



The 9th Northern Flight/Clout  
and Cross-Bow Championships.

August 25th, 1963

The meeting was once again held at Grange Park, Preston, Warwickshire. Although the were not too favourable for new flight records to be broken, at least it did not rain for the main part of the tournament as it did last year. This year's entrants numbered 89 in all.

Jack Flinton who has always acted as Field Captain since the first championships, was once again unable to attend, owing to the ill health of Mrs. Flinton, to whom all present at the meeting wished a speedy recovery. Lancashire's old friend of archery, and keen flight shooter, Frank Miles, did a very good job of taking over at short notice as Field Captain.

Once again the meeting was highly honoured to have present with them a world renowned flight archer, Major Frank Levins who flew in from the USA in a USAF Boeing 707, which he piloted himself. He was unable to attend the American National Championships this year (which was won by Drake using an 80lbs flight bow, with a distance of 669 yards, breaking the old record of 641 yards. Our very good friend Davy Davis, who came over to the championships at Preston last year from California, came first in the 50lbs amateur class with a distance of 545 yards in the 1963 American Nationals).

At Preston, Major Levings shot a distance of 605 yards, using his 105lbs Drake bow, far beyond anything seen here before, thus setting up a new record in the open flight class.

He was presented with a Northern Flight Badge by Ray Bamber. (Major Levings cannot take the open trophy, not being resident in the UK. Who knows, maybe the meeting may have a trophy for overseas visitors, any offers!). In the target bow section, Les Howis shot an arrow 330 yards with a 45lbs bow, probably the longest shot ever with a target bow and using target arrows. Mr. Howis was using a standard production model bow, i.e. a "Bandit" 45lbs at 26ins and arrows, 26ins by "Easton" standard 3-fletch plastic P.15.

This year, all the target bows were weighed using a simple but ingenious gadget made by Jack Flinton, used in conjunction with a pair of bathroom scales.

In the Cross-Bow section, Stan Turner put up a new record with a distance of 609 yards.

This year's Clout Trophy was won by "Crosby Archers" team. They are comparatively newcomers to this phase of archery. Their members also won other events at the meeting

Judging by this year's interest in Flight and Clout shooting, we should see the biggest ever flight shoot in the 1964 National Championships at Radley, near Oxford, as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary (to be held in August, 1964 at Preston).

Many archers are going to get flight bows for next years shoots, and many are already getting busy during these winter months, making their own flight bows.

George Kay of Blackpool, became this years Flight Champion, thus keeping the trophy in Lancashire once again.

Ray Bamber (non-competitor) made an attempt to bust that elusive 500 yards, and gained one extra yard further than he shot at Oxford this year with a distance of 480 yards.

