

Notes from the Moot of Their Majesties Sarnac & Jolecia
Ealdormere War Practice
June 29, 2002

Article 15 of the Law was read, pertaining to Courts of Justice

Opening remarks from Their Majesties:

Greetings and Welcome.

The proposed law to change the entrance age to 21 has been removed from the table. The reason why the law was proposed was to take into consideration the fact that Youth fighting was developing in Ealdormere. This means that in reality in a few years, we will have participants who have been fighting, in one form or another, for 12 years before turning 18. So, the chances of having an 18-year-old on the throne increase substantially.

The Crown's thoughts were that the majority of 18-year-olds do not have the finances, experience, resources or maturity to handle the role of Monarch. However, upon consideration, the Crown has come to the realization that there are also many 30 year-olds who also do not have those qualities either.

The Laws restrict the Crown from denying entrance into Crown list to only those people whom the Crown feels will not be able to perform the duties of the office. The Crown has come to the realisation that these particular reasons do fall into that category. However, the onus will be on the future Crowns to make that decision wisely, and be prepared to inform all fighters who lack those particular traits that they will not be allowed to participate, rather than bestowing those 18-to-20 year olds with the honour and distinction of being granted the dispensation in recognition of having those traits.

Rules of the Moot from the Lawspeaker:

Due to the potential nature of the topics for this moot, a time limit would be imposed of a maximum of five minutes per speaker. The names of those who wish to speak will be recorded in order to avoid confusion.

Speakers are required to put up their hands, and once the Lawspeaker has written their names down on the list they will be signaled, and await their turn to speak. [As this is now a historical document, names have been removed – Keja]

The Lawspeaker will be ensuring that everyone remains on topic and will not be allowing reiteration of the same points.

*A proposal on an inter-Kingdom war with Aethelmearc

-----put the following proposal forward to the people for comment. The Kingdoms of Aethelmearc and Ealdormere have been discussing the possibility of hosting an Inter-Kingdom event.

The current proposal is to hold the event on the other side of the border, due to the fact that traditionally the Americans won't cross the border, especially the merchants.

The most important point right now is to select a weekend that will be beneficial to both Kingdoms. This may mean usurping a traditional weekend event. The topic is being placed before the moot to determine if the people of Ealdormere would travel to the US and support this event, even if it means losing one of our own.

His Majesty then expressed that the Crown of Aethelmearc and He had spoken on this topic, and both Crowns are in agreement it would be a good idea. -----, the autocrat of *Sylvan Crusades* has offered his services as the Aethelmearc autocrat, and has stated that *Sylvan* was meant as the precursor to lead to an interkingdom war with Ealdormere.

Though the Crowns feel it should not begin as a 'War' but rather just as a joint event.

The general discussion raised the following points:

- having a war closer to Ealdormere would be good for those people who can't make it to Pennsic
- it would be a good opportunity to exchange ideas and will improve A&S, etc.
- it is easier for Canadian merchants to go south than for them to come north
- we should be more flexible in our events, so perhaps losing a traditional event would help to stimulate more variety and change in our schedules
- staffing should be equal between kingdoms and alternating for rules
- no site in mind as of yet
- to encourage travel south they should allow for a discount for Canadians to take the exchange into consideration
- make it a war (this idea was repeated quite a few times)
- College of Heraldry is having a symposium and is inviting the Aethelmearc heralds, this should help to establish more Inter-Kingdom ties
- clarification that 'Inter-Kingdom' events restrict having other events on the same date if it is declared a "Kingdom" Event
- Potsdale, NY is a possibility and should be kept in mind when setting the site, as to allow for lesser distance for the Eastern part of the kingdom
- if a traditional event is squashed in favour of the Inter-Kingdom event, then the group who hosts the traditional event should be given first choice and preference for a different, favourable date
- if it is called a war, it should not be an "us verses them" theme, but a varying theme that creates sites
- the Rapier Marshal pointed out that it would be beneficial for the Rapier community, as right now they can only play with themselves due to the difference in the rules

Wrap up:

The Crown will authorize the continuing negotiations towards creation of this event, following kingdom policy, and will keep these suggestions in mind.

***Memberships – have they decreased since we became a Kingdom? Does anyone care?**

-----inquired as to whether or not there had been a decrease in membership since our kingdom push.

The Kingdom Seneschal stated that there had been a slight drop, but not much. No one was actually keeping track, and there has not been a problem. -----asked all paid members in the room to raise their hands. Almost 90% raised their hands. The topic was closed.

***Barons and Baronesses swearing fealty**

-----pointed out that it seemed as though many people were discussing the new law changes on the Ealdormere electronic list, but no one seemed to be ready to speak about it at the Moot.

She asked those who had concerns to please take advantage of the Moot, and let the Crown know how they felt about the law changes, as this was the perfect opportunity.

In response, the Crown took the opportunity to explain Their reasoning behind implementing the Law.

Corpora had once stated that the Baron and Baroness were in fealty to the Crown. That was removed. The Laws of Ealdormere had not stated it because it was covered in Corpora. Now it is not, so the Law is being created to give legitimacy and substance to the practice and custom that is already followed in the Kingdom.

The feeling is that this removal from Corpora may be reflective of the fact that the Society does not view the B&B's to be as important as Ealdormere does.

The Crown believes that by requiring their B&B's to be in fealty, they are acknowledging the importance of the position within Ealdormere.

The new law makes allowances for 'equivalent agreements' and it states that these agreements, or the original 'oaths' are re-stated with each new Crown.

As the laws state that the Crown is the winner of the last Crown Tourney, then the Crown does change with each Coronation, so the oaths must be renewed.

The general discussion raised the following points:

- reaffirm means same 'equivalent', and is that what is done now? – Yes.

- will the oath a Baron and Baroness use when they step up be continued with each new Crown?
 - Yes, law states 'this' oath or 'agreement' is what must be renewed.
- does reaffirm mean the same thing as 'equivalent agreement'?
 - yes, it is an option.
- law of 'equivalent agreement' may cause problems due to over legislating, which is bad
- tradition serves better than law
- clarification of 'law', Crown is Sovereign and Consort acting in Concert, Sovereign is the person who won the last Crown Tourney, Consort is the person who inspired the Sovereign in that Tourney, so therefore the Crown changes every new Coronation
- all peerages have a choice as to whether or not to swear fealty on a repeat basis
- it is not right to take that choice away from the B&B's
- point made that B&B are voice of Crown, and hold the land in fief from the Crown, and represent the Crown
- peers do not have that responsibility and peers do not represent the Crown
- it is possible to appoint a Vicar for six months if you do not feel you can swear to the current Crown
- tradition should not become Law as it then can become restrictive
 - in response it was stated by the Royalty that without it written down it can allow chaos to ensue and this law protects both sides
- oaths and promises and agreements are not schtick, they are important to the people even if this is just a game
- offer from ----- to come up with alternatives for those who cannot 'swear' etc
- it was asked if the Crown can use this law to force a B&B out of office by refusing to let them swear fealty or refusing an alternate agreement
 - in response a clarification of Corpora and Kingdom Law stated the reasons and steps a Crown could take to suspend or remove a Baron and Baroness, which means they don't need this law to be able to do that
- clarification that it is also the duty of the Lawspeaker to advise the Crown when they are doing something wrong or underhanded that is against the interests of the People
- suggestions of alternate wording of law should be sent to the Crown and the Kingdom Seneschal

Wrap up:

The Crown hoped that They had clarified Their position, and stated They would give due consideration to the opinions expressed, and weigh Their decision on this Law heavily.

Written comments will still be accepted up until August 1st [2002 – Keja]

During the discussion a reference to the Roles of the Baron's and Baronesses' and their place in the Order of Precedence was brought up.

This was deemed a related, but different topic by the Lawspeaker, and agreed to by the Royalty. Due to the importance of this topic, and the possible longevity of the

discussion, it was agreed that this would be a separate topic to be discussed at Their Highnesses' Moot during the next reign.

Closing comments:

Their Majesties thanked the populace for attending, and agreed that They were better for having heard the comments of Their people, and they would give due consideration to the opinions expressed.