



Member Director Citation

Mark Saunderson

Position: Archery NI Director of Performance
Name: Mark Saunderson
Membership No: 3006968
Years in Archery: 3 years

I would like to be considered for the position of Performance Director within Archery NI.

Myself and my son Jay first got involved in archery a couple of years ago when we done a beginners course at County Antrim Archery Centre. Shortly after completing this the centre closed and myself and a few others started up our own club East Coast Archers to continue shooting. for the first year or so we were members of NIFAA and shot primarily 3D & field. My daughter joined us at archery early 2017. Due to lack of shoots with NIFAA we spent almost every weekend in the summer of 2017 camping in Southern Ireland at IFAF shoots and joined this organisation. the kids and myself were starting to get fed up going to shoots with no one to compete against in our prospective categories. By chance one evening i was on the Boucher Road, spotted the City of Belfast Archers container, called in and went to the club a few nights and joined it and Archery GB. We have thoroughly enjoyed the move over to archery GB and the change in competition and structure is so much better and more professional. We now spend most of our free time at archery. We are members of Spider Archery club which is 2 minutes from our house, we have 7 day access to the range and practically live there. i am currently a level 1 IFAA coach and am due to do an Archery GB level 1 coaching course.

The kids were invited this year to join the Northern Ireland Performance Academy and it has really brought them on. On a recent trip to the Youth Festival at Lilleshall i got a real eye opener as to what is available for them and they loved it. It showed us what is available for kids and there could be a greater progression in archery here for young and old. I know that there has been changes in the governing body of archery in Northern Ireland over the past couple of years and i honestly don't know much about the politics of what went on and don't really want to know or be influenced. I can make my own opinions and be stand alone where necessary. I'm applying for the position within Archery NI as i see myself being involved in archery for the foreseeable future and feel that i have something to offer on the basis of my time spent in management and my love for the sport. My work situation is due to change shortly freeing up some of my time and I'll spend it at archery one way or another.