

Instructions for making up 'BLUNTS'

For those not familiar with shooting blunts in the reenactment situation: for public entertainment and fun for archers and knights alike, armoured knights are often shot with rubber tipped shafts known as blunts. Generally bows of 45# draw weight or less are used. Despite the rubber blunt end of the arrow, a strike from such a projectile on any 'chinks in the armour' can still produce a nasty bruise. The aim of the shot is to look exciting, to give some impression of what it may have been like in the day, not to produce a wound or try and batter the armour. So all safety precautions need to be followed carefully.

Heads

Rubber blunts MUST be fitted to arrows over a shaft with a flat end.

·DO NOT fit a rubber blunt over a sharply tapered or coned shaft.

·DO NOT fit a rubber blunt over a sharp metal head.

Blunt Types/Colours

We would prefer everyone uses either Red or Green blunts as they have the most rubber at their ends and are therefore safer, Black ones can sometimes be found but they usually have less rubber at the end. Blunts should be secure on the end of the shaft and, if loose, should be glued.



Fletching Length

Larger fletchings will slow the arrows flight similar to the flu-flu. In the interests of safety please keep all fletchings high to ensure the arrow's speed is kept low. We would prefer all fletchings to be 4" or 5" long and at least 1" high.

A Final Word on SAFETY

We will 'flat shoot' our knights as well as having a high trajectory long distance shot and although the targets will be wearing armour there is always the possibility of an unforeseen accident. We therefore ask everyone to consider the people you will be shooting at when making your arrows. Please keep your arrows light and slow.

For the flat shot our targets will be no further than 30yds. For most bows, especially those with a fast cast, it will not be necessary to use a full draw, you are not trying to dent the armour! Arrows should be aimed at the breast plate.

For long distance shots a 45 degree trajectory is expected. If your bow has a fast cast or is slightly heavy and you find that the range of the shot is not sufficient to allow you to full draw at 45 degrees, we will expect you to half draw, not to 'flat shoot' as this will mean you arrow will hit harder and arrive sooner than the rest of the volley, and not to aim your arrows higher into the air as your arrow will also hit harder and will arrive at the target later than the rest of the volley and possibly catch our targets unaware. All shots will be in volley so that the targets know when they will be hit!

Having said all this it is great fun and adds another dimension to our sport.

Looking forward to a great day.

Many thanks,
Mark