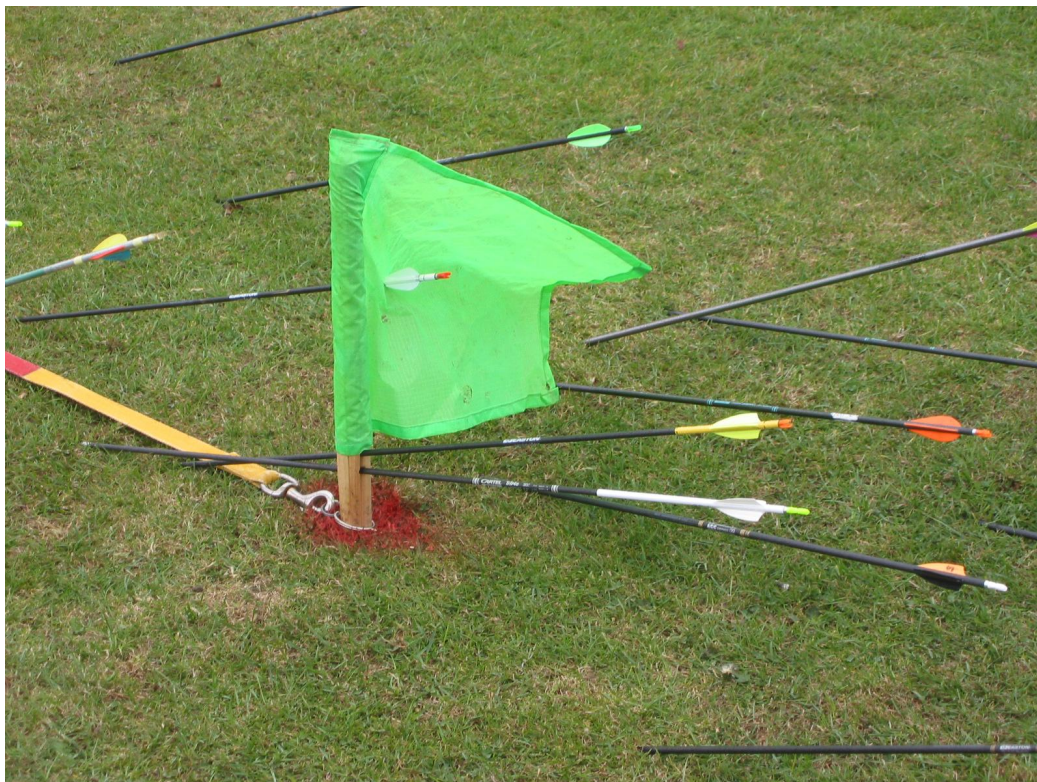


# Clout Archery Basics



*Thanks largely to the Northern Counties Archery Society and enthusiasts like Andrew Neal and Peter Gregory, interest in Clout Archery has grown steadily in the UK since the turn of the 21st Century, accompanied by a big increase in the number of archers shooting Longbow or Barebow.*

*But while the number of shoots is increasing, suitable venues are harder find as playing fields get built over or changed to astroturf, which means that more archers will come to the shoots with no previous experience, and maybe with no-one nearby to get tips and advice from.*

*This leaflet is meant to de-mystify clout shooting a bit so that your first experience of it will be a good one.*



## What is Clout Archery?

Clout is one of the variations of Target Archery. Instead of shooting at a circular paper target fixed to a near-vertical butt, archers try to land their arrows as close as possible to a low flag in the ground.

The clout flag represents dead centre, and arrows landing within specified distances from the flag will score points.

As Clout is technically a variation of Target Archery, most of the same rules apply. The layout of the shooting line and waiting areas is the same, and the same methods of controlling shooting in details with whistle signals are used, but maybe as many as twenty people will be shooting at the same target instead of just four or six.

The main difference between most Target Archery and Clout is that the distance is about twice as far, so the bow has to be elevated much higher, the amount depending on the type of bow and its arrow speed.

## Competition Distances and Target Sizes

In the UK under the auspices of Archery GB there are two Clout Disciplines:

*The Archery GB Imperial Clout Round*

*The World Archery Federation Round for Adults and Archery GB Metric Rounds for Juniors*

All these Rounds comprise 36 Arrows.

Most Competitions involve shooting a Double Round

In all cases there are five scoring zones, scoring 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 points respectively.

In accordance with traditional longbow practices, Tournament Organisers sometimes offer an unofficial consolation prize for 'petticoats' – arrows which fall inside the clout area marked on the ground, but outside the lowest score zone.

Sometimes, particularly at long-established shoots, the Imperial Round is shot 2-ways, like traditional Longbow Shoots, with sets of Clout targets at opposite ends of the field.

The **Archery GB Imperial Round** Clout Target is a circle of 24 feet (7.3 metres) diameter

**Distances for Gender and Age-Group (all bow types) as follows:**  
(The word 'score' in this context means 'a unit of twenty')

Gentlemen	9 score yards (180 yds)
Ladies	7 score yards (140 yds)
Junior Gentlemen under 18	7 score yards (140 yds)
Junior Gentlemen under 16	6 score yards (120 yds)
Junior Gentlemen under 14	5 score yards (100 yds)
Junior Gentlemen under 12	4 score yards (80 yds)
Junior Ladies under 18	6 score yards (120 yds)
Junior Ladies under 16	5 score yards (100 yds)
Junior Ladies under 14	4 score yards (80 yds)



An Archery GB Imperial Clout

The **World Archery Federation Round** Clout Target is 15 metres (49 feet) in diameter

**Distances for Gender and Age-Group as follows:**

Gender/Age	Non-Compound bows	Compound bows
Gentlemen	165m	185m
Ladies	125m	165m
Junior Gentlemen under 18	125m	165m
Junior Gentlemen under 16	110m	125m
Junior Gentlemen under 14	90m	110m
Junior Gentlemen under 12	75m	90m
Junior Ladies under 18	110m	125m
Junior Ladies under 16	90m	110m
Junior Ladies under 14	75m	90m



Using a Measuring Tape to Score a WA Clout

## **The Tassel Award Scheme and National Rankings and Classifications**

In the UK, The Northern Counties Archery Society administers the Tassel Award Scheme, which is similar to the Rose Award and FITA Star Schemes; Tassel Badges are given to archers who achieve particular scores with particular bow types at Clout Events with Tassel Award Status. The badge shows the kind of Tassel many archers have hanging from their belts, which is used to wipe mud off arrows that land in the ground – which is of course what all arrows in a Clout shoot do.

NCAS also administers the National Clout Rankings and Classification Badges, and Six-Clout-End Badges, on behalf of Archery GB. <http://www.ncas.co.uk/clout.html>

National Records are administered by Archery GB, who confer National Record Status on eligible Tournaments where records may be claimed.

# Safe Clout Shooting



## The Need for Instruction

GNAS / Archery GB Rules of Shooting insist that Archers are given Instruction before shooting Clout. The reason for this is the perceived risk of arrows landing dangerously outside the mandatory safety zones.

The greatest risk is that archers will under-estimate the power of their bow, and elevate (that is, aim up) too high, so the arrows will fly beyond the safe drop zone.

## The important parts of Clout Instruction are very simple...

- a) Only shoot in the direction of the clout flag*
- b) Until you know what the sight mark is for your bow and distance, don't assume (unless you are using a moderate-weight longbow) that you need to give your bow maximum elevation. For recurve archers, most likely your aiming point will be somewhere above where your bottom limb enters your riser, so don't elevate your bow higher than that until you know for sure.*
- c) If your bow is a Compound, until you have sent down some ranging shots and have some idea of the capabilities of your bow, NEVER elevate the bow so that the arrow shelf (just above your bow hand) is higher than the flag, make sure you can see the flag above the shelf when using the peep sight in the normal way.*
- d) When drawing and aiming the bow, you must not elevate it higher than the angle you need to reach the flag (unless shooting a Longbow - refer to Rules of Shooting)*

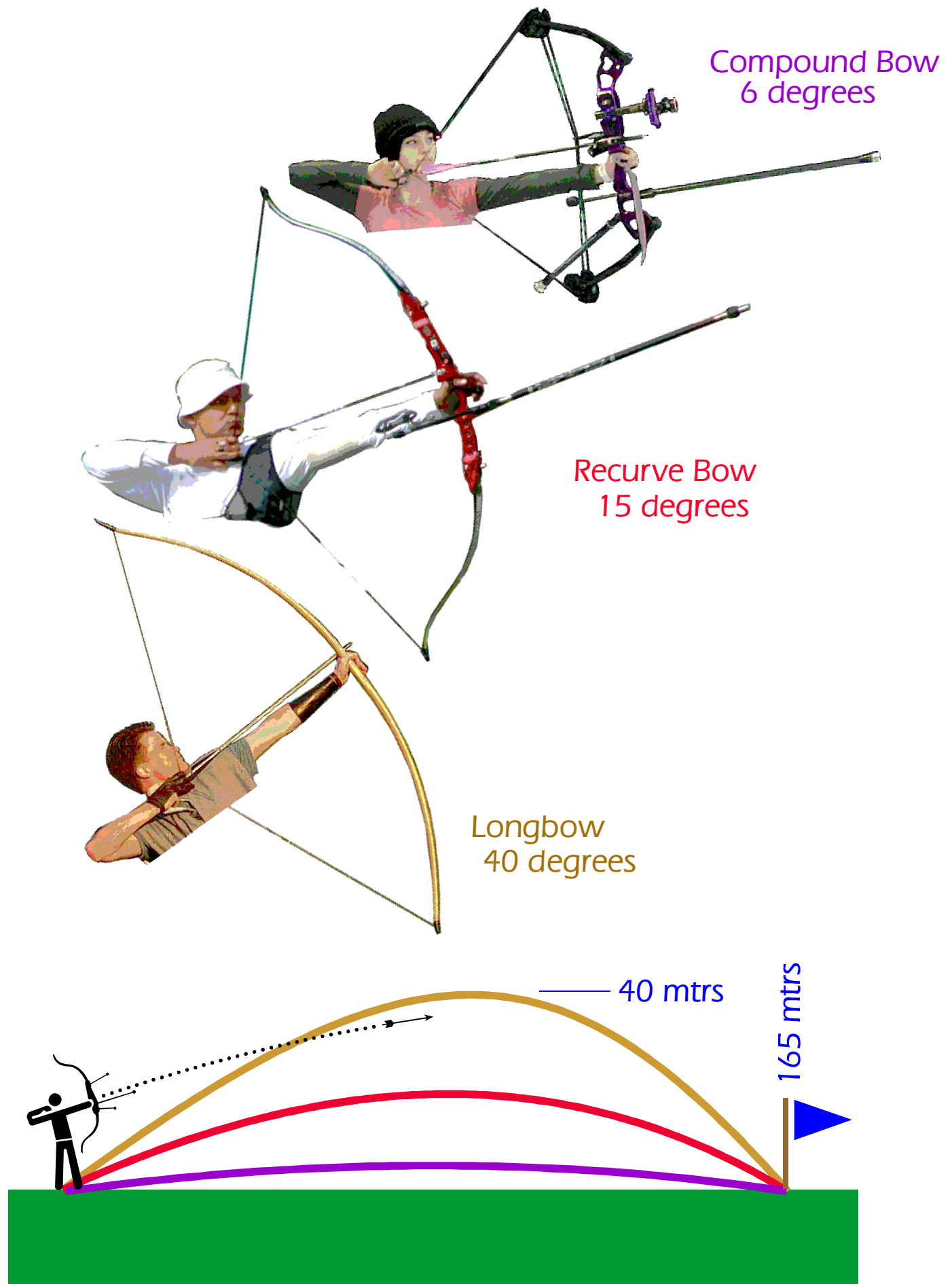
As on all Archery Ranges, the Rules state that arrows should only be shot in the direction of the target; and provided you've been taught the basics of archery, the arrows shouldn't stray very far off to left or right. Most Club archers can keep their shots within a couple of metres left or right of their target at 90 metres, and similarly should be able to keep within 10 metres of the clout at 165 metres distance. The bigger group is due to the height the arrow needs to fly, the wind's much stronger up there and can carry the arrows further off line.

The required safe overshoot drop zone extends out 30 yards at each side of the *ENDs of the shooting line*, which is likely to be about 37 yards (34 metres) to the side of the Clout Flag; and 50 yards (46 metres) beyond the clout flag, so it would require a quite bad aiming error to leave the zone on either side. But while it is easy to see the line towards the target, and to know how to send your arrows close to that line, knowing how much bow elevation is needed to get the arrows to reach the clout without flying dangerously past it is not so obvious.

But for most bows the danger isn't extreme, because the clout distance plus the safety overshoot zone is in many cases not much less than the extreme range of the bow.

However, this is certainly not the case for Compound Bows, and it is Compound Archers who need to take a great deal of care.

# Typical Bow Elevation Angles



## Safe Clout Shooting (continued)

In a GNAS / Imperial Clout Shoot the greatest distance is 180 yards, and the safety zone extends to 230 yards from the Shooting Line (210.5 metres). The greatest distance for a WA / Metric Clout is 185 Metres and the end of the safety zone is at 231 metres (252 yards).

There are few English Longbows other than specialist flight bows or bows with draw weights over 65lbs with very well matched arrows that will send an arrow beyond this distance, and longbows with draw-weights below 45-50lbs will generally find it challenging to reach 180 yards / 165 metres. Similarly, many target-weight Recurve bows will barely reach 250 yards (although it's worth mentioning that a keen junior clout archer, Zack Crawford, has shot over 330 yards with a target bow of less than 35lbs, and Tony Osborn, for years the outstanding Compound Clout archer, has shot over 430 yards also with a recurve of less than 35lbs, but both these people were shooting for distance, using specially prepared arrows and a 'slashing' loose intended to give maximum arrow speed).

But it's a different story with compounds. Not only do many of them have a maximum range of half a kilometre or more, even at quite modest elevations compared with recurves they can easily send the arrow beyond the safety zone. Compound Archers must be aware that they only need to raise the bow about the same as a recurve shooting at a 90 metre target, which is not very much at all.

There's no advantage in having a high-draw-weight compound when shooting Clout, because the flat trajectory makes it particularly difficult to see where the arrows are landing, and any small error in elevation makes a major difference in the length of the shot - which is why Tony Osborn (see above) uses a 40lb peak weight - and he's the only archer to have scored a Six-Clout-End at 180 yards.

Whatever type of bow you shoot, start cautiously. It's far better to aim on the low side to start with, and gradually move your arrows up to full distance, rather than experience that horrible sinking empty feeling when you realise you've over-cooked it. If your local club can't give you an opportunity to practice, check the entry forms of nearby Clout Tournaments because many of the organisers can provide Instruction / practice before the start of the shoot, or on the day before. Of course another Positive about receiving Clout Instruction is that it should give you an idea of your sight mark for the distance, and so you will be likely to get a higher score and a better outcome the first time you shoot, which also makes it more likely that you'll decide to continue to take part in this very enjoyable, if sometimes perplexing, form of Archery.



# Shooting

## Body Alignment

As in Target Archery, consistent body/bow alignment and relationship between the arrow nock and the eye are vital, but for most people it will be quite different from what they do at normal target distances.

Most people will need to aim on the 'far' side of the bow (the target will be hidden under the bow arm, or by the bow itself), rather than on the arrow-shelf side, and so you will need to look over the arrow, rather than along the near side.

If possible try to keep as close as possible to your normal target archery 'form', and just make small adjustments to get the eye/arrow relationship correct for Clout.

That deals with left-and-right. The other difference from conventional target archery is the greater amount of bow elevation, and consequently even greater importance of keeping 'form' so that all the upper body structure works exactly as you've learned to use it at normal target distances.

There used to be a vogue for setting a 'kisser' button on the string about 15cm above the nocking point, and drawing much lower than normal so the 'kisser' touched the side of the mouth and the draw hand touched the nipple (in the Middle Ages this was called 'drawing to the pap', rather than 'drawing to the ear'), but this puts the body in a radically different alignment, and is hard to sustain unless you practice it regularly - not recommended. For most people it's much better to draw completely as normal and get the bow elevation by either rotating the upper body back (it actually rotates sideways of course as you're side-on to the target) from the waist (or swinging the front hip forward), or dropping the rearmost knee.

Work out a method that suits your physique and bone structure - try to be relaxed and stress free.

Watch your 'Form' – it's very easy to just lift the bow arm to get the extra elevation, which results in your draw-force line (yellow in the pictures) being poor, and also reduces your draw-length.

Keep your form by pivoting your upper body backwards so the spine, shoulders and arms keep your normal shooting posture.



Bow arm lifted,  
poor draw-force line



Upper body rotated,  
good draw-force line

The difference between the two postures may seem small, but it is critical.  
(note that the red-orange thing hanging from the Archer's belt is a Tassel)

## Shooting (continued)

It can help to stand with your feet in line with the shooting direction and spreading them a bit wider than for target archery. Some people find there's less stress if they bend and drop their rear-leg knee. Keep relaxed and flexible and don't lock your knees anyway.



Compound Archers only need to make quite small adjustments, while Longbow Archers need to be very supple if they're to keep their upper body under control. Clout shooting started maybe 700 years ago as a training routine for heavy War Bows, and there are now a fair number of enthusiasts shooting bows of 80 or 100 pounds draw weight at Tassel Status clout shoots. But these enthusiasts also use 'Standard' war-weight arrows (at least 800 grains weight compared with a typical wooden target arrow of around 400 grains), with shafts of around 10mm diameter, and the arrow weight means that the maximum range of the bow is not as great as the draw-weight would suggest – the object is to increase the penetrative power and damage done of the projectile by using a considerably more massive arrow, which in spite of its lower speed compared with, say, a 60lb modern clout Longbow using target arrows, has far more kinetic energy when it reaches its destination.

For comparison, the photos below show a lady Compound archer shooting at a Metric Clout at 165 metres. Shooting on the same target with her is a well-known mediaeval weapons expert, using a heavy Warbow and Standard Arrows with reproduction mediaeval Crescent piles. Compare the two archer's bow elevation. The Warbow, with its thick heavy limbs and heavy arrows has to be aimed much higher than the Compound, which only needs a small amount of elevation, and the heavy bow also needs a lot more elevation than the slimmer-limbed longbow and target arrow combination shown on the next page. Also note the posture of the Warbow archer, who has to use a very different drawing technique involving almost the entire body.



## Shooting (continued)



Modern Bow design: these two archers are using fast bows and target arrows with reasonable heavy piles, and are shooting the Mens' Imperial distance of 180yards (164.7 metres). Note how much less elevation the longbow archer needs, compared to the warbow.

At the Men's WA Compound distance of 185 metres (202 yards), the difference between trajectories is even greater. Note how little the Compound archer needs to raise his bow.



Between these two extremes, and more typical, here is an archer shooting the Ladies' Imperial distance of 140 yards using a 28lb draw weight Recurve bow



Draw

Elevate / Rotate

Loose

# Shooting (continued)

## Bow Speed Issues

**Fast bows** have a lower trajectory and so are much less influenced by weather. It's much harder to control the length of a shot with a fast bow – aiming angle is much more critical. Stabiliser side rods may obscure your aim.

**Slow Bows** are more influenced by the wind  
There is more aiming tolerance in elevation  
You may be able to aim beneath stabiliser side-rods

There's an annoying paradox here, if you have a fast bow (which means a heavier draw weight), you won't have to be as skilled at reading what the wind is doing, but you will find it harder to drop the arrows precisely to length because the flatter trajectory will require much greater precision in aiming the bow in elevation; if you get it a little bit wrong the arrows will sail past the clout. On the other hand, if your bow is slow you'll find it easy to land your shots in right place in calm weather, but any turbulence or increase in wind strength will push your arrows well out of position.

## Sighting and Aiming

How you aim will depend on the speed of your bow, and whether you are using a sight, or shooting barebow or longbow.

If you use a sight you will probably need to place it on the far side of your bow, not on the side of the window cut-out, as otherwise it will be hidden below your bow arm when you elevate and aim. This will mean your arrows will tend to fly far to the side of where you are aiming (they will go to the side your bow arm is, so towards the left if you are right-handed). To compensate you either have to aim further to the right (if you are right-handed), or lean your bow a little over in a controlled manner.

## Aiming Point

You can aim either at  
The Flag OR Somewhere Else

### **The Flag**

Is always there

Is likely to be hidden by the bow or the archer's arm unless there is a strong cross-wind against the archer's back, pushing towards the flag

### **Somewhere Else**

Depends on there being a suitable feature to aim at - occasionally there may be nothing

If you are unable to position your sight so you are actually aiming on the flag, then make sure you select an aiming point that will remain visible throughout the shoot, and will not be moved or change appearance radically. So consider what will happen when the sun moves (contrast and visibility can change enormously) and don't select a parked car as a point of aim! If you are using an aiming point other than the clout flag then make sure you always shoot from the same place – use foot markers if possible (and if it's a 2-way shoot you'll need 2 sets, and remember to pick them up after the last end at the far shooting line).

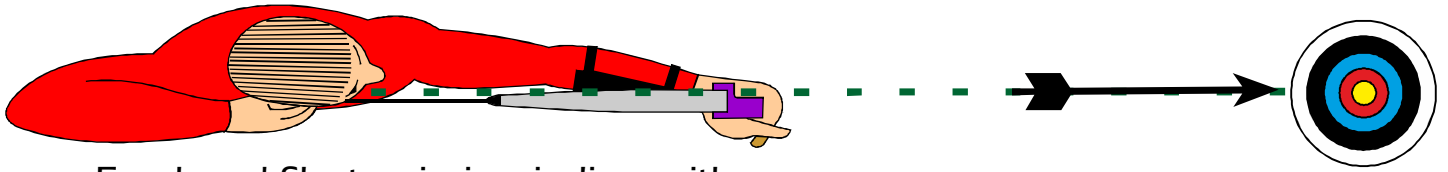
Always be aware of Which Way Is Up. Because the distance is twice as much, any error in keeping your bow upright will be much bigger than for normal target distances. If the field slopes left-to-right you may be deceived and have your bow leaning over instead of being upright. And if it's a two-way shoot you can be making an opposite error when you shoot back from the far end.

Develop a system of ranging shots, for both width and length of shot. Shoot your sighters with a view to laying a recognisable pattern on the ground, so you can see immediately how much effect differences on your sightbar make and know how much to change to get the shot into the scoring zone.

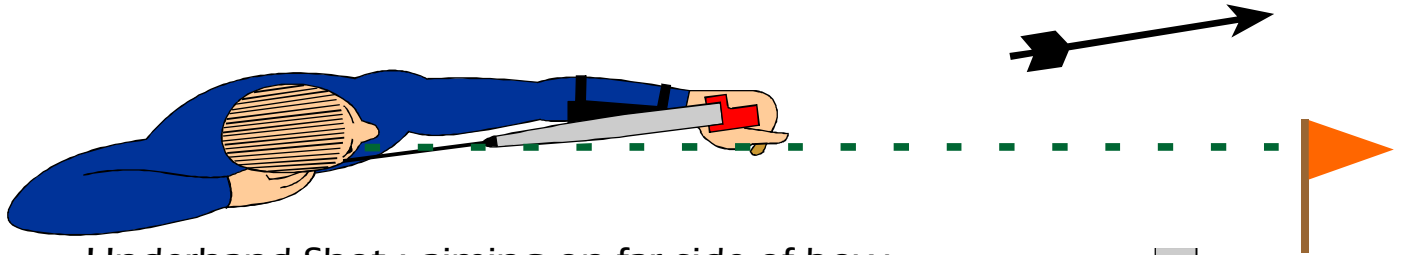
3 pairs of arrows are likely to be more informative than six individual ones. You can combine elevation and windage experiments, and select the best combination of up / down and left / right.

Get on target fast, and keep alert to factors, like changing breeze, that are tending to change your group position.

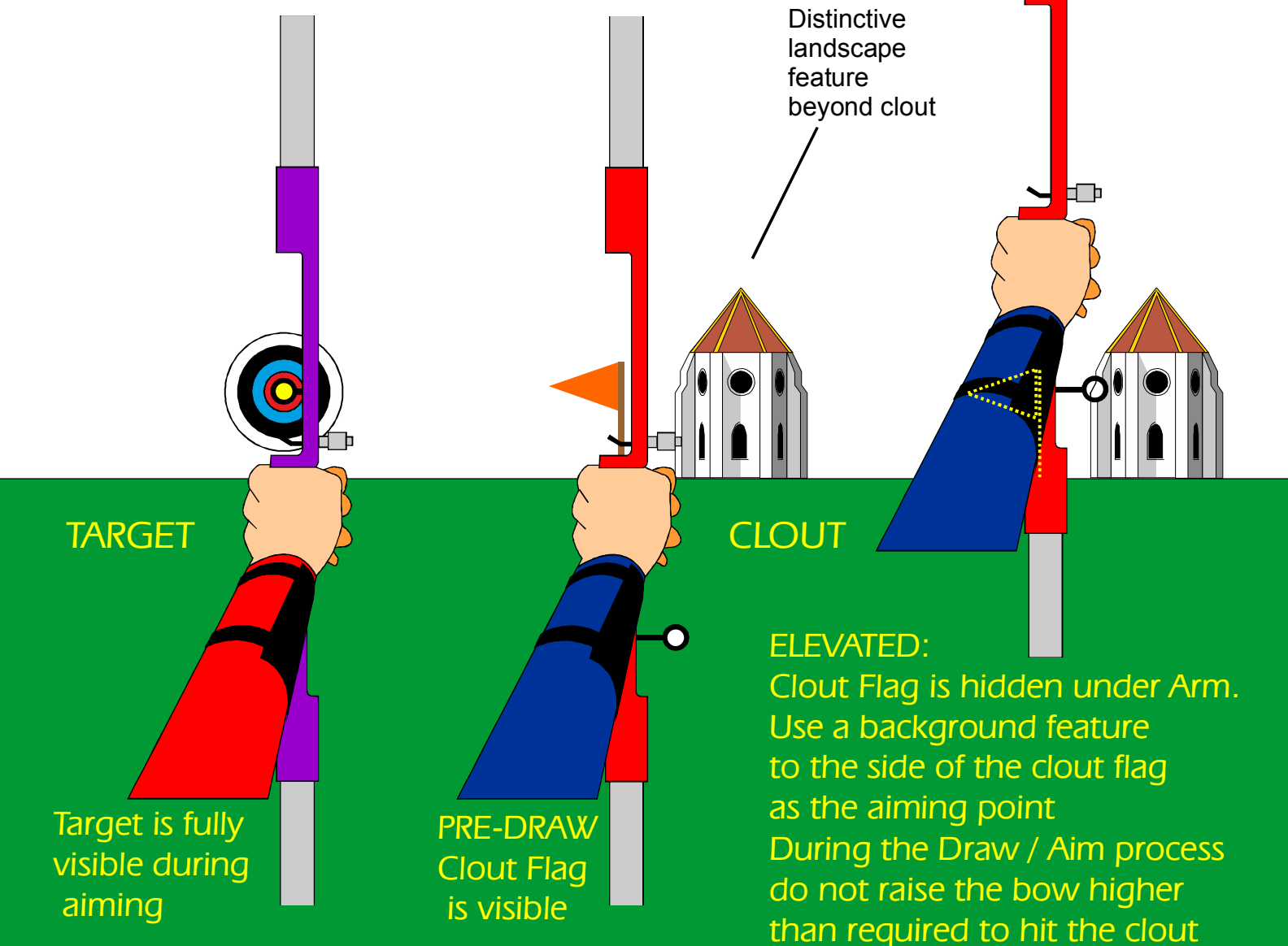
## Aiming : Target vs Clout



Forehand Shot : aiming in line with arrow  
Target is visible above the bow hand



Underhand Shot : aiming on far side of bow  
Arrow flies toward bow-arm side  
Archer must aim-off (to the right for a right-hander)  
to bring the arrow flight line towards the clout flag



TARGET

CLOUT

Target is fully visible during aiming

PRE-DRAW Clout Flag is visible

ELEVATED:  
Clout Flag is hidden under Arm.  
Use a background feature to the side of the clout flag as the aiming point  
During the Draw / Aim process do not raise the bow higher than required to hit the clout

# Shooting (continued)

## Effects of Weather

You must be aware of what the weather is doing, but sometimes it's difficult to 'read':

Wind can be laminated, flowing at different speeds and direction at different heights

Thermals can develop on hot days, spiralling and rising above the field.

If the wind is blowing from the clout towards you, any change in windspeed usually has less effect on the length of the shot than if the wind is blowing from behind the shooting line towards the clout. This will be particularly noticeable if you are shooting two-ways on a day when the wind is varying.



A small increase in a following wind can move your arrows out of scoring area

## Choice of Arrows

Most archers will be using their normal target arrows. Competitive Clout Archers will generally use their best arrows, but there is always a slight risk that arrows will be damaged by stones in the soil (some playing fields have a thin layer of soil over rubble used to level-up the ground, but organisers should be aware of these dangers, and most clout ranges are laid out on areas which don't have these hazards). You certainly shouldn't use poor or worn-out arrows, you will pay for it with your score. Provided your bow can reach your normal target archery maximum distance while using a normal bowsight, you shouldn't have any problems getting normal target arrows to reach the Clout for your gender / age group. As said previously, more arrow speed keeps the arrows below the higher, stronger, wind layers, and one way to increase arrow speed is the use lighter arrows. But selecting the best arrow is matter of balancing advantages and disadvantages, because the increase in speed may be nullified if the arrow has insufficient stored energy (momentum) to punch through the air. You can tell that this happening if the arrows are hitting the ground at a much steeper angle than you shot them up at. Increasing point weight by say 20 grains may improve the distance the arrows travel by a worthwhile amount.

Another factor is fletching size. Don't use large 5-or-6 inch (12.5 or 15cm) fletchings as you would indoors, use medium or small ones. The really big fletchings produce enough drag to slow the arrows noticeably, and are more deflected by cross-winds, but there probably won't be a very noticeable improvement if you put tiny, low-profile fletchings on your arrows instead of medium ones.

## Spotting your Arrows

On most Clout Fields it is very difficult to tell, even when using a spotting scope, whether your arrows are landing short, long, or exactly at the right distance, but it is fairly easy to tell whether your line is good, or whether you need to move your aim to improve the 'left-and-right'. Generally you can only tell the length of your shots when the clout scoring area is on an uphill slope, but if you can send your arrows in line with the flag you are more likely to score even if the distance isn't perfect.

If you're shooting a longbow with wooden arrows you'll probably be able to follow the flight of the arrow, but archers using other types of bow will find it difficult to watch the arrow, particularly when it reaches the top of its arc and starts to drop, unless shooting large diameter wooden or aluminium arrows.

Practically speaking, you can normally only use a scope on one-way shoots. Most spotting scopes have a minimum magnification of 20x or more, but it's often useful to have a scope which shows the whole clout area, which means 12x or maybe 16x magnification. Arrows are about 2 seconds (Ladies) to 3 seconds (Gents) in the air, which is time enough to get your head down to your scope to watch for your arrows landing (keep counting in your head from when you loose, so you know when the arrow should arrive in view).

The Clout area soon becomes heavily populated with a forest of arrows, and it's much easier to spot yours if you can see them arrive. So long as your arrows are easy to see – helped by personalised bright coloured fletchings and large fluorescent nocks (small g-nocks are not easy to spot) and possibly by fluorescent or light-coloured shaft wraps – using a scope will show up cross-wind changes and variations in your shooting, and usually makes a worthwhile difference to your score.

## Shooting (continued)



### Elevation Again

The Rules of Shooting refer to High Trajectories and Low Trajectories.

Only Longbow Archers are permitted to use the High Trajectory approach; but the sane thing is NEVER to use the High Trajectory, whoever you are, because if you have a choice (and target-weight Longbows are often almost maxed-out, so they only have one choice, effectively 45 degrees, neither high nor low) the low trajectory will be best because the wind speed is nearly always significantly slower there.

Wind speed increases dramatically with height above ground in the zone our arrows fly through (as designers of sailing boats and wind farms know) and the extra 40 yards between the Ladies' and Gent's distances has a definite effect on scores - even though the Gents' arrows are mostly travelling faster they still have to rise up into a stronger wind zone on the way to the clout. This is because of 'Ground Friction Effect' which means the windspeed increases in proportion with the Cube of height above ground, so if you double the height, the windspeed can increase by a factor of eight. You'll soon see that the archers with higher arrow speeds, and therefore the lower trajectories, are punished a lot less by the wind. More information at the end of this leaflet.



### A Note for Juniors and Macho Blokes:

At most Clout distances nearly all archers except those with Compound Bows will have to elevate so that the arrow shelf is above the Clout Flag.

But Archers shooting very high draw-weight recurve bows (over 55lb) have been known to be able to see the flag above the shelf, as is the case with the archer using the recurve bow shown on the left, but there aren't many of that breed of archer around.

However some juniors shooting 80 yards (and sometimes 100 yards) have found they can use a conventional bowsight, aiming above the arrow shelf, so stronger juniors may find their arrows go way further than expected if they aim below the bow handle like most adults have to.

## Shooting (continued)

### Finding and interpreting your Sighter arrows

When all the Archers have shot their sighter arrows, everyone will walk up to see how their shots have landed. There will be a large number of arrows between you and the Clout, and some of them will be surprisingly close to the shooting line, so do pay very good attention all the time to where you're walking so you don't carelessly walk onto any arrows – which will probably hurt your shins, and may damage or break the arrow – and remember that Archery Etiquette says if you do break any arrows through carelessness you are expected to pay for a replacement on the spot.

Once you do get near the Clout you must try to see all your arrows. You shouldn't pull any out until you've found them all, otherwise you may misjudge how far apart they landed. If you shot well and if the wind wasn't extremely blustery, you should be able to see three groups of two arrows (assuming you shot pairs of arrows at each of three sight settings). If you walk up the field from one arrow pair to the next and count the paces between, you should be able to work out how far the arrows move on the ground for each division of your bowsight scale, which should help you to move your sight the exact amount needed to bring your arrows near the centre of the clout.

Similarly you should be able to do the same for the left-and-right windage adjustment. If you are able to see your arrows in flight and/or landing while you are shooting them, you will be able to make left and right adjustments as you shoot; but if you can't see the arrows, re-set the windage adjustment methodically (or select a new aiming point) between each pair of arrows, and when you walk up to find where your arrows landed you will be able to see what effect each adjustment had, and use that information to make further adjustments if needed.



# Scoring



## Going up to Score during the Competition

As said in the previous section, always take great care when walking up to the clout not to trip over arrows standing up in the grass.

Try to approach the clout by walking directly from the shooting line towards the flag so that when you can see where your arrows have landed you'll be able to tell whether they were on-line or off to either side. It's a good plan to stop and stand still to look for your arrow hits rather than keep walking along while searching. It can be quite taxing to spot your arrows (but that's also true of a well populated target face) but you should try to find them all before the arrow-collectors start to pull them out of the ground, which they often do quite soon after reaching the target – don't dawdle around!

At most Tassel Award Status Shoots a circle will be marked on the ground indicating the extent of the scoring area – nobody may go inside this circle if they are carrying any arrows either in their hands or in their quiver or any other way. If you have picked up non-scoring arrows, and you need to enter the circle (to help collect and score arrows, or to call your own scores) then leave your arrows and / or quiver outside the circle, ideally with a target companion, otherwise where they won't get trodden on. It helps reduce the danger of arrow breakages if every archer removes their obviously non-scoring arrows from the ground.

Whenever you are near the clout always keep alert to the possibility of tripping over arrows, don't move backwards or sideways without checking where your feet are going – it's very easy to snap an arrow that way. If you do walk into an arrow, even if it doesn't have an obvious break, do be courteous and make sure you tell the arrow's owner, in case there's a crack that might fail dangerously when the arrow is shot.

## Scoring

Arrows are scored according to where the arrow shaft enters the ground, or, if the arrow is lying on the surface, according to where the point is lying.

If an arrow is stuck into the flag pole, it scores 5 points.



## Scoring (continued)



The rules allow for the Scoring Zones to be marked on the ground, but this is rarely done, the alternative scoring method using a measuring tape is usually preferred and is more accurate in practice, and has the side-effect of getting all the arrows collected according to their scores, making it much easier for both archers and scorers when identifying the arrows and recording their scores.



Although the rules don't mention or require it, when a measuring tape is being used, the score zones are often coloured to match the colours of a conventional target face (as shown above for an Imperial Clout). The zones are scored Yellow / Gold = 5, Red = 4, Blue = 3, Black = 2, and White = 1. The commonest score-calling mistake is to call "3" for a Black, out of force of habit of scoring on a paper face – Remember, in Clout, Black Scores 2!

The measure tape is hooked onto the Clout Flag Pole and pulled out taught (some tapes have a length of bungee at the outer end which helps guarantee equal tension at all times). Five archers are detailed to gather the arrows from one scoring zone each (although sometimes, especially in Imperial Clouts where the inner scoring zones are small, one person will collect from the Gold and red zones, making sure to keep the two values separate, usually by pushing the Gold / 5 scoring arrows vertically alongside the flag pole, as shown above).

# Shooting (continued)

## Scoring (continued)

The person controlling the end of the measuring tape starts to walk forward around the Clout Circle and the nominated arrow collectors follow the tape and pull out the arrows which have hit and entered the ground in the zones they each are responsible for, and collect them in a bundle.

Pulling arrows from the ground at the Clout is not the same as pulling from a target boss. The basic principle of pulling them out at the same angle they went in still applies of course, but unlike Target Archery where you always approach from the rear end of the arrow, as the measuring tape swings round the circle, the direction of approach towards the arrows also swings through 360 degrees, which means sometimes you approach the arrows from the point end, so the arrow has to be withdrawn away from you instead of being pulled towards you. The arrow collectors need to step over the tape sometimes so they can safely pull the arrow back in the direction of the shooting line.

Another critical issue is scoring the arrow correctly. The tape must be brought round so it can touch each arrow where the arrow shaft enters the ground, but sometimes the tape will get trapped in the angle between the arrow shaft and the ground. If so it will be necessary to take the tape back until it disentangles, and bring it forward again over the top of the arrow so it lines-up cleanly between the clout pole and where the arrow shaft enters the ground. The arrow is then scored according to which section of the measure tape is touching the arrow shaft.



When the tape has been taken right round the circle it will be laid on the ground and all the collectors sort the arrows in their bundle and lay them out on the section of measure tape for the zone they've been collecting, grouped in sets if there is more than one arrow of the same type in the zone.

The Arrow Collectors then step back, and each archer is called up in turn to identify their arrows and call the scores, calling out the six values from high to low, preferably in two groups of three, in exactly the same way as in Target Archery, the only difference being that the archers should pick up their arrows after calling the value.



As there may be a larger number of archers shooting on the same target than would be the case for Target Archery, there are usually two or more people recording the scores on the scoresheets. So, if there are twenty archers, there may be four Scorers in addition to the four or five Arrow Collectors and the Measure Tape puller, so half the archers can be involved in collecting and scoring. All archers who aren't unable to do so because of an injury or disability should be ready to offer to help and take their turn with these tasks.

# Appendix 1

## Clout Sights - Recurves

There has been a shift in bow styles so now barebow and longbow Archers often outnumber recurve / freestyle Archers, and the archers using sights are often in a minority.

But if you haven't shot clout before, and if you normally shoot a recurve bow, then it's likely you'll want to use a sight, at least to start with. You may have noticed in the pictures in this booklet that quite a number of Recurve archers have devised ways of mounting a conventional bowsight, complete with ring aperture and micro-adjustment rail, onto their bow. The majority of Clout Sights are home-made to some extent, and there are also a few people who make and sell sights that bolt into the threaded sight-mount holes in your bow riser.

While there are nearly as many clout sight designs as there are clout archers who shoot sighted bowstyles, you don't need to be an Engineer to fit a completely functional sight on your bow. Before making up a sophisticated sight, for your first clout shoots you could adopt a simpler approach and do some experiments to find the best sight position by just using a length of self-adhesive draught-excluder foam tape and a dress-makers pin with a round coloured head (sometimes called a berry pin) pushed into the tape as the sight pin. If necessary you can easily reposition the tape if it's in the wrong place. You'll need tape with adhesive that's strong enough to keep the tape attached, but not so strong that it will take the paint of the bow if you peel the tape off. And be aware of the sharp end of the pin if it protrudes out of the far side of the foam tape.



Pin and Sponge Rubber Tape Sight

Some archers shoot Grand-Master-Bowman-level scores using sights like that.

The next stage of development would be to fix the draught excluder to a rigid metal or plastic strip or bar, and fix that to the bow. The Long-Rod stabiliser hole and the bottom limb housing stabiliser drilling make good attachment points, and by using both the bar is more likely to stay in place - but plenty of archers use the stabiliser fixing only, just be sure to keep it tight



## Appendix 1 - Recurve Bow Sights (continued)



And the final stage is to mount or adapt a conventional bowsight. Most Recurve-style archers are sighting somewhere between the top of their pistol-grip and the bottom of the riser, and a lot of archers either make up some kind of mount which clamps onto their long-rod, or fixes into either the long rod threaded bushing or to the threading on the bottom limb-bolt, or they make a bar which spans between these two threadings, and fix a standard bow sight to that. Other archers make extended drop-rods to fit into their normal bowsight; but whatever you do, the sight must be robust enough not to swing out of position with the shock of shooting.



Sight fixed to stabiliser rod

Recurve Bow clout sights must conform to the general definition of a bowsight in the Rules of Shooting, the most important of which is that there should only be ONE aiming point.

A good source of ideas for clout sights - including sights for Compound Unlimited Bows - is the Archery GB Judge Committee Clout Training Presentation which not only illustrates various types, also shows what is allowed and what is considered against the Rules. (downloadable from the NCAS website - Library - Judges Library)

Sight fixed to bar between long rod bush and lower limb attachment

### Clout Sights - Compound Unlimited Bows

There are very few limitations of the type of sight that can be used with an Unlimited Style bow, but an important consideration is whether it is possible to sight directly on the flag. Bear in mind that the WA clout distance is 20 metres further than the Imperial distance. Periscope mirrors and prisms are sometimes used. The Judges Training Presentation shows some ideas.

# Appendix 2

## CLOUT SHOOTING AIMING ANGLES

The diagrams below show the kind of angle typical medium weight recurve and compound bows need to elevate in order to hit the Gentlemen's 180 yard Clout. Both these bow styles are required to use a 'Low Trajectory', the high trajectories are shown out of interest, and to show that High Trajectory is not a useful option because there is no practical way to sight the bow, and arrows shot high would be subject to much more influence by the weather (wind speed increases with the cube of the distance above the ground, so doubling the height can increase the adverse wind effect by a factor of eight)

### TYPICAL MEDIUM WEIGHT RECURVE BOW

Arrow speed 200 feet per second  
Extreme Range at 45 degrees elevation about 350 yards



Low Trajectory Angle 16 degrees



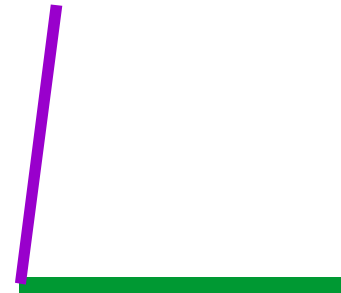
High Trajectory Angle 74 degrees

### TYPICAL MEDIUM WEIGHT COMPOUND BOW

Arrow speed 250 feet per second  
Extreme Range at 45 degrees elevation about 600 yards



Low Trajectory Angle 8 degrees



High Trajectory Angle 82 degrees

## WHAT ELEVATION WILL CAUSE THE ARROW TO GO BEYOND THE SAFETY AREA?

Novices and those who have never shot Clout may be surprised how little the bows, particularly the compound bow, needs to be elevated to reach 180 yards. The extreme far edge of the safety area would be 255 yards from the shooting area. The diagrams below indicate what is the steepest angle that would still result in the arrow landing within 255 yards.



RECURVE 24 degrees  
= 8 degrees increase



COMPOUND 12 degrees  
= 4 degrees increase

## CONCLUSION

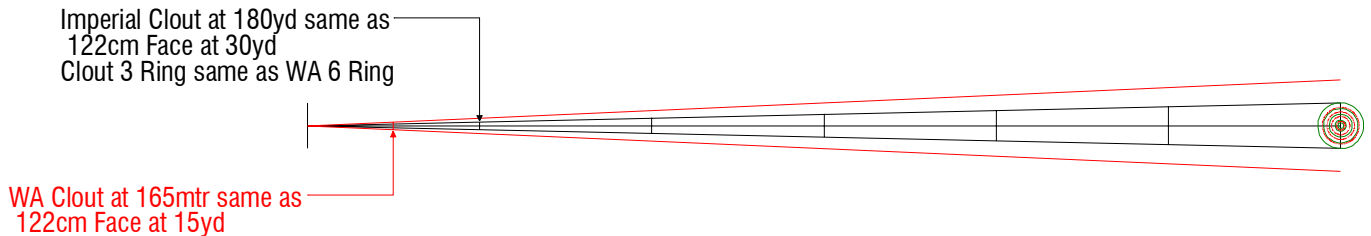
Compound archers must be extremely cautious, because a small increase in angle, or an elevation significantly lower than a recurve bow's 180-yard elevation, will result in over-shoot

# Appendix 3

## THE CLOUT TARGET IS HUGE - HOW COULD I MISS?

And it's worse than you thought - the WA score zone is like a full-size 122cm target at 15 yards. A beginner wouldn't miss that after one lesson.

*(ANSWER - it's the effect of the weather of course, the air is never totally still, and it will make arrows drift on a high trajectory lasting 3 seconds or so)*



# Appendix 4

## Short History and Origins Clout Archery

Everyone knows that Archery has been around for millennia, and was used first for hunting and later for warfare in nearly all parts of the world. There are many distinct Archery Traditions, but Modern Target Archery as regulated by the World Archery Federation descends directly from the military methods of the English King Edward I, who was impressed by the effective use of Heavy Bows by Welsh insurgents, and after subduing them in 1285 took them into his armies and introduced revolutionary tactics which were so lethal against larger armies that from then on all men in the Kingdom, English as well as Welsh, were trained in Archery from an early age.

Training took various forms. Nearly all towns and villages had Butts, where the shooting was very similar to modern Target Archery. Another type of target used in a similar way was the Wand, meant to represent an enemy in the middle distance. Roving simulated skirmishing and harrying at different distances, and would have been useful hunting practice too; and Clout was how the archers practised laying down accurate barrages or 'arrow storms' against enemy formations at long range.

The legendary reputation of the English Bowman persisted long after bows had been made redundant by firearms, and it was fascination with the legend, plus an element of healthy exercise recommended by doctors as a remedy for chest conditions, which revived Archery as a Sport. It had never quite died out of course, and the various disciplines had been kept alive by such associations as the Society of Archers (Butts – the Antient Scorton Silver Arrow competition), the Finsbury Archers (Roving), and the Woodmen of Arden (Clout).

Clout Archery began as military long-range 'artillery' practice for archers shooting heavy war bows with draw weights of 80 to maybe 200 pounds, but soon became a popular sport with big cash prizes, with the contestants shooting at targets as far away as "14-score yards", that's 280 yards (256 metres). The target was a large piece of cloth pegged to the ground (in those days they called cloth 'clout'). Nowadays the target is a small flag (except for the very small number of shoots which have several hundred years continuous history, where an angled 3-feet-diameter target is used).

# Endnote

*This just an introduction to Clout, not a coaching manual or a comprehensive handbook containing all the Rules, or all the information needed to run a Clout Shoot.*

*If you need more information, refer to the Archery GB and World Archery Federation Rule Books.*

*Other Sources of information are the Archery GB Judge Committee Clout Training Presentation by Neil Foden and the FITA Coach's Manual Intermediate Level Clout Archery Module.*

*Bodies such as the British Long Bow Society, The English War Bow Society, and the International Longbow Archers Association also host and promote Clout shooting in the UK.*

*Visit the Northern Counties Archery Society's website for latest UK Clout News, Information, Rule updates, and Rankings.  
<http://www.ncas.co.uk/clout.html>*

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