

You can't Shoot clout with a compound!

Part 1

By Robin Briggs (July 2000)

"You can't Shoot clout with a compound!"

These words of wisdom were ringing in my ears when I returned from the National championships in Townsville FNQ in 1984 where I had been representing WA as part of the men's recurve State team. The men's compound archers had a pretty tough time during their clout event as the ground was so hard where their target was set up that the organisers had to dump litres of water onto the baked clay target area each end in an effort to prevent 'bounce outs' and skips. So even though the weather conditions were almost ideal the compound scores were very low.

But under normal shooting conditions why would anyone make this sort of statement?

If you can shoot clout with a recurve why should it be any different with a compound? The basic principles are the same, you have an arrow which is shot from a bow so that it lands some distance away in an area of ground representing the target. The only real difference in the equipment used is that a compound bow projects the arrow at a greater velocity than a recurve bow.

The initial approach adopted to try and counter this extra speed was to make the distance from the shooting line to the target area greater for compound bows than for recurves. Whereas the men's recurve clout round was shot over 165 metres, the men's compound clout round was initially shot over 200 metres. Whilst this extra 35 metres helped to consume some of the extra thrust it was still necessary to apply a bit of thought and logic to compound clout shooting in order to achieve scores at least similar to those being achieved by recurve clout shooters.

After a few years and a few complaints relating to the 200 metre distance (too hard to find suitable grounds, requires 'special' equipment to shoot well, etc) the then Archery Association of Australia changed the distance in 1990 to the current 180 metres.

This move was not seen by all as a positive one but if it helped kindle the interest of the compound shooters in clout shooting then it was an appropriate one. One thing it did do was represent a new challenge to those who set up their gear to address the 200 metre distance as they then had to go through the process again in order to achieve reasonable results at the shorter 180 metre distance.

A testament to the fact that clout can be shot well with a compound are the current state records (refer table 1) which shows that in all divisions the highest double round records achieved by compound archers are higher than those records achieved by recurve archers. Also at this years Nationals held in Adelaide 12 men compound archers shot total scores higher than the top men's recurve score. Of course the other REALLY good thing about clout at the Adelaide Nationals this year is that ALL of the first places, that's ladies recurve and compound and men's recurve and compound, were won by West Australians so well done to all concerned. WA rules eh!

So what sort of things does one have to take into consideration in order to try and shoot compound clout scores equal to or better than recurve clout scores?

Is it a raffle...? as has been heard many a time whilst embarking on the trek from the shooting line to the target. Well it isn't any more of a raffle than the other archery disciplines but it does require different techniques and considerations to be applied in order to shoot consistent, good scores but.. there again so does field archery when compared with target archery!

Is there a secret...?

Yes, there is a secret that will be revealed sometime during this series of articles, so make sure you don't miss an issue.

One major point that should be kept in mind with regard to clout, and all archery disciplines, is that they represent challenges to the archer and it is those very challenges and the striving to meet them that gives the individual a sense of achievement and satisfaction.

To illustrate what I mean, in the context of target archery 90m is never easy to shoot but one strives to overcome the challenges of distance and prevailing conditions in order to achieve a good score. When one succeeds in this endeavour there is a degree of satisfaction realised in that one rose to the challenges and achieved. If we then went to other extreme and set up a target indoors at 10m with a 120cm face and shot at it there would be very little, if any, challenge in achieving a high score. So under these conditions one would get very little satisfaction, even if a 60 perfect was achieved every end, because there was no challenge.

So it's not merely the score that gives satisfaction but overcoming the challenges.

Recognising and appreciating this fact should help anyone get more satisfaction out of not only clout shooting but archery in general.

In an effort to cover the clout discipline in some detail without dominating the WA Archer this topic will be presented as a series of articles covering different areas of compound clout shooting as follows:

- Arrows - Which type etc.
- Sights - Available and recommended options.
- Techniques.
- The secret?

Stay tuned.

CLOUT RECORDS

	RECURVE		COMPOUND	
	Minor	Tourn.	Minor	Tourn.
LADIES	631 (D) 328 (S)	602 (D) 312 (S)	632 (D) 316 (S)	632 (D) 316 (S)
MEN	628 (D) 324 (S)	628 (D) 323 (S)	676 (D) 340 (S)	670 (D) 335 (S)

Table 1