

Parliament Minutes, 21 May AS 46 (2011)

Collegium of the White Mountain, Shire of Mynydd Gwyn

Royalty Present: Prince Cernac, Princess Susannah

Officers Present: Ursula (seneschal), Agatha (exchequer), Melisende (arts and sciences), Clancy (representing marshal), Ysabella-Maria | (representing herald), Ariel (chronicler)

Various members of the populace including Raphe, Camhain, Mary, Matthew, Alys, Nerissa and a visiting viscount from Lochac.

The Prince introduced the agenda:

1. Ysabella with words from Asbiorn, Rockall Herald, regarding new awards
2. Explain proposal for shire town watches
3. Proposal for three-month stepping-up period for principality royalty
4. ID university – proposal and ideas regarding what might happen when
5. AOB – Agatha brought up a change in financial policy as the finance committee members are present. The Prince has Pól's ideas for changes as well.

Point 2. As Ysabella-Maria was obtaining information for the first point, the Prince started with the second.

Town Watch: Duncan Forbes proposed the idea of shire guards. The royalty have personal guards, but why not have guards for the shires, which could bring pageantry and ceremony? They would patrol events. They would not be personal bodyguards standing in court. Cernac has some period information regarding town watches.

Discussion: Fighters needed or others? Cernac replied that it would be open to all forms of arms and not necessarily authorised – more standing with weapon and looking menacing. Another question was asked regarding numbers per shire. Cernac said there wouldn't be a quota, but it would be good if shires could provide one or two each. Clancy asked if it would be mandatory for each shire, and Cernac replied no, but it would be nice if each shire could step up, though.

Another question regarding insignia was asked. Cernac thought that the old blue and black tabards originally made at the start of the Crown Principality could work. Baldrics also were suggested, and Cernac did state that tabards weren't a necessity, but that ID colours would be good. He explained that the idea is based on a practice in Duncan's home barony where they styled their garb in the baronial colours; something similar could be done here. Nerissa was reminded of her previous principality where the guard changed each reign, with one person chosen from each group. Cernac reiterated that this wouldn't replace the personal guard.

Point 1. Ysabella, representing Rockall (Asbiorn) spoke about how the A&S and Excellence awards still need names; "sun and chalice" had been suggested for Excellence.

Wording in rules is changing so that laws are updated with new names.

Idea for courtesy – Order of Robin or the Robin. Idea of silver robin or natural robin, the latter being harder to obtain. Another possibility is to have a silver martlet, a small bird without any feet; however, Cernac noted it had been suggested for the A&S award. Cernac also brought up the idea of a robin with a red breast. He asked if the award could be given to Robin posthumously and was told, most likely, yes. He said, if possible, he'd like the following: Order

of Robin, a robin proper, have Robin the person referred to in the ceremonies and make him the first (posthumous) holder.

Regarding A&S, Cernac said the proposal for Order of the Martlet was because of the symbolism regarding hard work (works its feet off) and is representative of the medieval third son in a family who has to work hard. There was a discussion regarding the distinctions between a robin and a martlet -- are they too close? Insignias also were discussed. Nerissa brought up bells as an SCA-wide A&S symbol. Cernac concluded that he'd like to see discussion via emails and then have a decision made in a month or so.

Regarding Excellence, the sun in chalice is Susannah's idea. Melisende noted that she'd been thinking of a PCS-type award for ID and had been thinking of a sun in splendour. Ariel wondered about possible conflicts with Atenveldt. Nerissa mentioned that a seashell is a wayfarer's symbol. Melisende brought up the idea of a passport and Ariel noted that they've been used in other places and we could do it. Ysabella asked about a great seal – if we have one. Clancy and Ursula said that there should be one in the regalia box; Susannah thinks she's seen it. There was a discussion about using seals on scrolls. Cernac said they would take future discussion on the PCS idea, but that he liked the idea of the sun in chalice.

Regarding emblems, Ysabella suggested a fieldless mask for the Order of the Fox. Susannah wondered if we could more than a fox's head, perhaps a sitting fox would do. Ysabella noted that a fox's head traditionally is done as a mask and discussed the play on words in Spanish.

Susannah brought up the idea of *children's awards*; she'd like to see children recognised. It needs a name and emblem. Ursula suggested a moon rather than a sun. Order of Luna? There was a discussion about various astronomical names, some of which are taken already. Susannah would like to ask the populace for their ideas and obtain them before the end of their reign. Clancy suggested we don't start giving out new awards until we have names and emblems for them. Cernac said we'd pass on all of this to the heralds, but for the children's award, he recommended something lunar or stellar.

Point 3. Do we need a three-month stepping-up period for royalty?

Ursula said there is divided opinion amongst the populace. The four event schedule makes it easier to do so, with thanks to Liam and Aeringunnr for setting it up.

Ideally:

university is held within three months after the Feb. tourney and protectors is held within three months after the August tourney.

Discussion: Raphe suggested reversing them due to weather issues – easier to fight outside in the spring. Ursula likes uni in the spring. Melisende brought up the idea to amalgamate it all, splitting up protectors and tagging it onto other events, such as A&S protectors at uni, so as not to increase the number of events. Mary thought there might be an issue regarding finding event stewards. Melisende suggested the idea of holding university at Raglan, which was discussed. Mary, as a former vicereine, personally didn't think there was a need for a stepping-up period. She thinks it might make things more difficult with too many official, important events. She isn't convinced that three months are needed to learn the job. Raphe noted our transient population and the idea of committing to nine months. Susannah discussed her own experience – that the first few weeks were difficult, but she wouldn't have needed three months. However, it could be

an issue for less experienced folks. Nerissa previously would have objected to having a stepping-up period, but with the events in place it could work. The Viscount from Lochac discussed his surprised at not having such a period – that it's asking a lot of a new prince and princess. Mary talked about how she wrote a guidebook to assist others and that she didn't need more time. Clancy and Ursula said they did need more time. Clancy brought up how there aren't too many events and that people will have to pick and choose. Agatha didn't think that events were too expensive compared to other activities. Ariel mentioned SCA culture, how even for coronations there can be as much as six months stepping up or as little as one month. She also wondered if we would be able to get enough willing event stewards for protectors and uni (still no bids for uni) and would those events be more challenging to run – and bigger (requiring larger, more expensive sites) with an investiture included. Melisende thought perhaps having a university chancellor might help with university and Ursula said that we're looking to fill that office.

Cernac's summary: He's against a crowded event schedule and doesn't want to overstress event staff. However, more time to plan would be beneficial. He's minded to go ahead with the idea if we can do it without stressing out staff.

Raphe wondered if Mary's guidebook could be sent to all entrants to help them prepare? Definite yes in response. Cernac will bring up these ideas on the email list.

Point 4. ID University

Cernac: Should we keep it as it is, swap it around? Discussion of the A&S protector coordinating with the university chancellor – and we do want a university chancellor.

AOB. Financial policy changes

Agatha: Branch exchequers must report as required. They must use the standard quarterly report provided by the kingdom exchequer.

Ursula (seneschal) was fine with that idea.

Agatha: Branch exchequers should ensure that the branch seneschal gets a copy of the quarterly bank statement.

The financial committee agreed to these changes in the financial policy

Cernac communicated ideas from Pól, former ID exchequer:

- Travel fund – currently at £300 per reign. He suggested raising it to £500 due to travel distances and expenses– or simply increase it to £500 if you go to Iceland.

Mary asked if ID could support the increased cost?

Agatha replied affirmatively.

End of meeting.