

Baronial Council 18 February 2011

MINUTES

1. Attendance

Catalina (Natasha Birt), Catherine (Catherine Harvey), Bechtold (Benjamin Jardine), William (Luke Davidson), Alianore (Linda Thompson), Margarita (Lee Mathews), Elizabeth (Nancy White), Agostino (Adamo Valentino), Branwen (Amanda Baker), Kilic (Steven Baker), Draghi (Michael Baker), Edmund (Dylan Kerr), Isabel (Rachel Kerr), Sorcha (late), Nathan (Nathan Bullivant, late), Gillian (Sophie Mills, late), Elinor (Rosie Devaney), Lachlahn (Daniel Dunbar, late)

Apologies

Celestria (Wendy Kiely), Columb (Colm Kiely), Jon (Jonathan Gimblett), Alanna (Alana Bennet), Bettina (Elizabeth Marie)

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

2.1.1. Amendments

- Change Lee Saunders to Lee Matthews
- Remove reference to Canton Target Marshals (Dark Wood Valley).

ACTION – minutes accepted subject to these modifications. Bechtold to upload changes to the website.

3. Officers Reports

3.1. Herald –

The herald was an apology for this meeting. A quarterly report was received, excerpts provided below:

In the past three months, the following submissions have been made from Aneala:

Abertridwr:

Rose Pennyngton (Name)

Rose Pennyngton Device Checky sable and argent, on a chief sable three roses Or barbed vert and seeded argent

Aldrich Montbard de Blanchefort Device Per pale sable and argent, a cross forme and a chief embattled counterchanged (returned)

Aldrich Montbard de Blanchefort (Name) (returned)

Aachenfeld

Elinor Clifford Device Gules, a cross flory and parted between four roses Or.

Elinor Clifford (Name)

William Montrose Device Argent, in pale two roses proper between two
pallets azure
William Montrose (Name)

A proposed new Canton has formed within Aneala, under the working name of "Dark Valley Woods".

I have been working with their Seneschal Lady Alazais on proposed names and devices, using the Lochac herald's forum for support.

Active Heralds in Aneala in the last three months are:

Viscount Sir Master Kane Greymane (book and voice)

Viscount Mistress Rhianwen ni Dhiarmada (voice)

Master Nathan Blacktower (book)

Senora Çinara Baraceco (voice)

Herr Bechtold Vollarc (voice)

and myself (book and voice).

3.2. **Marshal –**

The Marshal was an apology for this meeting and no quarterly report has been received.

ACTION – Bechtold to follow up with Marshal and if no report is forthcoming, forward to the Earl Marshal for assistance.

3.2.1. Rapier Marshal –

Rapier Report 18/2/2011

This month we have two new minors that have authorised. Wesley Taylor and James Potter-Brown.

Training is going well at Lake Monger.

I have been informed that minors are required to wear a mark informing other combatants and marshals that they are under 18. I have not been able to find such mark but have asked other Group Rapier Marshals. We are using purple ribbon around the neck until we are informed of the correct mark.

Alessandra de Florenza

aka Alicia Speranza

3.2.2. Archery Marshal

Archery report for Council - 18th Feb 2011

On average, approximately 6 archers have been training in Aachenfeld on available Sundays. A roster has been set up for available target archery marshals to marshal the line at training. Richard, Catherine, Nathan, Isabel and Edmund have marshalled at training in recent weeks.

Edmund Kerr has been authorised as a Target Archery Marshal.

An arrow-making workshop was held on Sunday 13th Feb after training. A dozen target arrows were made by Seamus Nua, a set of combat arrows was made by Alanna Galliwood, and Celestria mended her broken arrows.

Baroness Branwen has been supervising archery practice in Abertridwr and had 3 or 4 archers including some new and young archers training on each of the last 2 Sundays.

Dark Wood Valley has some members interested in archery; however, they are not yet in a position to start training. This will happen after Chulain has been authorised as the group marshal and a suitable venue has been located.

A programme of monthly IKAC shoots for the coming season is being drawn up. The proposed dates on the calendar so far are:

Sunday 27th Feb at Aachenfeld training
Sunday 27th Mar at Abertridwr training
Friday 22nd April at Autumn Gathering.

3.3. Arts and Sciences Minister

The Arts and Sciences Minister has provided a comprehensive quarterly report.

- Please let the A&S Minister know if you are conducting any A&S activities so this can be included in the A&S report to Kingdom.
 - We want to highlight the depth and breadth of A&S activity in the Barony.
- The A&S Minister visited the Canton of Dark Wood Valley and was impressed with their enthusiasm and interest in A&S activities.
- Alianore has acquired a location on the 4th Tuesday of every month for A&S activity in Abertridwr, the first to begin this month, which will concentrate on Embroidery.

3.4. Reeve

Bank Account as of today is \$11,121.82

With at least an outstanding cheque of \$295.39
Holding Aachenfeld Money of \$1012.03

November Crown has been finalised, Kingdom payment made.

Cheque to be written to "Dragons Bay SCA" for the full \$2,339.30 held by Aneala

RESOLVED – Barony to provide a cheque to Dragon’s Bay for Autumn Gathering for the value of \$2,339.30

Taking our balance to \$7475.10

Bonds\Deposits

Town of Vincent – Colligia #425 - \$466 **NOTE** – This bond was returned at this Council meeting.

City of Belmont – Mid Summer - \$1012 **NOTE** – The bond was returned at this Council meeting.
Collage challenge #456 - \$1225

3.5. Constable

- The constable was an apology for this Council meeting
- The constable is receiving regular reports from her sub-officers.
- Dragon’s Bay no longer has a Constable and will report to the Constable through their Seneschal.

3.6. Chronicler

- The Chronicler has requested additional material for inclusion in the Vine.
 - Please submit material electronically if possible.
- Abertridwr is regularly reporting to the Chronicler.

3.7. Web Minister

- New code has been developed for Archery display on website – to accommodate seasonal shooting schedule.
- Data entry errors in the OP have been corrected in collaboration with the Herald.
- Analysis indicates that a lot of the hits on the Anealan website are coming through A&S articles.
 - Many Anealan’s have promised A&S content for the website but not yet provided it. More material is needed to continue to drive traffic to the website.
- Prospective and Tentative Events – Council generally agreed that if an event is for all intents and purposes locked in (e.g. a site has been booked) then it can be added to the website before formal event approval.

3.8. Keeper of the Lists

- 1 event has occurred requiring a list keeper – Abertridwr’s Night Tourney
- A new listkeeper has been appointed for Abertridwr – Lady Eithne.

3.9. Chatelaine

- Quotes for Business Cards – The Chatelaine provided Council with three quotes.
RESOLVED – Council approved \$165 for the creation of business cards. These will be organised by Catherine in time for WAMA.

3.10. Baron and Baroness

- Visited Dark Wood Valley – very welcoming.
 - o Tables and Kingdom Banner being prepared by the new Canton
 - o 8 representatives of Dark Wood Valley attended the meeting.
 - o Dark Wood Valley is already producing their own newsletter.
 - o The Barony has reaffirmed its support for the Canton and reminded them that they should contact us if they require any assistance or guidance.

3.11. Seneschal

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

- Repost January minutes with corrections – Complete
- Seneschal’s Conclave input into Autumn Gathering – Delayed due to overriding priorities for local Senschals.
- Quarterly Reports from Abertriwdr – Complete, Rhianwen has provided an interim report to cover to date and will provide a quarterly report in May.
- Bumper Sticker Artwork – Oblio reports that he has not received this
 - o **ACTION** – Baron Nathan to follow up.

NEW BUSINESS

- Deputy Seneschal – Rosie Devaney is hereby elevated to Deputy Seneschal and minutes secretary for Aneala.
- Autumn Gathering Cheque – To fund Autumn Gathering 2011. Aneala holds \$2,339.30 and has previously agreed to provide this in full for AG. Cheque to be written to Dragons Bay SCA. **APPROVED**
- Regions – Oblio has requested that we consider what we mean when we say WA region. There is inconsistency in the use of this term. Does it apply to Boesenburg as well as Aneala and its sponsored groups. Do we need a formal definition?
 - o Council generally agreed that the term region had no formal status in the SCA in WA and therefore we would use the term in its “mundane” sense as a geographical region (WA).
- Working with Children Checks – We have been advised by the Board of Directors that SCA officers interacting with children more than 5 days per year will require a working with children check. This may include Marshals, Arts and Sciences Ministers, Seneschals and others. The default approach to take is if you are worried get the check.
 - o Proposal – Aneala agrees to cover the costs of checks (\$10) if requested by any SCA officer. **APPROVED**
 - o **ACTION** – Bechtold to follow up on what is required of the Barony in regards to record keeping for this.

- Advertising – Requested comment from Board of Directors on whether we can provide lists of favourite merchants after a query from Abertridwr.
 - Current under review by the Board of Directors.
 - In the interim, Anealan’s are reminded that we can provide information to members but can’t be seen to be promoting any particular business.
- Strategic Planning – What should our next topic be?
 - Left open for Council members to forward topics to the Seneschal.

4. Other Reports

4.1. Incipient Canton of Aachenfeld

- Lachlahn has been approved as incoming Seneschal
- Name in proofreading. May be able to handover in March.
- Meeting next week – 23 February
- **ACTION** – Catalina to follow up on outstanding Aachenfeld marshal report which seems to have been lost in electronic transmission.

4.2. Abertridwr

- Have submitted an interim report to the Anealan Seneschal to catch up on reporting requirements.
- Pencampwr’s autocrat will be Rhianwen.

4.3. Incipient Canton of the Dark Valley Woods

- Demonstrating a strong A&S focus so far.
- Interested in Archery as well.
- Demonstrating strong commitment to administrative requirements and progressing the case for cipiency so far.

4.4. College of St Basil

- AGM held 19.2.11, Elizabeth has been elected as Seneschal according to UWA Guild rules.
- O’day is on the 25th of February, old-timers are welcome as well as students.
- Lot’s of plans for newcomers
 - Armour is being repaired so that it can be provided to newcomers.
- The college was in the Melville times on 17.2.11
- Council queried the number of currently active college members
 - It was estimated that there were 7 active members, hopefully more after O’day and Newcomers.

5. Aussie BOD –

- Considering development of a policy on advertising of local merchants.
- Taxation status of the SCAA is under consideration.

- The U.S. SCA has been impressed with SCAA's successful move to electronic Pegasus.
- The BOD is still working on ensuring that groups have changed over their bank accounts.

6. Calendar

15/01/2011 – Midsummer – Report has been mostly completed but was not presented at Council due to some outstanding items. The event made \$319.20 profit.

- Attendance – 46 adult members, 15 event members, 4 child members, 4 child non-members.
- 2 refunds were provided, one for non-attendance (notified well before the event) and 1 for a member called to assist with the Lake Clifton fire.
- **ACTION** – Report to be submitted to Anealan Seneschal at or before next Council meeting.

12/02/11 – Indoor Tournament “Night Tournament” – Seemed to go well. No injuries or issues reported.

25/2/11 – O’day –

- Attendance from the Anealan populace is requested.
- The College requested the loan of list-ropes, banner poles and carpets

APPROVED

- Equipment collection to be organised by the College.

6/03/2011 - Blues Alive Demo – Dragon’s Bay Demo. Dragon’s bay has requested attendance from Anealans if possible.

12/03/11 – Newcomers Feast –

- A final budget has been completed by the college.
- **ACTION** – Reeve to investigate how the College can utilise the Anealan bank account for electronic deposits.
- The steward requests that those attending please indicate this to the steward as soon as possible.

13/03/11 – Queens Guard Challenge – Abertridwr event. No more information at this stage.

19/3/2011 – WAMA Fayre – Still in the planning stages. Lots of rumors running around. No timetables yet.

ACTION – Catherine to follow up with Abertridwr regarding their proposed activities at the fair.

ACTION – Catherine to follow up with WAMA regarding arrangements for the fair.

26/3/2011 – Nathan's Birthday Tourney –

- Columb is the feastocrat.
- Catherine is now accepting bookings, electronic bookings are available.
- Shower facilities will be made available.
- An amount of \$1000 was requested as a float for the event **APPROVED.**

26/3/2011 – Nathan's B'day feast – Included in above discussion.

21-26/4/2011 – *Autumn Gathering* – Planning is progressing well and Aneala has now provided its funds held for the event to Dragon's Bay.

21/5/2011 – Potentially Baronesses Fighter Auction, awaiting event bid.

3-6/6/2011 *Pencampwr* – Planning progresses well, no known issues.

25/6/2011 – The Feast and Tournament of Norstread – Canton of the Dark Valley Woods event. The incipient Canton has requested that Aneala float the event (\$525) **APPROVED.**

- Event location – Balingup Town Hall and Village Green
- Booking contact – Lady Alazais.

24/7/2011 – *4 man team melee* –

27-28/8/2011 – *Balingup Medieval Carnivale* –

11/9/2011 – *Bastion Par d Arms* –

9/10/2011 – *Arabian Nights* –

15/10/2011 – *Collegium and Bal'd'Aneala* – New event bid. **APPROVED**

- Crispin and Dell have agreed to attend.
- Bal will follow standard format including finger food.
- Hoping to access Laurel Freedom Bus funding – **ACTION** – Branwen to follow up.
 - Aneala will match contributions 1:1
- Costs - \$10 for Collegia, \$15 for Bal

27-30/10/2011 – *Championship* – Venue Booking complete.

19/11/2011 – *Highland Gathering Demo* – No information at this stage.

Old Business

- 6.1. *List and Constables Tables* – Still require people to register their devices for inclusion.
- 6.2. *List Tree* – \$24 approved for purchase of list shield wood in order to run a list shield painting workshop
 - **ACTION** – Isabel to organise purchase of wood.
- 6.3. *Bumper Sticker Proposal* – Oblio has not received artwork as of yet.
 - ACTION** – Nathan to follow up.
- 6.4. *Stock Clerk* –
 - As the Australian Stock clerk does not have stock of the new KWHB, Council agreed to purchase *15 Known World Handbooks and 20 Compleat Anachronists* from the US Stock Clerk at \$637.50 **APPROVED**.
- 6.5. *Sui's Beads* – Please contact Mistress Rhianwen directly to organise bead making.

7. New Business

- 7.1. **Strategic Planning** – What is the role of the Baronial Council?
 - 7.1.1. How often should we meet?
 - 7.1.2. What should we discuss when we meet?
 - 7.1.3. What is our role with new event proposals?
 - 7.1.4. What format should the meetings take?

General discussion was held on this item. The following points summarise the discussion:

- The Seneschal noted that there is no formal structure to Baronial Council meetings and therefore there is great flexibility in how Council is run.
 - o It was generally felt that the current format seems to work pretty well, though of course there is room for improvement.
- It was unanimously agreed that monthly Council meetings worked well and this schedule should be maintained.
- Strategic Planning was seen as a key activity of the Council.
- Open floor discussion was seen as highly valuable.
- While it was acknowledged that the Calendar section of the meeting was lengthy, it was felt that this was valuable.
 - o In particular, such discussions facilitated the sourcing of help for events and seeking input from Council.
 - o This section of Council was also important for event publicity, monitoring of progress and reminding officers of their obligations for given events.
- It was generally agreed that more of the Calendar info raised at Council should be included in Vine
 - o It was noted that it is an autocrat's responsibility to get such info to the Chronicler.

- The Seneschal noted that there had been some tension generated due to the oversight of Council on *approved* event bids.
 - It was acknowledged that once an event is approved, it is up to the Seneschal to monitor its progress though of course Council should raise any concerns they identify with the Seneschal.
 - It is important to maintain a balance between the oversight role of Council and getting bogged down in detail.
- It was generally agreed that open meetings that encouraged attendance from the wider populace were optimal and indicated that the Council was conducting its business in a transparent manner.
- General discussion was held on the officer reporting section of Council.
 - Some people felt that too much time was taken here and officers were raising information that was not of relevance to the Council.
 - Others felt that this info was valuable in informing Council even if Council could not add value.
 - The Seneschal noted that lengthy or detailed reports could be tabled with the meeting agenda, avoiding the need for verbatim reading of reports.
 - It was generally agreed that a cultural shift towards concise reporting could be encouraged.
 - The Seneschal stressed that officers should keep in mind that they are not *obligated* to read their entire report to Council if they do not wish to.
 - It was suggested that officer reporting could be restricted to a quarterly basis.
 - Generally this proposal was rejected at this stage.
 - The incoming Aachenfeld Seneschal noted that meeting structure was highly predictable and that attendees might choose to skip aspects of the meeting on this basis (e.g. avoiding the officer reporting section of a meeting.)
 - It was acknowledged that much of the increase in length of the officer reporting section of Council was due to Aneala's growth (e.g. addition of new group reports).
 - Council generally felt that the growth in officer and group reports to include items such as a report from the BOD and from the B&B were a positive addition.
- The Seneschal stressed the flexibility of the Council agenda and asked Council attendees to continually review the conduct of meetings and suggest improvements.
- Council was asked to consider means by which Council could be made more fun without compromising its conduct.

7.2. **Grievances** – Baroness Branwen asked Bechtold to elaborate on why he felt that more formal grievances seemed to be coming forward during his tenure as Seneschal

- The Kingdom has been pushing the use of the Grievance Procedure as a guideline for complaint management.
- There is no single source or unifying theme for those grievances coming forward so there does not appear to be one issue coming forward that can be considered by Council.
- The Seneschal is actively promoting the use of the procedure to prevent issues from “festering”.
- Electronic communication is causing a number of issues. As complaints and personal attacks are now often written down, there is more scope for a formal grievance to be raised.
 - There seems to be an attitude amongst some members that they are able to say anything they like on lists or Facebook.
 - There is a need to remind SCA members that the lists are an SCA resource and the same standards of courtesy are expected here.
- It was acknowledged that much of what is currently managed with the Grievance Procedure was previously dealt with in a more informal manner.
 - The Seneschal believes the procedure is important as it provides a format for grievance resolution and escalation if a resolution is unsatisfactory.
- It was noted that similar issues regarding electronic communication were being experienced on the Shambles, this is not an Anealan specific issue.
- The Seneschal and his deputies have undertaken to try and look for root causes of these grievances with the aim of heading them off at the pass if possible.

7.3. **Attendance by Abertridwr at Council** -

- Council discussed whether there was a way to encourage larger attendance at Council by Abertridwr to improve the Council’s representativeness.
 - Venue was considered. Is the location a barrier due to geographic distance or the fact that meetings are conducted in a private residence?
 - **ACTION** – Bechtold to discuss with Rhianwen whether this is an issue.
 - It was acknowledged that the Seneschal and others maintain open communication with Abertridwr to encourage matters to be raised for Council consideration.
 - It was suggested that a barrier to attendance may be the “talk-fest” nature of Council meetings.

- It was suggested that a barrier to attendance may be a perception that Baronial Council's role is one of "rubber-stamping" rather than strategic discussion.
- It was also acknowledged that Abertridwr may choose to focus on its own activities and not wish to engage with broader strategic discussions.
- An anonymous questionnaire may be a low-cost, low-effort way to gather feedback from those who don't attend Council meetings.
- It was generally agreed that Baronial Council cannot force attendance from Abertridwr and that as long as they meet their administrative requirements, we can do nothing more than continue to promote attendance as a way of engaging in the broader Barony's activities.
- **RESOLVED** – Council will not consider a change of venue until it can source feedback from Abertridwr and other non-attendees as to the reasons for non-attendance.

7.4. **SCA Region** – The Seneschal reiterated that there is no formal SCA region in Western Australia. He asked that officers be careful in using the term as it can be misinterpreted as an effort to establish a formal regional identity.

8. **Meeting Date**

18 March 2011 at 7.30pm at Catalina's House.