STAFFORD ARCHERS
Members Guide

Glossary of archery terms

ANCHOR POINT  - (Now known as the Reference Point) A constant position on the face to which the string and loosing hand is drawn

ARROW REST/SHELF  - A shelf above the bow handle on which the arrow rests during the draw.

BACK (of Bow)  - The part of the bow that is on the opposite side to the string.

BAREBOW  - An archer who uses no sighting aid on his/her bow.

BASIC TECHNIQUE  - A systematic method of teaching a fundamental style of shooting.

BOW ARM  - The arm that holds the bow.

BOW SIGHT  - An adjustable device used for aiming.

BOW SLING  - A strap, chain or cord loosely holding the bow to the archer's bow hand

BOW STRINGER  - used to brace the bow

BOWYER  - One who makes bows.

BOSS  - Target - usually made of compressed straw or foam sections.

BOUNCER  - An arrow that hits the target and rebounds off it

BOW WINDOW  - A space between the bow and string through which the archer may be sighting.

BRACE  - To string a bow

BRACER  - A shield worn on the inner side of the forearm holding the bow.

BRACING HEIGHT  - Distance between the string and a specified point on the bow when the bow is strung or braced.

CAST  - A term used to describe the power of the bow to project an arrow

CLOUT SHOOTING  - A form of archery contest at almost twice maximum target archery distance with a flag, called a Clout, as an aiming point.

COCK FEATHER  - The feather, or fletching, at right angles to the nock of the arrow

COMPOSITE BOW  - A bow made of different materials

COMPOUND BOW  - The most recent development in bow design, incorporating cams

CONTROLLING EYE  - An archer's dominant eye - usually used for sighting

CREEPING  - Allowing the arrow to slide forward from full draw before being loosed

DRAW  - The act of extending the bow and string

DRAW FORCE LINE  - A straight line from the point of the drawing arm elbow, through the nock of the arrow to the pressure point of the bow hand, when at full draw.

DRAW WEIGHT  - The amount of pull, measured in pounds, required on the string to extend the bow to a stipulated draw length.

EYE/SIGHT/ARROW RELATIONSHIP  - The position where the eye directly above the arrow is looking to the sight, which is directly above the pile of the arrow, thus forming the four corners of a rectangle in the vertical plane.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>WORD</strong></th>
<th><strong>DEFINITION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>END</td>
<td>Set number of arrows shot by each archer before going to the target to score.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAST! (shouted)</td>
<td>Traditional call for immediate halt to all shooting because of unexpected hazard, contraction from 'HOLD FAST'.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIBREGLASS</td>
<td>Material combined with plastic used to make practice bows, also used in making laminations for composite bows.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIELD CAPTAIN</td>
<td>Person responsible for controlling shooting at a Club or at a Tournament.</td>
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<td>FIELD SHOOTING</td>
<td>A form of archery derived from hunting.</td>
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<td>FINGER TAB</td>
<td>A shaped piece of leather worn on the loosing fingers, to aid smooth release.</td>
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<td>FISTMELE</td>
<td>Ancient term for brace height. To check on the height of his string, the Bowman placed his hand against the grip of the bow and made a fist with his hand towards the string.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F.I.T.A.</td>
<td>The acronym for the Federation Internationale de Tir a l Arc, or the international Archery Federation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FACE (of bow)</td>
<td>The part of the bow nearest the string.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLETCH</td>
<td>To fix a feather or plastic vane to an arrow shaft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLETCHINGS</td>
<td>A collective word to describe the feathers or vanes on an arrow.</td>
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<td>FLETCHING JIG</td>
<td>A device to assist in fletching arrows.</td>
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<td>FLIGHT SHOOTING</td>
<td>Shooting for the longest possible distance.</td>
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<td>FOOT MARKS</td>
<td>Small discs, of specified height, used to mark an archer's standing position.</td>
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<td>FOLLOW THROUGH</td>
<td>Maintenance of the full draw position until the arrow has passed the bow after loosing.</td>
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<td>FREESTYLE</td>
<td>A class in archery which allows a recurve bow to be fitted with sights and stabilisers.</td>
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<td>G.N.A.S.</td>
<td>Grand National Archery Society. The governing body for archery in England and Wales. Now known as Archery GB</td>
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<td>GOLD</td>
<td>The yellow centre of the multi-coloured Target Face in Target Archery.</td>
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<td>GROUND QUIVER</td>
<td>Metal stand for holding bows and arrows.</td>
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<td>GROUP</td>
<td>Description of arrows close together in the Target.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HANDLE</td>
<td>The part of the bow that is held in the hand.</td>
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<td>HOLDING</td>
<td>Keeping the bow on aim.</td>
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<td>LIMBS</td>
<td>The upper and lower working parts of the Bow.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOADED BOW</td>
<td>A bow with an arrow on the string.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOOSE</td>
<td>The action of releasing the string.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOCK (of arrow)</td>
<td>The slot in the end of the arrow which is placed on the string.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOCK (of bow)</td>
<td>The grooves at the end of the bow into which the string is fitted.</td>
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<td>NOCKING POINT</td>
<td>The exact point on the string where the nock of the arrow is placed.</td>
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<td>OVERBOWED</td>
<td>To use a bow with a draw weight that is too heavy for an archer.</td>
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</table>
OVERDRAW - To draw the pile of the arrow past the face of the bow.

PARADOX - Archer's paradox is the apparent tendency of an arrow to fly straight ahead, although it is pointed to one side of the bow. This is accomplished by a series of diminishing bends of the shaft, which ultimately straighten out in flight.

PILE - The point of an arrow.

PINHOLE - The exact centre of a target face.

PRACTICE BOW - A bow with light draw weight, fibreglass or wood, used for teaching beginners.

QUIVER - Receptacle for holding arrows, usually worn on the belt

RECURVE - A bow with curved limb tips

RELEASE - Same as loose

ROUND - Shooting a specific number of arrows at specified distances.

SERVING - Whipping on a bow string.

SERVING TOOL - Small instrument used to apply serving to a bow string.

SHAFT - An arrow.

SHOOTING LINE - The line astride which an archer stands when shooting.

SIX GOLD - A target archery achievement in which all six arrows in an end strike the gold.

SPINE - The relative stiffness of an arrow shaft.

STABILISER - A rod, of metal or carbon, extending forward or back from the bow handle. Stops rapid movements which are unwanted and dampens shock affects.

STANCE - An element of archery form, the way an archer stands during the act of shooting.

TARGET ARCHERY - A form of archery competition in which the contestants shoot at targets at known distances and on cleared level terrain.

TARGET CAPTAIN - The person in charge of the conduct of archers shooting at a target

TARGET FACE - Material cover for a target boss on which scoring rings are printed or painted.

TARGET LIEUTENANT - Assistant to the Target Captain

TARGET STAND - Wooden stand supporting the Target boss

TOXOPHILITE - One who is an archer or archery fan, from the Greek

UNDERBOWED - To use a bow to light a draw weight

UNDERDRAW - Not to draw sufficient arrow length

VISITOR'S LINE - A line 15 yards behind the shooting line and parallel to it

WAITING LINE - A line 5 yards behind the shooting line where archers wait while other archers are shooting.