



Knives and Axes, Lanserien Kontili Breizh

Rob I'm in Callac with Pierre Casoulat in his shop in the centre of Callac. Pierre, thank you for seeing me this afternoon. You're the president of an association, here in Callac, which does something a little unusual. Can you tell us about your association?

Pierre So, the name of the association is the "Lanserien Kontili Breizh" its means "Brittany's Knife-Throwers." We throw axes and, and knife.

Rob Is it dangerous?

Pierre Oh, no. For the moment we don't have no, we haven't had nobody. So, since 2004 in France and other country of Europe, we have tournament and we have hurt nobody since 2004.

Rob That's a good sign. And, I believe that you're a bit of a champion.

Pierre Sometime I win, sometime I lost, but ...

Rob You are very modest ...

Pierre No, but the important is when I begin in competition, I have found a family are very close each other. Sometimes there is a winner, but it is not ... the important is to throw with other people who have the same passion.

Rob You recently organized a big international tournament here in Callac.

Pierre Yes, it was in 2014. We organized a world, the first world championship in Europe, and we had about 15 nation, the best throwers was in Callac, best Russians, best American people. We had people from England, because in England you have a good thrower too. We have German, Czech. German are very good in axes and knife too. A very good thrower, one of the best thrower for the moment, is a German guy.

Rob OK. You mention knives and axes. It's a very different technique?

Pierre Not really. For a conventional throwing, for conventional knife, it's very close to throwing axes, because we use the rotation and there is another technique, we say that it is the "instinct technique," because you, you use conventional throwing technique. You have to know exactly the distance of the target to make the rotation and to arrive to the point of the, of the knife. So, each knife have its own rotation, so we use big knives, about one foot size, a

little bit more, so this knife have three meters rotation at the first turn. So you need to be at three meters or three meters point five centimetres, maybe so very exactly at the rotation of that knife, and it's the same at two rotations, three rotations. You have to know each rotation. And you have another technique: we call that the "no spin" technique, and you are going to throw without rotation. It's a different grip on the handle of the knife and you stop the rotation of that knife. When you throw, the knife go like an arrow, but without the feather, to keep it straight, OK.

Rob So, it's difficult.

Pierre Yes, it's very difficult, and this technique you don't have to know the target, the distance of the target. It's really instinct technique. Your brain judges the distance, you need a lot of feeling to push exactly with the knife to go straight and to stick at the distance you don't know.

Rob Lastly, you have a, your association meets every week in Callac

Pierre Yes.

Rob Are you looking for people, can you invite people to come along?

Pierre Oh, it's not a problem. You can come, I don't know of the name in English ... on mardi, on Tuesday at 8 o'clock in the evening. You can come to see, maybe try if you want.

Rob And that's down, somewhere near the Intermarché?

Pierre Yes, it's in the zone of Kervionec, between Intermarché and where we play boules. We have a target in the same room.

Rob OK, well maybe some of our listeners will be interested to come along and give it a try.

Pierre With pleasure.....
.....So now I am going to take my conventional strike knife. You hear it?

Rob Yeah.

Pierre So I am going to go at three meters target, because it's the natural rotation of this knife. I am going to try to stick the strike knife in the wood target.

Rob What kind of knife is it?

Pierre It's my creation.

Rob You make your knives?

Pierre So, it's a new one. I don't know if it work. We will see.

Rob I hope so, because I'm standing very close to the target.....

....Wow. I can tell listeners that those three knives landed right in the middle of the target.

Pierre The third one have touched the second one.

Rob No points for that then?

Pierre In competition we throw one knife in one target -- never three in the same, because you can hear -- because you can hurt the knife. We throw one knife.

Rob You make these knives. From what do you make them? How do you make them?

Pierre I design the knife and after somebody cut me the steel, and after I work the steel with a machine.

Rob And how heavy are they?

Pierre This one is 500 grams, so it's quite heavy for a strike knife -- 300 to 550 grams -- some big throwers, strong throwers throw 600 grams knife, medium, it's about 300, 350. The important is the "relachement", I don't know, the relaxation, the speed of your arm. You don't need to be a, to be a very strong. You need to have a relaxation and the speed in your arm.

Rob Women can do this as well?

Pierre We have in our club, we have a, we are now 15 people in the club, and we have six woman, thirty, close to thirty percent, so it's not too bad.

Rob Yes.

Pierre In competition, it's the same. We have about 20 percent of woman in the competition.

Rob So, do they compete against men or just against women?

Pierre Sometimes. We have different competition. We have competition on target, where the points are, are counting ... is it?

Rob Counting, counting points, yes ...

Pierre We have long-distance throwing, so the goal is to throw the further of the target, and for the two competition, there is woman *classement*, a woman competition, and men competition. But we have the, we call that the "Duel Cup," so you have to take your knife in the sheath faster than the other guy, or woman, it's open. You are do it, but you are not ...

Rob ... facing ...

Pierre ... in front of your ... you have two, you have a target in front of you, your eyes, at your left or your right, you have a target too, and then we

have a machine with a light ...

Rob Like a laser ...

Pierre Yeah, will tell you who sticks first. It's like a duel, "fast-draw" in English.

Rob It sounds like the Wild West

Pierre Yeah, yeah, sometimes.

Rob Pierre, you have a customer, so we'll stop there. Thank you very much.

Pierre You're welcome.

Rob It's brilliant. Thank you.

