

Editorial.

24th APRIL 1989.

And that my friends was the 5th Medieval Conference, the accolades have flowed in, "the best conference yet", etc. , and even now thoughts about the conference in '93' have been aired. As Steve Nicol put it so eloquently, "you'll crazy".

To all those people who spent many hours in preparation at Maldon and down in Melbourne, I wish to congratulate everyone from the Master at Arms and the Master of Works down to the toilet cleaner (it was a dirty job but someone had to do it) on a momentous job very well done.

Commendations should go to the following people for there efforts in making the '89' conference a success: Michael Docherty, for all the stress he suffered throughout the whole ordeal; Steve Nicol, for his herculean efforts during the preparation and the conference itself; Robert, for his design of the fort refurbishments and the susequent time and effort in bringing these to fruition ; Toni McLennan, for her efforts in setting up and running the tavern, with the rest of her staff; Steve Wallace, Steve Nicol and Roy Castel, and the Kitchen Slaves, for their heroic feats down in the kitchen, which produced mountainous amounts of food of such a high quality during the conference; and finally to everyone who assisted in the whole effort doing so many jobs both big and small which would take to much ink to mention, thankyou and well done.

However you spent your time either: attending the lectures, fighting, drinking, dancing, talking, eating, etc. , or all of the above, it was time well spent, was it not? In only four days so much was offered which catered for just about everyones tastes. The only problems which were brought to my notice was the smell of the lower set of toilets, and the lack of easy access to water, these were certainly only minor problems which will be overcome in future.

The Fort Battle was one of the most enjoyable battle of the event, not only did we get to defend a fort which we constructed but also to attack it in return. Such battles over fortified positions should be treated as just the same as any other battle, with all normal rules applying (the turning around of spears is necessary), so for the number of uncontrolled and/or unsighted blows and attacks witnessed I'm surprised at the low number of injuries sustained, this will need to be thought about before the next such battle. Many agreed it was one of the best battles if its kind yet.

I wish the people of Wolfshead and Mmass all the best in their endeavours in running the next conference, we put this one together with only 8 months planning but we did have the experience and suitable buildings already on site, so Wayne and his lot have a great deal to do even at this early stage.

Only a few took part in the archery combat at the conference but those who did it was great fun, and those who watched were captivated by the fact that we actually were firing arrows (fitted with rubber blunts) at each other. A number of group are interested in combat archery but as yet have not acquired the necessary gear, though most have the information about the subject. So in future we should have more combat archers taking to the field.

Our Archery Combat rules are very similar to those of the S.C.A., and with a few modification we could take part in their battles as archers or what is known as light infantry or 'lights'. The Mountains Garrison's archers are famous for their skills in such combats, working as mercenaries they have turned the tide of battle in their sides favour. Archers equipped with S.C.A. approved archery equipment fulfil N.V.G. archery combat rules (gorget ?), so they can take part in N.V.G. combat archery.

With the necessary changes to the N.V.G. rules and exceptance of S.C.A. conventions and rules regarding combat archery. We could also be hired as mercenaries for the sca combats. There is a battle in the not to distant future at Maldon, in which we could take part if the necessary changes to equipment are made, and these can be done without to much effort.

The N.V.G. rules regarding archery combat which need to be modified to align ours with those of the S.C.A. are as follows:

- Bow poundage reduced from 36Ib to 30Ib
- Arrow shafts need to be taped with fibreglass tape
- There are probably other thing that need changing as well

Other differences which exist are as follows:

- Archers are not allowed to carry shields
- Archers must be distinguished from 'heavies' by wearing plumes on helmets
- Archers are not allowed to carry any other weapon other than the bow
- The minimum shooting distance is much shorter than that of the N.V.G.