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OLD BASING ARCHERS GET OFFICIAL BLESSING

ON Monday night, after a decision by Basing Parish Council, the Old Basing Archery Club officially came into being.

Mr. R. S. Selman, of Cavalier Road, Basing, attended the meeting to put forward a final plea for the use of a section of the recreation grounds as a range, and it was agreed by the Parish Council.

The range will be 130 yards long, running adjacent to the football pitch, and 20 yards wide in the summer to be cut down to five yards in width during the winter—enough for one target, Mr. Selman explained.

He emphasised that Basing's one soccer team would not be inconvenienced, adding "safety is the paramount virtue of archery." The range will be fenced off with thin wooden poles joined by rope every 12 or 15 feet.

Although the club is at present a family affair, with Mr. Selman, his wife and son as members, a spark of interest was shown at the meeting by Mr. C. H. Parker, who said he rather looked forward to seeing archery on the recreation ground.

"It's a family sport, and there's nothing to prevent archers of 80 taking part", said Mr. Selman. Two other people have told him they are interested and he knows of a further three archers in the village.

Mr. Selman is a Hants. county coach in archery, and will give four preliminary lessons to would-be archers at a cost of 10/- each, to cover the cost of equipment.

He has been an archer since 1951 when he was in the Royal Navy at Southsea. "I was a very keen rifle shot", he said, "and only got to a certain standard and it began to get a little boring. Suddenly, I thought it would be more of a challenge — and it was, believe me."

A historical note—Mr. Selman discovered that during the siege of Basing house from 1642-1645 messages of surrender were sent into the defenders on arrow. "Probably this was one of the last times the arrow was used in anger in Great Britain," he commented. "So we are thinking about using the sign of an arrow with a message attached as the emblem of the Club."