

## **Moot of TRM Aaron and Rustique**

August 10th, 2011

Held at the 40th Pennsic War, Ealdormere Royal Encampment

Forty-four gentles present.

**Lawspeaker:** Mu'allim Valizan Ibn Fredeh Presiding.  
Viscountess Moria The Black acting as notetaker.

**Sitting Royalty:** His Majesty Aaron Worgenson, Her Majesty Rustique Du Sorde, His Royal Highness Tormot Quilliam, Her Royal Highness Dagmar Halvdan.

Lawspeaker read Article 13, Conduct of Royal Courts.

### **ARTICLE XIII - Conduct of Royal Courts**

**XIII-100** The normal business of the Kingdom is conducted through public Royal Courts. At these courts awards are bestowed, laws proclaimed, official gifts given and received, branches are advanced in status and oaths proclaimed.

**XIII-200** For any of the above to be binding on the people of Ealdormere, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

**XIII-201** A warranted Seneschal must witness the court.

**XIII-202** A warranted Pursuivant or Herald must assist with the court.

**XIII-203** The Royal Court must occur at an event that has been advertised in the Kingdom newsletter.

### ***AGENDA ITEMS:***

#### **Electronic Newsletters**

Lawspeaker read a missive from the Board Of Directors (BoD) dated July 18<sup>th</sup> that states Electronic Newsletters will begin January 1st, 2012, and advised of the impact of the electronic newsletters and paper newsletters.

- Lawspeaker asked for questions. Mistress Gaerwen of Trafford asked if the fact that electronic newsletters will not constitute proof of membership will result in a replacement method for proof of membership? Master Garraed Galbraith, who is a BoD member, advised proof of membership may be printed directly online now.

- Lady Jocelyn Cranewall asked about how the Kingdom Laws are going to reflect the requirements for Crown regarding proof the newsletter is being received. Her Majesty Rustique confirmed that is being worked on.

- Lord Guillaume Le Breton asked regarding how to opt out of the paper newsletter. Answered by Master Garraed Galbraith indicating all procedures will be detailed online.

Viscountess Kaellyn MacDermott pointed out that Ealdormere currently has two members on the BoD (Herself and Master Garraed) and two society officers: Mistress Aibhlin Fra Skye (A&S) and Baroness Eyrny Ormarsdottir (Fencing). One of the members (Master Garraed) lives in Seattle but is a subject of Ealdormere.

### ***Kingdom Tithe***

Baroness Eyrny Ormarsdottir wrote in suggesting that the Kingdom budget can now sustain itself, so can we drop the Kingdom Tithe?

- The Lawspeaker opened the issue for comments.
- Many people spoke in support of keeping it, as it is not onerous on people, and should be continued.
- One person asked what our current financial standing is, how much of that are we spending, we can't discuss this without the actual figures.
- The Lawspeaker confirmed the Kingdom Exchequer Constance Payne had informed him that without the Tithe we would be \$1400 short per year on our budget.
- Former Kingdom Exchequer, Master James The Mercer pointed out that we do not have enough funds to invest so that we can start to make money. The Tithe currently gives us a small surplus. We have no guaranteed income.
- His Highness Quilliam noted that the budget has been in the black, and not in the red, but that is from the generosity of the groups right now, but not because we are self sustaining. The Tithe was not a 'we are in trouble, temporary solution'. It was implemented not as a band-aid but as a permanent piece of our budget.
- It was asked if we can cut expenses rather than looking at income, plus there is not a reliable income from the events. Master

James pointed out that there were very few expenses that could be cut as the kingdom already does not spend frivolously.

- Master James pointed out that the Kingdom budget is published yearly, and anyone with questions can then send them onto the Kingdom Exchequer.

- If we don't need quite as much of a slush fund, that would be easier, but the groups should be generous in their donations as some groups have a larger budget and income than the Kingdom.

- Baron Tiberius suggested that if the Kingdom could lay out a more precise way of stating how much of the profit has to go to the Kingdom from a Kingdom event, it could help with budgeting and fee setting for the people running the events.

- Countess Rylyn Buchanan indicated that she will be the Deputy In Charge of Kingdom bids when the new Kingdom Seneschal comes into office, and she will bring this up and help ensure such things are included.

- Master Garraed pointed out that Ealdormere is a very small Kingdom, and we have to keep that in mind and that we need all we can get.

### ***New Law Change***

The Lawspeaker read out the proposed Law change Article VII, 105 and 106, and opened the discussion for comment.

**VIII-105** All Territorial Barons and/or Baronesses must swear fealty to the Crown upon Their investiture. This oath must be renewed with each new Crown.

**VIII-106** Should a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness have a reason that they cannot swear fealty (e.g. religious reasons) they may petition the Crown to make an equivalent agreement upon Their investiture. This agreement must be renewed with each Crown.

Should be revised to read:

**VIII-105** All Territorial Barons and/or Baronesses must swear fealty to the Crown upon Their investiture. Should a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness have a reason that they cannot swear fealty (e.g. religious reasons) they may petition the Crown to make an equivalent agreement upon Their investiture. This oath or agreement must be

renewed with each new Crown.

**VIII-106** It is understood that a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness hold lands in fief from the Crown, and therefore, if unable to swear their oath at the time of the Coronation of a new Crown, the land and titles revert back to the Crown until such oaths or agreements have been sworn. The retention of any lands and titles during the time period between Coronation and the swearing of such oaths and agreements by a Territorial Baron and/or Baroness may be granted at the discretion of The Crown through prior arrangement if The Crown so chooses.

- Her Majesty Rustique commented that TRMs had read all of the emails that were posted when they were down at War, and that the purpose of the law changes was simply to clarify the timeline and the consequences so the Crown can be generous rather than being mean and heavy handed.

- It was pointed out that the existing law is all that is needed. This had some support. It was clarified that the lands revert back to the Crown until Fealty is sworn. The point was made that officers may not be able to make it to Coronation they are not temporarily removed.

- It was pointed out that it is not clear as to whether or not one or both the Baron and Baroness have to show up to swear fealty? The crown confirmed it is at least one of them.

- One person stated that it was a good thing, and not basically a big deal because it was just clarifying the problem because, apparently, no one knows what is expected of them.

- Viscountess AEIfleada FitzAlain said that our laws should not be getting so big, and custom and tradition should be stronger than Law and should keep people doing what is best without having it legislated.

- We are a small enough Kingdom that TRM's get around the Kingdom on a regular basis, getting to an event where they can swear fealty is not an onerous thing.

- The current Law does not remove the Baron/ess, it states that they are suspended, it doesn't say that if you don't go to Coronation you've done wrong, it says that if you don't have the courtesy to make prior arrangements, you have done wrong.

- Master Martin Bildner stated that we as a Kingdom have never defined what is meant by fealty, and that causes a problem because

we have not set that out and as we have not defined the communication between the parties.

- His Highness Quilliam stated that he read the law as a clarification of the job of a Baron/ess, and therefore, if you are looking at doing the job, you should figure out if you want to do this, and what can happen if you don't want to so parts of it.

- A person stated that some barons may not want to swear fealty to each new Crown, so what if they are removed and then the new Crown has a problem.

- Someone pointed out that it is terribly period to swear fealty to someone you don't like, and the new King and Queen can not be expected to know everything going on when they step up.

- Legislation should not regulate everything, and you can not legislate against all possible trouble that can come up, if a little clarification can help, why not put it in.

- It was pointed out that this is an oath between offices, and this law clarifies that and provides a limitation to what can happen.

- Baron Nickolai Domingo de Vallejo stated that this law is making the suspension a default action. He also said that the Crown being able to suspend a Baron and Baroness is already covered in Corpora therefore this law is redundant.

- It was asked why we need a repercussion and 'hammer' for future Crowns. Her Majesty Rustique clarified that it is not adding something new, it is clarifying when and what should happen if it doesn't happen.

- Viscount Bealdgar Thorbeornsson clarified that it is not up to anyone as to whether or not they like a Crown or not. Those sitting the thrones have earned that right to be King and Queen by winning the Crown. If you have won the right to wear your Territorial Baron/ess coronet, you swear fealty when the Crown steps up.

- Countess Adrielle Kerrec clarified from her perspective as a former Landed Baroness, as a current Society Officer on the Board, and as a former Queen, that the oath is not just about the oath, it is about the ceremony of the populace seeing the exchange of the oaths. Barons and Baronesses need to set an example by swearing the Oath to the Crown. She also clarified that it \* IS \* in Corpora.

- In response to a comment that caused some insult amongst the knights present, Duke Hasdrubal clarified that there is an expectation that knights swear an oath, and it has nothing to do with being a "stick jock" or who wears the Crown.

- Milady Jasmine, stating she was new to the SCA, expressed concern over how the laws appear to be providing the Crown with too much power to tie hands and with things having to be done about that.

- Lord Bjorn Thorolfson said that sometimes traditions have to be written into law because everyone does not always get along well together, and in those cases, having those 'traditions' written into law makes it easier and stops personal conflict.

- His Highness Quilliam said that what He believes is a Baron and Baroness must be in fealty to The Crown before they can perform their duties as a Territorial baron or baroness.

### **New topics:**

#### ***Wearing Regalia at Moots***

Mistress Gaerwyn of Trafford knows Ealdormere is a kingdom of traditions, and that The Royalty takes off their crowns and coronets at moots. However, other gentles attendant at the moot did not take off their Coronets. She wondered why that was. She wondered if we want to look at having everyone remove their symbols, and where does it end?

- The Lawspeaker responded that Their Majesties and Their Highnesses were offering a courtesy to the people when they removed Their Crown/Coronets at the Moot. They were taking a step down to be closer to the people and hear their words as the premier citizens of the Kingdom. However, if the people then removed their coronets and symbols of rank, the gesture by The Crown would be nullified.

#### ***Heir Period Being Shortened***

Countess Adrielle Kerrec wondered if perhaps our heir period should perhaps be changed from a six-month period to a three- month period, since we really don't have need of the heir period for six months.

- Duke Roak stated that he understands that the Crown does have very little time that they are on their own, but the heir period is good because the heirs can travel out of kingdom, and represent the kingdom, so the Crown can focus on being in the kingdom.

- Viscountess AEIleada FitzAlain pointed out that weather is often a problem in January, which would cause difficulty for travelers to Crown Tournaments. Countess Adrielle indicated that according to the weather database, there have only been two times that a Crown tournament would not have been run.

- His Highness Quilliam stated that as “newbies” to the high seats when they stepped up, they found the six-month heirship period advantageous to their learning how to do their job.

- Her Highness Dagmar stated that switching A&S and fall Crown may be a viable change, as it would give more focus to A&S.

- Her Majesty Rustique stated that she would like everyone to go home and discuss it, and discuss other things that change the heirs period and stuff, and lets meet on the E list.

### ***Having The Moot At Pennsic***

Lady Kersteken Janzdochtere pointed out that the Kingdom Moot was being held at Pennsic War in Pennsylvania, and not back home in Ealdormere, and asked if it would be repeated back home, as not everyone could afford the time and money to come down to Pennsic.

- Her Majesty Rustique responded that all attempts to arrange a moot came down to the timing and/or availability of the Lawspeaker. There had also been prior complaints that the moot was always held at Trillium War or at Baron's Howe (also a five-hour trip on average), so this time it had been decided to hold it somewhere else.

- It was asked if the Moot would be repeated back on Ealdormere soil. The Lawspeaker responded “No” due to timing and lack of availability on his part.

- Baroness Anne Tinker pointed out that this was a good turnout and featured more comment than at the past 6 moots for which she had taken minutes.

- Viscountess Kaellyn pointed out that Their Majesties are always available for discussion.

Moot closed.