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THE CLARION



The newsletter of the Shire of Darton, of the Kingdom of Lochac, March AS XLII (2008)

“One man scorned and covered with scars still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars; and the world was better for this.” - Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616)

From the Acting Seneschal

HI Again. If you've put up your hand to take an office and have not yet sent an email to your kingdom officer, local officer and seneschal, please try and do so.[...]

If you're not sure what to do, please contact me off-list and I will help you get sorted. Likewise, if you have already sent the forms but neglected to CC me, can you please send me a copy.

Thanks ☺ Cheers,

Melissa

(Last month as acting seneschal, then we're back to our regularly scheduled programming.)

From the Chronicler

I was perplexed as to what to write (quickly, as we're rushed for time!), so here are a few bits of sage advice, for if you ever happen to go to Rowany Festival, or indeed any large SCA event.

1. If a tree is in your face, that's the place.
2. If it's not on, it's not on.
3. Naughty things never happen at Festival, but hypothetically if they did, it would be a long, long way away from anyone who might get upset.

If you're coming to Robyn & my wedding ceremony, I'll see you there, but otherwise in April I guess. Later, medieval dudes!

Master Stefano

Regular Meetings

HEAVY Fighter Practice and Rapier Practice. Sunday 10am-2pm. Fighter's practice is currently being held at the skateboard park in Northland, Ian Galloway park, on the corner of Curtis St and Old Karori Rd. All welcome. Contact Sir Asbjorn on (04) 9760 220 for details.

ARTS and Sciences Meetings. Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm. All welcome. Contact Lady Robyn on (0211) 504 876 for details.

DARTON Council Meetings. Held at the arts and sciences meeting from [7pm], normally every first Wednesday of the month. All Welcome. Contact Fru Marienna on (04) 9760 220 for details.

Upcoming Events

PROPOSED Pre-Incipient College Feast, Victoria University, Evening Saturday 12 April 2008.

Contact Lady Yseult (Hannah) by email at ehzcm2001@yahoo.co.nz for more information.



MAY Crown AS XLIII, 9 – 11 May 2008. The Shire of Darton invites you to attend May Crown in Darton. Enjoy a weekend of festivities centred around our finest fighters competing for their consorts to be the next Crown of Lochac.

Relax in our tavern on Friday night, watch the pageantry and chivalry of a crown tournament followed by a fabulous feast on the Saturday, and then on Sunday enjoy the spectacle of a rapier tourney. Come and experience the hospitality that Darton is renowned for.

[//darton.sca.org.nz/index.php/standard/12/109](http://darton.sca.org.nz/index.php/standard/12/109)

Darton Council Minutes

Minutes for Darton council meeting,
Wednesday 13 February, 2008.

Meeting opened: 7:00pm.

Present: Alasdair, Melissa, Richard, Susan, Matt, Hannah, Zane, Jenny, Maggie, Kerri, Robyn C, Alistair, Robyn M, Selwyn, Sasha, Sharon, Anthea, Alan.

Apologies: none

Minutes [of last meeting] accepted: Yes

Officers Reports

Seneschal: No events. Working with Hannah re college. Nothing else to report.

Recruitment: Didn't attend MMM as had no car. Some discussions with Hannah about helping out at the University demo.

Quartermaster: Still not received requested list of stolen goods from Sharon.

Chatelaine: Working on newcomer classes and will be doing the shire and college together so as to get maximum numbers and minimum workload for all involved. Start date TBD after discussion with College. Communication with a couple of people passing through, nothing else to report.

Reeve: Main account: Opening 2308.09, out 62.36 (cold pads), Closing 2245.73. Crown account - no activity. Need to move deposit from crown account back to main account.

Herald: Matt will be sending an application to become our new shire herald. Huzzah! Many offers of voice herald help. Bernard to voice May Crown at TRMs request.

Marshal: No events. Nothing to report.

A&S: No A&S developments since last report. Costuming for Canty Fair for Newbies went well. Several compliments on Fencing doublets worn by Gordon of Darton and Benjamin of Darton. Focus now moves to Crown preparation - to be coordinated with Maggie, Sharon and Al. Al is new A&S officer as of this meeting.

Marshal A&S: Steel fighting at CF went well. Nothing else to report.

Chronicler: Published The Clarion at the meeting as usual. Submissions gratefully appreciated.

Constable: Still seeking a successor. I had the same verbal offer last month that I had the month before, and confirmed with the offerer that they need to put their application in writing (e.g. by email) to myself, the Seneschal and/or the Lochac Constable, but I have still not received any written application, that being the trigger that would actually start the formal succession process. Robyn M will send email ASAP. [Received, changeover process in process.]

Chirurgion: Not here, no report. Selwyn reports that she is in process of getting warrant.

Lists: Nothing to report.

Archery: Much fun at CF, good results for shire. Heavy gauntlets needed for heavy archery. May be getting new bows for shire. Tues night practice may be possible in future. Will advise.

Rapier: 4 new authorizations. Training going well, at least 6 each session. Damage to loaner kits but hoping it can be repaired. Report to KRM re: blade failure pending.

Event Reports

Past Events:

Darton Anniversary – everything done and squared away, bond moved from Darton Ann to Crown, will reconcile in accounts.

Future Events:

Uni demo/intro: Wed 27th tentatively 12:30-1:30 (quad in front of library) and intro evening 28th Feb tentatively 7pm (tennis pavilion). More info TBA, will be posted to list. Please attend if possible.

College classes: Tentatively scheduled A&S for Mondays and fight practice for Thursdays. More details TBA.

Uni first feast: 12th April. Stefano cooking. More details TBA.

May Crown: All jobs sorted! Crown meeting on 24th at The Forests house (approx 1pm) directly after Kerri's yum cha brunch at Golden Century – all invited. Horses OK on site, auths[?] may happen probably Sunday afternoon.

Queen's Birthday Collegia: Turnbull House booked. 1st weekend of June (Sat 31/5, Sun 1/6, Mon 2/6). Mid-afternoon feast planned. More details TBA.

Darton Anniversary: Bid now being accepted. Please submit before next council meeting. At least two parties willing to steward.

November AGM: Robyn C will be running. Trying to move to the 22nd and 23rd so as to avoid family scheduling conflict.

November Camp: Nothing planned yet.

General Business

Fighter practice location will be discussed on list as the fighters will be needing a location either indoors or under cover very soon due to weather.

Next council meeting will be on Wednesday March 5 at Chez Muckart. Please email list is you need address or directions.

Meeting closed: 7:43 pm.

Darton Council Positions

MASTER Stefano is looking for a replacement Constable to begin as soon as practicable. The Constable's position involves looking after health and safety issues, lost property, security, the good behaviour of participants at events, and periodicity issues at events. *All applications should be emailed directly to Master Stefano, Fru Marienna and the Kingdom Constable.*

LADY Robyn of the May is looking for a replacement for Shire A&S Officer. *All applications should be emailed directly to Lady Robyn, Fru Marienna and the Kingdom A&S Officer.*

THE Shire of Darton is looking for a replacement Herald. *All applications should be emailed directly to Fru Marienna and the Kingdom Herald.*

The Tragedy of Elaine of Astolat

A play in two scenes, by Lord Stefano da Urbino. Based upon Sir Thomas Mallory's "Le Morte Darthur" Book Eighteen, Chapters VIII-XX, originally published by William Caxton 1485. Copyright Alistair Ramsden 2001. Freely copiable for SCA purposes.

Dramatis Personae

*ARTHUR, King of Camelot
GUENEVER, Queen of Camelot
LANCELOT, knight of the Lake
ELAINE, fair maiden of Astolat*

BERNARD, *father to Elaine*
LADY*, *in waiting to Queen Guenever (*Replaces Sir Bors from the original text.)*
GAWAINE, *a knight, the narrator*
KNIGHTS, *brothers of Sir Lancelot*

Scene I

Book Eighteen, Chapter VIII

London is stage left.
Astolat is stage centre.
Camelot is stage right.

Enter ARTHUR, GUENEVER, LANCELOT,
GAWAINE and LADY stage left.

GAWAINE
In the later years of the round table, after the achievement of the Sangreal and the court withal had moved to London, Sir Lancelot fell to his old love of Queen Guenever, and much intrigue and wroth did it cause King Arthur's court. And so it befell that the damosel of the lake, Nimüe, came to court, and did great goodness of sorcery and enchantment, settling the intrigue and calming the wroth, and all was forgiven until the feast of the Assumption, when the King -

ARTHUR
Let cry, a great jousts and a tournament shall be held, and that I and the King of Scotland will joust all that may come against us!

GAWAINE
- And when this cry was made, many knights and Kings came thither and made ready.

ARTHUR
Sir Gawaine; truly, we are ready to depart. I would have the Queen ride with me.

GUENEVER
Alas! I would not, for I am sick and cannot ride at this time.

ARTHUR
That me repenteth, for this seven year ye saw not such a noble fellowship together since we departed from the court, to achieve the Sangreal.

GUENEVER
Truly, ye must hold me excused, I may not be there, and that me repenteth.

GAWAINE
And many deemed the Queen would not be there because Sir Lancelot would not ride with the King either -

LANCELOT
Truly, I am not whole of the wound the late Sir Mador, in his wroth, has given me afore.

GAWAINE
- Wherefore the King departed with the rest of his fellowship, heavy and passing wroth, and on his way to the jousts from London to Camelot, lay the night in the Castle of Astolat.

ARTHUR and GAWAINE to Astolat.

They are greeted by BERNARD and ELAINE whom enter from stage centre.

Exit LADY stage left.

GUENEVER
Sir Lancelot, Sir Lancelot, ye are greatly to blame thus to hold you behind my lord. What, trow ye, what will your enemies and mine say and deem? Nought else but 'See how Sir Lancelot holdeth him ever behind the King, and so doth the Queen, for that they would have their pleasure together.' And thus will they say, have ye no doubt thereof.

Book Eighteen, Chapter IX

LANCELOT
Madam, I allow your wit, it is of late come since ye were wise. And therefore, madam, I am ruled by your counsel. This night I will take my rest, and tomorrow by time I will take my way toward the jousts. But wit you well, that at the jousts I will be against the King, and against all his fellowship.

GUENEVER
Ye may there do as ye list, but by my counsel ye shall not be against your King and your fellowship. For therein be full many hard knights of your blood and kin, as ye wot well enough, it needeth not to rehearse.

LANCELOT
Madam, I pray you will not be displeased with me, for I will take the adventure that God will send me.

LANCELOT to Astolat.

Exit GUENEVER stage left.

GAWAINE
And so upon the morn early, Sir Lancelot heard mass and break his fast, and so took his leave of the Queen, and rode so much until he came to Astolat, where the King resided.

Exit GAWAINE stage centre.

ARTHUR

It is well! I have espied one knight that will play his play at the jousts to which we be gone toward. I undertake he will do marvels. Yet ye shall not wit from me at this time.

Exit ARTHUR stage centre.

BERNARD

Fair Sir, I welcome you in the best manner, and make you reverence, but I am an old knight, an I know you not.

LANCELOT

Fair Sir, pray you then, to lend me a shield that were not openly known, for mine is well known, to all but you.

BERNARD

Sir, ye shall have your desire, for meseemeth ye be one of the likeliest knights of the world, and therefore I shall show you friendship. Sir, wit you well I have a son hight Tirre, and a daughter hight Elaine, and that the son was but late made knight, and he was hurt that same day he was made knight, that he may not ride; and his shield white ye shall have, for that is not known I dare say but here, and in no place else.

ELAINE

(I behold this knight, wonderfully. Ah, cast in me such a love as I can never withdraw!)
Father. Fair knight, I beseech you, wear upon thy body a token of mine at the jousts.

LANCELOT

Fair damosel, an if I grant you that ye may say I do more for your love than ever I did for lady or damosel. (Ah, but I will be disguised, an especially since I have never afore borne no manner of token of no damosel.) Fair maiden I will, grant you, to wear a token of yours upon mine helmet, and therefore what it is, show it me.

ELAINE

Sir, it is a red sleeve of mine, of scarlet, well embroidered with great pearls.

LANCELOT

Never did I erst so much for no damosel. Fair maiden, betake you my shield for keeping, and pray you to keep that secret until that I come again, and to-night, Fair Maiden, we will have merry rest and great cheer!

Book Eighteen, Chapters X through XIII

Enter ARTHUR and GAWAINE stage centre.

Exit BERNARD and ELAINE.

ARTHUR, GAWAINE and LANCELOT
(following) to Camelot.

Enter KNIGHTS stage right. LANCELOT and the KNIGHTS begin to fight.

GAWAINE

And so in the morn the King withal rode to Camelot, where many strong knights took to the field. Much to my enchafement, King Arthur bade me stay close by him, whereby we watched an unknown knight, with a white shield and a red sleeve on his head, unhorse many by brave and bloody deeds. O mercy Jesu! What knight is yonder that doth so marvellous deeds of arms?

ARTHUR

I wot well what he is, but at this time I will not name him.

GAWAINE

Sir, I would say it were Sir Lancelot by his riding and his buffets that I see him deal, but ever meseemeth it should not be he, for that he beareth a red sleeve, for I wist him never bear token at no jousts.

ARTHUR

Let him be. He will be better known, and do more, or ever he depart. See how he fights nine of Sir Lancelot's kinsmen at once. Ah! And he is struck as good as he giveth, but unhorses many and does not fall himself. Worthy is he, say ye not, of the prize of these jousts!

GAWAINE

And thus when the King blew for lodging, the prize of the jousts was to be given unto the knight with the white shield that bare the red sleeve on his helm.

LANCELOT

My fair lords, wit you well if I have deserved thanks, I have sore bought it, and that me repenteth, for I am like never to escape with my life, I am so sore hurt that it nigh slayeth me. Therefore, I pray you that ye will suffer me to depart.

Exit LANCELOT, stage right.

GAWAINE

All those at the jousts did marvel at the actions of that knight that departed. 'Know ye him?' said all the knights. Know ye him, my King?

ARTHUR

As for that, whether I know him or know him not,
ye shall not know from me what man he is, but
Almighty Jesu, send me good tidings of him.

GAWAINE

By my head, if it so be that the good knight be so
sore hurt, it is great damage and pity to all this land,
for he is one of the noblest knights that ever I saw;
and if he may be found, I will find him.

ARTHUR

Bare you well, an ye may find him; unless that he be
in such a plight, that he may not wield himself no
more.

GAWAINE

Jesu defend! But wit I shall also find what he is, an I
may find him.

Exit ARTHUR and KNIGHTS stage left.

GAWAINE (searching) to Astolat.

Enter BERNARD and ELAINE stage centre.

GAWAINE

Sir Bernard! Fair Maiden Elaine!

BERNARD and ELAINE

Sir Gawaine!...

BERNARD

...What tidings?

ELAINE

...And who did best at the tournament?

GAWAINE

So God me help, there was a knight that bare a
white shield and a red sleeve upon his head, and
certainly he was one of the best knights that ever I
saw joust in field, but I know him not.

ELAINE

Now be blessed God, that that knight sped so well,
for he is the man in the world that I first loved, and
truly he shall be the last that ever I shall love.

GAWAINE

Now, fair maid; is that good knight your love?

ELAINE

Certainly sir, wit ye well he is my love.

GAWAINE

Then know ye his name?

ELAINE

Nay truly, I know not his name nor from whence he
cometh, but to say that I love him, I promise you
and God that I love him.

GAWAINE

How had ye knowledge of him first?

Book Eighteen, Chapter XIV

ELAINE

He came to our house, and betook my father to do
him the lending of a shield.

BERNARD

He said his shield was too well known, yet we knew
it not.

GAWAINE

Ah! Noble knight, fair damosel, please it you, let me
have a sight of that shield.

ELAINE

Sir, it is in my chamber, but...

BERNARD

...Bring it out, daughter, and ye shall see it.

ELAINE shows GAWAINE the shield of
LANCELOT.

GAWAINE

Ah Jesu mercy! Now my heart is heavier than ever it
was to-fore.

ELAINE

Why?

GAWAINE

For I have great cause. Is that knight that oweth this
shield your love?

ELAINE

Yea truly, my love he is, God would I were his love.

GAWAINE

So God me speed, fair damosel ye have right, for ye
love the most honourable knight of the world. But
truly, although ye have fair grace, never I saw nor
heard nor say that ever he bare token or sign of no
lady, gentlewoman ne maiden, at no jousts nor
tournament. Fair maiden, ye are much beholden to
him to give him thanks, but I dread me that ye shall
never see him in this world.

ELAINE

Alas! How may this be? Is he slain?

GAWAINE

I say not so, but grievously wounded. Wit ye well,
he is the noble knight, Sir Lancelot du Lake.

ELAINE

Alas! How may this be? What was his hurt?

GAWAINE

Truly, the nine men in the world that loved him
best hurt him so.

ELAINE

Now fair father, I require you give me leave to ride
and seek him, or else wot well I shall go out of my
mind, for I shall never stint till that I find him.

BERNARD

Do as it liketh you, for me sore repenteth of the
hurt of that noble knight.

Exeunt stage centre.

End of Scene I

(Scene II will be published next month.)

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