



KYUDO CHABLAIS

Traditional Japanese Archery

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Bernex on 10 November 2021

Report

Conduct of Kyudo discovery camps in Belgrade (Serbia)

Birth of the project:

For his 30 years of archery, the president of the Serbian Archery Federation - Mr Dragan SVILANOVIC - has decided to offer something to other Serbian archery addicts. His choice was a discovery of the traditional Japanese archery, namely Kyudo. Knowing me, Dragan asked me (Pascal COLMAIRE) to supervise two short courses in Belgrade: November 5 and 6, then November 7 and 8, 2021.

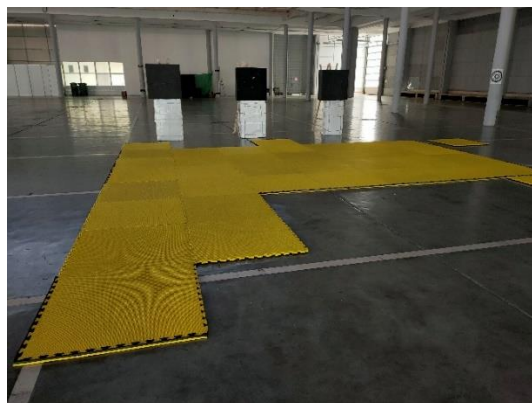
Note: Dragan speaks French because he studied in Montpellier.

Preparation of the project:

The preparation was driven by electronic exchanges in the form of numerous messages and a meeting with three Serbian organizers.

White Eagle, a medieval association strongly supported this project and providing a complete hall of the Belgrade exhibition centre *, as well as its storage room and also built-in ground covers.

* *White Eagle has this hall for its rehearsals*



Built-in ground covers

The Serbian Archery Federation loaned various targeting elements in Ethafoam, as well as a safety net.



The Azuchi

6 wooden Makiwara supports were built.



Dragan's car was full!



Belgrade Exhibition Centre

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Six cardboard rolls and 6 swimming tubes were purchased to build the Makiwara. As the cardboard rolls were very small, we tried to make 3 Makiwaras with the 6 cardboard rolls, but it was still too small; the solution illustrated below was finally found and proved to be very satisfactory.



Used version of "Makiwara"

Dragan had bought his own equipment and was happy to lend it.



Dragan and his brand-new equipment

All the practice equipment - 6 Yumi, ten Makiwaraya, Matoya, Kake, 3 Muneate, spare and repair equipment - were loaned by Kyudo Chablais. The Serbian Archery Federation strongly thanked this association.

I brought various educational tools; elastic bands, Yumistick (PVC simulator),

Gomutsuru (elastic ropes), Giriko, mirror (plastic), other repair items.



Matériel carried

Participation to the camps

The invitation to learn Kyudo was not limited to members of the Serbian Archery Federation, nor to the people of Belgrade. Various associations with links to martial arts and Asia have been contacted.



Some of the participants

Most of the participants came for two days. A total of 14 participants were introduced to Kyudo, including only two young ladies. The average age of them was significantly lower than that of practitioners from France. About 10 of the participants were archers.

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The youngest participant hit the target (once on only two arrows shot at the Mato) after only two days of practice (twice 5:30), I had to report this small feat.

Camps progress

It was inspired by Kyudo Chablais initiation programs, in a condensed form because the schedules were from 10 am to 1 pm then from 2:30 pm to 5 pm, over two days for each course.



As most of the Serbs have good physical development, the participants have made good progress. From their experience with the bow, the archers had some facilities, however encountering the same difficulties in using the Kake as any other beginner.

The participants of the first course had to prepare the equipment, in particular the targets, which still required work. As a result, their practice was less than their counterparts in the second stage; some of them returned to the second stage. During the latter, the participants therefore practiced and were able to progress further. They were even able to shoot a pair of arrows to the Mato.



The attitude, the attention ... of the participants is beyond reproach. They particularly enjoyed the work on themselves.



Media coverage:

The highlight was the extensive use of Facebook and Instagram. The number of visits to these social media pleasantly surprised the Serbian Archery Federation. Probably about ten



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people came to watch some of our activities, including a couple of active Cypriot archery volunteers who were very interested.

What's next?

If it weren't for the material barrier (bows, gloves, even arrows) I would positively see a real start of Kyudo in Serbia; especially if this problem could be quickly resolved. Dragan with a few interns will work there. For this, they will seek help from the European Kyudo Federation, among others.

More information and photos on:

[Streličarski Savez Srbije - Accueil | Facebook](#)

[Streličarski Savez Srbije \(@serbianarchery\) - Photos et vidéos Instagram](#)

www.facebook.com/Kyudochablais

www.instagram.com/kyudochablais

At your disposal to discuss this subject / Regards,

Pascal COLMAIRE, President