

FIE COACH PROGRAMME, SABRE

Observations, Learning and Thoughts

by Prof. Phil Carson, BAHons), MBA, BAF

21. Tierce Engagement

In this exercise, the coach establishes the point in line. Rather than a beat attack (which is fraught with danger against a good second intention point in line), the fencer attacks by controlling the blade in tierce. In this first example the finish is simple (or should be!). Can you see how the coach uses a derobement and a parry to check that 1. The distance is controlled and 2. It's not just a predetermined finish unrelated to the coach/opponent?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ti1yFSjjqd4&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=127>

This next video looks at the same attack-au-fer, but finishing in flank. The second half of this video though has some important information on how to coach this action. The coach must pay attention to the fencers' distance and make the mistake (parry) at exactly the right moment for the fencer to read.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNK7JuZDP28&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=128>

This time with chest/belly cuts and a nice example of how to progress this lesson with perfect distance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWOOr30BNvNM&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=129>

An extension of this lesson into a tactical situation involves initially looking to engage the blade in seconde and then dealing with the situation created by the coach with a hitting opportunity, change of engagement to tierce, counter-time etc. The initial intention of the fencer is to attack via seconde, but the change in distance and blade by the coach allows the continuation of the attack.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCOKW06aN8k&list=PLW9OQerjy9W3kizillfQ6wokHKCpTU05Y&index=130>

A The video finishes with coach emphasising the control of distance on the seconde or second/tierce engagement.

Always happy to take any questions on prof.carson@yahoo.co.uk