# Notes about Clout From Rick Stonebraker

The CLOUT is a white triangular flag affixed to a wooden pole in the center of the clout circle. Each ring is 1.5 meters (4 foot 11 inches) from the center of the circle measured outward. The center circle is 3 meters in diameter (9 feet 10 inches). The five scoring rings are 5 for the center and 4,3,2 and 1 point. All details about practice and scoring will be explained at the event. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope will be most helpful.

## The Ancient Practice of CLOUT SHOOTING

by Cliff Huntingdon

The term clout shooting is derived from the act of shooting at a clout. The clout itself is nothing more than any mark, historically white and in its most simple form, a small white rag. This is accomplished at long ranges, customarily between 9 score and 12 score yards. The event dates back to the first Elizabeth and has been practiced in varying form for many years and is an "old English form of competitive archery at a single mark."

Clout shooting probably evolved out of a need to train archers "to shoot to a length." The English were not disposed to willingly practice and maintain a degree of proficiency as is sometimes portrayed in verse and cinema. Without the compulsory week-end practice as was commonly dictated by law, skills necessary to successfully fend off aggression in defense of land and life were quickly lost. The English had to be forced to practice. From these forced sessions clout shooting was developed as the means to mass huge numbers of arrows to a common point. Archers provided a primitive yet highly effective form of artillery and history would record in graphic detail it’s effectiveness. During The Hundred Years War, the outcome of battles at Crecy, Poitiers and Agincourt would certainly have been different without the massed firepower of these ancient archers.