



WEIR ARCHER ACADEMY – WINTER SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

A Season of Strength, Community Spirit & Standout Achievements

End of Summer Season Pizza Night

To celebrate the end of a fantastic summer season, the Academy gathered for a well-earned pizza night, bringing athletes, coaches, and families together after months of dedication and hard work. The room was filled with laughter, stories, and plenty of pizza as everyone took a moment to relax. It was the perfect way to round off an amazing year for the Academy.



David Weir Takes Second Place at the New York Marathon

On 2 November 2025, Paralympian and Weir Archer Academy co-founder **David Weir** delivered a phenomenal performance at the New York Marathon, securing an impressive second place in the elite men’s wheelchair race. Competing on one of the sport’s most iconic courses, David said afterwards: “Second in Berlin, Chicago and New York - results I’m proud of, but even more grateful for the experience, the people and the lessons”.

Honouring Remembrance: Sponsored Push for the Poppy Appeal

On 10 November 2025, our athletes came together to mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War. Inspired by athlete Morgan Woods, the Academy took on an ambitious challenge: 80 laps of the track, either solo or as a team to raise funds for The Royal British Legion’s Poppy Appeal, supporting veterans and their families. Their efforts raised an incredible £709. Thank you to everyone who donated and cheered the team on.



Celebrating Excellence at the Kingston Sports Awards

The Academy shone at the Royal Borough of Kingston’s Sports Awards on 19 November. Two of our own came away with top honours: **Morgan Woods** – Sports Achiever 2025. Recognised for his resilience and outstanding progress. **Coach Liz Sissons** – Mayor’s Unsung Hero Award. Celebrated for her coaching excellence and her charitable work, including her legendary knitting!



Sharing Paralympic Dreams at Salesian School

On 16 November, Club Captain and Vice Chairman Hilmy Shawal visited Salesian School in Chertsey to share his experience of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Representing Tanzania in the T54 100m, Hilmy spoke about his unforgettable moments of competing on the world stage.



Supporting Our Community: Weir Archer Academy Chosen as Co-op Local Community Fund Beneficiary

The Weir Archer Academy has been selected as a Co-op Local Community Fund beneficiary, helping us to provide opportunities to people in Kingston to experience the benefits of wheelchair racing.

Every member vote unlocks additional funding for the Academy and supporting us couldn’t be easier. Simply join Co-op membership for just £1, search for Local Causes, select Weir Archer Academy, and cast your vote. Every vote truly makes a difference.



Weir Archer Academy has been chosen as a Co-op Local Community Fund beneficiary!



Your support will enable more disabled people to take part in Wheelchair Racing in Kingston.

Every vote will unlock more funding from Co-op – so please vote today!

Silverstone Success on the F1 Circuit

Winter may be training season, but competition never sleeps. On 23 November 2025, the Academy took to the iconic Silverstone Formula One Grand Prix circuit for a day of racing triumphs:

Morgan Woods – Winner of the Silverstone 10K

Xander Foster – Winner of the Silverstone Half Marathon

Both athletes delivered brilliant performances and enjoyed every moment of racing on such a historic track.



Giving Back: Supporting the Dons Local Action Group

On 12 December, Head Coach Jenny Archer and Club Captain Hilmy Shawal delivered donations collected by the Academy to the Dons Local Action Group, a charity tackling poverty across Southwest London.

Formed during the Covid pandemic, the group continues to support families in need. Its partnership with AFC Wimbledon, a club close to Jenny’s heart, makes this connection especially meaningful.

Battling the Elements in Brighton

On 2 March, athletes **Liam Coffill**, **Claudia Burrough**, and **Xander Foster** braved brutal weather conditions to take part in the Brighton Half Marathon. Despite the wind and rain, all three powered through with determination.

A fantastic effort from the trio.



Golden Throw in Sheffield

On 7 March, Weir Archer Academy T38 para throwing athlete, **Miles Edwardes**, competed at the England Athletics Indoor Junior Para Championships in Sheffield — and won gold.

With a phenomenal throw of 6.77m, Miles impressed both spectators and his Weir Archer Coach Liz Sissons, who was thrilled to see his hard work and training paying off.

Club Effort Delivers Vital Aid to Ukraine

Coaches Jenny Archer, Liz Sissons and Weir Archer athlete Claudia Burrough have been busy working together to collect vital donations in support of Ukraine. The items, including clothing and medical supplies, will be delivered through a New Forest-based charity where Claudia’s father is involved, helping to ensure essential aid reaches those in need.

Weir Archer Trio Earn England Selection

Congratulations to Weir Archer athletes **Toby Metzgen**, **Ellis Kottas** and **Yasmine Hodkinson** on their selection to represent England at the Nottwil Grand Prix in Switzerland from 21–23 May 2026. This marks a first international call-up for both Toby and Yasmine, making the achievement particularly special.

Expert Speakers Support Athlete Development

The club extends its thanks to guest speakers Jake Archer (s&c), John and Connor Harris (osteopaths), Paul Mortimer (psychotherapist) & Nicki Keech (neuropsychiatrist), who recently delivered a series of informative sessions. Their insights provided athletes with valuable guidance to support improvement across all aspects of performance and wellbeing.



THANK YOU