

Significant Figures Present:

- King Havordh Aettarbani
- Queen Mary Grace of Gatland
- Kingdom Seneschal Magistra Julia Sempronia
- Kingdom Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade

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**Report by Exchequer Master Arontius of Bygelswade**

**THIRD QUARTER OF 2015**

- The bank account is looking better since proceeds from 3 summer events were received so far this quarter, but we're still in negative territory:
  - May Crown yielded a Kingdom profit of \$3800.
  - An Tir – West War had a profit of \$10,000. This will go back into the dedicated bank account to sit until we start organizing the 2017 event. There is now a total of \$22,000 in that fund. King Havordh is going to try and talk to the King of the West again about sharing in this fund as is done for other inter-Kingdom wars.
  - July Coronation yielded a Kingdom profit of \$4200.
  - There was \$3900 in exceptional travel paid out that the Kingdom budgeted for the Royals, Kingdom Seneschal's Deputy, Earl Marshal, and Lists Minister to travel to Avacal to run their first Crown tournament and oversee their Coronation ceremony.
- Officers need to look carefully at what they have left to spend in 2015 so as not to exceed their limits. This also means turn in your receipts promptly.
- The arts & sciences pavilion needs a hole repaired, and the herald's pavilion ridge-pole may need to be replaced. If these issues cannot be fixed by May Crown, then they will use the former surgeon's pavilion at that event; but in the long term this will be re-allocated to the marshals who have not previously had a Kingdom tent.
- An Tir's financial policies are still being rewritten: These need to address the new NMS rules, provisions for electronic funds transfers, and moving travel expenses for the Kingdom champions from its own line to the marshal and A&S offices; amongst other things. Hopefully this can be finished by Crown Council.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW BY THE SOCIETY**

- This was conducted in late July 2015. The prior review was in 2011. Society Exchequer, Baroness Katherine Angelique d'Artois de Berry, was very pleased with how our accounts looked. She was particularly impressed with the detailed notes from our Financial Committee meetings, as these contain far more information than many she sees.
- The only significant negative in the review was the fact that we did not have a current inventory of the Kingdom trailer and some other assets, but that was rectified a couple of weeks later. Their Majesties also did an inventory of the Pensic storage unit when they were at that event in August.
- The SCA itself is also being audited by the state of California, not out of any concern about wrong-doing but rather because the state is carefully looking at all non-profit organizations likely in an effort to acquire more income. This may become an annual event. Trying to explain the SCA to modern legal entities is complicated as we exist in multiple countries, engage in a wide variety of fund raising activities, and receive various types of donations.

**BUDGET PLANNING FOR 2016**

- There will be a financial meeting at Fall Crown Council to discuss these issues in more detail. For those attending the Kingdom Feast, this will occur in the meeting rooms at the Ocean Shores Convention Center on Sunday. If you aren't attending that event, speak with Master Arontius about how to participate by phone or computer.

## AN TIR CURIA MEETING -- September Crown (9/7/15)

- General travel for royalty and officers can be decreased now that Avacal is independent, and this money reallocated for other purposes. However there are some other travel costs we need to account for in 2016:
  - We need to create a dedicated line item for expenses related to 50 Year Celebration.
  - The Raven Travel Fund is running low again. Now that the second set of crowns are paid for, perhaps that enthusiasm can be directed towards this endeavor. There must be royalty from 2 other Kingdoms present for the Raven Travel Fund to be used, so that eliminates most trips to our next door neighbors.
  - The Known World Symposium for seneschals and exchequers is in Florida the weekend of February 12-14, so extra money will be needed in the travel and training budgets for that trip; as well as the subsequent trips around An Tir to share this knowledge in various training weekends.
- Other departments are also encouraged to create their own traveling training programs and submit a budget request for this: Some of the costs can be paid from their regular line item and some from the training line item.
- Award medallions for outgoing Kingdom champions:
  - The ones we've used in the past cost a fair amount, and the Society Exchequer and others have suggested we look at a new plan. Master Torfin Torgulsson submitted a proposal last year, but this may need to be scaled back. Ideally we can come up with a design and production plan that would allow several artisans to manufacture these medallions as that would cut the cost and let the Kingdom catch up on several dozen owed to past champions. Or we could choose to pay Torfin to make enough medallions to clear the backlog, and then spread the work across more individuals going forward.
  - Several Kingdoms use a system by which a single medallion held by the champion from 2012 is passed to the one from 2013 when they step down, who in turn passes it to the champion stepping down in 2014, and so on. Then if the champions from prior years want a token of their own, they pay the artisan for it.
  - We also need to address the cost for the new Masters of Defense medallions as the current \$25 per token is more than the allowed "nominal fee".

### NON-MEMBER SURCHARGE

- NMS submission time frames are now shorter: As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, branches have 10 business days to submit the NMS they collect at events to the Kingdom. (This is based on the postmark date, which particularly helps our Canadian chapters.) Kingdoms then have 30 days to send the NMS payments to the Society. For example September events must now be paid by 10/31. Previously the money was due after each quarter.
- Chapters who fail to follow the new system can lose their status. A Kingdom's compliance with this system will be one factor in determining whether they can use Pay Pal for event registration in the future. It's also going to help all of the Kingdoms manage their books better, particularly early in the year, as this money won't be sitting in the bank account for weeks at a time, obscuring how much is actually available for the Kingdom's use.
- There is a lot of confusion amongst the branches about this new system: If an event is advertised in the Crier, local newsletters, or on the Kingdom or branch website, and there is a fee to attend it, then NMS must be collected and submitted. This does NOT apply to fight practices or socials which collect voluntary donations for the space.
- An Tir has more branches than most other Kingdoms, so this is a big challenge for us. 13 of 15 events since July 1<sup>st</sup> have submitted their funds on time.
- HL Elonda of Bluehaven has been essential in very carefully documenting NMS income and payments to the Society over the past couple of years. Without her help we might have had to pay even more money as the Society has had some challenges in tracking amounts received.
- An Tir does wish the Society would explain more about the reasons behind this change in timelines, as it would help in gaining the cooperation of local chapters. People like to know WHY they are expected to do something.

## AN TIR CURIA MEETING -- September Crown (9/7/15)

- Technical note: While Canadian branches are required to follow the same NMS rules as American chapters, it is legally considered a “donation” rather than a “pass-through” of funds.

### Experiment with Gate Fees for Minors

*Presented by Mistress Genevieve Marie Etienne de Montagne.*

Beginning at September Crown 2014, An Tir decided to admit minors free to all Crown events. The intent was to encourage more families to attend our activities both for our short term health and as a way of building membership further in the future.

This chart shows the Kingdom’s share of the profit earned from each of the specified events. (Assuming that the branch submitted their report on time, this is 60% of the total profit. For the War and Feast, the Kingdom takes 100% of the proceeds and uses those as seed money for the subsequent event.)

| <i>Event</i>                          | <i>2013</i>        | <i>2014</i>        | <i>2015</i>        |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Night                | \$6800.00          | \$8127.15          | \$5353.27          |
| Arts, Sciences & Bardic Championships | \$449.18           | \$2261.48          | \$564.53           |
| May Crown                             | \$6452.64          | \$5706.17          | \$3814.73          |
| An Tir – West War                     | \$10,000.00        | West’s turn        | \$10,000.00        |
| July Coronation                       | \$5497.82          | \$6072.81          | \$4420.88          |
| September Crown                       | \$5900.00          | \$3000.74          | Pending            |
| Kingdom Feast                         | \$2402.00          | Not held           | Pending            |
| <i>Total</i>                          | <i>\$37,501.64</i> | <i>\$22,167.61</i> | <i>\$24,153.41</i> |
| <i>Omitting War, SC, &amp; Feast</i>  | <i>\$19,199.64</i> | <i>\$22,167.61</i> | <i>\$14,153.41</i> |

Without the data from the 3 missing events in 2014 & 2015 it’s impossible to determine a trend. Odd years will make more money for An Tir as we host both the war with the West and the Kingdom Feast at those times.

The Exchequer’s office is going to do a little more research to look at the actual attendance numbers over the past 3 years, and not just gate proceeds. Two other factors which affect attendance at an event are its location and the state of the economy (starting with gas prices.) The Exchequer’s office is also interested in hearing from Principality and local branches who have implemented the plan about how it is affecting their attendance and income. This information will be presented at 12<sup>th</sup> Night, but for now we are going to write this practice into our new policy for Crown events.

- If we believe in encouraging families to attend events, then we have to act to support that value.
- While the initial focus was on parents and children, we’ve found that many families are now bringing multiple adolescents to events because their youth’s friends are interested in our activities. Previously this was difficult as the other teens might not have enough money to attend on their own, and the supervising parents couldn’t pay for the additional children.
- The idea has been very positively received throughout our community. Principality events chose to adopt the same policy and many local branches have as well, although they were not required to do so. (For some branches it may not be feasible for forgo the extra income, particularly if they only hold a couple of small events each year.)
- Gate staff report it has made their job far simpler: They don’t have to calculate and explain family caps, and they need fewer \$1 bills since so often minor fees weren’t round numbers.
- Etienne says it’s been interesting to watch the discussion on the Society wide exchequer’s email list with everyone debating how to handle family cap amounts for events, and she told them

## AN TIR CURIA MEETING -- September Crown (9/7/15)

that An Tir is largely avoiding this anymore because so many of our events allow children to attend for free. Other Kingdoms are starting to consider this plan.

[Note the age of majority is 19 in BC, and 18 in the rest of An Tir. The fee and waiver requirements are based on where the event is held.]

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### EVENT BIDS

#### Summary of decisions to date:

- September Crown (Sept 4-7, 2015) -- Barony of Glymm Mere at Nix Ranch in Chehalis, WA.
- Kingdom Feast (November 6-8, 2015) -- Barony of Dragon's Laire at the Ocean Shores Convention Center (WA).
- Twelfth Night (January 8-10, 2016) -- Barony of Dragon's Mist. Doubletree Hotel in the Rose Quarter of Portland, OR.
- Arts & Sciences and Bardic Championship (March 4-6, 2016) -- Barony of Glymm Mere. Shilo Inn at Ocean Shores, WA.
- May Crown (May 20-22, 2016) -- Barony of Vulkanfeldt and the Barony of Wastekeep will jointly host at the Toppenish Rodeo & Livestock Association grounds (WA).
- Twelfth Night (January 13-15, 2017) -- Barony of Wyewood. Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac, WA.

July Coronation 2016 (July 15-17) -- We are desperately seeking bids for this event! Perhaps now that our heirs have been chosen, this will prompt more interest. Kingdom officers and veteran event organizers are asked to talk to anyone they know who might be convinced to organize a bid. The Shire of Ramsgaard is considering a proposal, but Coronation falls a month after Tir Righ's Coronet and a month before their Investiture; so that's a large demand on their population.

#### September Crown 2016 (September 2-5)

- Shire of Hauksgardr. Event Steward will be HL Marco Valentino.
- Site is the Hood River County Fairgrounds in northern Oregon  
<http://www.hoodriverfair.org/facilities.htm>
- May Crown 2015 at this site had 759 attendees and about 20% of the camping space was open, so there's room for expansion.
- This event will be a bit more expensive than last time because it's during the main summer season, we need a fourth day at \$500, we will be renting the equestrian arena (another \$500), and we have to pay for both the fairgrounds and the school parking lot to be on the equestrian insurance certificate as well as the general SCA one.
- Marco needs to speak with Master Guillaume de Garrigues about the exact details necessary for the equestrian championship. However before this meeting ends, the current Deputy Royal Archer and Kingdom Protector both confirm that the site can work for the archery championship if it's moved back to this weekend as is being recommended by many in the archery community. (Archos Dearbháil ingean uí Dhonnchaidh and Archos John de Percy.)
- Bid is accepted.