

The Vine

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From the Kingdom Seneschal

Greetings all from the Kingdom Seneschal,

I have been considering all of the feedback that has been provided (thank you!) and at this stage the decision is that:

In Australia there are no in person SCA sponsored events, activities or meetings for the next 4 weeks.

The reasoning is as follows:

As a kingdom, we are wide and diverse, including the geographical locations that we reside in. These locations are directly influencing that a standard Lochac-wide response to the lifting of restrictions is not possible.

Regarding in person activities, we must consider the risks that affect every aspect of the SCA. At this stage, the following has been taken into consideration:

- Heavy and fencing activities cannot be run due to social distancing
- Although archery may run, there is a requirement that all shared equipment must be disinfected before and after use. They must also observe social distancing with the archery line, retrieval of arrows and ensuring they collect their own equipment
- The limitations of participants in activities does not allow all of the populace the opportunity to attend
- The number cap on persons does not allow for any recruitment opportunities
- We have a vulnerable percentage of our populace which denies them the opportunity to participate
- There is the requirement to maintain social distancing measures limits the use of some halls.

Towards the end of the period, the decision will be reassessed in line with government and state restrictions, as well as health directives.

If there any questions, concerns or issues regarding this, please contact me.
[\(seneschal@lochac.sca.org\)](mailto:seneschal@lochac.sca.org)

Cheers
Bea

Baronial Missive

Greetings to the Populace of Aneala,

As we did last month, we would like to repeat ourselves and share here the same report that we presented at both Aneala Council and Dragon's Bay Council (edited a little to reflect new information from the Kingdom Seneschal):

"Another month, yet still no events". We hope everyone is staying safe and well and enjoying all the various online activities available at the moment. This month we have enjoyed releasing our silly short film, learning about some Tudor stuff at the "Field of the Cloth of Gold" online event, having a chat on Discord with the lovely Populace of Aneala, attending dance classes via Zoom and attending training on Discord as well.

The restrictions here in the West of Lochac have lightened somewhat. However, we cannot yet get back to "doing our thing" until we get the go-ahead from Kingdom Seneschal, which will come 4 weeks after the previous COVID-19 announcement on May 15th. This month we want to remind you that the Seneschals of our SCA groups do an awful lot of work behind the scenes. Please be kind and gentle to our local Seneschals while we wait for news from on high."

We would also like to share with you a few online resources and activities that you might find interesting:

The first is an SCA event to be held on the Aneala voice & text channel on Discord on fortnightly Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm. We have called it "You, Me and the B&B" and it is a social chat evening. We will be sharing a question to kick-start discussion. On Tuesday May 19th the question is:

"What has been your favourite SCA event in the entire time you've been a member - can you pick just one? And what made it such a special event?"

And on Tuesday June 2nd the question is:

"Quest 2020 – still possible to achieve, or time to give up?"

Please remember that you are welcome to drop in for a chat even if the questions hold no interest for you – they're just something to inspire discussion and we will surely move on to other topics!

Want to get started on Discord? Check out the quick start guide here:

<https://masonry.lochac.sca.org/discordquickstart>

You may have been aware that this year Lochac would have hosted the Known World Heraldic and Scribal Symposium. The in-person event is now cancelled, but it has become an "E-symposium" so if you were unable to travel from Aneala to the event then you now have the opportunity to "attend" from afar. Details are here <https://kwhss.lochac.sca.org>



The Barony of Politarchopolis is running “Polit University Online” which is a series of A&S classes on Sunday afternoons/evenings for a number of weeks. For up-to-date information, check the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1573527426158007/> or find details at these links: <https://bit.ly/bookPolitUni> event booklet & timetable: <https://bit.ly/EventBooklet>

For those looking for some online Zoom classes, there are many available via this Facebook page, “Virtual Academy of Service Minded Individuals.”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/706733156734796/>

And for some light-hearted fun, we recommend the Lochac Dance Challenge video. Joining in with other Kingdoms across the Known World, Lochac has put together a dance video to a popular song. You’ll spot some Anealan faces in the video and, as a bonus; the editors were our very own THL Pantera and Lady Gwyneth. Bravo! <https://youtu.be/j7vGJHWVT8Y>

We are very much hoping that in-person events will be reinstated after a safe 4 weeks passes. In the meantime, please keep safe and take care. And let us know if you find any more great online classes or resources – we are loving this opportunity to soak up knowledge!

Yours in Service,

Baron Agostino and Baroness Elizabeth

Aneala

Spotlight On -Baronial Awards

Baronial awards are bestowed by the landed Barons and Baronesses, often in response to recommendations they receive from the populace. The [Baronial Order of Precedence](#) is available on the Baronial website.

Black Feather

The *Black Feather* is awarded for newcomers in the Barony who “jump in with both feet”.

Hearth Troop

The *Hearth Troop* is given at the discretion of the Baron and Baroness to Champions of Aneala at the end of their term.

Order of the Cygnets of Aneala

The *Order of the Cygnets of Aneala* is awarded to those under the age of 16 who make a notable contribution in fighting, service and arts and sciences.

Order of the Demi-suns

The *Order of the Demi-suns* is awarded for outstanding service to the Barony.



Award token for the Order of the Demi Sun. Photo by Sir Nathan Blacktower.

Order of the Golden Swan

The *Order of the Golden Swan* is awarded for excellence in, and contribution to, the arts and sciences.



Award token for the Order of the Golden Sun. Photo by Sir Nathan Blacktower.

Order of the Suns Ray

The *Order of the Suns Ray* is given to those who display exceptional courtesy and grace.

Order of the Supporting Swans

The *Order of the Supporting Swans* is given to those who give outstanding and ongoing service to the Barony for many years.



Award token for the Order of the Supporting Swans. Photo by Sir Nathan Blacktower.

Plumes of Aneala

The *Plumes of Aneala* is awarded to groups in Aneala who have demonstrated skills in the fields of Martial Arts, Arts and Sciences, and Service, which greatly enhance the Barony.

Valiant Swans of Aneala

The *Valiant Swans of Aneala* is awarded for excellence in, and contribution to, the arts martial.



Award token for the Valiant Swans. Photo by Sir Nathan Blacktower.

Baronial Cyphers

The Baron and Baroness bestow *Baronial Cyphers* upon those who significantly enrich their tenure. The tokens change throughout time.

From the Lochac History Site - <https://history.lochac.sca.org/groups/baronies/Aneala>

Event List

In Person Events, Workshops and Training are cancelled until further notice.



Kingdom of Lochac A&S Competitions

Event: Autumn Crown (2020)

Host: Shire of Dismal Fogs

Date: 22nd – 24th May 2020

Themes:

For the Home

Light

The Silk Road

Event: Midwinter (2020)

Host: Barony of Stormhold

Date: 10th-12th July

Themes:

A Matched Set

Musical

From the 16th Century

Event: Spring Crown (2020)

Host: Barony of Saint Florian de la Riviere

Date: 14th – 15th November

Islamic Art / Design

Carved

The British Isles

For more information, please refer to the Lochac A&S website

artsandsciences.lochac.sca.org

Entries for interstate events need to be sent at least 2 weeks prior to be received for judging or have other arrangements made.



Combat Archery – Tips and Techniques

By Dede Kilic

Introduction

There are a number of significant differences between how you conduct yourself on the combat field compared to that on the archery field. What I'll be presenting here is what some of those differences are and reason behind them. I will also only cover what is relevant to plumed combatants as I have no experience or knowledge of how to proceed as a medium combatant (archer and fighter combined).

Differences

The following are a list of key differences for a combat archer compared to a target archer –

Difference	Adaptation
You are wearing armour and for an archer the main issue is that the helmet's face grill and mesh will move your draw hand away from your usual anchor point.	Adjust your stance and aiming point. Also do some practice prior to a battle by shooting at static targets while wearing your helmet.
A combat field is always in movement and sometimes to the point of being chaotic.	Do not take your eyes off the field. If you do: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Someone could shoot you2. An armoured combatant could get inside the 5 metre range3. Your target could move4. A member on your side could come between you and your target. You'll need to learn to draw an arrow from your quiver, nock it and shoot it without looking at your quiver or your bow.
Your targets could be anywhere and they could change at any moment.	So always scan the field and listen out for warnings from those on your side.



<p>The need for accuracy is determined by the target and by how many fellow archers there are.</p>	<p>If you are part of a large archery contingent (9+) then you might use harassing fire to cause your opponents to duck and dodge and slow up their advance. You might also use team shooting where 3 or more archers aim at different points on one combatant. In these cases whether you hit or miss is irrelevant as the aim is to harass and distress your opponents.</p> <p>With a group of opponents if you hit who you aimed at or someone near them is not a worry. So you can do a snap and release shoot without much attempt at aiming.</p> <p>If you are part of a small group of archers or the opponents are spread out then picking off specific targets is a better option.</p>
You have a wider range of target points than you do with target.	In target archery you are trying to strike the spot on the target that will gain you the highest score. In combat archery you have multiple targets that are of value. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Body and head shots, kills your opponent. This is considered the best option.2. Upper leg shots mean your opponents can't move and can be dealt with later.3. Arm shots can be useful as it stops your opponent being able to properly engage in combat. This gives advantage to combatants on your side.



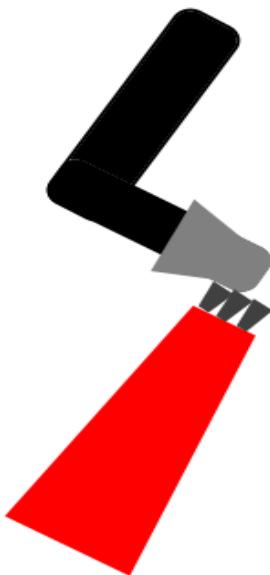
Shooting ranges are reduced.	<p>An arrow with a combat blunt has a very limited range set.</p> <p>As the rules state you can't release an arrow at less than 5 metres. Note this doesn't mean that someone can't be hit by an arrow at less than 5 metres. If they're at 6 metres when you release the arrow but they then run in to slay you and get hit at 3 metres that is a legitimate hit.</p> <p>More than about 20-25 metres on a straight flight shot is probably the limit. You can get further by taking a clout shooting stance but your accuracy will lessen and the impact of the arrow maybe negligible and so your opponent may not notice it.</p>
Your target may not recognise a hit.	<p>If an armoured combatant is engaged in combat it is pointless to shoot them.</p> <p>The reason is twofold.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You may accidentally shoot your own combatant as they are moving as they fight.2. A combatant engaged in combat is expecting a solid strike from a rattan weapon and a combat blunt can feel like a tip strike from a sword and therefore ignorable.
You are like lightening – never in the same place twice and neither are your targets.	With combat archery you will find yourself in a state of constant motion. As the combat situation changes, your targets will change and you will need to be in a different spot to take advantage of a good target.
You are a target.	Remember in combat the targets can shoot back, run you down and kill you. So always be alert to people flanking you or targeting you.

Tips and Techniques

Nocking without looking

As stated in the differences you need to keep an eye on the field which means you shouldn't look down to draw an arrow from your quiver or look at your bow to nock the arrow.

For drawing the arrow from the quiver the easiest way is to ensure it's at a height on your waist that can be reached with a slight bend in your arm. The one in the illustration shows the bend of the arm with the quiver pointing forward, blunts first. If you have a quiver with feathers out then you should set it in a position where you do not have to reach too far back.



To ensure you can nock an arrow without looking at the bow, practice at your regular archery practice. You can also use your regular archery practice to work on scanning the field.

One downside to nocking without looking is the cock feather may be against the bow. You will need to either accept it or use nocks that have a raised ridge that aligns with the cock feather. Alternatively, you can do an Eastern style four fletch where it doesn't matter which way you nock the arrow.





Who gets it first?

This is a much contested concept that largely revolves round who do you start with. The three main categories of target priorities are as follows –

1. Command and control – This concept assumes the lynchpin of a group is its leaders, so take out those in command and those around whom others congregate, such as knights. In my opinion this works for larger groups where command and control is used to co-ordinate multiple subgroups. In smaller battles the fighting tends to devolve into individual combats or mass combats where people fight until they can't. So command and control is less important in those circumstances.

The next group down is the polearms and then the sword and shield combatants.

2. Heavy hitters – This concept looks to remove the polearm combatants first. Taking this group out first means that your side has a better chance of taking out the other side as they will have lost significant fighting power in their second and third ranks. In addition, you can be hitting these combatants even while the front ranks are in combat. The additional advantage is polearm combatants rarely carry a shield and the taking out of even one arm can hamper their ability to fight.

The next group to target would be the archers because shooting engaged armoured combatants is pointless.

3. Furthest out – This concept takes the view that those who have the longest reach should be taken out first. So the sequence would be archers, polearms and finally sword and shield. This works on fields where there is a large area that will take a while for the armoured combatants to cross. Taking out the archers means they can't kill people on your side.

For us in the Western Lands of Lochac probably the Heavy Hitters concept is the one to focus on. The reason this is, is that our battle fields are not long and combatants tend to close quickly. You do need to keep an eye out for small groups peeling off trying to flank your side. You may need to deal with those first unless they are spotted and an armoured combat team is sent out to handle them.

Where to aim

Combatants are armoured but they are armoured in varying ways. An archer or a polearm combatant will usually not have a shield; this means they are open from any direction. A sword and shield combatant on the other hand has a shield (usually on their left side, though not always) so it is best to get on your opponents sword side. This gives you significantly more target points.

Whoever is your target; try to centre your aiming point on the midpoint on the body around about where the top of the kidney belt sits or roughly where the chest meets the abdomen. By aiming at this point, if your arrow goes low, it will most likely strike the leg and if it goes high it will likely hit the chest or head.



It can be useful to practice shooting at a narrow target as this focus your aim. One way to do this is to set up a wand using a yoga roller or a pool noodle on a stake. You can then set up a line in a semi-circle or even wavy and walk the line shooting at different points along the line to practice slight changes in distance.

Another option would be to set up three or more wands, number each one and have someone call out random numbers which will force you to shoot at different targets with little warning.

Exit stage right

One thing an archer needs to keep in mind is, how do I get away from an opponent?

So while lining up a target you have to keep in mind who is lining you up as a target. If it's a fellow archer then ducking or weaving is all you may need to do. However, if it's an armoured combatant then you either have to shoot and shoot accurately or you have to run. So always make sure you have an exit move and a destination in mind. If you run from an armoured combatant you could run towards a group of fellow archers and hope they can take out your chaser. The other option is to run in front of or towards your own armoured combatants so they can engage the chaser. Do not lead the chaser to the back of your group as you've just made them an open target.

Local Lochac Guild Contacts



Royal Fibre Guild of Lochac

For those interested in the arts, crafts and history of all textile matters. We encourage the doing, researching and teaching of fibre related skills as seen in pre 1600 cultures. We include weavers, spinners, dyers, cord makers, felters, knitters, njalbinders and lace makers.

Contact Lady Elizabeth: aneala@aneala.lochac.sca.org

Royal Guild of Defence

Researching and teaching of the period martial arts of Europe, as detailed in the various extant fencing and wrestling manuals.

Contact Baron Dameon: dameongreybeard@gmail.com

Worshipful Company of Broiderers

The aim of the Company is to advance the study and practice of pre-1600 AD European needlework in Lochac and in the Known World.

Contact Baroness Leonie: degrey@tpg.com.au

Performers and Entertainers Guild of Lochac.

This guild is dedicated to the promotion, encouragement, learning and performance of bardic, theatrical, instrumental and all other entertainment arts within an SCA context.

Contact Isabel: genierachel@iinet.net.au

Lochac Brewers Vintners and Imbibers Guild

We share a common interest in brewing and wine making as practiced in the Middle Ages, and the responsible consumption of said beverages.

Contact Wolfgang: chronicler@aneala.lochac.sca.org

SCA Group Websites

Barony of Aneala (Perth, WA)	aneala.lochac.sca.org
Canton of Dragons Bay	dragonsbay.lochac.sca.org
College of St Basil the Great (UWA)	stbasil.lochac.sca.org
Kingdom of Lochac (Australia & New Zealand)	lochac.sca.org
SCA Corporate (Australia)	sca.org.au
SCA Corporate (World-wide)	sca.org

Regular Activities

Baronial Council Meeting

3rd Friday of the month, 7:00pm arrival for a 7:30pm start

Contact Richard: seneschal@aneala.lochac.sca.org

Scribes Calligraphy & Illumination

This is held every Monday evening 7pm – 9pm at different locations so check populace emails and Facebook for details.

Contact Leonie:

Music and Singing

This is not an official SCA event. Practices held twice a month.

Times and venues vary

Contact Isabel: vertragis@arach.net.au

Baronial Armoured, Rapier & Archery Training

Sundays, 10am - 12pm, Lake Monger Primary School, Dodd St, Wembley

Contact Agostino: marshal@aneala.lochac.sca.org

Dragon's Bay Training

This is held on Sundays from 9-9:30am, Wandi Community Hall, De Haer Rd, Wandi. Nearest major road is Rowley Rd which connects with the Kwinana Freeway

College of St. Basil Armoured & Rapier Training

Wednesday (Armoured) & Thursday (Rapier) 5pm to 7pm, Oak Lawn, UWA

About the Vine



This is the February 2020 issue of the Vine (Volume 26, Issue 10), a publication of the Barony of Aneala of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.).

The Vine is available from Aneala's web site <http://aneala.lochac.sca.org>. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc. and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. The official newsletter for the Society in Australia is Pegasus, which is available from the Registrar at: registrar@lochac.sca.org.au

The closing date for submissions to The Vine is the third Sunday of the month. Advertising, including event flyers should preferably be in Word Format. Please send original source documents and associated images separately.

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Photos

Front Cover – Case (étui) with an amorous inscription. Date: 1450–1500 and made in Italy. Medium: Leather (Cuir and bouilli), wood core, red cord. Dimensions: Overall (case only): 8 1/4 x 3 1/8 x 3 1/4 in. (20.9 x 8 x 8.2 cm). Credit Line: Rogers Fund, 1950

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/170008325?rpp=60&pg=27&rndkey=20130105&ft=%20&deptids=17%7C7&img=3>

Border – Ornament. Date: third quarter 15th century. Culture: Italian, possibly Padua. Silver gilt and leather. Dimensions: Overall: 5 7/8 x 3 1/4 x 3/8 in. (14.9 x 1.9 x 1 cm). Gift of Max and Georgina Falk, 1987.

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/207710>