

Norfolk Leads the Way

The UK's First County Clout League Takes Flight for a Second Season.



Last season, something quietly historic happened in archery circles; the launch of the first-ever UK County Clout League, here in Norfolk.

Three county teams stepped forward in that inaugural year. Three clubs willing to try something new. Three groups of archers who recognised that clout, one of the most traditional and yet thrilling disciplines in our sport, deserved a fresh competitive platform. This year, we want more. Not just more names on a results sheet, but more camaraderie, more county pride, more long-distance arrows soaring into the Norfolk sky and more clubs represented.

Why a County Clout League?

Clout has always held a special place in British archery heritage. From medieval musters to modern tournament fields, the challenge remains the same: distance, judgement, nerve and consistency.

Yet while target competitions are well established, county-level clout competition has lacked a structured, season-long format that encourages both participation and progression. The Norfolk Clout League (NCL) changes that.

It is simple. It is inclusive. And it is built for archers of all abilities. The idea behind the NCL was never simply about creating another competition. It was about growth. Growth of the discipline. Growth of participation. And crucially — growth of younger involvement.

I came to clout myself only three years ago. My first impression wasn't the distance, nor even the challenge of judging the wind. It was the walk. That steady procession up and down the field. The shared scoring. The laughter. The easy banter between ends. The unmistakable camaraderie that seems unique to clout. There is something about walking a few hundred metres together to score and retrieve arrows that builds conversation, friendships and community in a way few other formats can.

Something else was immediately apparent to me. The average age of participants was, let's say, comfortably experienced. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Clout benefits enormously from seasoned archers who understand patience, distance and discipline, but if this rich and historic format is to thrive long term, we must actively welcome new faces, especially younger archers. The league was created with that aim in mind. The league provides a structured, welcoming, low-barrier entry point to

encourage clubs to introduce newer members to distance shooting. This format gives juniors a reason to step onto the clout field and discover what it offers, because once you try it, it tends to hook you.

A Format Designed for Participation

All distances are shot in metric, meaning larger scoring zones than traditional imperial rounds. For many archers, particularly those new to clout, this makes scoring more accessible and confidence-building.

We have gents, ladies, juniors and importantly, every bow style has its place, be that longbow, recurve, barebow or compound.

Each discipline competes within its own category, but against the rest. Sounds complicated? It really isn't. Whilst there are leagues within the league, ensuring fair and meaningful competition across the board, it's the combined total that counts. At the end of the season, individual scores are combined to produce an overall club total. This isn't just about individual performance; it's about collective contribution. Every arrow matters. Every archer adds to the club's standing.

Flexible, Achievable, Competitive

There will once again be eight dates across the season. But here's the key: archers only need to submit three scores over the season to qualify. If you attend all eight? Your best three scores count. If you can only attend three? You are still fully competitive. This format removes barriers. Work commitments, holidays, family life; they need not prevent participation. The league works around archers, not the other way round.

Recognition and Reward

Awards will be presented in each category, celebrating excellence across bow styles and divisions. But beyond medals and trophies lies something greater; the pride of representing your club in a format designed specifically to grow clout participation. Last year proved the concept works. This year, we want to simply grow it.

Have-A-Go Sessions with Coaching

If your club does not shoot clout, but you have archers curious about distance shooting, this is the perfect gateway. If your club already shoots clout, why not be part of something bigger? If you value friendly rivalry, shared purpose and season-long motivation, this league delivers it.

This year, we're offering **three** have-a-go sessions with **free coaching** from some of the most experienced of clout archers. Please contact me for dates (see below). These sessions and indeed the league fixtures take place at the home of Fakenham Bowmen, at Fakenham Racecourse.

Three teams last year laid the foundation. Imagine what four, five, or more clubs could create. Imagine junior archers seeing their scores contribute to a county table. Imagine longbow and compound archers competing side-by-side under one league structure.

A Direct Appeal to Norfolk Clubs

- If your club already shoots clout; join us.
- If you have members curious about distance shooting; encourage them.
- If you have juniors looking for a new challenge; this is the perfect introduction.
- Three scores. Eight opportunities. Multiple bow styles. Individual and team recognition.
- But more than that; shared walks, shared laughter, shared arrows in the turf around a distant flag.
- Clout has so much to offer. Let's ensure the next generation discovers it.

The League is ready to grow. The only question is, will your club help lead the way?

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