



# CLOUT TIMES



ISSUE 10

NCAS TASSEL SCHEME NEWS

JANUARY 2023

## National Clout & Tassel Champs weekend

The 2022 year saw the entry much the same as the 2021, with the breakdown as follows. 2021 figures in brackets.

AGB National Champs	Seniors 119 (124)	Juniors 13 (11)
Tassel Scheme Champs	Seniors 112 (99)	Juniors 9 (7)

Lets try and get those increased for 2023



Just a few figures regarding the Tassel Award Scheme and attendance. Figures are for 2022 with 2019 figures (pre Covid)

	2022	2019
Imperial Tassel shoots	33 (3 cancelled)	38
Total archers	1369	2019
Average per shoot	45	53
Badges claimed	141	212
Metric Tassel shoots	27 (1 cancelled)	23 (1 cancelled)
Total archers	1304	1294
Average per shoot	50	58
Badges claimed	161	202

As you can see we have some way to go to get back up to pre covid levels.

## Reminder

The National Clout Championship & Tassel Scheme Championships Weekend –  
21 & 22 October 2023 – York.

## Any news or photos?

I aim to send Clout Times out once a year around Christmas/ New Year to include those having attained GMB/MB/JMB Classification status, Purple/ Gold Tassels and Metric 3/6 Clout End badges. I do like to include an archer profile if anyone provides me with one.

**Editor: Andrew Neal**

**Address—This will change again in 2023**

118 Moat Way  
Brayton  
Selby  
N.Yorkshire  
YO8 9TE  
E-mail: an@agneal.co.uk

## Thank You

I would like to thank those archers that have found time to write and submit an article for this edition

## **My life of Archery—by Lisa Goddard**

When your Club Captain is called "Mr Clout", you're gonna try clout whether you like it or not!

Archery for me, began on top of Almscliffe Crag. I was about 10 years old, and Dad and I would often go rambling with his Wine Circle. On this particular Sunday we'd wandered round the Yorkshire countryside and found ourselves atop the massive millstone grit outcrop. There, bathed in the kind of sunbeam that suggests God is involved, was a bow. Obviously, I'm being generous with that description, it was a bent branch held in tension with green wool. It was AMAZING. How it came to be on the Crag, who made it, and why they left it were questions for another time. It was MY bow now. No matter how straight I tried to whittle sticks from the hydrangea to be my arrows, it could manage a 2-yard twang at best. I played with it till the wool gave up.

My next experience with archery was this time under the gaze of the Cow and Calf on Ilkley Moor. This time it was a proper bow on an activity weekend with Girl Guides Young Leaders. The massive bruise on my forearm was a badge of honour, and only made me want to shoot more. I was invited by the instructor to shoot again, by which time I knew archery was the hobby for me. But it was time to go away to college, and as archery clubs are rarely in easily accessible city centre venues, it had to wait another 10 years.

I'd moved to Manchester, bought a car, and found a local club. Unfortunately, some unwanted attention from a male club member moved archery from my ideal hobby to the Oh Well Never Mind pile. I'd kind of given up on the idea of archery when 22 years later, a friend was waxing lyrical about her new hobby, that I should give it a go, and join her club. Bows and arrows were back on the table.

I went along, did a beginner's course (after 22 years it seemed the sensible route!) and joined the club. From the getgo, the atmosphere was nice. Lots of friendly faces, doing something they loved and who were only too happy to share their enthusiasm. Within a week of joining, I'd been gently shoved into my first club comp and had a great time. A couple of weeks later, the Clout Collective were hosting a clout instruction course for our club, down in Derby. I'd never heard of clout, but Wikipedia made it sound completely bonkers, so I went along. Changing my aim point from a goal post to a tree, to a cloud, and getting to my anchor point then just giving it "a bit more welly" made it feel like a game of chance, a craps shoot. And my shots certainly were...

### **Clout Classification scores**

These can be found on the Northern Counties Archery Society website, together with the GMB/MB/JMB claim forms.

Please re-claim each year even if you've got your badge  
See your name in Clout Times!

It wasn't until I went to my first clout competition at Neston a couple of months later that it all fell into place. Shuffling round the circle, the colour sergeants pick up the arrows that fall in their scoring zone and lay them down for collection. That's when it made sense. This was a massive boss laying down, and these ladies were amazeballs! We were shooting further than Usain Bolt sprints, and arrows were skewering the flag! At the end of my first clout comp, I came away with a third-class score and a white metric tassel... and those tassel badges are soooo pretty... I wanted more!

However, my 2nd competition was to be a rude awakening. Not all clouts are created equal. My first was metric- big happy circle of joy, but my second at Blundellsands was a tiny imperial circle. It wasn't awful tho. Clout has something of a relaxed atmosphere to it. The chatty stroll to collect arrows, the sharing of sweets, the collective conga/tango/mango song for the score 2,2,2. There's no po faces here, it's all rather fun. It was a blustery day with a little drizzle, but all in all rather nice... until the last minute of the presentation when the heavens opened. I stuffed my 1st place visitor lady barebow trophy in my pocket

and we ran for the car. My white tassel badge was in the post!

The question of the Tri Clout kept being asked. Eventually it was answered with me buying a tent and spending my 50th birthday at Neston. The first day was a two-way clout- the glorious weather did nothing to soften the blow of a pitiful performance and a very angry knee injury. The small imperial circle of sadness took its second day's victim, and I was it. However, the third day was rather different. I'd considered pulling out and just sitting in the sun, watching the arrows fly and taking painkillers by the fistful, when it was suggested that someone else could collect my arrows. All I had to do was stand up to shoot and sit down again. The lovely big metric circle of joy was kind to me. I found an aim point and was rewarded with clout after clout. At the end of the day, I came away with a blue metric tassel, and a bowman score.



With a bowman score, I had to check if it was just a fluke, right? And we'd bought a tent... So, York was promptly signed up for. The weather was reasonably kind, the rain held off, but the wind was vicious. Great big gusts that were hard to predict and were taking tents out. But the happy spirit was still there. Still, we shared sweeties, still we sang. I came away with 100 points exactly, and my black tassel. It wasn't till the presentation that it struck me that I was at the Nationals. The scores were amazing, and I wasn't at the bottom. The second day was the metric shoot, and the chance to see if that bowman score was a fluke. Turns out it wasn't! Another bowman score meant I was starting to get the hang of it! But the end of the season was fast approaching, and it would seem a terrible waste of effort to lose those 2 lovely BM scores...

I signed up for the Shropshire County clout.

Croesoswallt Archers shoot in the grounds of the National Ironwork Centre, under the watchful eyes of some crazy sculptures. The weather forecast suggested a mostly fine day with scattered showers. It was actually the windiest day ever with intermittent downpours. The windsock was whistling like a recorder, whilst the 30ft mech gorilla struggled to stay on his plinth. My big light Easton Jazz arrows were not ideal but did their best to fly true. I was shooting remarkably well considering the wind, but by lunchtime was a few points off target. The weather didn't really improve in the afternoon and despite the support from the gold giraffe, I finished the day 8 points short of my 3rd BM score. But those 2 bowman scores also meant I had 2 first class scores, so my consolation prize was my first-class clout classification. Oh, and some first place visitor ladies barebow bling! You can't do everything in the first year! There'd be no need to go back next year... And I am going back next year.

## Thanks from Mandie Elson



I am a member of The Clout Collective as well as being chair of 2 Target clubs Newark Castle Archers and Newark Orchard Archers which is a disabled school club.

On Friday 26th August I was hit with a very debilitating pain all over my body which led to me being rushed by ambulance to hospital and endured a 2 week stay. That weekend I was supposed to attend the Tri clout run by Goldcrest Archers with my fellow TCC members and several comp weekends following that.

Within a few days I was getting messages from the clout community offering support via text messages, messenger and email. These are people who I may have only shot with a few times last year but were genuinely concerned about myself and sent words of support daily.

I've had archers offering to give me lifts, put me up overnight, feed me, carry my kit if I do attend comps. I generally cannot express my gratitude to all these people for their love and support and I wanted to let the archery community know.

I made it to the AGB National Clout Championships where all these wonderful people were and archers like Lucy Copson offered to drive me, as I can't drive at moment, the lovely Carol Fairbrother and Barbara Williams put me up so I didn't have to camp. I mean how wonderful is all this!

All my clubs are being supportive and helping to keep Newark Castle Archers running smoothly and my clout club The Clout Collective are just a fabulous bunch of caring humans and my disability club Newark Orchard Archers have sent me a wonderful hand made and signed card saying how much they miss me and to hurry back soon.

I can't express how fantastic it is to know people do care at a time when I am frightened of what I'm losing at the moment which is my health and lifestyle.

I'm now going into hospital for major surgery and will be out of action for around 3 months which I'm grateful for as it means I should be ready for the clout season of 2023

I hope you can do something with this as I really want to get across how supportive a lot of the archery community are.

**The Tassel Scheme National Clout Rankings can be found on the Northern Counties Archery Society website**

**[www.ncas.co.uk](http://www.ncas.co.uk)**

Any queries please drop me an email on [an@agneal.co.uk](mailto:an@agneal.co.uk)

**A small request for any organisers reading this, can you please, if possible, let me have your shoot results in Excel format as it makes it much easier to collate all the scores, with less errors made with conversion.**

The grinning fool in the photo with a longbow in hand is me, back in June 2015. My sister Diane



and I had joined Morpeth Archers just over a year earlier and our club was hosting a friendly clout shoot. Tom Down (our coach, left) let me shoot the whistling arrow to start the shoot and that was it, the recurve never saw the light of day again. I pegged it to Merlin for a longbow and then put in an order for my first custom bow, with Alan Fleming. If I was crap at target with a recurve, I was unsurprisingly way worse with a longbow, and we had a lovely long field to shoot clout on so clout it was. I attended my first clout shoot in September 2015 – the DNAA County Clout. I met a load of incredibly lovely, helpful ladies who pretty much adopted me, and I knew I'd found my people.

In 2016 I was keen to get to more clout shoots, but work got in the way. I managed a couple later in the

year and dragged along my sister. Di was still persisting with recurve at this point, because she is a very stubborn lass and she hadn't yet seen the joy in clout, so she was my unofficial coach. Her coaching technique pretty much amounted to "Be less shit, Elaine". After a couple of shoots and realising how awesome clout is (and how bad a coach she is) Di also picked up a longbow and joined in. She's the younger sister so of course she's going to copy me, right?

Neither of us are particularly competitive, but we're siblings so of course we compete with each other. My smartest move was getting the young'un to agree to "winner buys tea" just around the time she started kicking my ass. I have dined out for free a lot on that one! And there's a cool trophy for it too, that swaps hands, given to us by Kath and Lee. The first year I competed Di got her hands on a literal horse-riding rosette declaring "Best in Show". The better Jobson archer is awarded Best in Show each year. Annoyingly, since just before the pandemic it's been Di, and I have had some struggles so I've never got it back yet. Turns out she's just the better archer, but don't tell her I said that.

Even with struggling I've still enjoyed shooting clout, and of course I'm happy to cheerlead for my lil sis! When she got a National Record at Tri Clout in 2021, I couldn't have been more proud. I was the one chasing up the certificate and website update.

Booking accommodation for shoots with a hot tub has been my consolation prize for the last couple of years but I eventually managed to (sort of) start getting my act together in mid September 2022, which of course was a bit blummin late in the day. Apparently aside from doing my physio, changing my bow, swapping from a glove to a finger tab and changing my entire technique all that was really required was a clear instruction to beat my sister.

We both love shooting clout and we love the people in the clout community. There are clearly too many to name but I'm sure they know who they are if I say people who have been really generous with their time and knowledge, so many people who are most excellent fun to shoot with, and people who have become great friends over the years.

Who knows what 2023 will bring? I'm not naturally strong so my winter training looks a bit like the snow training montage from Rocky IV and Di continues her crap coaching with sporadic helpful accented declarations of "If she dies, she dies".

There are not many clouts in our county, sadly, but I love driving (and hot tubs) so we travel a fair bit as many others do. Team Jobson are very much looking forward to another clout season and seeing everyone again. I may not break the tassel drought, I may not get that next classification, but it will be really good fun trying, for sure.

**Elaine Jobson, Morpeth Archers**

Once upon a very long time ago during the school summer holidays my mum wanted to get rid of/entertain my brother and myself.

This was back in the glory days of Wirral Borough Council when they had money to throw about willy nilly. A list of activities was produced and there, lo and behold, was Archery.

Well what else would two little boys who used to make bows out of sticks or garden canes and twine want to do.

We were duly signed up. For the life of me I can't remember where the course was held but Calday/Thurstaston comes to mind?!?!

Summer holidays flew by and at the end I wasn't sure Archery was for me, kept twanging myself with the bowstring and IT HURT!!!

Time rolls on and finally I think, wouldn't mind having another go at that archery lark.

Signed up for beginners' course at Bebington Archers (Oxton, Birkenhead).

Thoroughly enjoyed the course and the company especially Eve Craig who was one of the instructors.

She was great at getting people to enter competitions and I ended up shooting at Croesoswallt Archers Silver Dollar shoot as well as a novice shoot at New Century Bowmen in Macclesfield.

In 2014 I was alerted to a competition called "The Tri Clout" and was given a brief introduction / description / practical session at 100yds of Clout Oh well, no point in trying to argue with Eve so "go on then, I'll give it a go!"

Saturday - Double two-way - scored 15, Sunday - Double one-way - scored 35, Monday - Double one-way Metric/WA - scored 30 Got home and told the good lady wife that if I ever mentioned Clout again to tell me, you said "Nooooooo!!! Never again!!! Hate it"

New year and change of heart, felt that if I didn't try again and better my rubbish scores I'd failed, no external encouragement needed.

Double one-way WA/Metric 2015 - scored 149 - I WAS HOOKED!!!

Here I am all these years later still trying to beat my scores of 2017.

The Clout shoots website ( <https://www.clout-shoots.uk> ) just grew from a need to know where and when I needed to be at a competition as I'd retired in 2016 at the ripe old age of 52 and had time to spare.

Manual editing of a webpage was painful and time consuming so bored on Boxing Day a few years ago, I decided to teach myself how to display results on a website from a database. Job done and now edits are soooooo easy.

Anyway, now you know.

**Ian Downham**

My 1st ever Clout(5) with Easton Jazz Allys

Croesoswallt Archers Silver Dollar shoot - yes I got told off for the jeans!!



DIARY OF SHOOTS - CONFIRMED

Clouts shoots 2023 As at 01/01/23

02/04/2023	Kettering	Kettering
02/04/2023	Southampton	Southampton
08/04/2023	York	York
09/04/2023	St.Georges	York
15/04/2023	Yorkshire (M)	Driffield
15/04/2023	Waterside (M)	Southampton
16/04/2023	Yorkshire	Driffield
16/04/2023	Waterside	Southampton
01/05/2023	Cheshire (M)	Neston
13/05/2023	The Clout Collective (M)	Alfreton
27/05/2023	Archers of East Riding	Driffield
27/05/2023	Civil Service Nationals	Dial Post, Sussex
28/05/2023	Archers of East Riding (M)	Driffield
04/06/2023	SCAS	Caddington
10/06/2023	Eagle	Penrith
11/06/2023	Eagle (M)	Penrith
11/06/2023	Coastal	Burnham-on-Sea
01/07/2023	The Clout Collective	Alfreton
08/07/2023	Cumbria (M)	Penrith
09/07/2023	Cumbria(M)	Penrith
22/07/2023	Ray Defty (M)	Southampton
22/07/2023	Waterwheel	Branston
23/07/2023	Ray Defty	Southampton
23/07/2022	Lancashire	Liverpool
23/07/2023	Waterwheel (M)	Branston
06/08/2023	Southampton	Southampton
19/08/2023	Derbyshire (M)	Alfreton
20/08/2023	The Clout Collective	Alfreton
26/08/2023	Neston	Neston
27/08/2023	Cheshire	Neston
28/08/2023	Neston (M)	Neston
02/09/2023	Northern Counties (M)	York
03/09/2023	Northern Counties	York
10/09/2023	DNAA	Ashington
16/09/2023	Woodford (M)	Woodford Green, Essex
17/09/2023	Woodford	Woodford Green, Essex
30/09/2023	Kendal	Milnthorpe, Cumbria
01/10/2023	Kendal	Milnthorpe, Cumbria
21/10/2023	Nationals	York
22/10/2023	Tassel Scheme (M)	York
28/10/2023	Middlesex	Stanwell



A calendar of Tassel Shoots can be found on [www.ncas.co.uk](http://www.ncas.co.uk)

Or, on Ian Downham's website [www.clout-shoots.uk](http://www.clout-shoots.uk) which includes Entry Forms



**Grand Master Bowman**

Alan Tonge	TCC	Compound
Barbara Williams	Herts	Barebow
Bridget Evans	Stalybridge	Recurve
Carol Fairbrother	St.Georges	Barebow
Caroline Cater	TCC	Compound
Chris Baigent	Waterside	Recurve
Emma Mooney	Goldcrest	Compound
Hannah Mitchell	Southampton	Recurve
Karen McKay	Wyre Forest	Recurve
Mick White	Goldcrest	Compound
Neil Crickmore	Bronte	Compound
Ray Stevens	TCC	Barebow
Roz Summers	Southampton	Longbow
Sheila Hudson	White Rose	Longbow
Stefanie Probert	Beacon	Compound



**Purple - Imperial**

Mick White	Goldcrest	Compound
Bridget Evans	Stalybridge	Recurve
Isobel Lindsley-Frost (J)	Royal Richmond	Recurve
Ray Stevens	TCC	Barebow



**Gold - Imperial**

Daeron Meredith	Bruntwood	Compound
Edward Milner	York	Barebow
Emma Mooney	Goldcrest	Compound
Geoffrey Van Wyk	Waterside	Barebow
Hannah Mitchell	Southampton	Recurve
Joseph Stevens (J)	Adur Valley	Recurve
Neil Crickmore	Bronte	Compound
Sheila Hudson	White Rose	Longbow
Stefanie Probert	Beacon	Compound



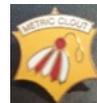
**Master Bowman**

Alan Holder	Forest of Bere	Barebow
Daeron Meredith	Bruntwood	Compound
Dicky Summers	Southampton	Longbow
Elaine Farley	Goldcrest	Compound
Erin Mayer	Stalybridge	Recurve
Geoffrey van Wyk	Waterside	Barebow
Hannah Mitchell	Southampton	Recurve
Karen McKay	Wyre Forest	Recurve
Paul Comina	Harlequin	Barebow
Rebecca Giddings	Forest of Bere	Recurve
Richard Allan	York	Barebow
Roxanne Prime	Eccles	Barebow
Shelly Latham	Goldcrest	Barebow
Steve Mayer	Stalybridge	Recurve
Stuart Burnett	Sellafield	Compound
Sue Houlihan	Southampton	Compound



**Purple - Metric**

Isobel Lindsley-Frost (J)	Royal Richmond	Recurve
Mick White	Goldcrest	Compound
Neil Crickmore	Bronte	Compound
Sheila Hudson	White Rose	Longbow
Trevor Carr	Nethermoss	Barebow



**Gold - Metric**

Daeron Meredith	Bruntwood	Compound
Edward Milner (Jnr)	York	Barebow
Elaine Farley	Goldcrest	Compound
Geoffrey Van Wyk	Waterside	Barebow
Nicola Curtis	Adur Valley	Longbow
Sheila Hudson	White Rose	Longbow
Shelly Latham	Goldcrest	Barebow
Stef Probert	Beacon	Compound



**Junior Master Bowman**

Hannah Fox	York	Recurve
------------	------	---------



**Metric 6 Clout End**



**Metric 3 Clout End (Longbow)**

Abby Thornton	Whitburn	Recurve	Derek Warriner	TCC
Alison Innes	Bournemouth	Recurve	Sheila Hudson	White Rose
Daeron Meredith	Bruntwood	Compound		
Edward Milner (J)	York	Barebow		
Elaine Farley	Goldcrest	Compound		
Fiona Harris	St.Georges	Barebow		
Isobel Lindsley-Frost (J)	Royal Richmond	Recurve		
Jared Thornton	Whitburn	Recurve		
Kat James	Paradox	Recurve		
Kim Blakebrough	LAOFAC	Recurve		
Laura Brooksbank	Goldcrest	Recurve		
Matthew David	Bronte	Recurve		
Ray Stevens	TCC	Barebow		
Stef Probert	Beacon	Compound		

### Clout Classifications—Don't forget to reclaim

From the chart below there were more claims made in 2021 than there were for 2022, even though there were less shoots. Is that right? I find it hard to believe, but why aren't archers claiming?

### Classification Awards 2022 (2021 numbers)

	Ladies	Gents
<b>Master Bowman</b>	Recurve 4 (3)	Recurve 1 (4)
	Compound 2 (4)	Compound 2 (1)
	Longbow 0 (2)	Longbow 1 (4)
	Barebow 2 (4)	Barebow 4 (1)
<b>Grand Master Bowman</b>	Recurve 3 (2)	Recurve 1 (1)
	Compound 3 (1)	Compound 3 (5)
	Longbow 2 (0)	Longbow 0 (1)
	Barebow x 2 (3)	Barebow 1 (2)
<b>Junior Master Bowman</b>	Barebow 0 (2)	
	Recurve 1 (0)	

### Tassel Award

#### Status

Application forms and guidance notes can be found on [www.ncas.co.uk](http://www.ncas.co.uk)