

Crossbow Demonstration at St. Peters College, Agra

By Stephen Sommers

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On Tuesday February 18th 2014 members of WCSA, Swedish Crossbow team and India Crossbow Shooting Association attended St. Peters College Agra, India. The purpose of the visit was to demonstrate crossbow to approx. 2000 students and their teachers.

We took 2 target buttresses with the 2nd to be placed behind the 1st to ensure no pass throughs. We also took 4 crossbows. 1 x medieval, 1 x sports and 2 x target bows

WCSA representatives were Tony McLoughlin and myself to act as speaker and judges. Swedish representatives were Micky Skottlund, Hans MacManus & Rikard Zitterquest and the ICSA representatives were Rajat & Hina Vij.

The demonstration started with WCSA pin presentation to the Principle, Rev. Fr. Paul Thannickal, Vice Principle Fr. Roshan Parriera and Teacher Harry Clarence. WE also presented awards to some of the students, which was a bit of a surprise. I then spoke to the audience about crossbows throughout history. I asked Rikard to show off the Medieval bow, then Micky & Rajat with the Target bows and finally Hans with the Sports bow. I explained the differences and the progression over the ages of the various bows.

Once the talking and presentation was done I asked Tony to lead the 4 shooters to the area of the ground that we had setup for shooting purposes.

Rikard shot 1st and I believe that most were surprised with the speed and accuracy of the medieval bow. Micky & Rajat were next with the target bows and then finally Hans with the sports bow.

After all 4 had shot a bolt each I had them all stand together to shot 2 bolts under the control of Tony. This was to simulate competition shooting. We shot 2 ends and all the students began cheering whenever a 10 was shot. They were really getting involved and totally enjoyed the demonstration.

The total time we were meant to have was approx. 20 minutes. We took nearly an hour and possibly could have gone most of the day.

The speeches made by the staff following the shooting made it obvious that they totally enjoyed the demonstration and we were given a fantastic applause as the students were directed to go back to the classes, which they reluctantly did.

This was a great PR exercise which we rarely see.



