



# *Ettrick Forest Archers*



## **Longbow Reminder Sheet**

Shaft Material	
Shaft Size	
Shaft Length	
Spine Weight	
Fletching Length	
Type of Fletching	
Nock Colour	
Type of Nock	
Piles: Brass; Steel; Other	
Weight in grains	
Pile Name	
Pile Fit to Shaft	
Bracing Height	
Draw Weight	
Type of String	



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## Explanations

**Shaft material can include:** Port Orford Cedar (POC)  
Boyton Scots Pine  
Boyton American Poplar Wood etc....

There are many other types that can be purchased and the three examples above come in different forms, so an accurate record so you can order exactly what you want everytime.

**Shaft Size:** 15/16  
11/32  
23/64 etc....

Again, there are more sizes to choose from, but allot of this will depend on the poundage of the bow, and the individual archers preferred choice.

### Shaft Length:

Most suppliers will supply a standard length shaft (32 Inch), and you will have to cut them to length yourself. But keep a track of what length works for you, you may have a 29" draw length but like to shoot a 31" arrow! Experiment, and see what works for you.

**Spine Weight:** Depends on the poundage of the Bow

The Spine weight is (to put it simply) how strong the arrow shaft is. The higher the spine weight, the stiffer the arrow (for high poundage bows) the lower the spine weight the weaker the shaft is. It should be relative to the poundage. Quicks have a good chart in their catalogue for finding out the spine weight that you will require based on the Poundage of the bow and the length of arrow that you shoot. This should be used as a guideline only, you may well find that what works for you will not work for another archer.

**Fletching Length:** 5.5 Inch  
3 0 Inch  
2.5 Inch etc....

Many different types to choose from, again experimentation is important. Some things to consider when choosing fletchings: To slow the arrow down, bigger the better. To help the arrow fly further smaller the better (less wind resistance). You may well find that you will have different arrow sets for different distances.

**Type of Fletching:** Parabolic  
Barred Shield  
Turkey Dumpy etc...

You get the picture? Loads of different kinds, too many to go into here. The shop assistant should be able to provide help when ordering. Also keep note of the colours you order, and if you have a separate colour for the cock feather. Remember most if not all shops will sell fletchings in bags of 12 so if you are starting from scratch, you will need to order at least three bags for 12 arrows.

**Type of Nock:** Bjorm Nocks  
Marco Nocks  
Classic Nocks with Index etc...

Basically there are two main types you need to worry about, those with an Index and those without. The index is a small raised area on the nock that helps you nock the arrow to the string without taking you eyes of the target. (But it still takes practise, especially if you wear shooting gloves!!) Remember that the nock diameter must be the same as the shaft diameter that you have ordered. So if your Pine arrow shafts are 11/32s' then the nock must be an 11/32 nock. The differences between nocks aside from indexed or not is the manufacturer, you may well find that you have a preferred make and wish to stick to them.

**Nock Colour:** Self-Explanatory

**Piles:** Brass  
Steel  
Rubber

The two main ones that you will need to worry about are the Brass and Steel Piles, majority of archers use the Brass. The Rubber are for blunts which will be explained latter on.



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## **Weight in Grains:** 20 – 125 grains

This is IMPORTANT to remember, the weight of the pile is measured in grains, the heavier the grain the more it will slow down your arrow, over a long distance will make it drop, the lighter the grain the further the arrow will go. This is a simple explanation but there are swings and roundabouts. The heavier the grain the truer the flight of the arrow as momentum will be greater. The poundage of the bow should also be taken into consideration when choosing a pile weight.

**Pile Name:**  
Bullet Points  
Long Nosed Field  
Short Nosed Field  
Whistler  
Broadhead  
Blunts

For Target archery, most archers use Brass Bullet Points. One of the main reasons for this is that they cause less damage to the target face and boss. Because of this some competitions actively disallow the shooting of field piles. So please be aware of this fact. Field Piles are used for field shoots mainly, some archers actually prefer field piles as they reduce the risk of bouncers. Whistlers are for display purposes really, and they do what they say on the tin! Blunts are used mainly for displays or Popinjays shoots, where the archer has to shoot directly up in the air and there is the danger of the arrow coming back down on either the archers or spectators, but mind they still hurt if they hit you!

**Pile Fit to Shaft:**  
Taper Fit Points  
Parallel Fit Points  
Screw Ons

This is how the Pile fits onto the shaft. Taper Fit Points require the end of the arrow shaft to taper like a pencil tip to fit the inside of the arrow. Parallel Fit Points do not taper down in size, but slid onto the arrow shaft with just a little shaved off the shaft so the Pile fits on snugly. Screw Ons are exactly as they sound, the pile is threaded on the inside to literally screw onto the shaft, this makes the pile fit more securely, but can cause problems if the arrow shears off the pile and you are left with some wood still in the pile. This is down to personal point of preference. Some archers are known to drill small holes through the pile and arrow shaft and pin them together to give them added strength! Good luck if you want to give that a go.....

**Bracing Height:** Down to the Bowyer

This is the distance between the string and the bow handle, when purchasing a longbow, if it is made to order ensure that you get this detail as you will need to check your bracing height on a regular basis as strings are prone to stretch. Some bowyers like Bickerstaff, write the bracing height (BH) on the bow itself.

**Draw Weight:** Down to the Archer

You should never pull a bow that is too heavy for you. Like the Bracing Height you should know the Draw Weight (DW) of the bow, especially when ordering your arrows or arrow shafts. The Draw Weight of the bow will directly affect the Spine Weight of the arrows that you wish to use.

**Type of String:**  
Dacron  
Fast Flight

The string material is important to know, should you need to replace it. Dacron is longer lasting in general and more popular with Longbows. But you might just find that Fast flight is the material you prefer. You will also need to know the number of strands in your string as that will affect performance.