The British Long-Bow Society

Patron : The Earl of Aylesford

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Rules of Shooting

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FOREWORD

1. **Purpose.**
The British Long-Bow Society (BLBS) was founded in 1951 for the specific purpose of perpetuating the traditions associated with the recreational long-bow: that is, the pursuit of excellence whilst shooting in the old, 2 way style with bows made as nearly as practicable in the 19th century manner, at English target and clout rounds in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere. The Society also encourages the craft and skills associated with traditional bowyery and fletching.

2. **Membership.**
Membership of the Society is open to everyone in sympathy with its purpose and agreeable to its principles and rules. Junior membership being available to young people up to the age of 16 years. There is a scheme which allows Long-Bow only clubs in the United Kingdom to be affiliated to the Society.

3. **Tournaments and Bow Meetings.**
The first tournament of the Society was held in 1951 and the first Annual General Meeting in 1952. Nowadays, bow meetings are organised on a regular basis in most parts of the U.K; From time to time bow meetings organised to BLBS rules are held overseas.

4. **Etiquette.**
An essential element of the traditions and atmosphere which the Society seeks to perpetuate concerns etiquette on the field. Members are, therefore, expected to conform to the following principles when attending the Society's bow meetings:

a. "*Archers, being ladies and gentlemen, at all times conduct themselves in a seemly and sober fashion; their attire also being of a moderate and decent appearance, as befits the traditions and dignity of the Long-Bow".*

b. *"Being considerate of each other, Archers make no disturbance which may upset another in the making of a shot. Not even a finger is laid upon another's equipment without express permission; and the offer is made at once to pay for, or replace, any arrow belonging to another, which may have been broken or become damaged in consequence of one's action."*

c. *Equally, being mindful of their Target Captain's duties, they take care that, before going beyond the Target for the purpose of recovering their arrows, they firstly declare score in a clear manner.* (NB: Arrows lying short of the target should be recovered before scoring commences).

5. **Dress.**
   Although the Society has no Dress Rules as such, most members, being mindful of Paragraph 4a above, normally wear dark green and/or white, or clothing of sober colour at the Society's bow meetings. Ladies may, if they wish, wear long skirts and Gentlemen are encouraged to wear a tie or cravat, with jacket or blazer, whilst at luncheon and tea. Members attending bow-meetings and shoots organised by other societies should conform to the host society's dress rules regardless of whether or not the shooting is governed by BL-BS rules.

6. **Records.**
   The scores made at the Society's Bow Meetings are recorded by the Honorary Recorder together with the highest scores made at the various rounds shot. Bow Meeting Organisers are, therefore, requested to send the original score sheets to the Recorder as soon as possible after each meeting. The Recorder also keeps a note of "record" scores made at long-bow rounds at other meetings shot to the Society's Rules provided that they have been authenticated by the meetings' organisers.

7. **Insurance.**
   The terms and conditions of the Society's Insurance, so far as it affects individual members, can be found within the Society's current edition of the **Events Guide (and also on the Society's website).**

8. **Rules.**
   The Society's Rules for its Organisation and the conduct of its Bow Meetings and Shoots are set out in this booklet. Recommended Field Layouts for Clout and Target Shooting are detailed in Annex A, and the rules for scoring by "Ends" are at Annex B.

THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY

ORGANISATION

1. The Society is called "The British Long-Bow Society" and the address is that of the Honorary Secretary for the time being.

2. **The Aims of the Society are to:**

    a. Safeguard and perpetuate the traditions associated with the recreational long-bow.
    b. Provide opportunities for members to shoot in the traditional two-way style, at English Target and Clout Rounds, in a pleasant and relaxed manner for the Society's Awards and Medals and for private practice in the long-bow at target and clout.
    c. Encourage the craft and skills associated with traditional Bowyery and Fletching.

3. **Membership** of the BL-BS is open to all Archers who are in sympathy with its purpose and agreeable to its principles and rules. Young persons up to the age of 16 years may (subject to the approval of the Honorary Secretary in each case) become Junior Members; who must, while shooting, at all times be supervised by a parent or guardian. Membership is a requirement before shooting at any of the Society's Bow Meetings.

4. **The Annual Subscription** shall be determined from time to time by the Membership in General Meeting.

5. **Management.**
   The management of the Society is vested in a Committee consisting of the Officers viz: the President, Honorary Recorder, Shooting Representative, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer may be one person. Each officer shall hold office from the time of his or her election at a General Meeting until such time as:
    a. The nomination of a successor, duly seconded, is received in writing by the Honorary Secretary, when a ballot shall be held at the next general meeting; or
    b. The Officer resigns.

6. **General Meetings.**
   At least one General Meeting shall be held each year, not more than 15 months after the previous General Meeting, when the Honorary Treasurer shall present the Society's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the calendar year ending the previous 31st December. Also, the Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected and any proposed changes to the Annual Subscription and the Rules shall be considered. The notice of a General Meeting shall be no less than 14 days and a quorum shall be 30. There shall be no voting by proxy. Items of "any other business" must be raised in person.

7. **Affiliated Long-Bow Only Clubs.**
   Affiliation of a Long-Bow only club to the BL-BS provides it with advice on club organisation and management together with insurance cover for the club target, clout, and practice shoots. Affiliation is conditional upon the following:
    a. All Club members must be individual members of the BL-BS.
    b. The constitution of the Club and the layout of its ground must be approved by the BL-BS Honorary Secretary.
    c. The current affiliation fee must have been paid.

TACKLE

8. **Bows.** The bow shall be the traditional 19th century recreational long-bow made from wood, either "self", "backed" or "laminated" with cambered (stacked) belly and horn nocks. The bow shall be not less than 5 feet in length for an arrow of less than 27 inches and not less than 5 feet 6 inches in length for a 27 inch or longer arrow, this being measured along the back between the string nocks. At no point shall the depth of the bow, measured from back to belly, be less than 5/8 (five eighths) of the width of the bow at the same section. The bow may carry no support for the arrow. Bows of bamboo constructed in conformity with the above shall be permitted. For reasons of safety, bows over 70 lbs weight at full draw are not allowed for Target or Clout shooting. In addition the following shall apply:
   (1) **Self and backed Bows.** The profile of self bows and bows backed with a single laminate shall be governed solely by the unaltered natural shape of the staves or billets from which the belly of the bow is made. The depth of the back shall generally not be more than a third of the total at any point.
   (2) **Laminated Bows.** Laminated bows may be made from wood or bamboo and may contain from three to six laminations from back to belly inclusive. When braced the profile of each limb shall be a simple curve from handle to nock.
   (3) **Adhesives.** Modern adhesives are permitted in the making of the bow but may be used for no purpose other than joining together the various sections.

Nocks. The horn nocks shall completely surround the tip of each limb.

For all Bows the string may contact the braced bow only at the nocks and shall not touch the limbs. Extra laminations at the nocks to thicken the bow, or to help to separate string from the bow, are not allowed.

9. Strings. Strings may be of either natural or man-made substance and may, if desired, embody a "kisser" at any point as required to facilitate, by contact with the lips, a consistent draw position but for no other purpose. The use of extended platform tabs is not permitted.

10. Sights and Points of Aim. Sights, as such, are not permitted. Marks on the bow limb or rubber bands of no more than 1/8 (one eighth) inch in depth and thickness, or marks on the bow hand, are allowed. Artificial points of aim on the ground are permitted, but they shall not exceed a height from the ground of 6 inches or a diameter of 3 inches nor impede any other Archer. Only one aiming aid may be used at any one time.

11. Target and Clout Arrows. Arrows shall have wooden steles (shafts), shall be fitted with feather fletchings and may have either horn reinforced, self or applied nocks. Piles should not exceed the diameter of the shaft at the point of fitment. Shouldered piles, whilst not disallowed, should be avoided because of excess damage to straw targets. Broadhead, edged, bodkin, silver spoon or other large diameter piles are not permitted. Arrows must be properly marked so that there shall be no difficulty in claiming them.

BOW MEETINGS

ELIGIBILITY AND CONDUCT

12. Only members of the Society may shoot at the Society's Bow Meetings. Entry fees shall be decided by the Honorary Secretary and the Bow-Meeting Organisers and must be paid before the shoot begins.

13. The Equipment to be used shall be confined to the traditional long-bow and wooden arrows as defined in Rules 8 to 11.

14. The conduct of every Bow Meeting of the Society shall be under the direction of a Field Captain approved by the Honorary Secretary for the occasion.

15. Shooting shall be two-way, three arrows to be shot at each end. No practice shot shall be allowed before shooting begins.

16. Shooting will begin upon a signal (by whistle) from the Field Captain, who shall thereafter likewise indicate the termination of each end, upon which Archers shall proceed to the opposing shooting point or line.

17. Only those Archers who are shooting, or are about to shoot their arrows, shall occupy the shooting points or line. Archers awaiting to shoot, or who have shot, shall occupy positions at, or behind, their near targets and will have a care not to distract those who are shooting.

18. If an Archer, whether by accident or no, is unprepared to shoot after all others have shot, he shall lose the benefit of that end.

19. Scoring is the responsibility of the Target Captain (the third named on the list of Archers for that target or detail) assisted by his Lieutenant (the fourth named on the list), as is the conduct of the target.

20. Archers shall not draw arrows from the target before all in the target are scored. If an arrow is drawn before it is declared and marked, it shall not score.

21. Having scored their arrows and the opposing line of targets being clear, Archers may begin shooting the next end at will unless otherwise directed by the Field Captain.

22. On perception of a danger, any person may halt the shooting by calling "FAST". When the ground is clear the Field Captain will give the signal for shooting to re-commence.

23. If the conduct of any person on the ground, whether an Archer or spectator, be deemed unsatisfactory, and that person persist, that person may be required by the Field Captain to withdraw, and no shooting shall be permitted until such withdrawal be made.

DISPUTES

24. If an arrow falls from a bow through mis-nock, or such mishap, and an Archer is able to reach it with his bow from his standing point, then it is no shot and he may retrieve it and shoot again.

25. If an arrow lodges in a line dividing two scoring zones of the target, or touches two colours, then the Archer is entitled to claim the higher value.

26. If an arrow, having hit the target rebounds therefrom, it shall not score and may not be retaken. If an arrow breaks upon hitting the target, leaving sufficient in the target to be visible, it shall score according to the zone it touches.

27. If there is a dispute about the value of score of an arrow the matter shall be decided by a majority of Archers at the target, exclusive of the owner of the arrow. In the case of opinions being equally divided the Field Captain shall decide the point.

28. In the event of a dispute over the eligibility of equipment, such dispute shall be resolved by a majority vote of five members called together by the Field Captain exclusive of the owner of the equipment concerned.

FIELD SAFETY

29. Those organising Bow Meetings shall pay due heed to access to the shooting area. Where there is a risk of public access behind or beside the Targets, Clouts or target area, this should be minimised by the provision of a roped-off area with suitable warning notice (supplemented at the Field Captain's discretion by responsible Stewards).

30. Recommended over-shoot and lateral safety distances for Clout and Target shooting are given in Annex A.

31. In the matter of Clout shooting on a ground which does not permit one detail of Archers to advance towards or stand adjacent to one of the opposing Clouts whilst the other detail is shooting and, at the same time, remain outside the recommended distances, matters shall be arranged so that the non-shooting detail is always behind or beside those shooting.

INFORMAL SHOOTS AND PRIVATE PRACTICE

32. Two-way Clout and Target shooting is the norm and is to be encouraged, but private practice, instruction, demonstration and recruitment displays and 'have-a-go' shooting may be shot one-way if desired. Instruction of prospective members, displays and 'have-a-go' shoots should always be under the direction of a senior and competent club member.

33. No archer should shoot alone but always be accompanied by another competent adult who can keep lookout and act in case of accident as necessary.

TARGET SHOOTING

FIELD LAYOUT

34. The targets shall be arranged in two parallel lines, facing each other, in accordance with the detailed plan at Annex A. All distances shall be measured either from the pin-hole or from the point on the ground vertically below it. Whenever possible, the field should be arranged so that Archers shoot in the north/south direction.

35. Flat markers shall be set in the ground at the necessary ranges in front of each and all Targets to mark the points from which Archers shall shoot. These points may be joined by lines or tapes.

THE TARGETS

36. Target faces shall be the standard faces, 4 feet in diameter, with 5 zones severally Gold, Red, Blue, Black and White. The successive zones shall score 9,7,5,3 and 1 leading outward from the Gold. If desired, an inner circle of two inches diameter may be marked in the centre of the Gold for the purpose of determining eligibility for a Gold Sweep.

37. The targets shall be set on stands so as to be inclined backwards at an angle of 15 degrees from the vertical.

38. The targets shall be set with their pin-holes at 4 feet and 3 inches above ground level, but may be dressed after being mounted so that they appear of equal height when viewed from the shooting points or line.

ROUNDS

39. The principle Round for Gentlemen is the York Round being, in order, 72 shots at 100 yards, 48 shots at 80 yards and 24 shots at 60 yards. The principle Round for Ladies is the Double National Round being two Rounds shot in sequence each of, in order, 48 shots at 60 yards and 24 shots at 50 yards.

40. With the prior permission of the Honorary Secretary, other rounds may be shot at the Society's Bow Meetings if space is limited and/or it is desired that ladies and gentlemen shoot together.

AWARDS

41. At the Society's Target Bow Meetings the precedence of Awards shall be:

    Silver Medal - to the Archer who scored the highest number of Hits on the Target.

    Bronze Medal - to the Archer who secured the highest Score by value of the zones hit.

    Bronze Medal - to the Archer who hit the Gold most frequently.

In the event of a tie in Hits the matter shall be decided in favour of the Archer with the highest Score. If the issue is not then resolved it shall be the Archer with the highest number of Golds, or in sequence through the colours. No Archer shall gain more than one of the above Awards at a single Bow Meeting. The Society's Large Medals are awarded to all the rounds shot by Ladies. Large Medals are awarded to Gentlemen who shoot at rounds which include the 100 yards distance such as the YORK rounds, small medals are awarded at target rounds that do not include the 100 yards distances such as the ALBION round.

42. **The Founder's Medals**.
    Presented by Kenneth Ryall-Webb Esq. to mark the Society's 50th Target Championship in September 2000, the Founder's Medals shall be awarded annually at the Target Championship Meeting to the Lady and Gentlemen whose Scores show the greatest percentage improvement over those made the previous year. The medals will be held for 12 months and are to be returned to the Meeting Organiser at or before the next Championship.

CLOUT SHOOTING

FIELD LAYOUT

43. Clout Targets shall be arranged in pairs, facing each other, in accordance with the detailed plan at Annex A. If more than one pair of Targets is laid, the Clouts shall be no less than 12 yards apart when at the same range, or 50 yards apart when at different ranges. If space is restricted for length, archers may shoot from the safety line behind an inactive clout with the gentlemen's clouts placed at a distance of 130 yards: if space is restricted for width, ladies may shoot from the same line as the gentlemen with their clouts placed 120 yards from the shooting line but displaced laterally sufficient to provide clear lines of sight for both. In all cases both lateral and range safety distances must be strictly observed.

THE TARGETS

44. The Clout Target shall be 30 inches in diameter and shall be white with a four inch diameter black spot at the centre. It shall be supported on a ground stand so that it is resting on the ground at its lowest point and inclined backwards at an angle of some 45 degrees.

45. The target area as a whole shall be marked or indicated on the ground by successive circles at radii from the point vertically below the centre of the Clout of 30 inches, 4 feet, 7 feet, 10 feet and 13 feet known, respectively, as the foot, half-bow, bow, bow-and-a-half and two bow rings.

46. Scoring shall be thus: a hit or a touch of the Clout or leg of the stand (the arrow remaining in contact) shall score 6; an arrow in or touching the outermost extent of the foot circle (where the arrow enters the ground) shall score 5; thereafter, for each successive circle 4, 3 and 2, culminating in a score of 1 for an arrow within the two-bows ring. An arrow not entering the ground shall score according to the position of the point of the pile.

SHOOTING

47. Archers shall stand in a line across the target area, level with the Clout. If numbers are too great for all to stand in one line, two details may be formed to shoot alternately from either end, the opposing target area being clear of Archers.

ROUNDS

48. The Round to be shot shall be the Double Clout Round, that is two rounds in sequence, each of 36 arrows in 12 ends of three arrows.

AWARDS

49. At the Society's Clout Bow Meetings the precedence of the Awards shall be:

    Silver Medal - to the Archer who secured the highest aggregate Score for the Double Round

    Bronze Medal - to the Archer who secured the highest Score for the First Round.

    Bronze Medal - to the Archer who secured the highest Score for the Second Round.

In the event of a tie the matter shall be decided in favour of the Archer who hit most frequently within the target area. If there still be a tie, then to the Archer who most frequently hit the Clout. If the matter is not then resolved, then they both shall shoot again until one Archer achieves the better scoring shot, equal number of shots being made by both. No archer shall gain more than one

of the above Awards at a single Bow Meeting unless the archer is the winner of the Ends Shoot-off when they will be awarded an additional small silver medal.

50. **The Patron's Medals.**

Presented by Lord Aylesford in June 2001 to mark the Society's Jubilee Year, the Patron's Medals shall be awarded at one of the principal Clout Meetings each year to the Lady and Gentleman who win the shoot-off by "Ends" (see Annex B). The medals, awarded for the first time at Meriden in June 2001, will thereafter rotate between all the Clout Meetings and the order of rotation will be decided by the Committee each year. The medals will be held until the next year and are to be returned to the appropriate Tournament Organiser at or before the next contest. On return of the medal (and whilst stocks last) the winner will be presented with a clasp as permanent memento.

CLOUT SHOOTING – SCORING BY ENDS

1. The Patron's Medal is awarded on the basis of "Ends" (see Para 50) won during the Clout Round followed by a shoot-off. During the round the competition will be between archers in the same detail only. If there is only one detail, the shoot-off will be between the four archers who have won the highest number of ends; if there are two details, between the two archers from each detail with the highest number of ends; and if there are four details, between the single archer from each detail with the highest number of ends. In the event of a tie within a detail the archer with the highest score will go forward to the shoot-off.

SCORING

2. The arrow that wins the End is that which is closest to the centre of the Clout. If two or more arrows are in the Clout, the best Clout wins. If no arrow is in the Clout arrows are measured from the centre of the Clout to the nearest point of the arrow as follow:
   a. For arrows short of the Clout: measure from the centre of the Clout to the point where the arrow enters the ground.
   b. For arrows past the Clout: measure from the centre of the back of the Clout to the nock.
   c. For arrows beside the Clout: measure from the centre of the Clout (front and/or back) to the closest point of the arrow (including its shaft and fletchings).

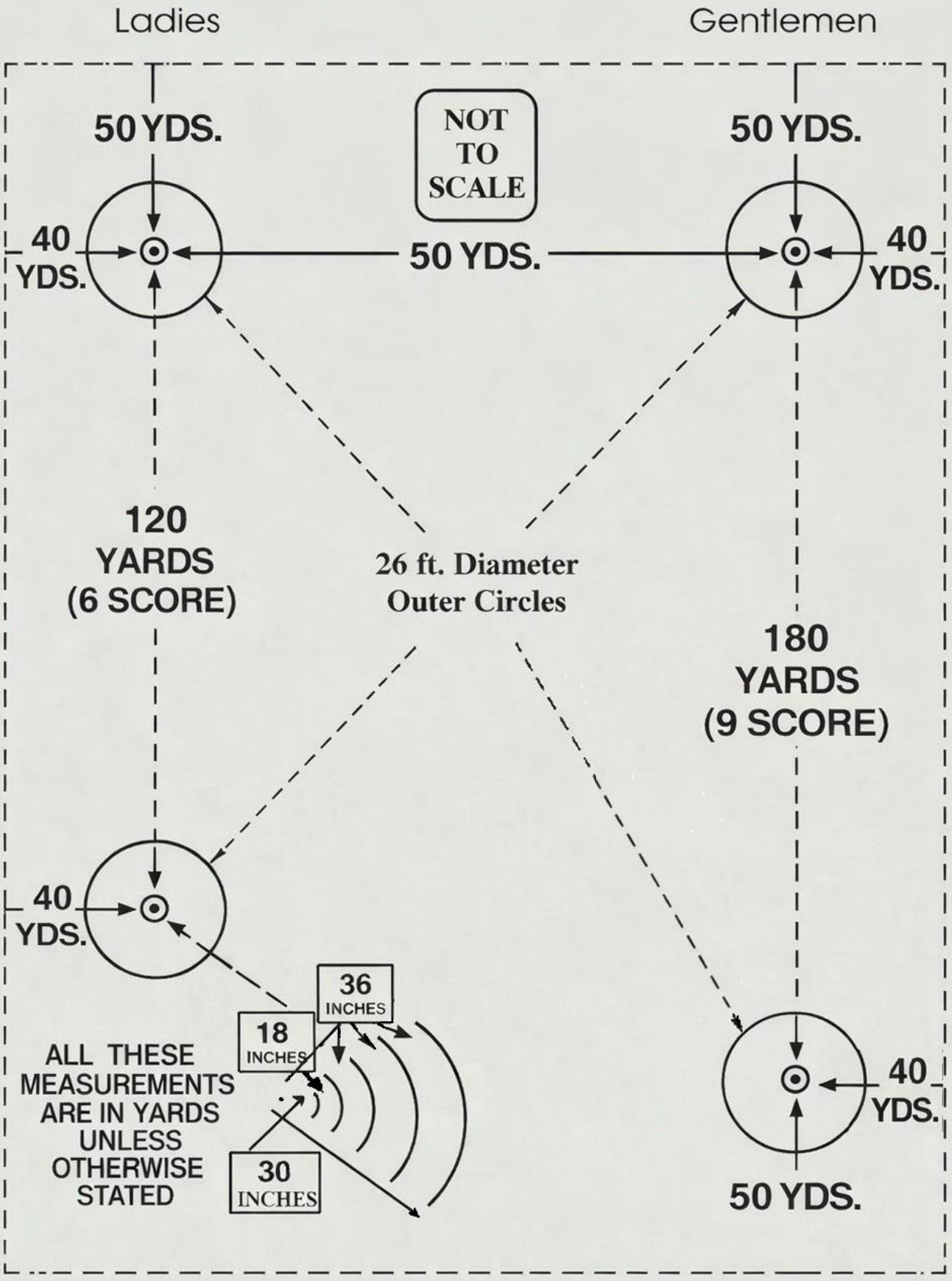
NB: If points scoring is being carried out by means of a Peg and String, with the Clout removed, the same means should be used to determine which arrow wins the End.

SHOOTING-OFF

3. The shoot-off will be directed by the Field Captain and will be at the normal clout distances. If there are two pairs of clouts, the shoot-off will take place towards a clout placed half-way between them for the purpose. Ladies and Gentlemen will shoot separately.
4. Each shoot-off will consist of a single end of <u>two</u> arrows, shot singly by each archer, and marked. The order of shooting will be decided by drawing lots.
5. The Marker should wear a hat and carry a white napkin secured to the end of a short stick, or a white pocket handkerchief, with which to indicate the "fall of shot" and stand at a safe distance to the side of the target clout. Each archer should exchange a signal with the Marker before each shot to indicate that both are ready and the Field Captain should also have a white napkin to indicate to the marker when each arrow has been loosed. On arrival of the arrow the Marker, normally without moving from his position, indicates its position relative to the Clout thus:
   a. <u>Direction:</u> By clock face.
   b. <u>Distance:</u>
      - a hit in the Clout: Raises the hat.
      - Within a Foot: Taps the foot with the napkin.
      - Within a Half-Bow: Lays the napkin horizontally across the left arm.
      - Within one to four Bows: Moves the napkin downwards for each bow-length.
      - More than four Bows: No distance signal.
   c. <u>Contention.</u> If, in the Marker's estimation, the arrow being marked might be the best so far, "measure for best" is indicated by waving the napkin from side to side over the head.
6. The result of the shoot-off will be decided by the Field Captain using a piece of string as necessary.

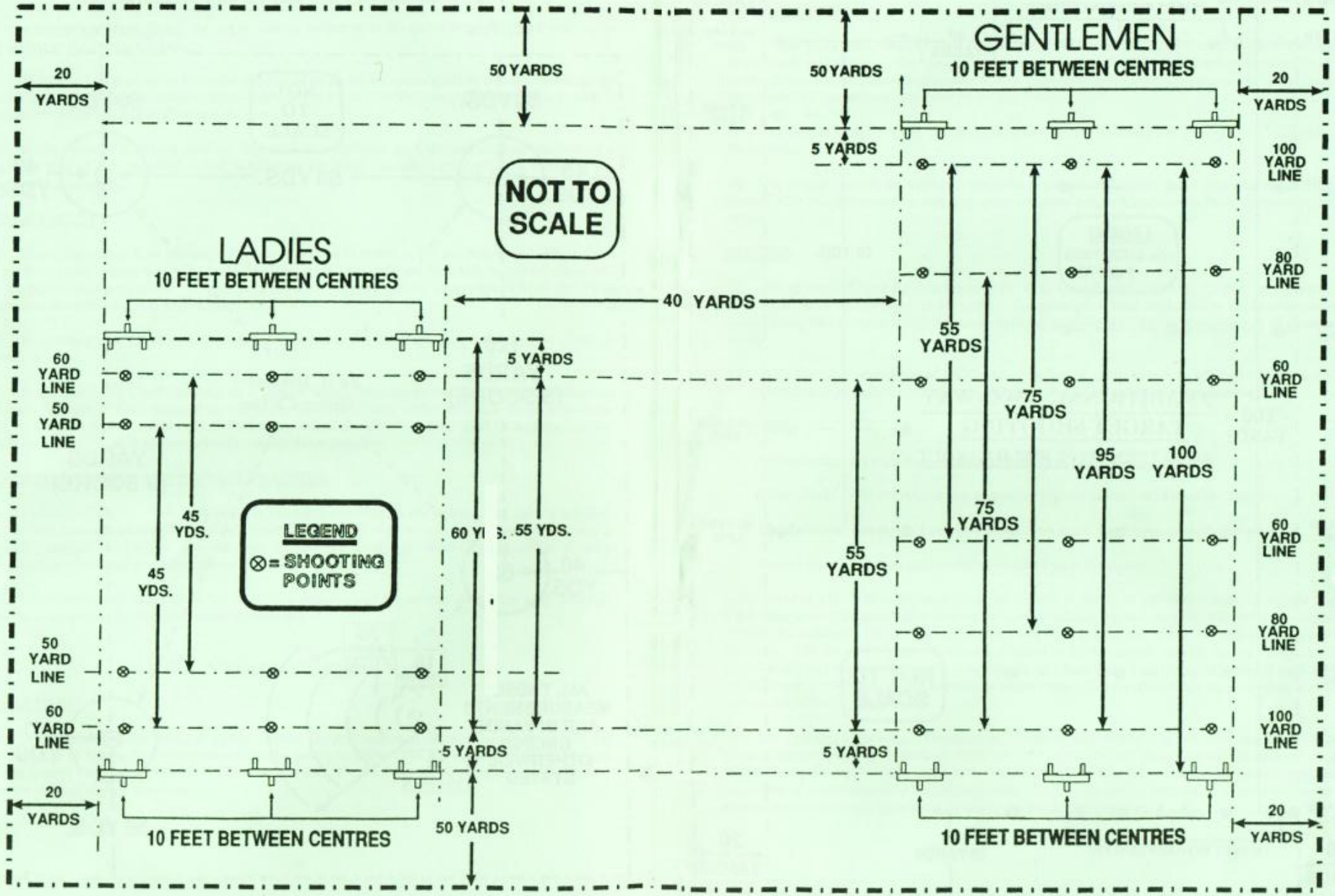
Traditional Two-Way Clout Shooting

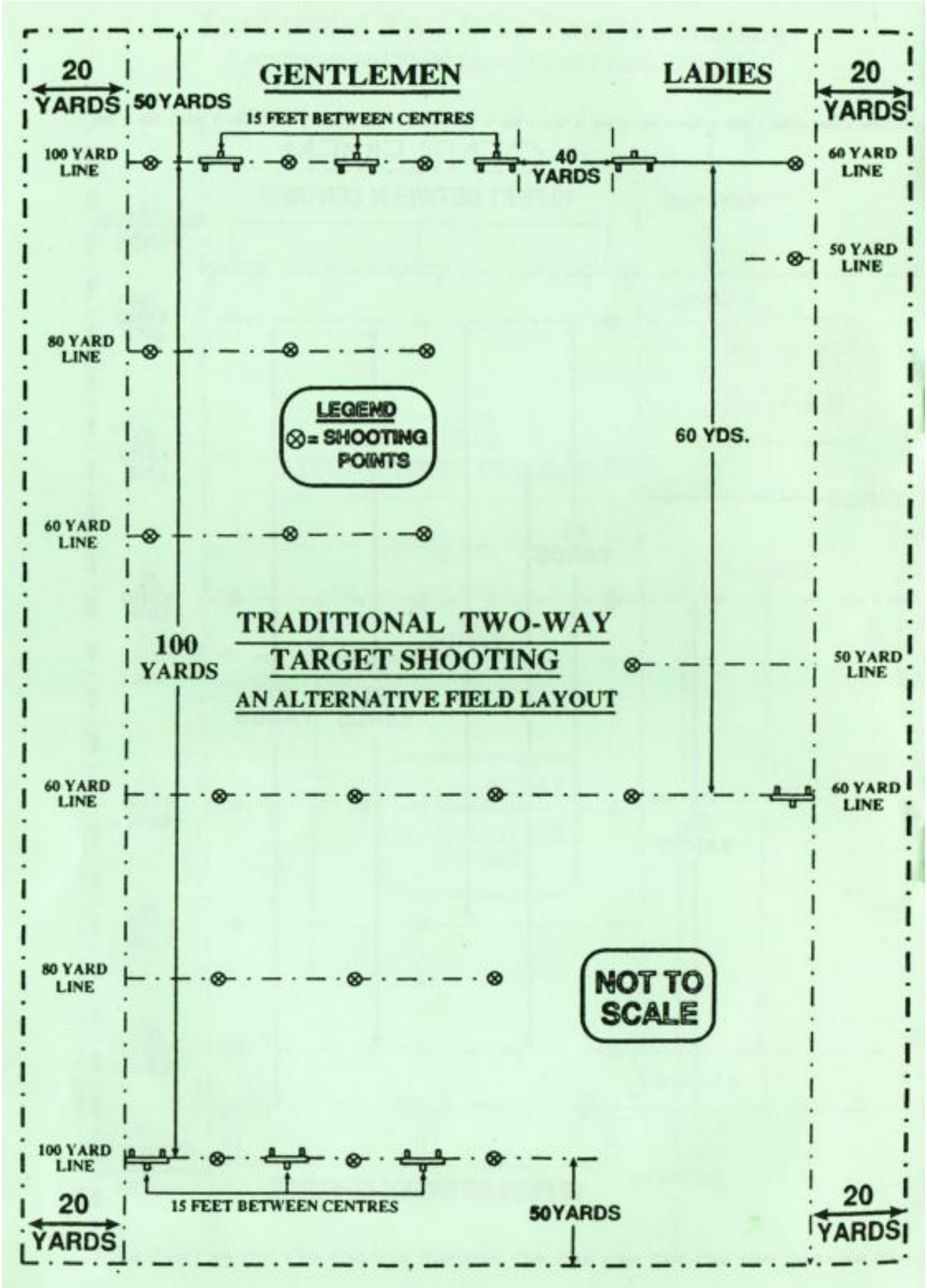
Recommended Field Layout and Measurements



Traditional Two-Way Target Shooting

Recommended Field Layout and Measurements




20 YARDS
GENTLEMEN
LADIES
20 YARDS
50 YARDS
15 FEET BETWEEN CENTRES
100 YARD LINE
40 YARDS
60 YARD LINE
50 YARD LINE
80 YARD LINE
LEGEND
⊗ = SHOOTING POINTS
60 YDS.
60 YARD LINE
100 YARDS
TRADITIONAL TWO-WAY TARGET SHOOTING
AN ALTERNATIVE FIELD LAYOUT
50 YARD LINE
60 YARD LINE
60 YARD LINE
80 YARD LINE
NOT TO SCALE
100 YARD LINE
15 FEET BETWEEN CENTRES
50 YARDS
20 YARDS
20 YARDS