

Newsletter of the Barony of Politarchopolis

GRIFFINTAYLE



Griffintayle is published by and for the Barony of Politarchopolis. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism and does not delineate SCA policy. Griffintayle is produced by Alexandra Rapp, 43 Kinsella St Higgins ACT 2615. Griffintayle has an email version available. Secure your postal copy by subscription - \$8.00 per year. Baronial Homepage: <http://www.sca.org.au/politarchopolis>

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
O C T	26 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E	27	28	29 & ƿ ƿ	30 ✠ ♠	1 Spring War X	2 Spring War X
	3 IKAC ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E ♪ Spring War X	4 Spring War X	5	6 & ƿ ƿ	7 ✠	8 Camp Quack	9 ♠ Camp Quack
	10 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E ♠ Camp Quack	11	12	13 & ƿ ƿ	14 ✠	15	16
	17 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E	18	19	20 & ƿ ƿ	21 ✠	22 Benevolence Crusade	23 Benevolence Crusade
	24 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E Benevolence Crusade	25	26	27 & ƿ ƿ	28 ✠ ♠	29	30 The Hunt and The Feast
N O V	31 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E	1	2	3 & ƿ ƿ	4 ✠	5 Spring Crown	6 Spring Crown
	7 IKAC ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E ♪ Spring Crown	8	9	10 & ƿ ƿ	11 ✠	12 Casual War	13 ♠ Casual War
	14 ✠ E ƿ ƿ & E Casual War	15	16	17 & ƿ ƿ	18 ✠	19	20

See overleaf for legend

Other Upcoming Events:

1st-4th October – Spring War X (Newcastle)

8th-10th October – Camp Quack

22nd – 24th October – Benevolence Crusade II (Albury-Wodonga)

30th October – The Hunt and The Feast

5th-7th November – Spring Crown (Auckland)

12th-14th November – Casual War II

5th December - Potluck Picnic & Lazy Games Day

28th – 30th January – St Blasius Weekend

Politar chopolis Regnum

SCA Politar chopolis, PO Box 1294, Belconnen ACT 2617 Email politar chopolis@sca.org.au
To subscribe to the Politar chopolis email list, go to <http://www.sca.org.au/mailman/listinfo/polit>

Please see elsewhere on this website for Regnum details

Regular Meetings

♥ **Baronial Meetings:** the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Check with the Seneschal for location.

⚔ **Baronial heavy fighter practice:**

- Sunday: from 2:00 pm at Haig Park, O'Connor near scout hall, Fencers and heavies welcome.
- Wednesday evenings: from 6:30 pm, at Mawson Oval.

⚔ **Rapier practice:** Sundays, starting at 1.30 pm at Haig Park O'Connor.

⚔ **Archery practice:** Sundays, 10:00 till 12:00 at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Western end of Soward Way, Tuggeranong. Cost 5 gold to non TAC members Range fees to TAC members

& **Arts and Sciences:** Sundays - after fighter practice, same location. Wednesday - between 12:30 and 3:00pm at the Mummery. Contact the Seneschal for location details and to confirm the session is on.

⚔ **Guild Sunday** – every 3rd Sunday of the month. Details vary – contact A&S Minister for details.

🎵 **Choir Practice:** 1st Sunday of each month, 1pm, Haig Park. Contact Crispin Sexi for details jaysen@au1.ibm.com or Ph: 6241 0919.

⚔ **Stitch and Bitch:** on hold until further notice

✂ **College A&S:** Thursdays, 6pm, Room G30 in the Copeland building, ANU.

⚔ **Baronial Dance Classes:** 2-4 pm Sundays at the Scout Hall, Haig Park, Turner

✂ **Scriptoria:** Held by the College of Scribes every 2nd Saturday of the month. Call Jon on 6259 5842 for more details.

⚔ **Mid week Boffer and A&S meeting:** Every Wednesday 3.30 - 5.00pm. Room 3 of the Tuggeranong Community Centre Cowlshaw Street, Greenway. Please check the notice board on entry as meeting may have been moved to a different room - will be under House Anaticula (SCA)

Please check all details are correct and contact the Chronicler to correct any errors. "Griffintayle" is published monthly, editions are printed the weekend following the Baronial Meeting. It is distributed in print and electronic forms. All submissions need to be received by the Chronicler by the last Monday of the month for general and event notices. Officers Reports by the Thursday evening of the Baronial Meeting. This is the October edition for 2004.

Upcoming Events

Camp Quack

When: Friday 8th - Sunday 10th October 2004
Where: Caloola Farm

Cost: Full weekend, \$50 per head, includes all food and activities.

Day rates: \$10 during day, or \$15 includes dinner for Bardic Circle evening.

Greetings unto the populace of Politarchopolis, particularly those gifted with the joys of children. House Anaticula will be holding their annual camp during the October Holidays out at Caloola Farm. We would like to extend the invitation to all younglings of the Barony to come and join in our mini-festival.

Please note, this event is catered towards 18 and under, and any adults that choose to join us will be roped into teaching, instructing, and supervising.

Please contact Lady Darby de Askote (Alinta Brown) via email - alinta@hotmail.com, or (M) 0421 045 472 for booking and further details.

The Hunt and the Feast

When: Saturday 30th October 2004
Where: Redwood Grove, Palligo

The Hunt.

A hunting we will go.

Once again the Huntsmen's horn sounds to announce another hunt. Over winter the huntsmen have noticed that many of the creatures of Red Wood Grove have grown bolder and do now forage amongst the peasants farms. Many a tall tale has been told of a wolf which been seen stalking children as they work in the fields. And a great brown bear is running rampart through the woods, which the Baron has requested to be stuffed and mounted in the great hall.

Rumours spread like wildfire that the bandits are once again planning to make trouble for any who enter the woods. No doubt the Baron's Evil twin, Edmundo, has something to do with all this.

So come along and enjoy the atmosphere of Red Wood Grove and then relax as the Collage of St Aldhelms, once again, holds the feast of the hunt.

Armour inspections etc starts 10:30 am

Hunting Scenarios to be run by Baron Edmund.

The Feast.

When: 6pm, 30th October

Where: Haig Park Hall

Cost: \$15 students/college members, \$17 other
Bookings limited to fifty--pre-booking available with payment.

Contact: Catulla (Rachael Greaves) at
ladycatulla@yahoo.co.uk; 0422 418 565.

The Rapier Tourney.

Come hunting the Snark!

As the Baron's hunters set out in search of wild beasts in the forests of Politarchopolis, grim words reach the Baroness. A Snark is loose! And it falls to the Fencers of the Barony to bring it to heel.

Honours and glory awaits the Fencer who can find the Snark. But can they defeat their fellow fighters to bear their prize back to the Baroness? And what of the fearsome Boojum?

Join in the Hunt for the Snark as part of the Politarchopolis Hunt and Feast at Redwood Grove on Saturday 30 October. Lists and armour inspection from 11am - the Hunt begins from 12. A standard rapier tourney will also be held if numbers permit.

PLEASE NOTE that the Hunt for the Snark will be played by melee rules and melee authorisations will be required. For fencers lacking a melee authorisation, a workshop will be held during training at Haig Park on Sunday 24 October from 1.30pm

For more details, contact the Captain of Fence.

YiS

Owain Cantor ap Hugh
Politarchopolis Captain of Fence

Casual War II

When: 6pm 12th to 14th November 2004.

Where: Innabanya Girl Guides Camp, Majura Road, Majura ACT.

Cost: Full weekend Rates (both days and feast), no accommodation \$20, Camping \$30 (tents can be hired on site), Cabin \$37 (max 20 people in 6 bunk style rooms).
Day Rates, Sat/Sun \$7 etc, Feast \$7, Children 10 and under free of charge, under 16 ½ price. All bookings to the Steward.

Steward: Baron Stephen Aldred
(hunts@homemail.com.au)

Come for the warfare and stay for the pyjama party. There are rumblings of discontent and Politarchopolis is coming under siege from foreign forces. These armies must be repulsed by forces loyal to Politarchopolis. We promise you will have a fun day of warfare on Saturday with fortress, field, bridge and woods battles. The order of battle will be decided by the fortunes of war and game-play. The attackers win if they can take the Baronial seat (siege engines encouraged).

Site opens at 6pm Friday with a soup kitchen from 7pm. 8:30pm the generals (and their advisors) meet to determine the mornings encounters. Saturday is WAR DAY followed by the feast and pyjama party (with back to back Lord of the Rings DVD's). Sunday will involve archery, heavy and rapier tourney's followed by A&S and dance classes.

Potluck Picnic & Lazy Games Day

When: Starts 11am, 5th December 2004.

Where: TBA

Cost: Your potluck dish and a donation for the Baronial bits box.

Autocrat: Darby de Askote (Alinta Brown)

alinta@hotmail.com

Mob: 0421 045 472

The sun is out, summer is here and Yule approaches. Come celebrate the coming of midsummer with a lazy day outside under the shade of tall wide trees. Come share your prosperity with the barony by bringing with you a dish to share. On offer will be races and games, boffer tourney, and an open list field for any who choose to challenge another. A lounging pavilion will also be provided for those that find watching such activities exhausting. Board games, cards or books of hours decidedly welcome.

A&Sish Competitions:

Food - If you wish your potluck dish can be judged (and nothing rhymes with judged!)

Pillow – best pillow for the lounging pavilion (either your own or brought for others comfort)

Note: Plans for this event are still in the making. If you wish to set up a stall, stage a mummer's play; donate a pavilion, a pile of carpets and cushions, or banners; or even run a tourney, please contact me.

St Blasius Weekend

When: 28th to 30th January 2005.

Where: TBA

Cost: TBA

Autocrat: Crispin Sexi

More details to be listed when available.

Events Elsewhere

Spring War X

Who: Barony of Mordenvale (Newcastle)

When: 1st – 4th October

Where: Staden Drive, Lower Belford NSW

Mordenvale once again invites the citizens of the Kingdom of Lochac and the Known World to participate in the annual fighting, feasting and general good fun that is Spring War.

Come along and enjoy the fun of mixed combat war scenarios. Delicious food, with the kitchen once again being run by Baron Bran Torc Dubh Mac Brude. See old friends and meet new ones.

Event website:

http://www.sca.org.au/mordenvale/event_spring_war_2004.html

If there is anything urgent that you need to know

about Spring War, please direct your enquiries to the Mordenvale Seneschal - Gabrielle de Taillevent (radford@networksimm.com.au)

Event Steward,

Ysabella de Montrose (Fiona Cook)

Benevolence Crusade II

Who: Shire of Bordscros (Albury-Wodonga)

When: 22nd – 24th October

Where: Noonameena Lodge, Porepunkah, VIC.

With the completion of last years Crusade, the Axeman left titled Champions of the Crusade and in possession of the Chalice. Now a second Crusade has been declared, to be launched from Noonameena in the Spring. But will the army hold together or again fall prey to infighting and jealousy over the holder of the chalice?

This year's event will again host the Crusade Team skirmish for the holder of the chalice along with heavy and light fighter auction tourneys, with all monies being raised split between the Cancer Council of Australia and the Lochac College of Scribes. A and S Collegia will focus on the scribal arts, heraldry and pageantry.

Steward: Gabriel Kalothetos, dono@bigpond.net.au

November Crown Tourney "Spring Crown"

Who: The Barony of Ildhafn (Auckland, NZ)

When: Friday 5th to Sunday 7th November 2004

Times: Site opens 3pm Friday, closes 4pm Sunday.

Where: Camp Adair, Auckland, New Zealand.

The population of Gottmark find themselves in the grip of a fierce and dark winter. Floods and earthquakes in Ildhafn lands followed by Antarctic storms in Southron Gaard while in the middle of our winter-ravaged country the sturdy Dartonians battle winds and rain and the ever-present awareness of nature. A bleak time for the whole country in deed.

Yet through the darkness the anticipation of a great event spreads light on the cold and rain sodden population.

Spring Crown, Spring Crown, Spring Crown.

From all over the country the tireless work to prepare for the first Crown Tourney to be fought in Gottmark in the Kingdom of Lochac. New banners and clothes are made, food is created and tested. Indeed a good time to work indoors during the cold dark months. As the artists create their wonders the theme of High Medieval France is foremost in the workers mind as they prepare themselves and their land for this great event.

The fine Barony of Ildhafn would like to invite the populace of Lochac to attend this great event. There will be many and varied activities and entertainments apart from the tourney itself and the grand victory feast.

A market has been organised as well as Arts and Sciences tournaments and displays, rapier combat, a cook's guild

competition and more opportunity to do battle that you can shake a stick at. During the event Ildhafn will farewell a Baron and Baroness and a new pair will be invested.

The event is held secluded in the hills of Hunua south of Auckland. The weather promises to be warm, even if there is a potentially a little warm rain. The grounds are looking good and the tourney field promises to be firm.

To book for this splendid event check our website for a booking form.

www.ildhafn.sca.org/crowntourney

To contact the steward: crown@ildhafn.sca.org or 021-303-553 or post your completed booking form to Robyn Guy, PO Box 11-593, Manners Street, Wellington.

Yours In Service
Lady Sancha da Sylva
Darton

Rowany Festival

When: 24-29 March 2005

Where: Crossroads Medieval Village, Sheldrick's Lane, Yass NSW.

www.sca.org.au/rowany/festival

Bookings: Keridwen the Mouse (Janelle Heron) PO Box 603, Strathfield NSW 2135

Steward: Bliss of Teine (Narelle Griffin)

festivalsteward@sca.org.au

Known World Dance Symposium 5

When: 2nd - 5th July 2005.

<http://www.sca.org.au/kwds/>

Note that this will incorporate next year's Bal d'Argent.

More details when available.

Officers Reports

Baron and Baroness

Greetings unto the populace of Politarchopolis,

We were pleased to welcome King Draco and Queen Serena to Their barony for the Highland Games in September. There were many and varied competitions of skill, in particular, the 100-yard dash was memorable and highly enjoyed by the many spectators.

Throughout Lochac there are many significant events and in the weeks just past, the Barony of Ynys Fawr celebrated the investiture of their third Baron & Baroness, Arnfinn and Anie who took over the stewardship of the barony from Gershom and Miriam. We were privileged to be there to witness the occasion and meet many of the people.

Indeed, Our traveling continues during October, with

Spring War early in the month and the Benevolence Crusade at the end. It appears that the Baron shall have many targets for his ballista.

However, while there are many events elsewhere in Lochac, let Us not forget those in our barony, with the College sponsoring The Hunt late this month and the warfare continues with Casual War in November.

We have noticed that the Baronial bits box is almost empty and We ask for donations to refill it. For those who are unfamiliar with the use of these items, they given as gifts, thank you's and sometimes as prizes. As a guide to the types of items that are appropriate, we would suggest considering what you would like to receive.

Yours in Service,

Edmund, Baron Leta, Baroness.

eneschal

Unto the populace of Politarchopolis Greetings and well met.

Over the next little while could you think about what it is that you like about events, specifically what makes you want to go to an event. In thinking about that please also consider what the turn off's are. Is advertising an issue, or the location, the type of event? What is it that makes an event interesting and exciting?

All thoughts gratefully received.

Yours in Service
Stephen

Marshal

Greetings to you all good gentles,

With Spring War upon us I look forward to seeing many of you there and hope we all come back from our battles unscathed. For September I have only a few things to let you all know of.

Call For Armour

I am still looking for unused, discarded and not needed anymore armour. These can be loaners or donations to the Barony and records are being kept of who lent/donated them in case they are needed again by their rightful owners. Please let me put what you have to use and help our eager newbies.

Authorisation Cards

There are still some delays at present but I have been informed they will not be a problem soon. Due to various illnesses and real life issues some cards have not arrived but they will be sent as soon as possible.

Held Events

Highland Games – Saturday 18th of Sept, Haig Park, Turner
Autocrat/MIC : Sir Bran of Lochiel

A great deal of fun was had by all who attended so thank you Sir Bran and I am sure there are many among us who hope this becomes a more frequent event.

September Rapier and Heavy Tourney - Sunday 19th Sept, 2004
Autocrats : Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse and Basil Faulke
Location : Glebe Park, Civic

The heavy tourney, with 5 combatants, was a round robin with fighters engaging in best-of-three bouts. Baron Stephen Aldred

was the victor and thankfully there were no injuries to report except to the armour of the fighters.

My thanks to Basil Faulke for a well attended rapier tourney that entertained both the combatants and the spectators. The two victors were Basil Faulke and Taliesin. Congratulations to you both.

YiS
Heinrich Maximillian von Hesse
Politarchopolis Knight Marshal

aptain of Fence Greetings.

A Single Rapier Tourney and Random Weapons Tourney were held at Glebe Park on 19 September. There were four combatants in the Single Rapier Tourney:

Boris the Black
Taliesin of Entangled Marsh
Basil Faulke and
Owain Cantor ap Hugh

These fighters and Don Francois Henri Guyon also took part in the Random Weapons Tourney, where weapon combinations were decided on the throw of a die. Basil Faulke was declared the winner of the Single Rapier Tourney, with three victories to Taliesin's two. Taliesin was the clear winner of the Random Weapons Tourney, winning all of his bouts. Thanks to Diccon Shorthand, who served as Rapier Marshal in Charge, to all the fighters, the List Mistresses and to Basil for organizing the event. The Random Weapons format was a lot of fun and will be used again.

Training continues on Sunday at Haig Park from 1.30pm, with 2-3 new students currently attending. One fighter – Sebastian de Sade – had his new rapier authorization upgraded to include off-hand offensive and defensive.

We have a rapier tourney for the Hunt on 30 October – watch this space. There were no injuries reported during September.

Owain Cantor ap Hugh
Captain of Fence

erald Greetings,

Events

Two events in September, the Highland Games at Haig Park on 18 September and the Monthly Bash at Glebe Park on 19 September. Unfortunately, I was out of town on the weekend of 18 and 19 September, but did arrange some other kind gentles to handle the heralding in my absence. Karl Faustus von Aachen, Rhodri Ysoglaig and Andreas Rheinhardt heralded for the Highland Games – Andreas even heralded the evening Royal Court! I understand that Jonathon of Loch Swan was awarded the Order of the Rowan by their Majesties. Morag Freyser and Erik of Virginstowe (in his first heralding appearance) capably heralded for the Monthly Bash. My special thanks to all of those folks who helped out – it is appreciated!

Device and Name Submissions

Henri Guiscard's name and device submission have been submitted to Crux. I am continuing to work with Alun of Jedburgh and Jonathon of Loch Swan on their name and device submissions.

Voice Heraldry

I ran a learning/practice session on voice heraldry at Haig Park on 26 September. A couple of folks turned up and had a go. Hopefully you will see both Lorccan and Ysabella heralding at coming tournaments – be kind to them!!

YiS
Lady Amelot de Akeney
Cordon Rouge Herald

onstables Report Greetings,

Two events this month, Highland Games and the Monthly Bash with Spring Rapier.

Both events highly successful.

Highland Games had 52 Adults and 6 Minors. Monthly Bash had 23 Adults and 8 Minors.

Getting quite a few spectators. SCA folk have been giving information and warning of dangers, more and more, which is good to see.

Lost property I have two recent pieces still. A brown Dragon mug and a pewter drinking goblet with leaf emboss, which was left I believe at the St Vitas dance weekend. Still a lot of previous list property as well.

YiS
Lady Könusch von Eltz

ist Report Greetings,

Three Tourneys were fought over the month of September, two Rapier and one Heavy. All tourneys were in the round robin format with the rapier combatants take two touches (deaths) for the victory, and the heavy taking best of three (but fighting all three for the heck of it anyway).

The first rapier tourney was for single rapier and the victor was Basil Faulke. The second rapier tourney was for random weapons, and the victor was Taliesin of Entangled Marsh.

Finally in the Heavy tourney the victor was Baron Stephen Aldred, with an almost clean sweep having won all of his bouts bar one.

Yours in Service,
Darby de Askote

eeve Greetings all,

I'd just like to say that as at the Baronial meeting, the account was looking vaguely healthy, with roughly \$5500 on hand.

I'm also happy to say that the Barony has at least paid for a batch of blunts, but I'll leave discussion of that to the Captain of Archers.

A couple of points came up this month in relation to event accounting. I'm not pointing fingers, but would appreciate it if events stewards could keep the following in mind:

- Figures jotted down on a scrap of paper never acceptable – especially if this is an accounting of an expense. I need either a proper receipt, or a statutory declaration clearly stating the amount, to whom the payment was made and, in the case of a stat dec, why there is no receipt.
- Do not remove receipts from receipt book, and/or ensure your doorkeeper/money collector/troll does not remove receipts. And while I'm at it, could we be a bit more careful with their use? It makes both the steward's and my lives a little easier if there aren't slips of paper flying everywhere...
- I am not a mind reader - if you want something (cheque/receipt book/cashbox) from me, ask.
- I will be locating and ensuring that an event reconciliation form will be on the website shortly - this will make reconciliation of events much easier

By the way, I should find myself a deputy in case I get hit by a runaway horse and cart, so if you have any interest in the high pressure world of baronial finance (yes, that is sarcasm), please let me know. Duties will be light, unless I get hit by that cart, and I'm not planning on standing down any time soon...

Adair

Webwright
Greetings,

Not much happened this month, Galleries that were put online this month included May Crown and Festival.

I will be working this month with the Baroness to put in place a page for her to discuss with the populace what she is working on and for the populace to provide feedback to her.

YiS
Rodri

Chronicler
Greetings and Salutations!

Two months in and I made a shmozzel of it all. It was bound to happen sooner or later. I just wish it were later! As if often the excuse, Life happened and now that my doctors have stopped playing "Surprise Surgery" I will get on with my duties as your chronicler.

Due to the previous months lack of a real GT, I have taken the liberty of extending all subscriptions by one month, so no one will miss out on what they actually paid for. And I

am sure there are no complaints about this, however any feed-back is happily accepted.

Griffinsear should also make its debut during this month. It will be posted on the website and it would be appreciated if anyone who can print out a few copies and hand them out at events or any group gathering they are attending to help get the word out that there are things on during the month (and beyond).

Again I would like some indication of what you would like to see included in GT for your interest. I have an article on ferrets here and I am not afraid to use it. So please let me know what you would like to read about. I also cannot read minds....

Yours in Service
Alexandra

News and Notices of the Realm

The next Baron and Baroness of Rowany

The next Baron and Baroness of Rowany will be:

Hrothgar aet Gytingbroce and Helene du Puy

The populace vote showed a clear majority in their favour. The decision was confirmed by Their Majesties last night.

The changeover will happen at Rowany Yule Feast in December. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Keridwen the Mouse,
Baroness of Rowany

News and Notices From Polifarchopolis

Demos: Summary from Comments (re-print from last issue)

A total of 14 comments were received. Although all discussed one or more issues, not all issues were commented on by each.

- **Why do we do demos? Some reasons given are for education, for recruitment or to entertain. How do you feel about these reasons, and do you feel that we adequately meet them? Are these valid reasons to donate our time and efforts?**

- Public Relations/Recruitment: 10 yes, 1 no
- School demos/educational: 7 yes, 2 no

- Entertainment/fundraising: 2 yes
- **What displays or activities should we do at demos?**
 - A number of suggestions were given
- **Do we need to have different programs for different types of demos? Should we have a set of standard demo plans?**
 - 8 yes, need different demo plans
 - 4 suggested that the person requesting the demo be quizzed as to what they were expecting us to do, eg living history, specific era, SCA recreation: so that appropriate displays could be provided
 - 3 suggested that our demo people be trained as to what to do/is expected of them at demos
- **What do we charge for doing a demo? Should we charge for them? Under what circumstances?**
 - Public Relations/Recruitment: 4 no
 - School demos/educational: 6 yes, nominal fee
 - Entertainment/fundraising: 5 yes, a couple with a comment of similar pricing as to other entertainers, e.g. DJ, band
- **What is the minimum notice that the Barony needs beforehand?**
 - 1-3 weeks: 3
 - 4-6 weeks: 6

A couple of comments relating to our 'educational requirements' and tax status.

From corpora: (required for a group to be elevated to Kingdom) "A record of well-attended events together with regular study or guild meetings, demonstrations & other educational activities for the benefit of the members and the community at large."

My response: Whilst we as the SCA research and recreate to enjoy the Current Middle Ages, a large amount of the educational activities we provide are in the form of collegia to financial members as well as to the numerous non-members who regularly attend.

Tax status (From SCAA Finance Policy): income tax exempt.

To keep this status: In summary, use the money for the stated purposes & do not use any of the earnings to benefit of private individuals or organisations.

So, what's next...

Demos: get the different demo plans organised, min 4-6 weeks notice when requested, check with the person requesting a demo as to what they are expecting/desiring for the demo.

Another common comment was that we need up-to-date handouts and newcomer packs so that we can effectively follow up when members of the general public show

interest. I am co-ordinating this and if anyone is willing to help out please contact me.

Currently Polit is without a Hospitaller, but when the next Hospitaller is appointed, the organisation of demos is not automatically part of the position.

Yours in Service

Leta, Baroness

A &S Officer Appointment

It is the determination of the Kingdom A&S Minister to appoint Antonia Della Scala (Jo Apostoloff) to the office of A&S Officer of Politarchopolis as of 28th October 2004.

Any reasonable objections to this appointment should be raised in writing to the Kingdom A&S Minsiter at artsandsciences@sca.org.au or to the postal address to be found via Pegasus, no later than one week before 21st October 2004.

YIS

Lady Katerina da Brescia

Lochac Arts & Sciences Minister

New Officer needed!

The Hospitaller position needs filling. Please contact the Seneschal if you are interested in the position.

Anniversary

Politarchopolis will soon be celebrating 10 years as a Barony as of 1st of July 2005. So bids are called for a event to help celebrate this mile stone. Bids can be submitted through the Seneschal or the Baron and Baroness.



Beginning Archery in the S.C.A.

Part 2

Choosing a Bow

Choosing what style of bow you wish to shoot will be one of the most important decisions you make. There are just so many different types to choose from! Longbow, recurve, magyar, or crossbow. Should it be a take-down or a one-piece bow; self-bow or laminate; wood, fibreglass or both? Do you want something to match your persona or just something to enjoy on the range? Do you wish a fancy (expensive) or simple (cheap) bow? All very important considerations indeed and not to be taken lightly.

As this article will deal with first-time archers, the primary consideration will be expense and ease of use. Would you want to part with \$600 for a bow and then after shooting it twice decide that archery just isn't for you? I didn't think so.

Magyar bows shoot well, but depending on the model, can be very expensive. Expect to pay anywhere from \$300-600 for a new one. Medieval reproduction crossbows are also expensive and tricky to get shooting straight and true. Longbows can be found for a good price but are a little harder to master and more tiring on the arm muscles. In my opinion, the best bow for a beginner is just a simple recurve bow. They can be relatively inexpensive and are easy to shoot. The recurved limbs make drawing the string feel much smoother than that of a longbow and there is considerably less hand shock on release as well. Too much hand shock from a bow means less energy propelling the arrow and it can make using the bow very fatiguing. For a beginner, this can be very frustrating!

The next important consideration is choosing the draw weight of the bow. The draw weight is the amount of force (in pounds) exerted by the bow when it is held at full draw. This will be the energy that is transferred into the arrow when the string is released. Now everyone's draw length will be different and this effects the draw weight. The farther you pull back the bow, the heavier the draw weight becomes. So in order to make it easier to compare bows, a standard for marking the draw weights on bows has been adopted. On just about every bow you will find the draw weight marked on the lower limb, rated at a draw length of 28 inches. Once you know your own draw length and what weight you can pull, you can easily compare different bows.

To find your draw length, get some assistance from a friend. Draw your bow back to your anchor point, the place on your face or head that you consistently draw to, and have your friend measure quickly from where the arrow nocks onto the string to the very front of the bow. Now ease the bowstring back to its resting position. Never release a bowstring with no arrow in place! This is called

"dry-firing" and with no arrow to absorb the energy, all of it goes into the limbs, possibly causing serious damage to the bow.

You should find a bow that you can draw comfortably and hold for 10 seconds at your anchor point without shaking too much. If you shake a little, with regular practice your muscles will strengthen sufficiently to properly control the bow. If you have access to an archery tackle dealer or range, it may be possible to try out (or even rent) several types of bows with different draw weights and find what suits you best. If your SCA group holds regular archery practices you may be able to ask other archers about their bows and they may allow you to try pulling them. Then you will have a much better idea of what to look for yourself.

If you are a taller gentile, do not try to pull a bow with short limbs all the way back to your anchor point. The short limbs will not be designed to be pulled back so far and will be under enormous stress. Too much of that treatment will lead to breakage.

Now that you have a better idea of what to look for, there are many places that you can purchase bows: custom ordering from the manufacturer, archery equipment dealers, SCA merchants, friends, magazine ads, on the Internet, even garage sales. But a word of warning!!! If you set out to find a really CHEAP bow, remember that you WILL get what you pay for. Unless you know what defects to look for, you may wind up buying a bow that may fail on you unexpectedly and catastrophically! Protect yourself by taking someone with you that has some experience with bows. Your friendly neighbourhood archery marshal should be able to help with this. Seek them out!

by THL Robin Arthur Kyrke, Forester

Contact: Captain of Archers, Alessandro di Falco



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