

Covid-19 Response Grants 2020

Wee County Archers

Who are Wee County Archers?

Wee County Archers are a community based junior soft archery club which prior to Covid-19 offered weekly indoor coaching at Alva Academy for children aged 8-14, and their immediate families.

The club strives to allow children and their families to experience archery in a welcoming and supportive environment which is inclusive and inter-generational in its approach.



How was the grant used?

- The grant enabled the club to purchase the equipment necessary to move from indoor soft archery to outdoor full archery - target butts, bows, arrows, arm guards and finger tabs.
- The club has delivered full archery sessions for 12 young people aged 10 to 15 and 3 adults. The opportunity to try full archery when members returned to the club has been a great draw. Two teenage boys who had struggled and become withdrawn during lockdown attended and loved the full outdoor archery sessions.
- Volunteer coaches have also benefited from archery activity restarting. One of the club adult coaches found lockdown particularly challenging as he is on the autistic spectrum and finds routine important. When he was told about the successful grant application and the opportunity to try full archery, he connected with club organisers on a regular basis and was the first one to take part in the full archery session during the summer, when the club held two taster sessions at Alloa Academy.

What had to change due to Covid-19?

- The soft archery club stopped meeting just before lockdown in March 2020, in line with government guidance, but was able to contribute to the programme of the School Learning Hubs with volunteer coaches delivering sessions.
- When lockdown restrictions eased Wee County Archers secured alternative outdoor space which allowed club meetings to start again.



Wee County members participating in outdoor archery

What difference has the grant made?

- The grant has allowed Wee County Archers to adapt into an outdoor full archery club at a time when indoor club meets were not allowed.
- The young members have experienced a different style of archery and connected with other club members, organisers and adult volunteers. Many of the members found lock down very difficult and being able to participate in archery again has helped make connections in the community and with family members. Organisers described a buzz and energy at the sessions.
- Volunteer coaches have also benefited from being part of the club again and supporting young members to participate.

‘Knowing that I could get back to the sport I loved was really important to me. I love coaching but now I can also take part using both my own equipment and the new club targets is brilliant. I wasn’t sure if I would go back to the club but this has given me a reason to, I can coach and take part on the same night. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.’

(Volunteer Coach)

‘Since returning to the club he has started to talk to me about the sessions and he just loved taking part and helping to set up and take down the equipment. Thank you for including him.’

(Mum of teenage boy)

One mother tweeted to say ‘thank you and to say how much her son loved taking part and what a difference this made to him.’

