



Order of the Crucible

Members Handbook

Last Update: July 2020

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Crucible Definition in Kingdom Law

XI-202 There shall exist in Ealdormere an Order unto which the Crown may elect such persons as it sees fit. The Order shall be known as the Order of the Crucible, herein referred to as the Order.

XI-202 (i) This honour shall be given at the discretion of the Crown to those individuals who:

- a) have demonstrated skill in a variety of Arts and Sciences, including a high level (journeyman) skill in at least one discipline.
- b) have demonstrated a knowledge of period techniques.
- c) have demonstrated the ability to research and the willingness to teach Arts and Sciences related skills.
- d) present a reasonably authentic appearance.
- e) provide an example of courtesy and chivalry worthy of emulation.

XI-202 (ii) Elevation to the Order shall confer upon the holder a Grant of Arms.

XI-202 (iii) Elevation to the Order shall be proclaimed in Court or in a public place to the Kingdom at large.

XI-202 (iv) Members of the Order are entitled to place after their names the initials COC, may be styled and announced as Companions of the Order of the Crucible and may bear the title "the Honourable Lord/Lady"

XI-202 (v) Membership in the Order shall ensure the individual a position, according to seniority in the Order, above Grants of Arms simple, equal to members of the other Orders of High Merit, and below Court Baron and Baroness.

XI-202 (vi) Companions of the Order may wear a medallion bearing the badge of the Order.

XI-202 (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.

Members Code of Conduct

1. It is hoped that members of the Order will bear the sensitivity of the discussions in mind and act in confidence.
2. Any person may bring candidates forward for discussion and addition to the poll.
3. Everyone's opinion is valid, and everyone has the right to express it. It is hoped many of you will.
4. Remember we are all working towards the same goal, please keep disagreements civil. It's OK to disagree with someone's opinion; it's not OK to insult them.
5. Welcome and enjoy.

Polling Timeline

The intent of the Order is to be able to provide the Crown with a new poll shortly after Their ascension to the Thrones. The Order Secretary will consult with Their Majesties and Their Highnesses on what Their preferences may be, but the following is a general outline:

Ongoing	The Order discusses candidates and suggests candidates for the Order's polling list.
6-8 weeks prior to Coronation	The Order Secretary sends out emails for each candidate on the polling list to initiate formal discussion of all candidates on the list.
3 weeks before Coronation	Order Secretary sends out the polling book and formally launches the poll
Coronation	Poll closes
As soon as possible following Coronation	Poll results are tabulated and provided to Their Majesties. They are also shared with Order.

Poll Format

This is the system currently used by the Order. Other polling systems with more detailed options have been used in the past, and can be discussed if the Order desires (see below):

The Secretary will send out a poll with all candidates currently being discussed listed (in no particular order) in a table.

For each candidate please indicate one of the following choices in full beside the name of the candidate.

Yes	This means I feel this candidate warrants admission. This can be arrived at by evaluating the candidate personally, or by trusting the opinion of other Order members.
Not Yet	This means I do not feel this candidate warrants admission at this time . It encompasses all votes that are 'soon but not yet'. Candidates remain on our consideration list.
Remove	This means no and I feel this candidate should be removed from our consideration list for the time being (but does not stop us from adding them back at a later time if things change).
Abstain	Abstain has been used in cases where the polled member is not familiar with a candidates work, though this should be limited since part of our responsibility to the Order is to try to seek out candidate's work and familiarize ourselves with it to the extent we are able (particularly for candidates who have been on our list for some time). This has also been used when polled members do not wish to vote on family members.

Members wishing to vote on the poll will please return the poll via e-mail to the Order Secretary (or to the Crucible list as a whole) by the date designated in the poll launch email. As members of a Consulting Order it is both our honour and responsibility to recommend gentles worthy of recognition to the Crown. I would encourage all members to take the time to vote.

Poll Ranking

Following the poll, the Order Secretary will sort the candidates based on the results.

In general the result will be sorted by total % in favour of the candidate being inducted, with a sub-sort of the non-abstain yes vote total to break any ties.

However, Their Majesties may request the data to be sorted in other ways.

Any candidates with a reasonably high percentage of “remove” votes will be discussed with the Order to decide whether we should remove their names from our polling list for the time being.

Alternate polling method:

An alternate option for polling is listed below. This option is not currently in use but could be used if the Order agrees. This method provides a more nuanced poll but is much more complex. Please discuss with the Order Secretary if you feel this method would be useful.

Each member will provide one of six poll responses for each candidate in response to the statement: “I recommend Their Majesties induct this person into the Order”

- **Strongly agree/Elevate (Point value +3)**
- **Agree (point value +2)**
- **Abstain (point value 0)**
- **Wait/Watch (point value 0)**
- **Disagree (point value -2)**
- **Strongly disagree/Remove (point value -3)**

The number values associated with each Poll Response are used to sort the current list of candidates, nothing more.

The Order Secretary will total the scores for each candidate and sort them by their score.

The numeric values do not have a specific meaning and no set value is required for a candidate to be considered for elevation to the Order.

The numbers are only used to rank the various candidates within the list, and for an indication of how the voting members of the Order feel about whether the candidate should be considered for induction to the Order at that particular time.

FAQ

Q – I am having trouble with the Yahoo email list for the group, what do I do?

A – You can contact the Order Secretary. If they are not able to solve the problem they will contact the Group Owner/Moderator to try to fix the problem.

The Secretary is currently:

Baron Dafydd ap Alan
dafydd@rogers.com

Q – I have completed my Poll, who do I send it to?

A – The Order Secretary is responsible for sending out and counting the Poll results.

Q – I cannot find the Message archive on the group's website?

A – There is no message archive on the Yahoo group. In 2019, Yahoo removed all archive and file hosting options, so the only way to access the group discussions is through your email.

If you deleted a message that you would like another copy of etc. please contact the Order Secretary, as they tend to keep a copy of most of the messages posted.

The Polling Book, which is sent out at the start of each poll, will also capture most recent discussion on current candidates.

Q – Why are Their Majesties part of the list, what about Their Highnesses?

A - Their Majesties, upon Their Coronation, are invited to be members of this electronic mailing list and have been since the list was formed. Each set of Royalty may choose to participate in the discussion of candidates if they so choose. They may also decline to be members at all. As with the peerage orders, They can choose or not choose to allow Their heirs to participate unless They are already members by virtue of being members of the Order. When the heirs ascend the thrones, the choice then becomes Theirs.

Q - Regarding the current poll, some of these are the same folks that we polled earlier right? They are being re-polled because.....? Is this part of the process?

A – Yes some of the names you will find on the current Poll are names that were on the last Poll. You are being asked your opinion of these candidates again as approximately 6 months have passed and your opinion of their candidacy and their work could have changed.

When the name of a potential candidate is brought forward for consideration, they are only dropped from the polling list by one of a few ways;

- The candidate is elevated to the Order.
- The Order decides to remove the candidate from the list. This could be because of a high number of “remove” votes during a poll, or for other reasons between polls.
 - In these cases the Secretary will seek a consensus from the Order before removing a candidate.
- Their Majesties request that a candidate be removed from the polling list.
 - In these cases, the Secretary will inform the Order of the request to ensure transparency and for tracking purposes.
- The candidate’s status within the SCA changes between polls.

Q – Why is that name still on the poll? Didn’t we already say they should be inducted last time?

For fairness, the Order Secretary only removes a name from the list for the above reasons. Even if a candidate polls very well, the decision to induct someone into the Order belongs to Their Majesties.

Many things can happen that could prevent a strong candidate from being inducted. Perhaps Their Majesties had a backlog for court and couldn’t do all of the awards they had planned, or perhaps the candidate had to take some time away from the SCA for personal reasons just as they were to be inducted.

We wouldn’t want the candidate to be accidentally missed between reigns because we dropped them from the list prematurely, so we keep them on the list and will re-poll on their name.

Q – How are names added to the Poll?

A – The Crown or any member of the Order can bring forward anyone they believe should be considered for inclusion in the Order. Any member who receives recommendations from the Populace of Ealdormere is encouraged to bring this candidate to the Order for consideration.