

The North Wind

Newsletter of the
Barony of Lions Gate

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House Werner at The End of Days



photo taken by Mike Stanley. Used with permission

About the North Wind

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The Baron's Column

It was the best of times, it was the End of Times.

Days, sorry; End of Days.

The past couple of weeks have been very busy, and very rewarding personally.

First, there was Lions Gate's Sergeantry and Courtier Trials, the end of which resulted in one new Sergeant, Jayson the Second of House Werner, and one new Courtier, Briana nic h'Eusaidh. Briana tested under the new Courtier rules & regulations (which will be found on the Lions Gate website shortly, or can be requested from me), and is now an Artisan Courtier. The new Sergeant Jayson is – if I'm not mistaken – the first second-generation member of the Sergeantry. I'm open to be corrected on this, but I believe that's correct. Caitrina and I had a terrific time, as did many others; I believe the gate count was near 120!

Congratulations further to the newly-minted Sgt Jayson who, right after being welcomed into his Order, was awarded an Award of Arms. His sister Sorcha Werner was awarded Tir Righ's youth award, the Silver Sparkes. The weekend also saw the creation of two new heralds, with Michael McBeign sworn in as Lions Gate's Sable Loat Pursuivant, and Fergus of Glamis as our personal court herald. We were also able to give Fergus his Award of Arms, which was given to us at Coronet.

And then, the BC Day long weekend saw the 5th annual Tournament of Armies, where Caitrina and I had an outstanding time. Approximately 350 people through gate, with over 70 heavy fighters, 10 rapier fighters, 9 equestrian riders, over 20 archers, 25 or so bards performing, and multitudes of people helping and serving and marshalling and A&S'ing.... (I'm going to call that a word), all in support of their chosen warlord's attempt to win this tournament.

At the end of the day, Lothinndyr Hrothdarsson led the Wolfpack to victory. Huzzah Lothinndyr and Wolfpack! Well done.

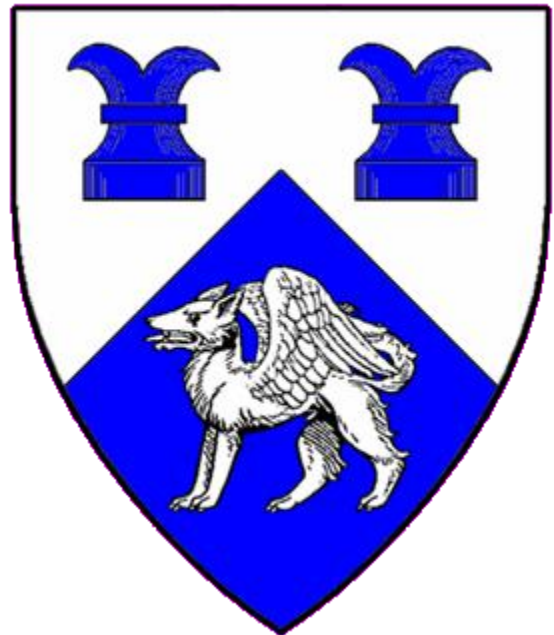
And a large, joyous thank you from Caitrina and I to the event stewards Warrick and Callen. You two continuously strive for perfection, and your skill at running this event is simply amazing.

Now, we called this one "The End of Days", as this weekend will be used next year by the Principalities of Tir Righ and Avacal as they fight A/T War. The details on this are still coming, but the idea is to combine it with a major demo in the town of Nakusp, BC; more information will be provided by the Principality.

Tournament of Armies will return one day, perhaps with a shorter two-day format. Perhaps this End of Days will result in new beginnings elsewhere.

We'll see you all at Crown!

Baron Uilliam



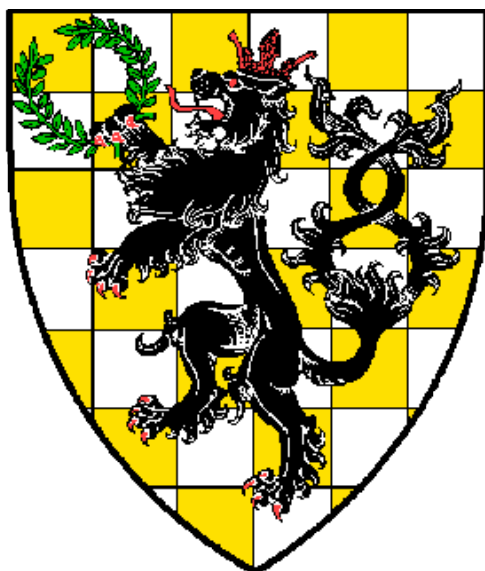
Lions Gate Calendar

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
				Tournament of Armies		
4 Archery	5 Heavy	6	7 Rapier Archery	8 Squamish Demo	9	10
11 Archery	12 Heavy	13	14 Rapier Archery	15 Social Newcomers	16	17
18 Archery	19 Heavy	20	21 Rapier Archery	22	23	24
				Tir Righ Investiture		
25 Archery A&S	26 Heavy	27	28 Rapier Archery Council	29	30	31
				September Crown		

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4 Rapier Archery	5	6	7
8 Archery	9 Heavy	10	11 Rapier Archery	12	13	14
15 Archery	16 Heavy	17	18 Rapier Archery	19	20	21
22 Archery	23 Heavy	24	25 Rapier Archery Council	26	27	28
					Tir Righ A&S/Bardic	
29 Archery	30 Heavy					



Crown is Coming!



They will come from the east where gryphons still fly.

They will come from the north where the storm winds blow.

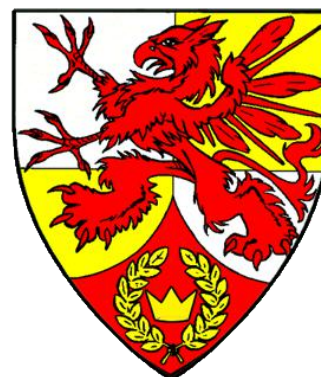
They will come from the west across the water where the killers of whales will guide their ships.

They will come the south, from the Summits through the heartland of An Tir.

They will come. Warriors will come. The best An Tir

has to offer. They will come and they will face one another in honourable combat. They will come and they will challenge for the glory that is the Crown of An Tir.

The Barony of Lions Gate in the Principality of Tir Righ in the Great Kingdom of An Tir is proud to host September Crown, August 29th to September 1st.

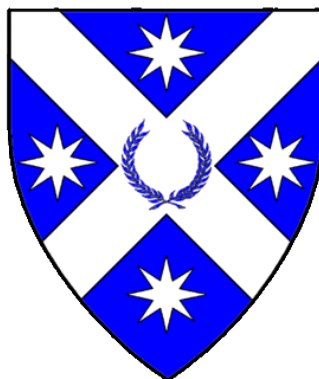


Site Info:

Name: The Grene Wode

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Langley, BC



Tournament of Armies V



Photographs by Elizabeth Ataide. Used with permission.

End of Days

From the editor

Tournament of Armies started as an experiment five years ago.

Most wars these days are fought using a point system with points being awarded in different disciplines like armoured combat, rapier combat, archery, A&S, bardic, and volunteer service. Winner is the side with the most points.

TOA wanted to change that and put the decision of the war back onto the warfield but still recognize the efforts of the other disciplines.

Warwick and Callen came up with the coin/boon system. It was confusing but it worked. I remember at the first TOA, two ladies had volunteered for a session at gate – something they likely did at most events. They didn't really understand the coin system but they were given some coins for their shift. As they left wondering what they were going to do with these coins, a warlord noticed them and asked them if they had a warlord yet. No they hadn't so the crafty warlord invited them back to his warband's encampment where the ladies were made guests of honour at their bardic fire. In exchange for their coins, they were wined, dined, and entertained.

I ran the target archery at the first TOA. It was a blast. I had 8 hours of competition all feeding into that that I had to plan but I also had the longest archery range I have ever been given allowing shoots over 100 yards. I contacted Mary Ostler to create me a bobbing head target shoot and David of Tiriane for castle slot shoot which we shoot up at.

At the second TOA, I was now the Baron and I had to ask myself whether it was appropriate for the Baron to vie to be his own Warlord. I decided that the answer was no and then debated what I would do. I contacted a number of Geese to try to put together a raiding party of combat archers. My plan was to just sally forth every now and then with some combat archers and start attacking both sides in melee forcing a wild card into the game. While I had some interested archers, a few had to back out closer to the event for mundane reasons and the idea was kiboshed.

Baroness Margaret carried on the tradition started by Baroness Caitrin at the first TOA and joined the fray with some of her Sargeants. The Baroness' Army also became a rallying point for the Lions Gate Defenders and for a lot of children. Well, after the final battle was over, children would present some coins they had earned to the Baroness to help her win the war. In addition to fighting in the war, the Baroness Walk was brought back. At the end of the walk, Baroness Margaret had a small talk with her Sargeants to thank them. I don't think she was expecting to be as overwhelmed by emotions that she felt. It is just a game and the pointy hats, and white belts, and the pretend swords don't mean anything on Tuesday morning back at work but there are times when it is much much more than just a game.

Venues for the war proved to have their own issues. TOA was originally proposed to happen at the Clinton War which had been trying to find a direction after it was no longer a battle between Lions Gate and Montegarde. That didn't happen as we know and the decision was made to look at a new site closer to home. Island 22 had been used in past but there were issues with flooding. Not a problems, new irrigation had been done and the flooding issue was done. Island 22 was perfect and the weather cooperated. However, when we went to return their the second year we found that the whole fixing the flooding issue wasn't quite true. Island 22 was more like Island 22A and Island 22B and Island 22C... We were very close to calling off the event but found the Aldergrove Bowl which we used for the next two TOA.

The bid for TOA IV was put in with Viscount Ieuan as the event steward and with Dame Elena as his deputy. When Ieuan won May Crown, the Baroness and I approached Dame Elena and if she realized what Ieuan's victory meant. She looked at the smiles on our faces and put two and two together and realized what that meant for her role as deputy. I think the words were "That's great but DAMN." To Warwick, To Callen, To Johanna, To Dame Elena, and to Viscount Ieuan, Huzzah! Thank you for five great years.

From Warwick Drakkar, co-event steward for TOA I, TOA II, and TOA V.

We had a good turnout for ToA V - about 350 people through gate, over 70 heavy fighters, 10 Rapier fighters, 9 Equestrian, 25 Bards, 30+ Archers and dozens of people on the Thrown Weapons range. We also had a solid contingent of marshals on all the fields - 19 in total. The Service and A&S contingents were also well represented.

ToA V had a castle in which to play, courtesy of our brothers and sisters in the EMP, who came out and put it up for us. When it needed to be taken down after the War, The Wolfpack volunteered to help. Almost 20 Wolves swarmed the castle and had it down and loaded onto the trailer in about 30 minutes. Awesome! Thanks Wolfpack.

The ToA Heavy and Rapier armies fought in fields marked by water perils. There were bridges, forest paths and of course the castle, complete with a second floor on which to house archers.

The Target Archers shot at The Flying Spaghetti Monster and various nimble demons, while Thrown Weapons took aim at various Harbringers of the End of Days.

The final two armies on the field were Lions Gate and The Wolfpack. After 2 days of heavy fighting in brutal heat, all the armies had suffered from attrition. In the end, The Wolfpack, led by Warlord Ulik Lothinndyr Hrothgarsson, was victorious.

From our newest Courtier

Noble Gentles of the Royal Lands, I bid you a warm greeting this fine August day! The End of Days has come, and we all, strangely, survived although there were creatures from beyond the veil float over the archery ranges, and the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse were known to ride forth!

I write to share the great doings of valour, courtesy and honour to which I was witness, both at the Bardic circles, and in the Equestrian menage.

The Bardic opened in the shadow of the castle of Fortress Viadrina, about a fire jointly made possible by our fine steward and our finer Baron and Baroness, who graced the circle with their presence, and performances. It was meant to be a newcomer's circle, where those who were new to our Dream or to performing here could feel extra welcome to sing, tell jokes or play instruments, as they would be rewarded double coin for their warlord for every effort at the Circle.

There were over 40 gentlefolk in attendance at this smaller circle, and many young folk as well, roasting marshmallows as we enjoyed a convivial evening. There were two competitions as well: Lullabye, in honour of the many infants born to our Barony this past year, and War Song/Story. Though we were mightily entertained by such competitors as Sergeant Jasyn of House Werner (with the able assistance of Earl Sir Edward Ean Anderson), and of wonderful French lullabyes sung by Dr Carus, honourable mentions go to Wladimir who sang a fragment of a road song he used to sing to his

child, which was haunting, and Sibhaide of Lough Neagh, who returned to the circle to applause and acclaim after a decade away. Sigrun won handily with her exquisite rendition of Two Ravens. For her victory and her newness, she earned her Warlord forty coins!

War was by far the more popular category of competition, and we were greatly amused by such entertainments as Fergus Cynericson's With My Axe, and Sir Thorwulf's ferocious Tir Righ Challenge spoken word piece. Fergus was the honourable mention, winning twenty coin for his Warlord, but our victor was the exquisite and talented Colberra of the Wolf Pack, who sang several rousing songs, but whose Cruel Sister rendition with Jessica was chilling to the bone. She earned forty coin for her warlord as well.

The Circle kept going till well after one in the morning, and much enjoyment was had by all. I was especially pleased by the efforts of many who never or rarely entertain at the Circle, including Cassandra Wineday, who led us in several campfire songs, and an original filk of her own creation that had a few of us giggling madly, and the talented new Yelnus of Fjordland, who led us in a very catchy farewell song, One for the Leavin'!

Many thanks to Warwick for the loan of the brazier, and to their Excellencies of Lions Gate for the use of their spare propane, as well as to Seargent Gunther for carting the heavy things up to the castle for me!

The next day saw court, and the announcement of the Four Horsemen Equestrian Challenge. Firstly, however, Earl Sir Edward volunteered to teach the basics of ground crewing, so those not inclined to ride could gain an understanding of the games and how to be safe around the horses. Afterwards, several riders were authorised for General Riding and for the Games, and then we set up for the Four Horsemen Challenge. This timed single ride challenge featured the four common Games of heads, Rings, Javelin and Quintain, but allowed riders to choose their weapon and approach to each game: they could take as long or as little time as they wanted at each game, as long as they stayed within their ten minute limit.

Nyssa of Fjordland was the first to ride, and her concentration was on the Pestilence challenge: she burst many of the pustules, even though her mount Gunny was very concerned by the scent emanating from them. (He helped though, and burst one with his nose!) She also achieved half of the Rings in the Famine challenge, but only two of the great Kings fell to her sword in the right order in the Death game. Her Quintain hit was respectable, as well. In addition, she earned 3 points for turnout, for wearing her handmade leather brigandine, and preparing a banner for presentation, 3 points for horsemanship for coping so handily with her mount's silliness, and two points as well for her courtesy to the ground crew.

Next to mount up was Kifah, on the tremendous warmare, Zorica. She killed three kings in the correct order, but did better at the Rings than Nyssa. Her mount had nothing to fear from the Pestilence target, but as the height of the horse was great, she did not pop all the pustules. She did score two rings, in great style, and scored solid hits on the Quintain as well. She scored additional points for her skill at handling her mount with gentleness, and for handling her weapons carefully. In addition she ground crewed for other riders, and guest scored as well, so she earned bonus points there.

Our third rider was the Kingdom's best known Equestrian, Earl Sir Edward Ean Anderson, mounted on Gunny. He did not do as well on the Death Challenge as he had hoped, and his Quintain hit was a mere

glance, but he rocked the Rings, scoring all four in only two passes. His lance handling was exceptional, and he won bonus points for his horsemanship as well, as Gunny was clearly enjoying their partnership.

Lastly, I swung a leg over the gentle Libby, and rode a joyful and fun round of the Heads. I cheated though, because I knew in which order they were to be killed, so I was docked points there. The Pustules gave my steady mare quite a fright, so I did not do well there, but I scored three of the rings in two passes, which I was pleased with. Then we rode at a brisk trot for the Quintain and knocked it flying, in the best strike I have ever had on that game. We retired from the field with a courtesy, and were rewarded with bonuses for our homage to the scorers.

Thus were the Four Horsemen assembled: Edward Ean as War, for best cumulative score, Nyssa as Pestilence for her pustule popping excellence, Kifah as Famine for her skill in robbing peasants of food, and myself as Death, because it isn't fair either! These titles may be used with aplomb and tongue firmly in cheek, until such times comes again for another similar challenge!

Later that evening we assembled again, and authorised another rider, but there were not enough riders on hand to play our silly games of Which Quid, Egg and Spoon and RideaBuck, so we set those ideas aside for another occasion. All in all, the equestrians enjoyed themselves and enjoyed earning coins for their warlords. Sergeant Gunther and his pucky patrol crews earned an additional 150 coins for their diligence in service to the equestrians and our mounts!

That night, the fires were lit again, but due to heat and exhaustion, the second Bardic competition was canceled. Instead those inclined joined the circle at the Baronial encampment and enjoyed themselves in an unmoderated, unfacilitated, free for all of Bardic glee. Great performances were experienced, from sergeant Galeth's song, to Lady Aoife's harp playing, and a joyous surprise in the arrival of a guitar-bearing Pierce O'Briain, who sang us two terrific songs. A great Bardic evening, indeed.

Many thanks to all those who came out and made our various things fun for everyone, and here's to hoping we see a return of this format of event soon! A very special thank you to Earl Sir Edward Ean Anderson and Countess Mistress Ilaria Veltri for being willing to serve as our Equestrian Marshalls at the last minute: you made our fun possible, and I owe you another big one. :)

In service to my Baron, I remain,
Briana nic h'Eusaidh
Filidhe n'An Tir, and
Death, Rider of the Pale Horse.

From a lost member who has returned home

Greetings gentle lords and ladies!

I want to give a warm thank you to you all! I have been away from the SCA for about 10-12 years now. Many adventures have befallen me, however, I have returned to our Barony at ToA and found the welcome easily as warm as when I first tripped over the SCA in the back 40 of Camp McLean some 24 years ago!

My children can not stop talking about it and are eager to join in Youth Combat. The activities for the children's age groups were fun and welcoming. My son, Phaelen, tied for Knocking Blocks off. He also is excited for Archery. The safe, fun pack of running kids wore my youngest out thoroughly. The friendly welcome my children received was a relief and a joy for me.

The Equestrian (we didn't have THAT when I was here last!!) was a blast for me and the Bardic was inclusive, encouraging, and entertaining as always! While the heat was a challenge, the camaraderie was not.

Thank you for upholding the wonderful fun and fantasy I remember. I will not go away again anytime soon!

In Love and Laughter,

Sibhaidh of Lough Neagh, OLC

And from the Bardic Campfire

At the War

Wymarcha Hektanah Doiron

(With apologies to, "The Quartermaster's Store")

My friends are here, they like to fight,
Until they cannot stand upright!
Until they cannot stand upright.

There were squires, squires, squires,
Waiting for their knights to retire,
At the war! At the war!

There were squires, squires, squires,
Waiting for their knights to retire,
At the TOA war!

My friends are here, they like to fight,
Until they cannot stand upright!
Until they cannot stand upright.

There were knights, knights, knights,
Shouting, "Hey, that was light!"
At the war! At the war!

There were knights, knights, knights,
Shouting, "Hey, that was light!"
At the TOA war!

My friends are here, they like to fight,
Until they cannot stand upright,
Until they cannot stand upright.

There were kings, kings, kings,
Making rattan sing,
At the war! At the war!
There were kings, kings, kings,
Making rattan sing,
At the TOA war.

My friends are here, they like to fight,
Until they cannot stand upright,
Until they cannot stand upright.

There was us, us, us,
Lifting dreams from dust,
At the war! At the war!
There was us, us, us,
Lifting dreams from dust,
At the TOA war.

My friends are here, they like to fight,
Until they cannot stand upright,
Until they cannot stand upright.

Scroll of the Month



For our zombie fans, this Order of the Havoc was created by Sionann InUi Fhaithbhearting for Viscountess Katherine. And I totally misread it as "their sharing of these skulls ..."

Compendium



- * Their Royal Majesties of An Tir – King Strykarr Jarlskald and Queen Dagrún Stjarna (king@antir.sca.org, queen@antir.sca.org).



- * **Their Highnesses of Tir Righ** – Prince Savaric de Porte des Lions and Princess Dalla Hjalbaadsdóttir (prince@tirrigh.org, princess@tirrigh.org).



- * **Baron & Baroness of Lions Gate** – Baron Uilliam mac Fearchair mhic Gille Andrias & Baroness Caitrina inghean Andriasia (baron@lionsgate.tirrigh.org, baroness@lionsgate.tirrigh.org)

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