed, with hands off the reins and raised, going through the motions of drawing and shooting an imaginary bow and arrow, with no balance concerns.

Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Be able to mount and dismount a horse.	1.1 Mount a horse safely and correctly with assistance
	1.2 Dismount a horse safely and correctly with assistance if needed
2. Be able to maintain a secure and balanced position that is independent of the reins	2.1 Be able to walk (and trot if applicable) in a secure and balanced position
	2.2 Use a suitable stirrup length for the work undertaken
3. Be able to maintain a balanced seat that is independent of the reins, in preparation for shooting	3.1 Be able to walk/trot up a 40m track without hands shooting an imaginary bow
	3.2 Keep a regular forward movement in the required gait
	(note: the above can be done with assistance, if it is needed)
4. Show a basic understanding of natural aids	4.1 Use natural aids for riding the horse forward
5. Know the footfalls of the horse's normal gaits	5.1 Know the footfalls and beats of walk and trot
6. Know that horses are herd animals, and be able to ride sympathetically to this.	6.1 Understand that some horses may be uncomfortable leaving the group, so the order you are sent up the track in will often reflect this
	6.2 Be aware that although herd animals, they appreciate their own space. Ride with at least one horse's distance (the approximate length of a horse, nose to tail) between you and other riders, as some horses may kick or bite
CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – skills and knowledge	
As with the canter candidates, we are looking to provide a good base to progress from, so balance and position are to be correct (If disabled, as correct as they can physically achieve, but balance is key.)	

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Candidates will ride in a group of up to six candidates. The session will last up to forty minutes. They will ride with stirrups both in the school and on the track in the light seat. An instructor will be in the school to call out the exercises to be ridden.

The track must be of a minimum length of 40m. This may be straight or curved, and may be around a school.

British Horseback Archery Association
The Governing Body of Horseback Archery in the UK. Established 2007.

This Module must be assessed by a person who holds one or more of the following instructor qualifications:

BHS PTT, BHS AI, BHS I, BHS II, BHS F

ABRS ITA, ABRS TC, ABRS F

RDA GI (can only assess RDA participants)

And who has been presented with the detailed "*Notes to Assessor*" (unless they also hold the BHAA RSO(m) qualification, or are examining in conjunction with somebody who holds BHAA RSO(m))

ARCHERY

For all Club Horseback Archer qualifications

Module purpose and aims

Learners will be able to use a bow and arrows safely on the ground and on a wooden horse. They can explain the main safety considerations in view of checking that equipment is well maintained, range safety considerations and particular safety aspects concerning the use of bow and arrows from horseback.

Learner Outcomes The learner will	Assessment Criteria The learner can
1. Have basic knowledge of the bow and be able to prepare and use the bow safely	1.1 List the basic parts of a bow and string: grip, limbs, nocks, centre serving, loops, nocking point. Understand that for horseback archery cutouts, shelves, rests, sights, stabilisers etc are not permitted. Explain the basic difference between static and working recurves.
	1.2 Be able to string and unstring a bow.
	1.3 Explain how “dry firing” can damage your bow.
	1.4 Demonstrate a basic understanding of brace height, nocking point position and the importance of keeping both consistent.
	1.5 Explain the importance of drawing with the back and shoulder rather than the arm.
	1.6 Explain the importance of repeatable form, including anchor point.
2. Understand the importance of checking equipment is undamaged before use	2.1 Check that arrows of different materials are safe for use (i.e. checking for cracks, splinters, straightness and good attachment of fletching, as well as checking nocks and points).
	2.2 Explain the dangers of shooting a damaged arrow.
	2.3 Check over a bow for cracks or other damage
3. Understand the basics of caring for archery equipment	3.1 Explain why bows are stored unstrung and why strings are stored so that the number of string twists is maintained.
	3.2 Explain why we avoid exposure of bows to undue heat.
	3.3 Explain the importance of drying out wet bows and arrows.
4. Be able to demonstrate good practical skills in nocking and shooting	4.1 Demonstrate, on the ground or on a wooden horse, a method of nocking the arrow to the string that would be safe on a horse. Speed is not essential. Arrows must be drawn from the belt or quiver.
	4.2 Demonstrate, on the ground or on a wooden horse, a safe shot sequence using either Mediterranean or thumb draw.
	4.3 Discuss the main considerations for safe use of the bow and arrows regards shooting from a horse (compared with shooting on the ground)
5. Range Discipline	5.1 Explain the potential dangers of archery and an archery range.
	5.2 Discuss basic archery safety (e.g. not pointing a bow and arrow at anybody).
	5.3 Know the correct action on hearing a shout of “stop” or “fast”. Know that the correct BHAA call is “stop” but that those trained in target archery may call “fast”.
	5.4 Explain the procedures and etiquette of shooting with others.

	5.5 Show an awareness of the verbal commands that are used on a BHAA ground archery range.
	5.6 Explain the particular dangers associated with practising forward and backward shots, in particular the need to ensure that the bow is not drawn until the body has been twisted to point down range. It is not necessary at this stage to be able to execute these shots, but their safety aspects must be known and understood.
	5.7 Demonstrate how to pull arrows out of the target safely and without damaging them (including how to grasp and pull without bending arrows; when to use an arrow puller; dangers of standing too close and importance of checking that nobody is in the way before pulling).
<p>CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – skills and knowledge</p> <p>Archery Technique The draw should be safe both to others (including a horse were the archer to be mounted) and to the archer: the archer’s body position and actions should not be such as to cause a likelihood of injury (e.g. bow shoulder not collapsing forward or popping upwards; back not unduly arched etc)</p> <p>Sections 4.1 and 4.2 are assessed as part of a single shot sequence: you will be asked to draw the arrow from the belt/quiver, nock, draw and shoot. You will be asked to execute several shots, although the exercise is not timed.</p>	
<p>CANDIDATE GUIDANCE – skills and knowledge</p> <p>Range Discipline It is not necessary at this stage to be able to perform the role of Range Captain, only to be able to shoot safely and considerately under the direction of a range captain. Candidates should be familiar with, and should follow, archery etiquette and BHAA range commands as set out in the BHAA manual.</p>	

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT

Unless by prior arrangement with the assessor, the candidate is required to provide the bow and at least 6 arrows for the assessment.

Sections 4 and 5 will include shooting on the archery range, under the instruction of a BHAA Ground Range Safety Officer, RSO(g). This may be done individually or in details. Any unsafe shooting or other unsafe behaviour will result in the candidate failing this Unit. More detailed knowledge of archery procedure and etiquette will be tested by means of discussion and questions.

Assessor eligibility:

- A BHAA Advanced Assessor may assess candidates on all parts of this module.
- All sections **apart from section 4** may be assessed by any person who is an Archery GB Instructor (or higher) or an NFAS Coach (or higher).
- Section 4 must be assessed by **either**:
 - A BHAA Advanced Assessor; **or**
 - A BHAA Club Assessor and a person who is an Archery GB Instructor (or higher) or an NFAS Coach (or higher).

This may be one person who holds the BHAA and ArcheryGB/NFAS awards or two people, one of whom holds the ArcheryGB/NFAS award and one of whom is a BHAA Club Assessor. In the latter case, it is not necessary for the two to observe the candidate together. It is acceptable for the archery coach/instructor to sign the candidate off as safe and for the BHAA Club Assessor to do likewise at a later date.

[Summary of Assessor eligibility]

Examination of parts 1, 2, 3 & 5	Examination of 4.1 – 4.3
BHAA Advanced Assessor	
One individual who is BOTH: BHAA Club Assessor AND Archery GB Instructor (or higher) / NFAS Coach (or higher)	
Archery GB Instructor (or higher) / NFAS Coach (or higher) *	BHAA Club Assessor *

* in conjunction or on separate occasions