

Moot of Rylyn and Edward
Barony of Rising Waters
Nov. 26/2005

Reading of Law by Keja - Section VII-400 - Duties of the Officers of State - Kingdom Exchequer

Scouting:

There are concerns with numbers, at one point there were 45 scout participants in Ealdormere, but now there are only 3.

-Since scouts are now required to wear as much armour as fighters, many have decided to fight exclusively.

-There are now no baronial scouts and scout champions.

-Age requirement: 14

Question: Where can we go from here or is it worth killing the program?

-It was confirmed that the reason numbers have fallen is that most have now taken up fighting.

-It was noted that there is a lack of events in Ealdormere that promote scouting

-Can we promote fighters doing both?

- It was suggested that we need to encourage events where there is melee fighting.

- Problem with event promoting: not many events per year where it can be done.

Question: What can scouts do?

Scouts can glean weapons, pass messages, report back troop movements

- Maybe a redefinition of the job is necessary?

-Other kingdoms scout.what do they do? Not much has happened with other kingdoms

- Armour standard change pertained to the entire SCA

- Suggestion was brought forward that scouts could be trained as a signal corps, not just to relay messages (which they do currently) but to relay commands from the generals.

-There would be a good advantage of signal corps that's been trained!

-This suggestion was greeted with great enthusiasm.

-It was pointed that that scouts already use signals.

-It was noted that there had been events in the past with scouting training opportunities, but other activities have taken precedence and it's been ignored

- It was suggested that this subject be remanded to a fighters moot

- Her highness asked for the chance to promote scouting over the next year.

Question: Has the kingdom marshal been approached?

-It was confirmed by the Kingdom Marshal's secretary that it had not been raised with the current Kingdom Marshal, but His Majesty confirmed that He had been approached as former Kingdom Marshal

- It was suggested that Their Majesties might have more luck promoting/asking for scout participation in battle.

-It was suggest that spare fighters on melee teams offer time as scouts? Or fighters who were too injured to fight. (Much amusement was had at the suggestion that certain fighters take up scouting)

Question: What are the additional requirements for scouts if you're a fighter?

-Scouting tabards & white diamond on helms are the only additional requirement.

Question: What is involved in scouting authorizations?

-Observation of scout in a melee environment.

Questions: Is part of the problem selling the validity of the job? Why is the concept of an injured fighting taking the job amusing?

-If fighters see it as a demotion or a joke they will be unwilling to take on the job.

-Scouting needs to be promoted as having as much validity to the war effort as fighting.

-If we're going to authorize scouts, we need the opportunities to do so.

-It was suggested that we make use of the teen component, fighters over the age of 16 who cannot fight at Pennsic or some of our Youth combat participants, as it would be an excellent opportunity get them comfortable on the melee field.

-The discussion was tabled at the suggestion that this should be discussed at a fighter's moot.

Grant Awards & Peerages:

The question was asked: Should the consultation process of the Grant level awards be more open to either the Peerages or to the people of the kingdom? (This question was actually multifaceted in that it was concerned about the original purpose of the GoA awards, the fact that there is no communication between the GoA level awards and the Peerage awards -eg between Wains and Pelicans

- and that there are residents in the Kingdom holding awards of GoA level from the Middle, but are not part of Ealdormere's grant level lists. Keja)

-Concerns were expressed that populace and peerage are not able to have input on GoA level awards.

-Some members of the peerage orders would like to open the consultation process up so that communication is more transparent, because the peers could have valuable input for the GoA's and vice-versa.

-It was noted that Their Majesties are invited to join all the electronic mail lists of the orders.

-Concerns were expressed that if peerages were on the lists it would inhibit free discussion amongst the GoA members for fear of jeopardizing their own possible future awards or that their comments might be misinterpreted.

-It was noted that some peers would like the option to consult with the GoA level orders in order to gain different perspectives on prospective award recipients. It was acknowledged that the peers are not invisible and generally will receive a different response from someone interested in a peerage than those who are of the GoA level. The GoA members are for the most part invisible (unless the Order of Precedence is consulted) and therefore the GoA members are likely to have a different view on the same person.

-There needs to be the option of private communication and public input

-Concern was expressed by some peers present that it seemed that some individuals were finding consultation from the peerage to be intimidating. One peer like quality is that one is able to give counsel.

-Concerns were raised about what were the expectations of the peerage, and that some people might be excluded.

-It was noted that the award system sometimes appears to be rife with political issues and

that it often seems that people get shot down for making recommendations or suggestions that are unpopular.

-It was indicated that some newer people are being told that the only award recommendations acceptable from the populous are for Awards of Arms. There was agreement on this revelation from a number of different individuals.

-It was suggested that it needs to be conveyed to the people that award recommendations can be made by everyone. It was suggested that the Heralds could be the vehicle for this information.

-The observation was made that a first-timer's perception of what is allowed and acceptable is dependent on who you meet in your first time out.

-There was concern expressed about the perception that politics were a significant part of the candidate selection process for awards.

-It was noted that there seems to be an almost masonic level of secrecy in the process, that there is less transparency than there used to be and a feeling of disconnect with the process.

-There were concerns that some GoA level holders are being protective of their process - ie refusing to discuss a potential candidate for a GoA award with a peer.

-Because of the nature of relationships in the SCA, people who are contributing in quiet & subtle ways are sometimes not noticed. It needs to be known that people are contributing, and it's not often clear if recommendations ever get to the right parties - ie - is the online award recommendation form always working?

-Communication was noted to be the problem and that the broken telephone syndrome often takes effect and that there isn't a sufficient system of cross checking.

-Ultimately, Their Majesties make the decision as to award recipients; so it was noted that if one did not feel they could approach the orders, that Their Majesties may be the route to select.

-With regards to concerns about future aspirations towards peerages being risked, it was noted that the peerages are not an amorphous organization and do not necessarily think with one mind, so it is unlikely that one would find any peerage to be unanimous in a rejection of a candidate for something said in a GoA level consultation.

-Their Majesties are recipients of the recommendations from the Ealdormere website and private recommendations. Their Majesties, Edward and Rylyn's policy is to pass any of these recommendations along to the order in question.

-It was noted that the SCA can appear cliquish, but that if one person makes someone feel welcome that's what's important. Everyone in the SCA plays differently, therefore there are going to be disagreements. When an award is witnessed it makes other people feel good.

-Some people are told that significant individuals are the only ones who can make award recommendations.

Question: Is there a separate body that tracks recommendations?

The response was negative, also implying that it would make more bureaucracy.

-The original intent of the GoA orders in Ealdormere Law was that the recipients would take the responsibility of recommending others for awards. It was supposed to be motivation for people to make recommendations and was supposed to be a privilege and a duty.

-At this point Keja read out the wording for the original purpose of the GoA awards as

written in sections XI-201, 202, & 203 (vii) “The Crown shall give due weight and consideration to the recommendations of the current Companions of the Order when considering the induction of new members.” The point that was desired here was that it is the members of the Orders who are consulted, not the Order itself.

-It was noted that some of the people within the orders themselves are feeling shot down.
-The idea of an “ombudsman” for each order was suggested, but concerns were expressed that this person could become a “gatekeeper” and influence which names were put forward to the order.

Question: Was it possible or even a good idea to have GoA level recommendations “CC'd” from the Ealdormere website to the secretary of each order's email list?

-Concerns about the “gatekeeper” concept were again expressed and that perhaps it should go to the entire mailing list.

-Some individuals might not wish their recommendation quite so public. Perhaps it could be made as a voluntary check box.

The discussion was tabled due to time restrictions and judging from the sheer amount of commentary, could easily be brought up again at a future Moot.

SCA Canada:

-Keja, the regional representative for Ealdormere noted that not much had been officially discussed between the regional representatives at this point, but that discussions on the Yahoo group mailing list were very active.

-It was noted that the SCA Yahoo list is open to all who wish to participate.

-The current official structure of the working group is that there are regional representatives, an executive committee, and the open forum.

-It was noted that no decision or recommendation will be made without public consultation.

Note: At the Moot, it was asked if anyone could join the lists. The main Yahoo list and the forum are open to any and all to participate as they wish. For those interested in this matter, please visit www.sca-c.org , <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/scacanada/> , <http://sca-c.org/forums/index.php> or contact myself for further updates. Please also note that Ontario is mostly alone in its interest in keeping the status quo although it seems that Manitoba, Saskatchewan and possibly Quebec are also leaning in that direction. The organizing committee for SCA-C was hoping to have a meeting before Christmas, which is seeming doubtful at this point. I will update the Kingdom when I have more information. Keja

The Moot was adjourned.