

A Proposal for a SCAS Regional Junior 'Tour' Series for 2023 and onward

Put forward by Rod Brown and Malcom Barr of the Sussex County Archery Association

This was prompted by some discussion at the SCAS Council meeting in September about the very low number of Juniors attending the SCAS Junior Championships at the end of August.

One of the factors felt to be keeping numbers down is the size of the Region, so that sheer distance is likely to be a deterrent to many potential entrants. However, that cannot be the only reason for the low turnout because this December 105 Juniors from SCAS Counties attended the Junior Nationals in Warwickshire, which for many involved far more travel and overnight stays. Other factors, such as lack of Publicity, and low esteem of the status of the Regional Junior Championships are likely to be playing a part in the decline of entrants to just 10 Junior Archers from over 100 a dozen years ago.

This led to a suggestion being made for a Region-wide Junior 'Tour' being set up, using a network of existing tournaments, with the hope that there would be at least two shoots reasonably near to every Junior in the Region. The Tournaments that were part of the Tour would be supported with awards (badges) and incentives provided by SCAS, and there would be a Region-wide publicity effort and running progress reports on a dedicated web page.

The proposal suggests that the Final Event of the Tour would also be the Junior Championships, but that does mean it would need to move to the end of the outdoor season. At the moment the shoot is earlier, but the Junior Championships itself is more or less a sideshow of a larger Senior Event; if moved to the end of the season it would be a dedicated Regional Junior Shoot, which should carry more weight with the participants.

The proposal lists just over twenty potential Tour Shoots, so approaching one every weekend through the outdoor season. There are still a few geographic gaps to fill so that the whole Region is well-served, the counties concerned have been asked for suggestions from those areas. All the Organisers of the listed Tournaments have been sent a draft of this proposal for comments, and those who have responded so far are all supportive. And, following a request from the Regional Development Officer, Archery GB has just agreed in principle to help with promoting the Tour if it goes ahead.

The following Discussion Document describes what the Proposers have in mind for the structure of the Series, and is in three parts:-

Introduction

Costs

Invitation to Tournament Officers

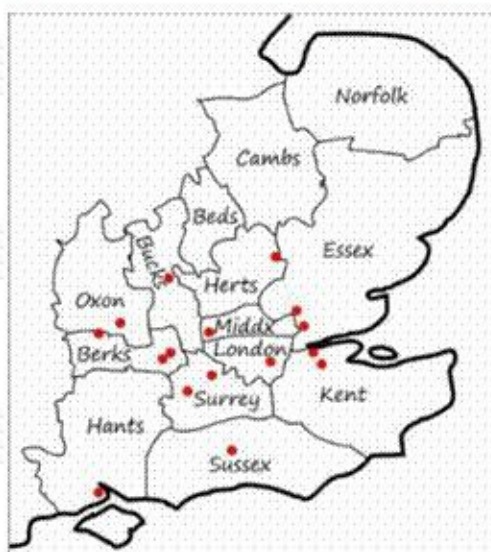


INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES JUNIOR TOUR (SCJT) 2023

The SCJT aims to encourage junior archers to participate in the shoots being organised around the SCAS region, meet their fellow junior archers, and seeks to provide an accessible step toward the competitive aspects of the sport.

The SCJT consists of more than 20 events taking place around the region over the outdoor archery season. The number of events aims to foster accessibility with a spread of timings and shoot locations around what is a large SCAS region. There is no suggestion that archers should aim to attend all, most or even many of the events. Archers can attend as many or as few of the SCJT events as they choose while still being part of the tour. The provisional list of tour events, and a map of their locations, is below.

	EVENT	LOCATION
APR	Crystal Palace Bowmen Open	Old Dunstonians, BR3 3SS
MAY	Middlesex Target Champs	Hillingdon AC, UB8 3RN
	Wallingford Novice and Junior Long Metrics	Wallingford Sports Park OX10 9RB
	Essex/Suffolk County & Open Champs	Noak Hill Archers, RM3 7EA
JUN	Surrey Junior Open	Woking AC, GU23 6QX
	Warfield Junior Short Metric	Bowmen of Warfield RG42 5NR
	Wallingford Summer Metrics	Wallingford Sports Park OX10 9RB
	West Essex Bowmen WA1440 & Junior Metrics	Belhus Woods Country Park, RM15 4XJ
	Bowmen of Burleigh Open	Cantley Sports Field, RG40 5QD
JUL	Berkshire AA Champs and Open	Harwell campus OX11 0RA
	Guildford Junior Acorn	Manor Fruit Farm GU3 2DT
	Herts County Champs & Open	Jobbers Wood, SG10 6FB
	SCAS WA1440 Championships	Rayleigh Town AC, Wickford SS11 7QA
AUG	Bucks County Champs	Aylesbury Rugby Club
	Kent AA Open Champs	Vigo RFC, DA13 0UA
	Guildford Acorn	Manor Fruit Farm GU3 2DT
	SCAS Record status and rose awards	Rayleigh Town AC, Wickford SS11 7QA
SEP	Pocahontas Shoot	Gravesend Grammar School, DA3 7PH
	Sussex Junior Champs	Adur Valley AC RH13 8NR
	Oxford Junior Intermed & Novice outdoors	Wallingford Sports Park OX10 9RB
	Hampshire County Champs	Waterside Archers, SO45 1AZ
	Woking AC Open	Woking AC, GU23 6QX
	SCAS Junior Championships	Old Dunstonians, BR3 3SS



Entering into the SCJT as a junior archer is easy: just take part in any of the SCJT events listed, and you will be entered automatically. The event list will be updated and dates confirmed on the SCJT web page once that is launched. The tour finale is the Southern Counties Junior Outdoor Championship in late September.

Tour Points

The tour scoring system is designed to strike a balance between rewarding archers for participating in multiple shoots versus rewarding high performance for those archers who may be able to attend only a few. The scoring system is explained in Appendix 1, but the basic idea is simple. Archers score points both for attending a shoot on the tour and for performing well in their age-gender-bow type category. An archer's tour points can never go down by attending a shoot. And an archer's three best event scores will always count in full toward their tour points score. But the amount by which an archer's tour points can potentially go up begins to decrease after an archer has attended 3 tour events.

Double the usual amount of points are available at the Tour Finale event, and those points will count in full regardless of how many events an archer has attended previously.

Publication of Tour standings

Throughout the season as SCJT events take place, the standing of all archers in the tour will be updated on the SCJT web page on the SCAS website. The tour standings will be shown separately for each age-gender-bow type category.

The SCJT Finale and SCAS Junior Championship

The SCAS Junior Championships in late September will constitute the tour finale. At that shoot, archers will be competing to become SCAS Champion in their age-gender-bow type category. They will also be competing to finalise their positions in the SCJT. As the final event of the SCJT there will be double the usual tour event points available. The 3 archers with most tour points after the tour finale shoot in each age-gender-bow type category will be presented with gold, silver, and bronze SCJT awards.

Note that the archer who wins the SCAS Junior Championship in a given category may not be the same archer who wins the SCJT tour in that category - the two competitions are running parallel to each other on the day, but are distinct.

Free entry to the SCJT Finale/SCAS Junior Championships

The first 50 junior archers who compete at 3 SCJT events will be invited to shoot free of charge at the tour finale, the SCAS Junior Championships (for others there will be an entry fee).

Limits on numbers at SCJT events

Some of the events on the SCJT are for juniors alone, where even the most nervous junior archer will quickly feel at home. Many of the SCJT shoots involve both seniors and juniors, but juniors will be explicitly welcomed and supported at all of these events.

In some cases, there may be a limit on the number of juniors that can shoot in either a given age-gender-bow type category or on the number of juniors at the shoot as a whole. So there might be an advantage in getting your entry form in for the tour shoots early!

Some of the events in the SCJT are also County championships. Visiting junior archers will be welcomed at these events, and eligible for "open" awards and SCJT tour points. They may not be able to win the 'County' title in their bow class because they are affiliated with another County. There may be a limit on the number of places for out-of-County archers at such shoots, to ensure in-County archers get the ability to shoot for their County championship.

Answering some frequently asked questions

Is the tour just designed for high-performing archers?

Absolutely not. Juniors of all abilities are invited to participate: the emphasis is on participation with a competitive element, not the other way around. We have **not** designed the tour specifically with the needs of high-performing junior archers in mind. Instead the tour simply seeks to link together the shoots that tournament organisers have already been running, and encourage more junior participation in them.

Is SCAS trying to take over how shoots for juniors are run?

No. While we all might have ideas about what is best for junior archers, the last word on how shoots are run stays with the tournament organisers. They know what works for them at their particular shoot. The tour simply tries to boost junior participation across all shoots while making juniors also feel part of the broader archery community.

What age-gender-bow type categories will be available at SCJT shoots?

For the purposes of calculating the SCJT tour standings, the age-gender-bow type categories adopted by ArcheryGB will be used.

That means age groups will be U-18, U-16, U-15, U-14 and U-12 where U denotes under. Please note that the 'year of birth' method, as recently adopted by ArcheryGB, will be used to assess an archer's correct age group. For more information on that, see [here](#). Genders will be women and men. Bow types will be Olympic Recurve, Recurve Barebow, Compound and Longbow.

SCAS will be making available to tournament organisers enough medals to cover all of the category permutations. The SCJT tour standings will be calculated on the basis of each category forming its own distinct competition, and on the assumption that all archers will have shot at least the minimum recommended round for their age-gender grouping (see [here](#)). It remains up to tournament organisers, however, to decide exactly how rounds and competitions among juniors are organised at their particular event, and what medals they will award.

I cannot make the finale at the end of tour. Can I still take part in SCJT?

Yes. Gold, silver and bronze awards for total tour points will be awarded at the end of the tour, (including the double tour points gained from the SCAS Junior Championships). If an archer secures enough tour points to win one of these awards, but is not present for the SCAS junior Championships, the medal will still be awarded to them in their absence.

From where I live in the SCAS region all or some of the shoots are far away - is that fair?

No, it is not entirely fair, and we recognise that. The uneven distribution of shoot locations has influenced the way that the SCJT points scoring system has been designed. We would like there to be a more even and wider spread of shoots around the region. But we can only work with the shoots that are currently being organised - SCAS has very limited ability to organise shoots directly. Please encourage your local clubs to host a shoot at which juniors can shoot if you feel your area is not currently being well served by the events on the tour! We would be delighted to include a wider geographical range of shoot locations.

Can an archer opt-out of the SCJT?

Yes. Simply let us at SCAS know you wish to opt out via the contact details on the SCJT web page, and you will no longer be shown in the updates of the SCJT standings, and no longer eligible for a free place at the SCAS Junior Championships.

APPENDIX 1

SCJT TOUR SCORE SYSTEM

1. Scoring prior to the tour finale.

Whenever an archer attends a tour event, they get an 'event score' of 1, 2, or 3 points. Archers score 1 point for participating but coming outside of the top 3 places in their age-gender-bow type category. They score 2 points for coming either second or third. They score 3 points for winning their category.

As the tour progresses the individual event scores for each archer are translated in to a 'tour points score'. For an archer with 3 or fewer event scores, the tour score is simply equal to the sum of their event scores.

For archers with more than 3 event scores, only the 3 highest event scores they have achieved are counted in full. One quarter of their 4th highest event score is then added, one fifth of their 5th highest event score is added, one sixth of the 6th highest score is added, and so on until all the archers events scores have been weighted to contribute to the tour score.

More formally (for those who like maths):

- At any point in time an archer has n event scores, $S_1, S_2, S_3, \dots, S_n$
- The n event scores are arranged in magnitude order, largest first, smallest last: M_2, M_3, \dots, M_n .
- The tour points are given by $M_1 + M_2 + M_3 + (1/4 * M_4) + (1/5 * M_5) + \dots + (1/n * M_n)$

2. Scoring at the tour finale.

At the tour finale, the event points available in each age-gender-bow type category are doubled. That means there are 2 points available for participating, 4 points available for coming second or third, and 6 points available for winning a category. These points are added to the archer's tour points score in full.

An example of how this works in practise

Here we consider a junior archer who participates in 6 tour events and then the tour finale.

1. The archer attends their first SCJT event and comes 3rd in their bow category. They gain a 2 point event score, and then have an overall tour points score of 2.

2. The archer attends another SCJT event and wins their bow category. They gain a 3 point event score, and now have an overall tour points score of 5 (2 from the prior event, and 3 from this one).

3. The archer attends a third SCJT events and comes 4th at the shoot. They gain a 1 point event score, and now have a tour points score of 6.

4. The archer attends a fourth SCJT event and wins their bow class. They gain a 3 point event score. The archer now has 4 event scores: 2,3,1,3 in the order scored. If we arrange these scores in magnitude order (largest first) they are: 3,3,2,1. The archers tour points score is now calculated as $3+3+2+(1/4*1)$ which gives 8.25 points. Note that the tour points score has gone up, but not by the full 3 points they scored at this 4th event, because the number of shoots they have attended is now more than three.

5. The archer attends a 5th SCJT event and wins their bow class. They gain a 3 point event score. Their event scores are now 3,3,3,2,1 in magnitude order. The archers tour points score is now calculated as $3+3+3+(1/4*2)+(1/5*1)$ which gives 9.7 points.

6. The archer attends a 6th SCJT event and comes 2nd. They gain a 2 point event score. Their event scores in magnitude order are now: 3,3,3,2,2,1. Their tour points score is calculated as $3+3+3+(1/4*2)+(1/5*2)+(1/6*1)$ which gives 10.1 when rounded to one decimal place.

7. The archer attends the SCJT Tour finale and comes 2nd. They gain a 4 points event score. Their tour points score becomes $10.1+4$ which equals 14.1 points. That is their score at the conclusion of the tour and the basis upon which their eligibility for a gold, silver or bronze tour award will be judged.



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES JUNIOR TOUR (SCJT) 2023 – COSTS TO SCAS

We estimate that running SCJT 2023 on the terms we have suggested would generate a cost to SCAS of approximately **£1600-1700** in total. Costs could be mitigated, in whole or in part, by sponsorship of SCJT.

Costs to SCAS from running the SCJT are expected to come from two sources. The first (smaller) source is the offer of provision of medals¹ for juniors at SCJT events. Second is the provision of free places at the SCAS Junior Championships for those who have completed 3 or more SCJT events.

Taking each in turn:

1. Provision of medals for juniors at SCJT events

Why should SCAS make an offer to provide medals at SCJT events?

(a) To **foster goodwill** from tournament organisers, who will be our partners in delivering the tour to juniors. It helps mitigate any claim that SCAS and SCJT is trying to free-ride on the efforts of tournament organisers for its own benefit. SCAS provision of medals possibly removes one task from a busy TOs to-do list. It also removes a small element from the list of costs the TO has to bear, which *may* be reflected in the entry fee charged to juniors.

(b) To **encourage alignment** of competitions with the ArcheryGB age-gender-bow type categories. ArcheryGB recognises 40 distinct categories for juniors (5 age groups, 4 bow types, 2 genders). In practice a significant number of these categories will not attract any entrants at a given shoot. Even so, there is potentially a large number of categories to administrate and provide medals for. It is easier for us to run the tour if there is some standardisation across events in the format that competitions take. A case can also be made that juniors should be recognised in their ArcheryGB categories in the interests of fairness and to promote their engagement.

Note that it is up to the TO in question to decide whether or not to accept the offer of SCJT medals. They may choose (a) not to accept the offer at all, (b) to offer some but not all of the medals, or (c) to accept medals and award them for outcomes of mixed category competitions. In all cases, however, the offer of medal provision can be expected to foster goodwill. And a gentle prod in the direction of running junior competitions along AGB category lines will be in place.

How much will it cost?

Costs per medal vary depending on specification and supplier. Given the number of medals to be supplied, we would aim to purchase initially in bulk at £1 per medal.

For each shoot the theoretical maximum number of medals to be provided is 120 (3 places in 40 categories). The average number of medals per shoot will, in practice, be a fraction of that number. TOs will not be willing or able to accommodate that many junior archers in many cases, and nor is it likely that there

1 Please interpret the term 'medals' broadly in what follows, to also encompass badges, trophies, shields or other forms of physical award.

would be sufficient entrants spread evenly across the category groups. And some TOs will choose not to take up the offer of medals in full or at all.

On this basis, we believe that a working estimate estimate of an average of 30 medals for each SCJT event errs on the high side of what would be required and builds in a buffer on conservatism.

An average of 30 medals at approximately 20 shoots creates an estimate of near £600 for the cost of the medals to be offered. There will also be costs of delivery and postage of medals to TOs. We allow another £100 for this purpose, taking the estimate up to £700.

Note we are **not** including here the medals to be presented at the Tour Finale/SCAS Junior Champs which would be of a different design and higher cost. These are treated as part of the cost of running the SCAS Championships (see below).

2. Free places at the SCAS Junior Championships.

If the Junior Championships are also the Tour Final, then the tournament needs to be near the end of the season. We've heard that Crystal Palace Bowmen have been Planning a World Record Status Tournament at that time, but will not be granted Status because of a conflict with an Archery GB Event. And so we are very grateful to Lewis Brown of CPB for both (a) offering to host the SCAS Junior Championships at the end of the outdoor season, and (b) working with us to establish costing estimates for running the event.

Some principles at the outset:

1. SCAS will ensure there is no cost to Crystal Palace Bowmen for hosting this event.
2. The event is **not** intended to make a profit but to break even once a grant of funding from SCAS has been taken into account.
3. The entry fee per junior will not exceed the average cost of running the event per junior. Hence those juniors who pay for entry will **not** be cross-subsiding the provision of free places for others. The free places will be funded by SCAS.
4. In the event of the SCAS Championships needing to be cancelled at late notice, all entry fees would be refunded and all non-recoverable costs borne by SCAS.

Our initial costings (see appendix) suggest we can run an event catering for up to 80 archers for approximately £1470. If 80 archers attend, that would mean an average cost of £18.38 per archer.

At the outset it is difficult to project how many archers will complete 3 SCJT tour events and take up the offer of a free place at the SCAS shoot if one follows. But if SCAS provides 50 free places at an average cost of £18.38 per archer, that would mean a £919 cost to SCAS from this source.

Allocating free places

We propose that the availability of 50 free places at the SCAS junior champs is advertised from the outset of the tour. Those places are allocated on a 'first come first served basis' as archers complete 3 events on the tour.

It would be up to junior archers (and their parents) to decide how to respond to that incentive. It creates an incentive for archers to get involved in the tour sooner rather than later, creating momentum behind attendance from the outset.

As the SCJT tour standings are updated, the tour manager can report how many of the free places have been allocated and how many are left. Doing so gives another opportunity to advertise the tour finale shoot.

3. Sponsorship

SCJT offers a unique marketing opportunity for providers of archery equipment and services. SCAS could choose to seek a single or multiple sponsors for the event as a whole.

Communications on the SCJT will be being sent to junior archers and their representatives via email. The SCJT will have its own web pages which those interested and engaged in the tour will be visiting. The SCJT events themselves provide an opportunity for archery manufacturers and service providers to reach an audience of motivated archers.

Any sponsorship fee deriving from the above opportunity could be set against the costs to SCAS of delivering the tour. Alternatively, sponsors could donate equipment to be used as prizes at the tour finale or other shoots.

The opportunity to tentatively the idea of sponsorship with two equipment providers (Win & Win/WiaWis and Sanlida) has presented itself while we have been compiling this proposal, and in both cases we are waiting to hear back from them.

APPENDIX

ESTIMATED COSTING FOR SCAS JUNIOR CHAMPS 2023 AT CRYSTAL PALACE BOWMEN, BECKENHAM

Costing based on 80 participants, 20 target bosses.

1.	Rental to CPB landlord for use of site	250
2.	AGB Event Registration	80
3.	TenZone target rental (20 targets)	620
4.	Medals/awards	240
5.	Expenses, lunch and gifts for Judges	180
6.	Consumables (target faces, score sheets, Chronotir batteries)	100
Total		1470

Cost per archer: £18.38

Cost of 50 free places: £919



THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES JUNIOR TOUR (SCJT) 2023 – AN INVITATION AND MORE INFORMATION FOR TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

The attached document (Introducing the SCJT 2023) gives a broad overview of the aims and intended operation of the Southern Counties Junior Tour. We want the shoot you organise (or more specifically the junior part of it if it also involves seniors) to be part of the tour. Here we explain what that means in practise.

At the outset, and aside from agreement in principle to participate in the tour, we need you as partners in this undertaking. As you read this, nothing about the SCJT proposal is set in stone. We need your ideas and input to make the idea better, tell us what is good and bad about it and where it can be improved. And we need you as an enthusiastic supporter of the tour, encouraging juniors to participate in it.

Its your shoot, not ours

Having read the introduction document, your initial thought may be that some additional publicity for your shoot and more participation by juniors may be welcome. But you don't want to be overwhelmed by large numbers of juniors entering and possibly changing the whole character of your shoot. For a County Championship shoot, you may not want opportunities for juniors in your county to shoot to be crowded out by those coming from outside of it. These are valid concerns.

The introduction document already makes it clear that the number of places available for juniors, or for out-of-county juniors, at any given tour shoot may be limited.

As a tournament organiser with an event listed on the SCJT, you retain complete discretion on how many juniors can shoot and the ability to manage junior entries as you see fit. If you wish to retain places for in-county juniors, that is entirely your decision, although providing at least a few places for out of county juniors would be great. You might want to accept a certain number of junior entries, and then place others on a waiting list. That may give time to see how many senior entries you have, and then seek to balance the two. Doing so is again entirely at your discretion.

In the introduction document, you can already see us encouraging junior archers to identify the shoots on the tour they want to attend and to get their entries in early where they really want to shoot.

What we need from you

Beyond managing a possibly larger number of junior entries to your shoot, we ask only that you help us in two ways.

First is in marketing the tour. That means acknowledging and publicising it alongside your shoot, and offering a particularly warm welcome to the juniors participating in the tour. We may ask you to hand out some promotional materials or goodies to juniors on our behalf. But the administration of the tour will be done entirely by us. We just need the results of the shoot which you would publish in the usual way.

The second kind of help we need relates to medals, the choice of round to be shot, and junior classifications.

For those aged under 18, ArcheryGB recognizes a classification scheme with two genders, five age groups, and four bow types. That makes a total of 40 possible separate categories in which juniors may shoot. In practise, however, a significant number of these categories will not attract any entrants at a shoot. Even so, this can generate a lot of distinct categories of junior archer.

For any SCJT shoot, SCAS will provide medals in sufficient quantity to award gold, silver and bronze medals for each ArcheryGB recognised category, given the number of juniors attending the shoot. That provision of medals will be at zero cost to the tournament organiser. It remains entirely at the discretion of the TO whether they wish to accept SCJT's offer of medals and award them to the juniors at their event. We ask only that any supplied medals are awarded solely to juniors, and that any unused medals are returned to SCAS.

If a TO wishes to use their own trophies, medals, etc for juniors at their event, they are entirely free to do that. If they wish to award the SCAS medals and a selection of their own, they are again free to do so.

We ask only that junior archers in SCJT events shoot *at least* a round drawn from the list of those recommended by ArcheryGB for each age gender group (see [here](#)). And we ask that the results of the rounds shot by juniors are provided in such a way that the performance of junior archers relative to those in their ArcheryGB category can be identified. For record status shoots, that reporting requirement is met as a matter of course.

The SCJT points and standings for any event will always be calculated based on results within each ArcheryGB recognised category. The eagle-eyed among you may spot that this creates a potential divergence between the junior competition as it may be structured at a particular shoot, and how that competition may be depicted for the purposes of the SCJT.

For example, a TO may choose to merge certain junior age groups in for a given bow type, and award medals according to performance in the merged group. We recognise that TOs may have need to do this for various reasons and must retain the discretion to run their competitions as they see fit. For the purposes of SCJT, however, we will seek to consistently apply the ArcheryGB recognised junior classifications wherever possible.

What happens next

We would be delighted to get your feedback on this idea. And we would be even more delighted to hear that you are happy, in principle, to be included as one of the shoots on the Southern Counties Junior Tour. Please let us know as soon as you can.

We appreciate that final decisions may require a committee decision which may take time. A decision in principle is good enough for now, even if it is a tentative one awaiting committee confirmation. We will be looking to finalise these commitments at a later date.

If you do not wish your shoot to be included on the SCJT, we would really like to know why that is the case. We can then reflect on your concerns and see if we can meet them.

A non-exhaustive list of the shoots we are hoping to include is shown in the introduction document.

If there are shoots which juniors can attend you know of, but which we have not included, and which you think we should include, please let us know.

We would particularly like to be able to include more events around the periphery of the SCAS region to give a more even spread of shoots for junior archers to get to. The events as they stand are concentrated around the M25.

The plan is to present the SCJT plan, informed by feedback from tournament organisers and other stakeholders, to the SCAS Council in January. The more TOs we have saying they are prepared to participate in principle, the more persuasive the SCJT proposal will be to the SCAS Council. We are hopeful that a decision to proceed with this initiative, with an envelope of funds allocated to it, will be taken at that meeting. We will be looking to confirm the participation of shoots in the tour immediately after that.

The aim is to then be distributing materials to promote the tour during February. That will include launching the tour web page, emails to clubs and archers, and (hopefully) an article in the ArcheryGB quarterly magazine.

We hope you think this is an exciting idea, and that you will join us making it better and in delivering it for our junior archers.