

# In Search of Excellence

Immediately the tournament at Weldzheim was over, Brenda and I, accompanied by British Team member, Alison Williamson, were on the road to Dauchingen, the hometown of Werner Beiter and the site of his superb shooting establishment, the Werner and Iris Center. Werner had invited us to go and see him and, be present at one of his enjoyable, Werner-tailor-made tournaments which was to be held on the Sunday.

It is always a pleasure to see Werner and Iris and no second invitation was necessary so, as soon as possible after the tournament was over, we were, along with Alison, on our way! Now, I have been to Dauchingen several times; I know the way from Calais and I know the way from Switzerland but, I have not done the trip from Weldzheim before! Still, we had Alison with us and she 'knew' the way. So, full of confidence that there would be no hitches, we set off. We arrived in Stuttgart in good time, despite the awful weather and were passing the Stadium before taking the road to the south; after a while Alison declared we were on the wrong road but, if we took the next exit, we would be O.K. Driving along we suddenly found ourselves passing the Stadium again, and later, again. We were lost but, eventually, Alison managed to put us on the right 'track' for the south, having first negotiated the centre of Stuttgart.

It was then an uneventful drive to Dauchingen and the Shooting Centre and our meeting with Werner: and, later, to be joined by Andrea Parenti (and Rosella), Wiebke

Nulle and Vic Wunderle and later still by members of the Australian team.

Now, I have written many words (probably more than anyone else!) about this superb Centre, designed and built especially for Archery and Archers by a man who loves archery and who has put a great deal of time and money into, not only helping the World's leading archers to excellence but, to helping to improve many archers who are not at that standard — yet!

Werner was busy — as one would expect! He was engaged in checking out one of two Belgian International and Olympic archers (Paul Vermeiren and Nico Hendrixx) who

has been able to correct many an archer's set-up, even though they thought it was perfect and that no fouling of arrow was present. As Nico said while in the shooting area: "When you leave here you know there is nothing wrong with your equipment. It is now down to the archer!"

It doesn't come without a great deal of work — by Werner and the archer. The lighting has to be exact (and this can take quite a while), the angle of the camera must be precise (to give a good picture of the arrow passing the 'button,' etc.) and the archer has to stand in one position all while this camera set-up is going on — and under those very hot lights.

Once set-up the archer is asked to aim at a small point just below the camera lens (I wondered whether Werner's heart missed a beat at times!) and the results are then examined and then maybe a further alteration of the camera or one or more of the lights, before Werner is satisfied.

Once everything is set correctly the work begins in earnest and the archer has to shoot at the 'spot' then wait while Werner studies the results on the monitor before deciding that a 'tweak' may be required of the button. This carries on until Werner is satisfied that the bow is tuned and that the arrow cannot come out any cleaner.

Then the archer is released from his lighted 'prison' and told to shoot at the targets, 70m away. Nico, who had been undergoing the 'tests' shot a dozen arrows and, when he turned to face us, we knew he was happy, in

*"You know your equipment is alright after a session here with Werner!"*

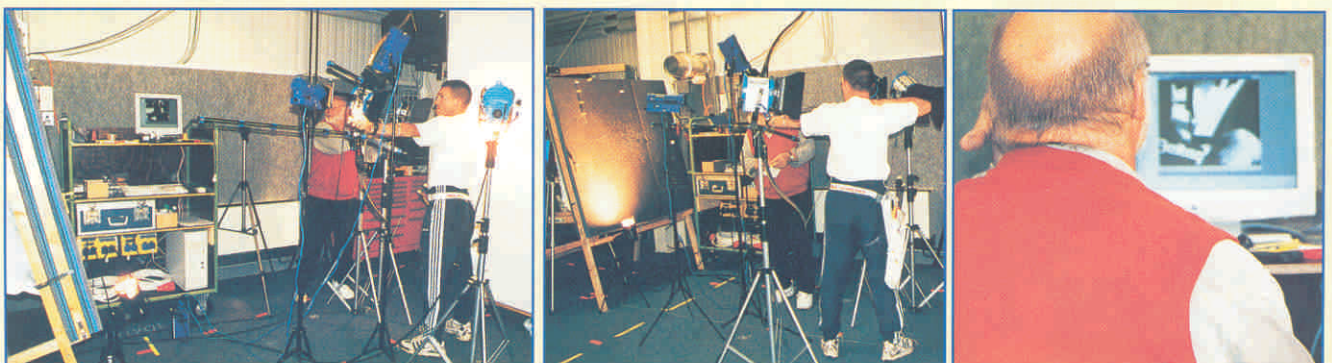
were there for fine-tuning their equipment with the aid of Werner's latest aid: a high-speed camera linked to a computer. The camera (8,000 frames per second) was able to show just what happened when the string was loosed and how the arrow re-acted. It was an education and from these pictures Werner was able to adjust the pressure button until an absolutely clear path and speedy recovery of the arrow was accomplished.

By the means of this technology, Werner



Top, Left: Werner checks that Paul Vermeiren bow arm is at the right height. Centre left: Checking the position on the monitor. Centre right: Lining up the camera with the laser beam to get the best position/angle for the bow, etc. Left: Having fixed the camera, the lighting has to be arranged to give the best picture!

Bottom, left: Final adjustment to lighting. Centre: All is well and time to shoot at one of the small pegs on the target mat. Right: Analysing the result of the shot with the aid of computer in normal and slow motion.





Having gone through the Check and Analyse procedure Nico Hendrixx is happy with his grouping at 70m.

fact, very happy! Another satisfied customer!!

A gathering of archers would not be complete if Werner did not hold one of his "Special Tournaments" where the archers shoot in teams, or individually but, always at the end, there is something for everyone — no archer goes away empty-handed!

It had been a few months since our last visit and the speed camera and the lighting, plus laser beams for perfect setting up of the archer to the camera, etc., had been introduced in the long shooting hall, since then. Not a lot to actually observe there but, upstairs, it was quite different.

The 30m range at the far end was still intact and so was the 10m range but that was all that remained since last time. The second 30m range had disappeared to be replaced by a table-tennis "simulator" and the entire centre of the upstairs hall had been turned over to a rest and repair area. One could sit at ease



and have a 'cuppa' and watch the proceedings downstairs on the monitor screens or, at the long table, complete with fletching jigs, gas burners and all the paraphernalia that archers need to repair their arrows, the archer could sit and make alterations to their equipment.

As one entered the upper hall, the first room (at one time thought to be destined as a 'gym') now housed a golf driving range simulator (apparently Werner spends a fair deal of time on it!) where those at the Center may have a little relaxation away from archery; the second room, I believe is kept as a store room.

Werner Beiter has made a tremendous difference to our sport and his agile and inventive mind has brought many changes. I have known Werner for some time and I well remember him coming to a shoot in Ludwigsberg (in the '80s, I think) with a large model of his prototype nock, after having recently launched his first product, the 'nock point.' He was immediately surrounded by the competitors wanting to see what his new invention was and, as now, he was met with a barrage of questions.

He has come along way since those days. He has been responsible for producing some of the finest quality items of archery equipment in the world and the name "Beiter" is synonymous with excellence and quality. Now, he has transformed a large area into a superb, custom-made archery centre which is used almost exclusively for the Search for Excellence. Long may he do so!

Words and Pictures: TED BRADFORD

Werner Beiter is never happier than when surrounded by archers. Here (2nd left, front row) he is with archers from Belgium, Britain, Germany, Italy, U.S.A. and the Australian team.

### IT'S NOT ALL WORK!

A lot of work and effort is carried out at the Werner & Iris Center but, after the day's activities, there is time for a bit of fun. The place chosen quite often is a Go-Kart track in a town close by. It was decided to go there after 'work' one evening and so we rang the track to reserve it for the younger members of the group. However, a minimum number was needed so Brenda and I (the "Oldies") were roped in to make up the number of actual 'racers.' Arriving at the track we were divided into two teams, Brenda on one and I on the other. Andrea Parenti (Bless him!) suggested that, as the oldest, I should be first to go. Now, I am not huge but have you ever tried to put a quart into a pint pot? That's how it felt as I sat down in the kart seat, the metal sides being pushed firmly into my sides and back — and it was darned uncomfortable. The track attendant started my engine and pushed my foot onto the accelerator and I was off — like a bat out of a hot place! "Gosh! Look at Ted go!" yelled Alison as I turned the corner at full speed. Little did they know that, having pushed my foot down, it had become

stuck and I was unable to lift it. I tried my hardest to slow the kart while steering it but to no avail — I just could not control it and, straight into the safety ramp I went after a few bends. The back of the kart lifted about six inches and fell back to the track but, the monitor that sat on the ledge of the upright went flying and smashed into smithereens — all unknowing to me, I had problems of my own. The people sitting in the cafe having a drink rushed out to see what all the commotion was about. Having been extricated from the safety barrier, I decided to try a couple of laps but it was so uncomfortable, I gave up. Karts were not built for my girth!

Needless to say, it gave the others a laugh and I was threatened with all sorts of dire happenings if I did not report it here. As I am uncertain as to what the penalty would be I have conceded but, I did ask that no one at the Center be told. I am not sure whether my request was adhered to but, as I said goodbye to Werner the following day, he looked at me hard and said: "Have a good trip home. Drive carefully and, not too fast!!!!"