



# Werner's Quest Continues . . .

*... the Story of an Individual's Search to Produce the Ultimate in Quality ...  
and a Report of the First Tournament at his Centre of Archery Shooting/Learning*

Over the Easter period this year, the Beiter family were to hold their first tournament at the "Werner and Iris Center," the centre designed by Werner to be the home of excellent shooting and of archery learning. I was invited to be present and, always interested in what Werner is up to, I replied — with alacrity — that Brenda and I would be there.

We arrived at the Centre the day before the day set aside for practice. A number of top archers — including two World Champions [Carole Ferriou, of France and Andrea Parenti, Italy] were to arrive over the next two days to take part in the unique tournament that he had devised but, for this day I had virtually the run of the Centre.

Since my last visit to Dauchingen there have been a few changes as Werner seeks to find more ways to make shooters successful and the sport more interesting, both by way of his scientific and technical approach to sorting their equipment problems and by having a comprehensive video set-up to help the archer and, to make it easier and more interesting for the spectator to follow.

I have been privileged to be invited to see his private research laboratory, with all its gadgetry and, it is a wonder to behold; it is there that he checks an archer's arrows to get the finest matched set possible and where a great deal of his experimental work is carried out. It is a fact that, since the Olympics of 1980, almost every Olympic Champion has visited Werner and had his/her archery equipment checked by him. Take it from me, his muster of archers who have requested his aid is quite impressive!

It is in the Shooting Halls, however, that the archer and spectator can actually see just what he has done. In the two shooting halls there are now 13 cameras set up to project pictures to a total of 38 TV screens — most of them 27in. In the 70m downstairs hall, four cameras are dedicated to the targets — one to each target and it is with the pictures from these cameras, the archer is able to actually see his/her arrow(s) land in the target, without turning the head, as there are four screens at either end of the Shooting Line, each one devoted to one of the four targets set at 70m. These same cameras project the pictures to a series of four 27in. screens above the Shooting Line in order that the spectators can also follow the shooting. A couple of 'roving' cameras are set up in front of the Shooting Line and these are focussed either on the shooters or, can be used to focus anywhere behind the Shooting Line — audiences, watch out!!!!

In the upper shooting hall, where there are two 18m ranges and a shorter Beginners' range, there are also cameras covering the targets and, Monitor screens. Again, above the Shooting Line, there are six 27in. screens, both to monitor a shooter's progress or, to have transmitted the proceedings from the lower hall. Along one wall is a stand on which there are more screens where, should the screens be in use at the targets on this floor, those interested can have the screens switched to follow the shooting below. Werner has thought of virtually everything

to aid the shooter in this department and, it is here, that his work in the laboratory can be seen as the groups become tighter! The range close to the entrance of the upper hall, is partitioned off by a floor to ceiling sheets of clear polycarbonate along its entire length and, should one want a side view of the shooting, it is perfectly safe to do so.

Also, on the upper floor, there are two rooms which, although unused at present, are likely to be used as a gymnasium and a shower. Situated between the two 18m ranges are a line of desks with fletching jigs and other items which an archer/coach may want to use and just behind a Compound Bow Press, all provided in order that archers' equipment can be kept up to the mark.

Other additions since my last visit are a set of 'lights' which are automatically operated at the touch of button. When the archers are ready the Judge/Organiser presses a button and from then on all is automated; a buzzer sounds and the digital clock starts counting the 20 seconds to start (red); then another 'buzz' and the clock turns green for the 240 seconds (in this instance) of shooting with the last 30 seconds

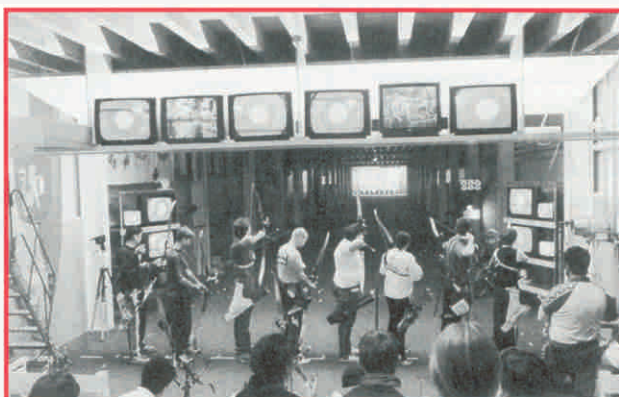
(amber) being followed by the 'buzzer' denoting shooting is to stop. At any time the operator can cancel the timing. This is the only piece of equipment that Werner cannot control from his 'Master Control Area' situated on the shelf that holds the TV screens.

Behind the Shooting Line there is (which can be removed if required) an eight-tiered row of seats which can accommodate 25-30 seated or 50-odd standing spectators. (It is here that the new row of screens come into their own!). Even in this there has been nothing spared for the shooter. At the end of the tiered steps and under each 'set' Werner has had made a space in which equipment may be stored, thereby keeping the gangways clear. The first step has one space, the second has two and so on, with some differing in depth to accommodate the varying sizes of tackle box. At the back of the step/seats there are three tiers of sliding shelves, again to help the archer to keep his equipment/tackle box out of the way. Pull the shelf out, place box on while preparing and then

push shelf (containing tackle box) in again. All very handy!

Back to the Target end again. Above Target 4 and soon to include all targets, is a white screen which can be raised or lowered as required. This is so that should an arrow's flight wish to be observed, then it is easy to pull down the screen and the arrow can be seen against its background on its way to the target.

For the future, Werner hopes to set up what I would call a "Flight Analyser!" Not quite ready for this weekend but, hopefully available soon, is his latest idea. This is an 11m. x 80mm x 100mm wooden beam which will be suspended from the ceiling and, held rigid, by steel cables. On top of the beam and along its length are several 'U' shaped pieces of metal with paper stretched across and held rigid by magnets. On each sheet of paper is a + and, with the help of two laser beams (already set up), these crosses are lined up along the length of beam.



**The archers shooting, seen from the tiered seats. Situated at 70m are the targets and each one has a camera focussed on the centre of it. The picture is transmitted back to one of the screens at either end of the Shooting Line and to one in the line above the Shooting Line. This for the benefit of the spectators. Sitting at the top of the stairs on the left of the photograph, Werner is then able to operate each camera independently and can have fun with the audience.**



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The archer, again with the help of laser beams, is set up and shoots his arrow along the beam and the behaviour of the arrow can then be seen by checking the holes in the paper. Werner told me that, to him, the most interesting will be the actions of the unfletched arrows along the beam length.

In his search for excellence, Werner Beiter seems to be sparing no expense/time/dedication to the pursuit of it. As I have said before and, have no hesitation in repeating, this Archery-loving gentleman is a boon to the sport and, I just wish we had one like him here in Britain and, no doubt, so does every other nation!

Oh, yes! You remember the sunken area in the lower hall that I was told by one of Werner's daughters was there for the crocodiles!! Well, there is one in residence now. A 6ft. blow-up one!

### Now for the tournament!

To be honest, I do not think the final results matter. This tournament was run with the idea of bringing a bit of enjoyment back into the sport and to show that shooting, even serious shooting, can be fun! Archers of differing expertise, including some of the world's best, were invited to take part. Following the practice period all archers from 15-year-old club shooter to World Champion, were pitched against each other (Gents v. Ladies/Senior v. Junior) in a unique competition — producing some very interesting results.

On the first day an Elimination round was held first - 36 arrows at 70m. (120cm face) which ended with **Lionel Torres** (France) finishing in top spot with **Matteo Bisiani** (Italy), 2nd and Britain's **Alison Williamson** top lady somewhere round about 5th spot. Following the elimination it was a knock-out round in which everyone was involved but finally ended with a shoot-off for first place — a replica of the European Indoor Championship Gold Medal battle — in which **Torres** faced **Bisiani**. It was not only a replica match, it was a replica result — **Torres** winning.

It may sound just another shoot but, it wasn't. True, when shooting was in progress it was quiet — both archers and spectators respecting the archers' feelings — but there was plenty of banter between times. Alison coming in for more than a share of it from her International peers - they like her and she enjoys the 'leg-pulling.' Also, at one stage, the competition was halted so that a competition of a different sort could take place; **Werner**, ever-ready to put spice into the shooting without spoiling technique, put up a few hundred D-Marks and then invited the shooters to shoot 10s and share the money between them. Starting with the archer who had the lowest score the shooting progressed up the ranking. With the cameras focussed on the target all eyes watched the monitors and there were many sighs and 'Oohs' as arrow narrowly missed the mark and it wasn't until **Nico Hendrickx** (Belgium) put in a 10 that a huge cheer went up. This was followed by three more as three arrows also found the '10.' Each archer did his best and each willed the other to win — it was good to see! That evening, in pouring rain, many went go-karting to 'relax.'

The next morning there was thick snow but, as we were inside in a controlled temperature, it didn't matter. Again a ranking round for team selection in which No. 1 was partnered by the last ranked and two from the centre and so on for four teams. Each team played each other and once two wins were recorded a point was awarded. This round was exciting, especially with the aid of the cameras/monitors, team members and audience could see just what was happening 70m away. This really was great to watch and there were

some surprises too!!! Young **Melanie Forsterling** (16) from the Berlin School turned out to be extremely calm and capable as she took her turn on the line to shoot for her team. On several occasions she shot two 10s and a 9 for her team and, I am convinced, this young lady is going to be one to contend the world stage one day! Another youngster to shine was European Under 16 Champion, **Stefan Grimm** who, quite often needed a 9 or a 10 to keep his team in contention. He did not fail them.

It was interesting to note that, in the individual matches the day before,

there were many archers scoring 59 out of a total of 60 points and, indeed, **Matteo Bisiani** picked up a 500 D-Mark prize that Werner had offered to anyone shooting a perfect '60.' However, come the team round, the ability to shoot so many 10s seemed to have deserted the Internationals but the youngsters, notably **Melanie** and **Stefan**, seemed to have improved. This all made for an interesting and, at times, exciting event as we watched the screens.

The team round was unique. Not only because it was mix-up of ladies and gents, junior and senior but also, because it was a mixture of nations. Each team had at least two nations but one team consisted of four individuals, each of a different nationality. This all worked well and helped to make for a very friendly, if hard-fought, affair. Finally, however, **Ilario Di Buo's** team emerged victorious and took the top money prize to share between them.

Again, as the day before **Werner** offered a purse to be shot for and shared by all those who could put an arrow in the '10.' One arrow each! The sequence was as before but one of the Berlin youngsters, **Mathias Knauf**, was first to score! This was followed by a few more but, this time, **Alison** failed to hit '10.' **Werner** asked if they wanted another go — he would put up another 'purse.' "Yes," the archers replied and then one (I don't know who), suggested that, perhaps **Alison** should be made to feel at home. "OK," another archer called out, "put the wind machine on!"

So, once again all the archers went through their paces. The wind didn't help **Alison** but, it didn't help anyone else either, other than **Paul Vermeiren** who, to a great cheer, earned the 'purse' all to himself.

At the end of the tournament, three gents emerged as top prize winners: **Lionel Torres** (France, European Indoor Champion), **Matteo Bisiani** (Italy, European Indoor Champion Silver Medallist) and **Andrea Parenti** (Italy, World Field Champion). However, no-one went away empty-handed. Werner had seen to that by making sure that all efforts would be rewarded somehow! As I said earlier, the final result doesn't matter. What does matter is that everyone went away happy and with a better knowledge and understanding, not only of Archery but, of each other. This is something we always want to accomplish.



Everyone a winner! From left: **Lionel Torres**, **Andrea Parenti** and **Matteo Bisiani**



**Melanie Forsterling** . . . one to watch!



**Stefan Grimm** . . . a good prospect



A happy band of archers after having had a superb two/three days of shooting. From left, back row: **Andreas Lorenz**, **Melanie Forsterling**, **Ilario Di Buo**, **Stefan Grimm**, **Wiebke Nulle**, **Lionel Torres**, **Andrea Parenti**, **Matteo Bisiani**, **Mathias Knauf**, **Carole Ferriou** and **Werner Molgg**. Front row: **Alison Williamson**, **Paul Vermeiren**, **Nicco Hendrix**, **Juan Carlos Holgado**, **Werner Beiter**, **Dietrich Grimm** and **Giuseppe Lorenz**.