

The Althing



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Submissions: Any gentle wishing to submit articles, artwork, poetry, etc., to the Althing is invited to do so. Please send your work to the chronicler. All material in the Althing is copyrighted to the individual contributors. The chronicler reserves the right to edit, refuse, or reprint any submissions. Send your contributions to Constance at chronicler@debatablelands.org for inclusion in the next issue.

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Chancellor of Youth

Aibell ingen Chernachain

Gold Key (Loaner Gear)

Zianna Beguy Urdina de Zabaleta

Iron Key (Loaner Heavy Weapons Equipment)

Sumayya al Ghaziyya

Steward

Michelina Cenomani da Trento

Baronial Signet

Odrianna vander Brugghe

Dark Pages Editor

Arianna of Wynthroppe

Historian

Ts'vee'a bas Tseepora Levi

Youth Fighting Marshal

Arianna of Wynthroppe

Thrown Weapons Marshal (Deputy to Knight Marshal)

O'no Kuma

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From the Baron and Baroness:

Hello Debatable Lands! Another Pennsic has come and gone, and the people of our Barony were incredible. You are the jewel of the Kingdom, and the best Barony in the Knowne World. Our people volunteered and participated in every corner of the War, from Baronial gate guard duty, to holding Kingdom positions, to staffing parts of Pennsic itself, to the fencers, fighters, archers, throwers, and artisans, and more! Vivant to you all!

On a very Baronial note, thank you to Lady Zianna for pulling together the Baronial Party, and her staff. Thank you to our head retainer, Lady Rivka, and her deputy, Lady Dorothea, as well as those who helped set up and tear down for Courts. And of course, thank you to THL Rachel, our Signet, Master Kieran, our Herald, and all those amazing and talented scribes, wordsmiths (Gwen!) and Comet token makers. And we cannot forget our opening ceremonies crew, especially Baroness Gwendolyn and our Baronial Bard, THL Silence - we are the sassiest Barony! Thank you to Mistress Arianna for land agenting, and Maister Emrys for camp Reeving and his staff and volunteers, particularly, Master Antonio, THL Ren, Lady Mara, and THL Margery. And especially our cooks, Lady Kattera and Eleanora. Thank you, too, to those who answered my call to tear down the Royal Encampment - your efforts were greatly appreciated and needed. We know we are missing so many names!

Looking to the marshal portions, our Barony was well-represented on both the Archery and Thrown Weapons Champions Teams. Congratulations to our Unit commanders Master Kieran and THL Jorundr, and Deputy Unit commander Lady Svava. Go Debatable Fighters! A BIG Congratulations to THL Kuma for winning the Knowne World Baronial Thrown Weapons Competition, and to Fox for winning the Knowne World Baronial Youth Champs Tourney. Thanks also to Master Liam and Baroness Constance for running the Helga Ball Tourney for the benefit of Paladin's Pantry. It was a great time - violent hugging for all! And trophy cabbages!

We are very much looking forward to our next Courts, which will be at Agincourt in September, and Baronial 12th Night in January. PLEASE write to us with Baronial Award recommendations! Our eyes cannot see all the good works people do, but collectively, yours can! Please do write to Their Highnesses for Kingdom recommendations as well - now is the time!

Note that we will not be hosting Baronial Archery or Thrown Weapons Championships this fall, as we are looking to hold all the martial Champs at Iron Comet Challenge in the spring.

Our doors are always open, Debatable Lands! You can contact us with comments, questions, and suggestions at baron@debatablelands.org, baroness@debatablelands.org, on Facebook (Hilda) and G+ (Brandubh). Our phone numbers are in the Dark Pages, too. We look forward to seeing you at practices, gatherings, and events!

In Levitate et Caritate, and Cheers,
Baron Brandubh and Baroness Hilda

From the Seneschal:

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Greetings to the Most Excellent Barony-Marche of the Debatable Lands!

Pennsic has come and gone and the one thing that stayed strongest with me is seeing how many Barony people were not only enjoying the event but how many people donated their time to making Pennsic happen. Everywhere I looked there was someone from Our Barony making it possible for everyone to enjoy themselves. I extend my thanks and appreciation for your taking some time out of your vacation so that others may enjoy theirs.

If you weren't able to volunteer this year, there are still so many opportunities for you to share what you learned at Pennsic now that it's over.

If you attended a class at Pennsic, please consider sharing what you learned at one of the weekly A&S classes being held by our A&S Minister, El β . She will be hosting a variety of classes at the Thursday A&S meeting at Victory Pointe and is looking for more teachers. If you would like to teach a class, please contact her via email at ansminister@debatablelands.org. If you've never taught a class before and would like to share what you've learned, El β or I can guide you to some resources to help you do that.

If you aren't comfortable teaching a class, consider submitting an article to either the Althing or the Stófréttir (previously called the Debatable Blog). The Chronicler and Webminister are always looking for articles and can be reached at chronicler@debatablelands.org and webminister@debatablelands.org. The Althing is published quarterly and the Stófréttir publishes on an as-needed basis, so you can work on your schedule and still be able to share your knowledge with the Barony. Articles are not restricted to the Arts and Sciences, if you have a martial bent, an article about how to get started in Heavy Weapons, Fencing, Thrown Weapons, Equestrian, Youth Fighting, and Archery would be very welcome, particularly by our new participants who may be curious about what the Arts Martial are all about. If you would like to share new techniques or information about your Martial Art, please share those as well.

We have two big events coming up in September and October – *Agincourt* (22-24 September) and *We are the Escarbuncle – Celebration of Æthelmearc's Twentieth Anniversary & Fall Crown Tournament* (6-8 October). Head over to <http://www.debatablelands.org/events.php> for details.

As always, if you have any ideas about how to improve anything in the Barony or have concerns, I am available via email (seneschal@debatablelands.org) or in person at events and meetings.

In Service to the Barony,

Odriana, Seneschal

From the Knight Marshall

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Greetings fellow Barony members! My term as Knight Marshal ends in October. Please consider taking over the office so that we can continue to have great practices every week.

The Knight Marshal is responsible for coordinating weekly practice and being the marshal in charge at those practices. In the event that the Knight Marshal cannot be at a practice, he or she arranges for one of the other marshals to run the practice.

Additionally, the group marshals for fencing, youth, archery, and thrown weapons report to the Knight Marshal as deputies.

Overall, the position is not a huge time commitment if you attend, or plan to attend, practice on a regular basis.

If you are interested in helping out your Barony by filling this position, please submit a letter of intent to the Knight Marshal and the Seneschal before the October Barony Meeting. Thanks!

Isenwulf

From the Exchequer

Greetings from the Office of the Exchequer!

There have been many changes since our last newsletter. I would like to say thank you to Lady Hara Kikumatsu, who has completed her term. She has done such a wonderful job in this office for the past several years. Her knowledge and experience will be missed in this role. Lady Hara is taking on another role within the society.

I am Lady Arthes and I will be happy to be the exchequer for the next two years. I am lucky and proud to have a wonderful deputy, Lady Zianna. We will continue to ensure that we are organized, that we make events easy, financially sound, and fun. We have several big events coming up, including our Crown Tournament, Twelfth Night and Known World Scribal.

Please remember to get the rest of your expenses in before the end of the year. You can reach me in the Dark Pages, or on Facebook. I look forward to serving you.

Lady Arthes

From the Chronicler:

Greetings good Barony,

We publish the Althing every quarter, we love to have input from the populace at large and need a report from all officers about their office, call for letters, upcoming events, reports, or anything related to their position in the barony. It does not need to be long or in depth but can be if you want it to be.

Give us whatever report or knowledge you want to share with the barony. Tell us about your new experience or help new people, give us everything you can share with our great barony.

Tigerna A. Sionnach Macleod

Archery Equipment Safety

Captain of Archers - Lady Katherine Tanzel

All archers should be able to check their own equipment for safety. Here is a checklist that all traditional archers can use to double check their own equipment. Please note that all equipment needs to be approved by an archery target marshal before being used on their range.

Check Your Bow for Cracks and Separations

Before you string your bow, check its surface for cracks and separations. Run your fingers up and down the bow limbs checking that the layers on the bow are not peeling apart. Any horizontal scratches on the surface of the bow shouldn't be any trouble. If you find a vertical scratch running down the limb of your bow please have it inspected by a marshal. In some cases, a marshal might deem the bow still safe, to be certain that the scratch is not a safety issue you can or may be asked to mark the endpoints of the scratch with a marker or stickers. If the scratch grows past those marks, it's time to retire the bow if that crack grows the bow has the potential to break apart or even explode as it's being drawn back.

Stringing Your Bow

Before stringing your bow, check to see that the string isn't upside down. If you shoot with your string upside down your nock point won't line up appropriately for a straight arrow release. In most cases, an upside-down string will cause the nock point to be lower than where it's needed which will cause your arrows to fishtail or wobble up and down after it's released. Best practice in stringing your bow is to use a stringer. It's safe, easy, and best for the longevity of your bow.

Check for Twisted Limbs

Once your bow is strung, you can look down the string to check to see if your limbs are twisted. An easy way to check for this is to take two straight arrows and wedge them between the string and the bow limbs at the top and bottom of the bow. Now when you look down the string of the bow, you can see that your arrows line up. If the arrows don't line up your bow may have a twisted limb. If you suspect your bow has a twisted limb please double-check with a marshal to see if the bow is still safe to use.

Another way to recognize a twisted limb is a shifting string. Once strung, draw the bow back and relax it back down. If the string has shifted out of its seat on either end of the bow that is also an indication that the bows limbs may be twisted.

When the limbs are twisted to a point that they are unsafe, the string can come undone while it's being drawn back or released. If your bow has twisted limbs and is deemed safe, be sure to check the limbs from time to time to ensure that they aren't twisting further over time.

Checking Your Arrows

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Are they long enough?

Be sure your arrows are long enough for your draw length. At an extended draw (one going past a full draw) the arrows point should still be seen poking out in front of the bow. A good way to check this is to draw the arrow back without the bow, resting the arrow on your bow hands fist, and see that the arrow's tip is past your knuckles at an extended draw. An extended draw is three plus inches past your standard draw length. If your arrows are too short for your draw length, you have the potential to lock the bow in a draw, where the arrow drives itself into the bow rather than off onto the range.

Tips, Nocks and Fletching

Check your arrows tips, fletching, and nocks. Be sure that they are well glued on. If fletching is starting to peel off, you can string tie it down or glue it back down. If fletching is starting to peel and is shot, it has the ability when shot to catch into the index finger of the bow hand, giving it a bad cut or worse a painful fletch mohawk. Trust me on this; those are not fun. If you don't have a means to fix the fletch and still want to shoot the arrow, you can ask the marshal on site if it is alright to shoot the arrow if you removed the fletching that is sticking out. If a marshal says you shouldn't shoot the arrow because of the fletching, then put the arrow away to fix at a later time.

Are the Shafts Straight?

A bent or curved arrow can be unpredictable and has the potential to explode on release. The best way to check your arrows is to look down the shaft and spin the arrow around. If the arrow is straight, it won't wobble up and down. If the arrow is bent or curved as you spin the shaft the area between the nock and the point will shift up and down showing a curve in the shaft.

Are Your Shafts Damaged?

Over time and different shots and tournaments arrows will get bent, and scratched, and broken. To check your arrow shafts for safety, run your fingers over the shafts. If you find a space that's bent scratched or damaged in any other way, you want to check that arrow with a marshal.

Thank you for Reading

If your equipment is deemed unsafe for use, you can always politely request that another marshal confirm the decision. Thank you for reading this article. Shoot safe and have fun.

Helga Ball Tournament at Pennsic

(Maighstir Liam MacantSaoir)

Two men appear walking up the battlefield dressed as beautiful Valkyries, teams of fierce women gather and report in with the Mistress of the Lysts, a cabbage is placed in the middle of the field and combat begins. This Is Helga Ball!

This year at Pennsic, the Barony Marche of the Debatable Lands sponsored the first ever Pennsic Helga Ball Tournament. The event was organized by Baroness Constance Glyn Dwr, Maighstir Liam MacantSaoir and their household Clan Crann Bethadh.

If you have not experienced Helga Ball, imagine a mixture of Rugby and soccer played with a cabbage. The cabbage is the ball, it is not allowed to be touched with the bare hands, it can be picked up in a skirt, apron or headscarf and carried to the goal line. The goal line is kept by two goal posts, usually men. One side of the field is designated as Helgas the other side is designated as Olgas, Helgas being the home team, Olgas being the away team. The goal posts can on occasion be bribed, moved or flirted with in order to change the game and make it a little more fun.

The tournament this year consisted of 5 teams. The teams were Grimmr Kette mostly from the BMDL, Dirty Snowflakes with some BMDL folks and others from throughout Æthelmearc, Black Talon who has members from Æthelmearc and the Midrealm, Thugs with Juggs from Atlantia and the winners of the tournament were Twisted Sisters from the East Kingdom.

All of the teams and those on the sidelines had a great time, the games were hard fought and the players were laughing most of the time. The referees reported jaw and belly pain from the laughing the entire time. It was great fun, and plans are already being made for next year for a bigger, better tournament.

Many thanks to those from the Barony who assisted in the tournament; Lord Alister MacLeod, Lady Arthes MacLeod, Lord Yoshi. Lady Kathryn Tantzel, THL Kuma, Lady Zianna, and THL Elss of Augsburg.

*Editor's note: Helga ball was **AWESOME!***

Upcoming Events:

October 6th - 8th 'We are the Escarbuncle' Aethelmearc 20 year anniversary and fall crown

October 18th - 22nd - War of the Wings (Being attended by Their Sylvan Majesties)

October 21st - Shire of Gryffyns Keep Fractured Fairytales: Hansel and Gretel

October 28th - Shire of Kings Crossings Birthday B(r)all

November 19th - Barony Meeting and Harvest Revel

The Althing

Baroness Constance Glyn Dwr - Chronicler

Tigerna Alister Sionnach MacLeod - Deputy