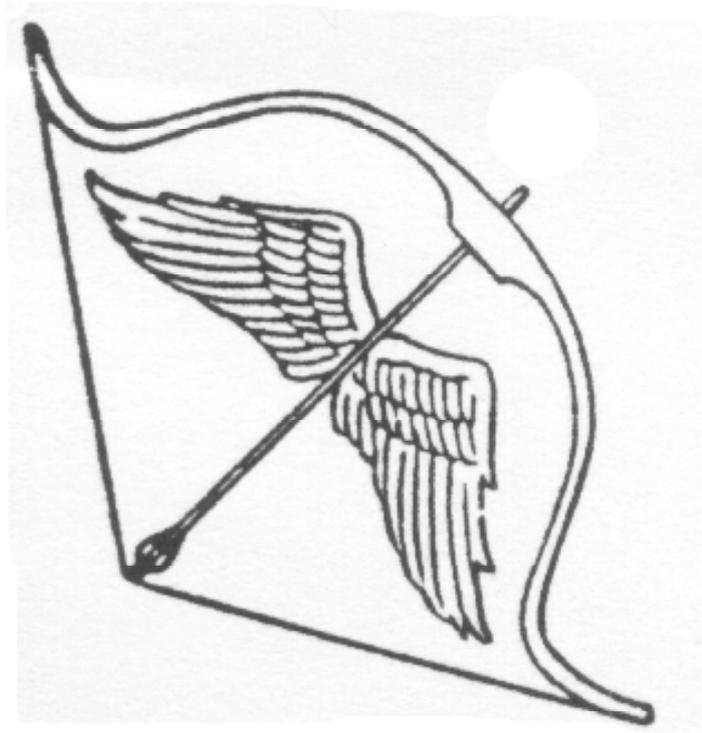


# Flight Path



**Hints and Tips  
In Shooting Flight**

## 1:Introduction.

I have been interested in for over 30 years. In all of that time, one question has been asked of me more than any other. Perhaps it springs to mind in every archer - "How far will it shoot?"

The arrow is nocked. The bow is slowly raised, then the string is drawn back with a slashing loose and the arrow is away. Faster than the eye can follow. Where will we find it? Who knows, 200m, 300, 400. Dare we hope 500? That is, in essence, flight archery, to shoot the arrow as far as possible. Even the most modest of recurve bows are capable of reaching 200m or more.

But where did flight originate and how do you get the most out of you tackle? These questions will (I hope) be answered here.



Let's make this a flight shoot  
He WILL remember.

## 2: A Brief History

Flight owes much of its origins to warfare. The aim was to shoot the enemy at the greatest possible range and inflict as much damage amongst the ranks as was possible. Indeed, at the battle of Towton in 1461, the Lord Fawconbridge ordered all his archers to shoot one flight (arrow) towards the Northern men. Unable to judge the distance effectively, the Northern men returned shot as fast as they could only to see their arrows fall "a full 40 tailor's yarges" short. (*Ford on Archery*)

- The Persians were perhaps the most gifted of the ancient flight archers
- One of the earliest recorded flight shots is attributed to Aush. According to the Persians, he is reputed to have shot from the top of Mount Damovand to the river Gihon.
- In 1792, in the presence of three gentlemen of the Royal Tox, Mahmoun Effendi (secretary to the Turkish embassy in London) shot an arrow 482 yards with the wind.
- Six years later, in 1798, the Sultan in Turkey drove an arrow 972 yards, a distance verified by Sir Robert Ainslie, Ambassador to the Porte.
- This was at a time when the Longbow reigned supreme in England, and distances for the English Longbow rarely bettered 300 yards.
- In its heyday, the English longbow seldom exceeded 300 yards. Ford himself states that “very few archers can cover more than or even as much as 300 yards”. The longest shot he made was 308 yards, using a Buchanan self-you long-bow.
- And so it remained until:

## Modern Flight.

- Flight is to Archery as Formula 1 is to the family car. It is as much about experimentation as anything else.
- Materials first used for making flight bows and arrows will often find their way into the target and field equipment we are so familiar with today. In the early 1950's, when the longbow was in decline and steel

was king, Flight was the first to use fibreglass composite bows. The first carbon arrow was marketed by Beman in the mid 1980's. Flight had been using carbon for arrows since the late 70's.

- Since modern materials became available, fibreglass laminations, carbon fibre arrows, modern glues, so records were pushed further and further.
- In 1979, an American by the name of Harry Drake became the first archer ever to have a shot recorded in excess of 1500 yards thanks to the modern materials. The furthest shot ever recorded to date. – 1542yards 2ft 10ins
- The gentleman target record stood at 390yards from the mid 70's until 1990 when Mike Willrich bettered it with a distance of 420yards. That was broken a week later with a distance 450 yards. It was further broken the following year with a distance of over 500yards. Today, it stands at 674yards. In the space of 10 years, a further 284 yards has been added.