

The Village Idiot

Newsletter of the Barony of Windhaven
May AS XLIV



*HAPPY NEW
YEAR!! WELCOME
TO AS XLIV*



Minutes of the April Business Meeting

April 19, 2009

3:00 - Stone Cellar Brew Pub, Appleton, WI

Seneschal's Report:

- Midrealm is having a 40th anniversary event on October 3 in Grey Gargoyles. Countess Fern will be in attendance.
- The fundraising coordinator for Spring Crown is looking for people who are willing to create and donate kits.
- WW will be having a "school of defense" for the first time this year.

Chancellor of the Exchequer's Report:

- Lady Giana's quarterly report is due and will be filed on time.

- Current fund balances include around \$5,000 in CD's and \$2,500 in checking.
- A \$600 check has been sent to Kingdom for donation.

Herald's Report: Lady Eva's quarterly report has been submitted.

Chronicler's Report:

- A letter of resignation from Lady Brigid was read. Lady Elspeth thanked her for filling the position over the past year.
- The position of Chronicler will be posted again in the May Village Idiot. THL Mearha has agreed to serve as interim Chronicler until elections at the May business meeting.

Chatelaine's Report: Lady Gwen is checking in the possibility of doing a demo at Kohler-Andrea State Park later this summer.

MOAS Report: There has not been much activity. Baroness Leaina has some ideas for the summer.

Knight's Marshal's Report: This position is currently open due to Lord Hamish moving out of the Barony. Lord Ulrich is a marshal in training and has volunteered to organize fighter practices. Practices will be held with the other warranted marshals in the group until Ulrich gets his warrant and becomes the official group marshal.

Archery Captain's Report: Lord Aaron reports that Schutzenfest will be held in Nordskogen in August this year

Rapier Captain's Report: Lord Charismos has volunteered to fill this role for the Barony. He is not yet warranted, but has received permission from Master Giles, Regional Deputy, to run practices in Windhaven. Elections will be held at the May business meeting.

Baron's Report: Baron Grimmund attended Coronation and presented monogrammed boxes made by THL Mearha and glass beads made by HE to Their Majesties.

WAC Report:

- Discussed having a combination fighter's practice/moot event and other moots.
- Discussed organizing social gatherings such as going to St Brennan's for Irish singing.

Old Business:

- a. Fall Crown Bid – The decision on bids for Fall Crown has been put off to allow the winners of Crown Tournament to have some input. A discussion ensued regarding the history that led to Crown and Coronation becoming two separate events in Northshield and why there is a move to change them back to one single event again. See separate article on this subject.
- b. Bardic Madness – A proposal was presented by THL Friedrich to host Bardic Madness 20 in Windhaven at the DePere Community Center. THL Friedrich would be Event Steward with a feast prepared by Lady Merit. If we want to have alcohol at the event we need to get a permit from the city. The group discussed the pros/cons of having merchants with no conclusion.

Discussion also ensued about the pros/cons of tying the feast fee into the site fee. What happens if not enough people come to cover cost of feast? What happens if you have more people than you have feast prepared for?

Another question was presented: Are we going to do Fighter's School? If so, how can we do so with the limited staff we have? Several alternatives for doing both events were suggested such as looking at bringing in other groups to help out, ie. Turm Am Dem See for lunch at Fighter's School and Skerjatrond for help at Bardic. It was also mentioned that having more events will be an opportunity to introduce more of our newer members to the delicate art of leading and being in charge of various aspects of running events.

A motion was made to submit a proposal. The motion passed.

New Business:

- Anyone who is interested in submitting a proposal for Fighter's School should be prepared to do so at the next business meeting.

Next Meeting – May 16th Location TBD based on weather.

Position Openings

The Barony of Windhaven currently has the following officer positions open:

- Chronicler (Great Officer)
- Rapier Captain

Individuals who are interested in filling either of these positions should be familiar with the requirements of the office as stated in the Baronial Policies and Procedures and **MUST** be present at the May business meeting on May 16, when polling will take place to fill the offices.

A Letter From Mistress Tatiana, Chamberlain to TRM Stephen & Ailleanne

For those of you who are Northshield residents I wanted to remind you that your Crown would like your input. Their Royal Majesties Stephen and Ailleanne have proposed a law change that would combine Crown and Coronation into one event. They posted this in Their April Northwatch missive, which can be found at <http://northshield.org/Reigns/Reign10/missive.htm>

A selection from Their April letter is "Ours will mark the tenth reign of Northshield, while We look forward to the summer months, We also believe this is a proper time for a retrospective look at Our Kingdom. Evaluating what we do well, what and where we can improve, and what hasn't worked so well. With this in mind, We have put forth for commentary by the populous a change in Kingdom Law that would combine Crown Tournament and Coronation into a single event. The feedback that We receive from this commentary will greatly

influence Our decision on how to proceed with this issue."

They really would like to get commentary from everyone on this, not only peers, but everyone.

So if you have a minute please send them your thoughts on this. They are quite serious that the input from the commentary They receive will greatly influence Them. They can be reached at: King@northshield.org and Queen@northshield.org

Accepting Proposals

The Barony of Windhaven will be considering proposals for its bi-annual Fighter's School event at the May business meeting. Individuals who wish to submit a proposal at that time should contact Lady Elspeth O'Leary, Seneschal for more information.

AN INTRODUCTION TO RAPIER FIGHTING

Greetings to all and singular!

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to those who I have not yet met and also give a small bit of background as well. My complete SCA name is Kurios (Greek version of lord) Charimmos of Lakadaemonias, but easier and more typically used is Charismos (Ka-riz-mos). I have been playing in the SCA since 1997 and have literally been around the world in the SCA thanks to the US Government. I started out as a heavy fighter but transitioned into rapier fighting in 2001 after a few broken ribs at a Drachenwald War event. Since then, I have primarily focused on rapier fighting as I slowly, reluctantly sold off my heavy kit. I have served as shire, baronial and assistant kingdom rapier marshal in Drachenwald and the Outlands.

At this past month's baronial business meeting, I was honored with the opportunity of now serving as Windhaven's Baronial Rapier Marshal for the foreseeable future. I appreciate His Excellency's and the Seneschal's support and trust in being able to oversee this auspicious office.

As a way to kind of breathe some life and interest into the rapier community in the area, it was suggested that a monthly newsletter article would be an excellent way of getting in some SCA related rapier history, knowledge, drills to practice at home, research links and all sorts of other information that could possibly be used by the beginner to the experienced. So, welcome to the first article. I would like to state up front that this of course is not the end all, be all, one source of information. There are many, many experienced fighters in this great Kingdom to be sought out for additional information in a number of areas.

With this first article, I would like to start off with the very basic of basics. The rapier kit. Before anything else can really be done, you need to have something to fight in. All the myriad of fighting styles can utilize any number of other little accessories but there are some basics that always must be covered. A good generality to keep in mind though is that all skin must always be covered and common sense is a good rule of thumb. But more specifically these are some details to cover.

First and foremost is the mask. In the SCA, the standard 3 weapons mask. This can be gathered through a number of websites that this can be purchased at (as well as Play it Again Sports on occasion) but I personally recommend www.physicalchess.com as they are usually the least expensive and fastest to be delivered. Of course, as you go on in the SCA life, there are a multitude of custom helm options that can become quite pricey but can be nice to have.

Besides the mask, there always has to be a hood of some sort. A good 4-layers of linen hood with the mask over it or attached to the mask is the best way to go. These can also be purchased commercially through www.gypsypeddler.com at a fair price. Or if you don't know of anyone who has a pattern, I have a pattern to be replicated to any who may need it as well.

Following in the head to toe way of looking at a person, comes the gorget. Of course these can be gained in any number of methods. The standard rule of thumb is that is if its heavy legal, it will certainly be rapier legal. If you play rapier throughout the SCA you will certainly come across epee play (in Northshield it's only used within youth rapier and training) where gorgets are not

An Introduction To Rapier Fighting – Cont'd

required. I personally recommend it is still worn as a broken epee doesn't get stopped by a lot and a stout shot with an epee is just as painful as one with a heavy rapier.

Going into the torso section, there are a few more requirements that must be met. Every rapier fighter does this different and there is certainly no right way but the only wrong way is an unsafe way. The basic requirements is puncture proof material or layers of material to sufficiently provide adequate resistance to puncture on both the front section of the torso and the arm pits due to the artery. A simple way of covering that requirement is a standard fencing jacket that can be gained through any website (or once again Play it Again). A website that does well with the fencing jackets is www.zenarmory.com which is run by Walter Triplette, who is a SCA person as well. Once the jacket is on, any number of garb items can be put over to "hide" the mundane look of the jacket. Of course there are more advanced ways to cover the same armor requirements such as an under-armor shirt, a "white poufy shirt" and a doublet. But even still there are requirements to be met inside that. One thing to keep in mind for women specifically is that there are hard plastic breast plates available to protect against painful thrusts and possible bruising to the breasts. This armor is not required and would be possibly used by about 1/4 to 1/3 of women participating in rapier.

After the torso section are the hands. There are of course always a number of vendors at events that offer the deer skin gloves which are always exquisite and supple for excellent feel. Typically these are made to extend beyond the wrist to assist in covering the end of the shirt or tunic or whatever to insure the no skin showing clause. Some alternatives for gloves to be used in between more specifically designed for rapier are welders gloves (which also provide a fair amount of padding to fingers) and regular gardening gloves that would require a cuff being added on to the wrist section.

The waist section and lower offers a number of possibilities for coverage to fit one's persona. The two requirements are: all skin being covered of course and for men an athletic cup. There are also a number of female protective devices available as

well. But I have seen everything from pants, to skirts to tights to the extent of the imagination as long as basics are met.

For the feet you can use whatever is comfortable for yourself. Boots, shoes, tennis shoes (black leather ones with lacing flaps look vaguely period as well) and even sandals (provided socks are worn under). Whatever you feel comfortable and provides stable traction and support will be fine.

This comprises your basic armor requirements in layman's terms. However, it does not supersede more specific information and requirements set forth by the Northshield Kingdom Rapier Rules. When in doubt, refer to that or your marshal (me for easy sakes).

The one last necessity of the rapier kit is of course the sword. The swords can run in price from relatively inexpensive to the amazingly absurd custom models. There are a few contacts in the Kingdom where a basic beginning rapier with a silver swept hilt can be purchased for \$130 or so. Or of course makers such as Darkwood Armory, James the Just, Poppinjay or Alchem Armory. There are a few others out there but I can personally say I have excellent experiences with those four, and no experience with others. Not to say that they are not capable or such. Prior to a sword purchase though, I recommend to try and play with a few swords from various makers to get a feel for what you like and don't like. Unless you can make it to a major War, unfortunately you are not able to really feel all the possibilities. Especially if that new blackened, laser cut pappenheimer by Darkwood for \$800 is really what you would like to have for Christmas.

With the discussion of the basic kit roughly complete, I would like to draw to a close this month's article. Next month I will be providing some basic strengthening drills, footwork drills, hand eye coordination drills and the likes that one can do on their own, at home. And plus the advent of summer upon us, these drills will be shown of course at practices. So until next month, I thank you for your indulgence and look forward to passing more on and sharing and learning with all who are interested.

In service,

Kurios Charimmos of Lakadaemonias

*With spring cleaning, some of you
are sure to have found just the right
amount of spare space in your garage
for the . . .*

Windhaven Pavilion

It's time for the Barony to once again shuffle the pavilion to a new storage space. Can you find the space in your garage to store the pavilion until it's time for WW or any other events that it's needed for during the summer camping season? If so, contact Lady Elspeth, Seneschal.

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Submissions — This newsletter is published 12 times a year. Any articles for *The Village Idiot* are due 2 weeks prior to the business meeting each month. All contributions for publication are welcomed for consideration and printing. The chronicler(s) reserve the right to edit submissions for accuracy or length. Submissions may be delivered in the following formats: E-mail is preferred (pjhoehn@new.rr.com), disk and paper.

Subscriptions — Subscriptions are free and are distributed electronically via the Windhaven Website. A notice is posted on the Windhaven Listserve when each issue is available. If you cannot access the website, or prefer a printed copy, contact the chronicler by writing to *The Village Idiot*, c/o Lady Brigid Connor (Jean Hoehn), 46 Strawberry Lane, Appleton, WI 54915 or via email at pjhoehn@new.rr.com.

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