

FIE COACH PROGRAMME, SABRE

Observations, Learning and Thoughts

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18. Counter Ripostes

Counter ripostes should be practiced as a natural consequence of a committed attack being parried. In other words, the fencer is learning what to do in the moment their attack is parried. This is not a second intention issue.

As in the first section of this video, we can start very slowly and close with simple hits that are randomly parried from which the counter parry follows. Note how important it is to remove any physical movement by the fencer that anticipates a counter parry. The attack is the attack and should be delivered as an attack, what happens next is then dealt with.

<https://youtu.be/aO2L4HPdYyE?t=43>

The action can be put into the end of any attack to any line. It's important that the coach gives no indication that they might or might not parry. If there was an early indication of a parry, you'd want the fencer to finish indirect. Similarly, the riposte should be immediate from the coach to elicit the relevant response and timing. If there was a delay in the riposte, there are other options available.

<https://youtu.be/aO2L4HPdYyE?t=254>

The hardest counter riposte for the fencer is following an attack to chest. Beginners often panic because it looks technically impossible. I sometimes get the fencer to close their eyes and to let the hand execute the timing. It takes a bit of practice, but the practice should be in the hand and nurtured over time.

<https://youtu.be/aO2L4HPdYyE?t=568>

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