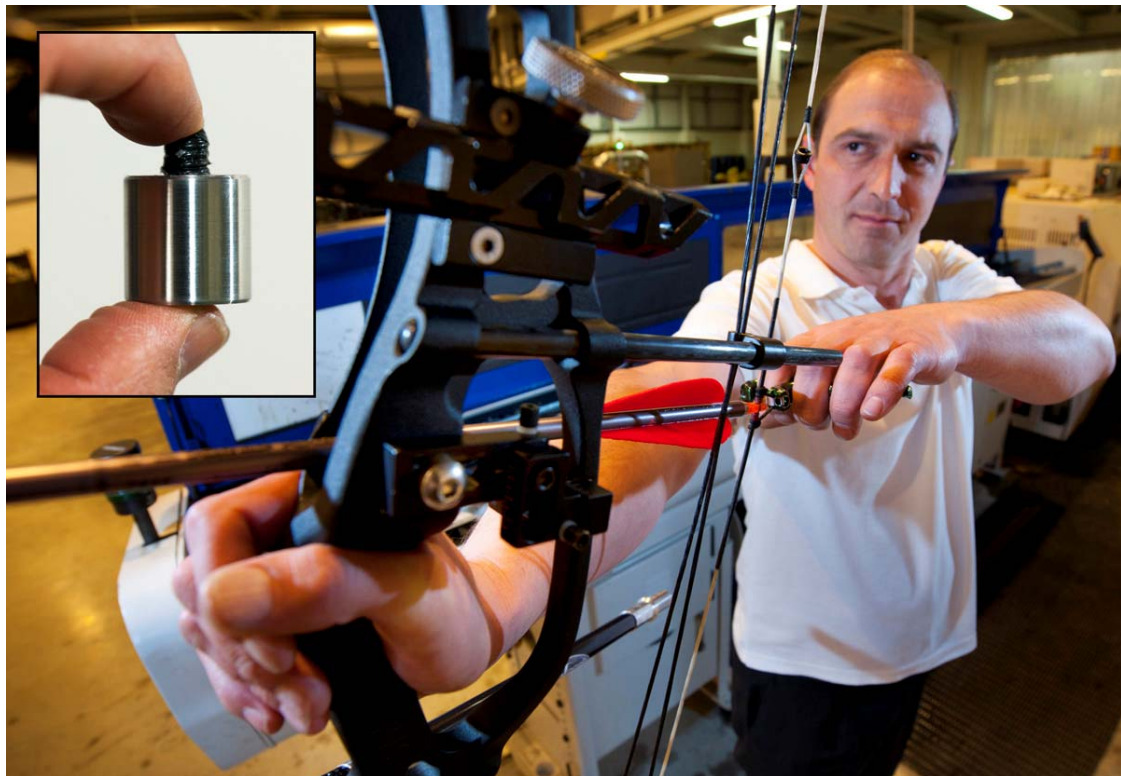


Making it in Leeds

News release from Leeds Manufacturing

27th October 2010



Skilled Engineering Keeps Bowmen On Target

Precision engineering in Leeds is helping archers score more golds as compound bows become increasingly technical.

The compound bow incorporates a cam system that reduces the strain on a target archer's arm from 60lbs to a more comfortable 18lbs and in order to have a steady aim, the bow needs careful balancing with rods and weights.

Which is good news for specialist engineering firm Kingfisher Lubrication, where technical director Richard Holt is a keen bowman with success at county and regional level. Richard shoots alongside former national champion Lez Newsome, who runs one of the UK's leading archery businesses – Aardvark Archery in Farsley and both are members of the 80-strong Bronte Archers Club.

Lez explains: "A US company makes stabilising rods for the compound bows, but these then need weights, which are in short supply, to evenly balance the bow at the hand point. Each bow can use up to a dozen of the weights.

“I knew Richard was involved in precision engineering and promised him an initial order for 500 weights if he could come up with a solution.”

Richard continued: “Due to our experience, we soon came up with the perfect 1.5oz stainless steel weight, machined in one hit on a new twin-spindle CNC machine. These contribute to a well balanced bow and this and a steady hand helps to hit gold.

“Archery weights are a new departure for us, but we’re now looking into the possibility of producing other diverse parts for the sport along side our core business.”

Ian Williams, policy director of Leeds Chamber of Commerce, commented: “This is a tremendous example of engineering innovation and ingenuity and demonstrates how some lateral thinking can see new applications for locally sourced products.”

Ends

Photography: Kingfisher Lubrication technical director Richard Holt draws a well-balanced bow – inset the Leeds-produced weight helping archers strike gold.