

Shire of Hartshorn-dale Shire Meeting November 3, 2005. Minutes

In attendance were: Elizabet Marshall, John Marshall, Gavan MacBane, Sion ap Llyelwyan, Elizabeth of Rivenstar, Eleanor, Steun de Skeffield, Alison Wodehalle, Margarete of Shirlingshire, Finn Finnegan O'Flynn, Arlyn Bell, Diana Alene, Liúfa Rodhbartsdottir*, Jessica Prowant*, Sabatina da Valle, Michel Wolfffauer, Brynn Nic Neachdain, Samuel DiBianco, George Koopeman, Palotzi Marti, Kolosvari Arpadne Julia, Kolozsvari Arpad. *(Note that the attendance list is offered in the order the attendance sheet was signed. Only SCA names are given, where available. Reference to people in these minutes will be by their most common name. A more formal list of names or clarification is available upon request. As always, the Secretarie apologizes for any incorrect spellings and welcomes corrections.)* *Welcome newcomer!

I. Officer Reports *(In continuing effort to make the Minutes a clear and logical document, the Secretarie offers the following format for the Officer Reports. The reports will be listed in the Minutes in alphabetical order each month, regardless of the order in which they are offered at meeting.)*

Because of the time expected to be taken by the primary business of the meeting, only those officers having specific reports presented reports. There was no report from Accessibility, Archery, A&S, Chamberlain, Chirurgeon, Chronicler, Dance, Demo, Domesday, Fencing, Heavy Weapons, Herald, MOL, Seneschal, Thrown Weapons, or Web Minster.

A. Chatelaine

Two new members were with us at the meeting (see note in attendance). Newcomers meeting will be held on November 4.

B. Exchequer

Mike reported that the quarterly report was submitted, and on time. All waivers possessed by the Shire (with the exception of the most recent Games and Galliards) have been sent to the waivers secretary.

C. Secretarie

The October minutes were approved unanimously. Elizabet announced that she has set up a website for links to all existing minutes. She also asked the Shire to consider length of time that minutes should be available on line. Mike suggested that the minutes themselves could be hosted on the Shire's website, with it being set up for Elizabet to post them herself; this will be coordinated. Elizabet will continue to host the links page at <http://www.housemarshall.org/MinutesLinks.htm>.

II. Demos and Events

A. Demos

There are no demos coming up. The demo brought to the Shire by Burkhardt did go forward with about three fighters. It was a small showing, but it was what the group wanted.

B. Alle's Faire

Margarete expects to have a meeting for staff by the end of the year, then monthly meetings. Diana noted that several more people have stepped forward, though they are still looking for someone for the Saturday dayboard. Sam noted that David intends to have a menu for the Saturday dinner soon, and that David expects to have several helpers from Silver Rylle.

C. Fields of Gold

Brynn noted that Fields of Gold II will be held at the Paoli United Methodist Church in Paoli (the site of last year's Schola). This is a combined sewing marathon (Golden Seamstress) and scribal (Golden Quill) marathon event. It is overnight for the sewing competition, beginning on Friday night. The church is not requesting any additional fee for the extended time. Brynn noted that the event could be hosted by another group with a request to us for use of our territory, but she thought the Shire should get to be the host. The event is February 17 and 18 with Brynn as Autocrat. Mistress Donabrenn (the Kingdom A&S Minister) will also be doing a large amount of the work.

The run down on expected expenses: Site fee \$500. Coffee cart/breakfast for the overnight people approx \$250. Dayboard (Sabatina) for Saturday (number not given). Total budget is approximately \$780 expenses. Planned fees: \$15 for competitors in Golden Seamstress (and any others there for overnight); \$10 for competitors in Golden Quill, judges and others who are there all day on Saturday; \$6 or 7 for anyone arriving after 2 on Saturday (general populace). As of this time it is NOT expected to be a royal progress.

The matter was discussed and the Shire voted to approve the event on a fast track basis.

D. Spring Event

Sabatina reported that she has concerns regarding the "Spring Event" because of Fields of Gold, Alles' Fair and scheduling conflicts that have arisen. Because of the kingdom/local area conflicts, the event would have to be April 1, which would possibly also be a conflict. She suggested moving the event that she is putting together to the Fall, possibly combined with a Schola. The Shire agreed to consider the "Spring Event" to be withdrawn to be submitted again for a later time.

III. Officer Selection

The meeting next proceeded to officer selection. Note that notes from discussion are only given if they were shared with the candidate when he or she returned to the room. The general format was that the candidate would give a short presentation, followed by a Q&A period. Then the candidate would leave the room for discussion and decision and be called back in for the decision.

A. Accessibility Porter

Candidate: Georg Koopeman.

Presentation: Georg noted that the position of Accessibility Porter is one that was developed to deal with issues at events dealing with accessibility – helping people to be able to attend events if they have disabilities or other difficulties. He noted that his mundane work is with the disabled, giving him knowledge of regulations and access to resources.

Q&A: Georg was asked if he would always be the person to do what is needed. He responded that his hope/expectation is that people in need of assistance or accommodation contact him prior to an event so that he can determine what, if anything needs or can be done. If he is not present at an event, the fall back would be the autocrat (if something comes up he has not been contacted about). If he knows ahead of time and will not be present, he can ensure that there is someone who knows what needs to be done, or ensure that appropriate accommodations be set up.

Georg also noted that he would be available for people looking at sites as potential event locations for the future. He would be open to having a deputy.

Discussion and Decision. Georg was accepted for the position. The Shire members would like to see the existence of the position to be publicized and utilized more.

B. Domesday Editor

Candidate: Kolosvari Arpadne Julia

Presentation: The Domesday Editor maintains and prepares the Domesday which is the Shire address book. Members and friends of the Shire are listed in it, and it is voluntary to be listed. For the next edition, Julia is adding the blazons of registered arms in individual listings. This may mean a change in the format from a 4.25x5.5 booklet to 8.5x11. Currently, the Domesday is produced approximately annually.

Q&A: There is quite a bit of change from year to year. Julia would be willing to produce a new edition sooner than a year if it is wanted, but counseled against it. The Domesday is out-of-date as soon as it is printed. The database is backed up both on paper and electronically. The electronic form through the website works well for her. She can provide electronic copy on request, but it will not be placed on line.

Discussion: Julia was accepted for the position.

C. Demo Coordinator

Candidate: Margarete of Stirlingshire.

Presentation: Margarete sees the position of Demo Coordinator as being the “go to” person or coordinator for demos. She cannot necessarily be at all demos, but will be the contact person and if she cannot be there, she will see that there is a person in charge.

Because of her work, she is very accessible. Her expectation is that she would receive requests for demos, determine what is needed and coordinate the demo with the shire.

Margarete also sees possibility for some education on how to do a demo. How to act, how to interact, what to do.

Q&A: None.

Discussion: Margarete was accepted.

D. Fencing Marshal

Candidate: Maire ni Sheaghda.

Presentation: Maire was not able to attend the meeting. Finn noted that she has stated her willingness to continue in the position and is the only authorized Fencing Marshal in the Shire.

Q&A: Lilia is a Marshal-in-Training and potential deputy. There are currently 3 regular attendees to practice (in addition to Maire), and there are usually one or two additional at practice.

Discussion: Maire was accepted.

E. Chirurgion

Candidate: Robin Gallowglass

Presentation: Robin was not present at the meeting, did not contact anyone and did not send a representative.

Discussion: Selection was deferred, pending contact from the candidate. It was noted that Robin's current term as Chirurgion ends January 1st; if selection has not occurred by then, the position will fall vacant. The position is only required for events, during which it can be covered by any warranted Chirurgion.

F. Chatelaine

Candidate: Alison Wodehalle

Presentation: Alison began her presentation by thanking Lilia for her work in the position, and said that she was lucky to learn from her.

Alison plans to continue Newcomers' meetings. She encourages other Shire members (not necessarily newcomers) to attend as well. She would also like to do a few "mini schola" days for newcomers during the year and is working on format thoughts for that. She has revised the demo hand out to make it an introduction to people who do not know anything about the SCA. She would also like to put together a booklet to hand out at newcomer meetings with information much like that which is on the website.

Q&A. Alison was asked if she had plans for the Newcomers website. She was not aware that it was separate from the Shire website, or that she would be able to make decisions for it. She will look at it and consider it.

Alison was also asked about her view of the role of the Chatelaine at events. There was a short discussion of ideas of ways for the office to make events open and welcoming to new members.

Discussion: Alison was accepted.

G. A&S Minister

There are two candidates for this position – they hope to continue to fill the office together as they have been doing.

1. Elizabeth of Rivenstar

Presentation: Elizabeth would like to find a day and time for a weekly A&S meeting; one without a specific program, to just be a “bring your projects and share” evening. She would also like to have a sub-website on the Shire’s website for presenting Shire members’ work.

Q&A. Elizabeth was asked about how she sees the position affecting A&S at events. She said that she would like to take a more active role in this. She would organize classes, specifically seeking out people and encouraging them to teach. She would also encourage people to teach at A&S nights. She hopes to do a class on feedback – how to give it and how to take it.

2. Gavan MacBane

Presentation: Gavan noted that his interests in A&S are in areas that are less “standard.” He wants set up a random A&S class every month or every other month. These would be in some of the “different” A&S areas – areas that are not often covered (metal work, herbalism, pottery...), in an effort to raise interest in some of the other skills. These would be hands on classes. He would also like to do some programs on doing research. Gavan noted that he is already working on ideas for the website mentioned by Elizabeth.

Q&A. Gavan was asked about getting more attendance at A&S nights and the classes. He said that he would look to publicizing them to local area groups. It was also noted that Shire members could be encouraged to go to A&S activities of neighboring groups.

Elizabeth and Gavan are seeking to be joint A&S Ministers.

Discussion: (The candidates left the room together for the discussion). Elizabeth and Gavan were accepted as joint A&S Ministers.

H. Knight Marshal

Candidate: Sion ap Llyelwyan

Presentation: Sion noted that there are four warranted heavy weapons marshals in the Shire. Of those four, he and Finn, the current Marshal regularly attend the practices. He is seeking to step up to relieve Finn who has been serving. He wants to continue practices, as well as encouraging newer fighters to work towards more authentic “kit.” He does not envision any radical changes to the way things are running now, as they are working now.

Q&A: There are regularly 4-7 people at practice, and a couple of new people recently. One thing that was noted recently is some signs of burn out in Finn, who has not had as much chance to practice/train for himself while helping others. Sion’s plan and hope is to trade off time training of newer fighters with Finn and the others so that everyone has a chance to work on his own training.

Sion was asked if he was open to adding social time to the practices (as happens in some neighboring groups). He said that if people want to come to socialize they’d be welcome, but that the space is not particularly conducive to it.

Discussion: Sion was accepted.

I. Seneschal

Candidate: Finn Finnegan O’Flynn

Presentation: Finn noted that the position of Seneschal is essentially the “President” of the group. He has been in Hartshorn-dale for five or six years, and in the SCA since 1987. In his SCA career he has held most of the major offices except MOAS. The big difference between Seneschal and other positions is that the Seneschal deals with legality issues, such as signing documents. He notes that the Shire is very A&S heavy, while he is a fighter, but this shouldn’t be a problem. He wishes to be more of an “enabler” than a “leader”, helping the group get where it wants to go, rather than steering it where he wants it to go.

Q&A: It was noted that a comment heard from other groups is about the apparent isolation of the Shire and Finn was asked how he would repair that. He said that he would look to visiting other groups, encourage Shire members to attend surrounding area events, and encourage members to go to meetings held by other groups. He also suggested looking into having a regional meeting of officers.

Another question was about recruitment, whether he had any plans other than encouraging others. Finn said that he did not have any specific plans about recruitment. He plans to talk to those who know about current and past efforts and to brainstorm with them and bring ideas to the Shire.

Finn was asked what he wants the image of Hartshorn-dale to be to people from far away. Finn noted that he started with the SCA as many do, in college, for fun, but he

came to desire to be more involved, and to be more accurate. He said that one cannot “make” someone else look more period, etc, just that one can present oneself as an example.

Finn said that he likes what our events represent. He believes people look to Hartshorn-dale as “they do it right.” He wants to continue that and make it even better. For example, he would like to see the shire field a unit, in colors, even if it is just a handful of fighters.

Finn was asked what he saw as the weaknesses of the Shire and how he wants to address them. One thing he sees as both a strength and a weakness is that the same people do things over and over – there is not a lot of turnover. He wants to try to get a bigger mix of people in the Shire to do things. He wants to address it by encouraging people on a one-on-one basis to try new things.

Finn was asked why he wants to be Seneschal. He replied that he hadn’t even thought of it until a few months ago. At one point, he heard that people were thinking of him in those terms and started to think about it. He sees the position as being similar to what he does for mundane work – project manager. He sees that it will be a challenge and fun. He wants more than fighting from his time with the Shire. He wants more interactivity and wants to help the Shire continue to grow. He expressed “this has become my home.”

Finn was asked how he plans to relate to the other officers. He replied that he would consider officer meetings, possibly quick meetings prior to Shire meetings. He would keep up communication with the other officers and strive to be aware if they need anything.

There was also a discussion regarding a Shire encampment at Pennsic. This was tabled as a proposed agenda item for the February meeting.

Finally, Finn was asked “what do you get out of it.” He owned to being a “service junkie.” He said he would get the satisfaction of getting something done.

Discussion: During the discussion the Shire was assured that Finn has 100% support from his wife. Finn was accepted.

IV. Calendar

(Mentioning changes only) There will be no dance practice the Friday after Thanksgiving.

The December newcomer’s meeting will be at Liz & Sion’s place, as Alison will be out of town.

The Wednesday A&S night will be at its usual time, but the location will be in Iron Bog, where Sabatina has been asked to teach a class on appliqué It was noted that Iron Bog is now a Barony.

V. New Business

Sion is looking for volunteers to discuss recruitment. He hopes to present a list at the next meeting.

All were encouraged to attend the Schola held by the Bailiwick of Iveyinrust on Saturday, November 5.

Elizabet spoke about an exhibit at the Met that would be of interest.

VI. Charter Discussion

The evening being well advanced, discussion on the Charter was tabled for next meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Elizabet Marshall
(Kandy Fling)