

HOW TO READ WIND Part 2 (By Angus Bell)

Following on from my Part 1 notes on wind reading, I've added some additional notes to take the knowledge gained to Stage 2.

Here are some immediate comments :

- 1) Wind Zero - First I must stress that you need to have a good wind zero, and take the time on a zero range to ensure your wind zero position is indeed zero. Use a zero target with an accurate vertical line and fire shots to ensure your wind zero hits this line.
- 2) How to use your sighters – generally we get two (2) sighters, if conditions are rapidly changing you may decide to fire these sighters in different wind conditions to get the correct settings for use in your counting string, ie : get the wind bracket, if you know the max and min wind strengths early then you will have a range to work within.
- 3) How To Use Mirage / Flags – If the mirage and wind flags are in correlation then you have two indicators to use, remember :
 - a. Mirage is the wind actually applying now between you and the target
 - b. Flags – upwind, this is the most important flag line as it's the wind that's about to happen, the downwind flag line is the wind that has happened. Your distance from the flagline is a factor, try and have an idea how long the wind takes to move from the flagline to your target, at 4 mph it can take a long time.
- 4) Group Placement – we normally try to centre all the shots into the middle of the target, however in some wind conditions you may choose to “favour” one side of the bullseye (or the safe side) if you have identified the wind bracket that will keep you in the 5 ring. There is risk in doing this technique, as the centre count will decline, with an offset group but you need to compromise sometimes and look at the lesser of the two evils.
- 5) Wind Setting – you need to know what you have on the wind setting at all times, it is always a good idea to have an indicator on the wind arm to easily identify the wind on the sight, a lot of shooters use an aluminium knurled knob affixed that has a screw projecting up at the 12 o'clock position when on wind zero, this then means when turned one full revolution you have 3, 6, 9 etc on the sight, or half way 1.5, 4.5, 7.5 etc.
- 6) Wind Shadows – this is the “projected” area (or shadow) that an obstacle causes on the wind, such as a line of trees, geography such as a hill, or a building structure. At my local range there is a 250 metre earthen mound on the right from the targets to just before 300m that can project a shadow across the range when the wind comes in from the right, so firers closer to the shadow often have far less wind affecting their bullets flight.
- 7) So how do we put all this together :
 - a. Study the wind before you shoot
 - b. Get down onto the mound early to allow more time to watch the wind effects, try and see where your predecessors shots are going
 - c. Study the wind and determine the strength and direction, and use your wind chart to provide a start point
 - d. Watch for wind changes and how rapid they appear, look for changes in the flags and mirage
 - e. Mirage – set your spotting scopes focus half way between you and the target so that you see the wind heat waves (if conditions allow)
 - f. Fire your first sighter, and note the correct wind needed at that flag shape (and mirage), adjust and continue

- g. When wind conditions are stable, fire quickly
- h. When wind conditions change quickly, you will need to decide whether :
 - i. Adjust your sight for the next shot, or
 - ii. Wait until it returns to a known wind setting (the latter is usually safer) but you need time available to allow this technique
- i. Look at other targets, these may provide information on wind changes and strengths