



March 2002

Welcome to the March issue of the Umbrian Mug. It has been brought to my attention that several members of the populace are not receiving this. It is my mission to provide this newsletter to every member of the populace. If you know someone who is not receiving the Mug regularly (1st Wednesday of the month), please let me know so I can rectify the problem!

- Dame Aislyne,
Editor, Publisher & Distributor!

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Umbrian Mug

Trinacria and the Fight for Crowns

Several proposals were put forth at the March 2 Estates meeting. Included in these proposals were two that directly affect Trinacria's right to fight in the war. Sir James and Dame Serene each requested the Estates consider separate proposals to delineate the manner in which Trinacria's Umbrian members would participate in Crown war this May.

Last year, their votes were discounted at Crown War; the Imperial government determining that their participation was not permissible simply because Umbria did not have a law to allow an off-site war. Saturday's proposals were an attempt to correct that for future crown wars.

Just over 50% of estate holders voted both proposals down, thereby preventing Trinacria from having a vote in the selection of their Crowns for the next year.

Another proposal, as submitted by HRM Sir Philippe, did pass, also by just over 50% (although there is controversy over whether it required 50% or 2/3s majority). It mandates that all participants in Crown War must present themselves at the site in the mundane state of Arizona in order to participate. Unfortunately, this will be nearly impossible for every member of the Canton of Trinacria.

Champion of the Knightly Virtues

The premier Canton of Cherbourg Event was held in February. Viceroy Sir Pavo (isn't he dead?) arranged combat scenarios in which the combatants championed the Virtues represented by the ladies of the Kingdom. Sir Christof won, on behalf of the Virtues of Prowess, Largess, and Courage, and ended the day by presenting bouquets of flowers to the ladies he represented.

I entered a Rose bread and was granted a tourney win ('bout time the Culinary Guild Mistress won with a food!!!).

Thanks to TRM for their support and to everyone who made it to the event! See you in April!

- Dame Aislyne, Vicerina of Cherbourg

February Arts Tourney

The February Kingdom Tourney was held 2/23/02. Two Arts entries were entered. Sir Michael Sinestro entered a Calligraphy piece and Dame Serene entered a Pen and Ink Drawing, which received a Tourney Win and Masterwork. Huzzah!

Thank you to all the Artisans and Judges.

Respectfully,

Dame Kate MacPherson-MacIntosh

Chronicler's Corner

Greetings, Umbria!

The February Combat and Archery winners from the Kingdom Event and Canton Events will be published in the April Mug. Thank you for your patience.

Thank you to the Ministers and populace that submitted articles this month and especially to Dame Delia for the Word Search on page 4.

Upcoming Events

Fighter Practice is every Wednesday night at Encanto Park from 7:30-9:30 pm., except for the 1st Wednesday of the month, which is the Canton of Thunar, held at Encanto Park from 7:30-9:30 pm.

March 2—Kingdom Estates Meeting, Cactus Park 10am

March 6—Canton of Thunar, Encanto Park 7:30pm

March 10—Canton of Trinacria, Contact Sir Ivan

March 16—Kingdom Tournament, Cactus Park, 10am

March 23-24—Imperial Estates Meeting, Esperance

March 30(?)— Archery Tourney (please contact the Minister of Archery for more information).

April 3—Canton of Thunar, Encanto Park, 7:30pm

April 6— Kingdom Estates Meeting (approval of Crown Contenders), Cactus Park, 10am

April 14—Canton of Cherbourg, Canton of Trinacria—times and places TBA

April 20—Kingdom Tournament, Cactus Park 10am

April 27—Archery Tourney, Time and Location TBA

Editorials

Disclaimer: The editorial(s) submitted are the opinions of the author. They may or may not reflect the opinions & official positions of the Crowns or chronicler of Umbria.

The rights of members

This editorial is partially a response to Dame Delia's editorial in the February Mug (though certainly not a rebuttal, as you will see that I agree with her on many points), and partially some things that I have been waiting for an opportunity to tell the members of my barony in regard to this situation (I am doing it in this form because 1- it is difficult to find a time to get everyone together, especially with my other duties and 2- I think this information should be available to everyone).

First of all, I agree with Dame Delia that there is no valid reason for not providing members, and particularly estate holders, with a roster of who is in what estate, listing names but not addresses, phone numbers, etc. (I believe that part of the problem was a perception that this information was being requested as well). Expiration dates are also something that should be available to estate holders, especially for their own members.

Now to the rights of members. Membership in an estate (as opposed to membership in a chartered subdivision, which is based on geography) is based on free association- PERIOD! If you are not happy where you are at and wish to be a member of another estate, you are free to move. If your moving will take the estate you are leaving below numbers, that is THEIR problem, NOT yours.

On the other hand, if you ARE happy where you are at and someone from another estate is trying to get you to join them, please remember that they have every right to recruit, just as you have every right to tell them to go to ...

Of course, there is a point where recruiting becomes harassment, and it is simplicity itself to determine where that point is; if you feel like you

are being harassed, you are being harassed. At that point I would suggest that you get your house sire involved (and speaking as a baron, I want my house sires to let me know if anything of this nature takes place).

As far as moving people between houses to prop up numbers, this is perfectly legal as long as it is done with the consent of the people involved and the proper paperwork is submitted to the chancellor, procedures that have been followed in every such move to which I have been a party. I would also note that having 'paper people' is also perfectly legal as long as their dues are paid and the appropriate paperwork is provided. I don't like having paper people myself, as I have had 2 houses disintegrate around me as people's dues expired and I had no contact information, but I see nothing dishonorable in it (if you do, that's fine too. Just be aware that I don't agree with you).

Back to members rights. As a member, you have a right to know as much or as little about the politics of the game as you wish. If your house sire is not keeping you adequately informed (or adequately shielded), let them know. If they don't respond to your concerns, either move to another estate or, if enough of the other members are unhappy with the job the estate holder is doing, put somebody else in the office.

You have a right to expect your house sire, as well as the people above him/her, to go to bat for you when you need help with something. They may be limited in what they can do, but they should at least TRY to help you.

There are probably some other things I could come up with, but this is long enough anyway. If you feel I have left out something important, let me know.

Sir Michael Sinestro- Baron of Badenoch

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Completing the Lists

As far as I can tell, the rule that once you move up to the knight's list you cannot go back, has no basis in Adrian or Umbrian law, but is simply a matter of policy (if you can show me otherwise, please feel free to do so). I wish to pursue the question of whether this policy (or law, if such it turns out to be) is in the best interests of the game (of course, if it is actually a law, we have to abide by it until it is changed, regardless of the damage to the game).

I can think of two arguments in favor of this policy. The first (and the one that is usually advanced) is that the sergeant's/bowman's list fighter who fights on the knight's list gains experience that gives him an unfair advantage over other sergeant's/bowman's list fighters. The second argument is that if sergeant's/bowman's list fighters are used to fill a knight's list that otherwise would not have enough people, it makes it easier for the knight's list fighters to get a win. I would like to discuss both of these arguments, first in regard to archery, which is where the dispute arose, and then in regard to combat.

Before I begin, I would like to say that before last Saturday it was common practice in archery to shoot a combined list when there were not enough people to make either list, without requiring the bowman's list shooters to move up to the knight's list permanently. The rationale for this departure from the policy that is in use in combat was that, unlike in combat, where fighting one-on-one against someone better than you can make you a better fighter, shooting is an individual sport, and how your opponent shoots has no material effect on how you shoot (I do not deny psychological effects, but these do not carry over when the shooter goes back to the bowman's list).

As for shooting against bowman's list shooters making it easier for a knight's list shooter to win, I don't deny that, but I do believe that we should not deny anybody the possibility of a win if there is any way we can get a list together. I know of at least 2 archery knights who got "easy" knight's list wins, and I am one of them. Is there anybody out there who thinks I don't deserve my archery knighthood because I finally got lucky? Easy or hard is not the problem; impossible is the problem, and that is the situation I am in when we can't make the lists (if it sounds like I am angry and upset, I am). If you don't want people to get easy wins, come out and BEAT them.

By the way, if there ARE enough people out there to make a sergeant's/bowman's list and not enough for a knight's list, the knight's list fighters are out of luck. Case in point, January Westerheim tournament, which I was running. 7 shooters, 5 bowman's list, 2 huntsman's list. Lady Knight Keara Craig won the bowman's list with 20 points. I had 85 points. I scored higher than the other 6 shooters COMBINED and didn't get a win. Am I unhappy? Yes. Is it unfair? No.

Now for combat. The policy has been in effect for quite a bit longer in combat than in archery, but let's look at it anyway.

As I said before, a sergeant's list fighter fighting on the knight's list can gain experience that gives him an edge against others ser-

geant's list fighters. However, a sergeant's list fighter in a knight's list tourney usually doesn't last long enough to get much experience. The sergeant's list fighter can progress more quickly by practicing with the knight's list fighters, something he can do without losing his sergeant's list eligibility. So what are we accomplishing with our current policy, other than holding new fighters back?

As with archery, using sergeant's list fighters to make a knight's list complete does make it easier for the knight's list fighters to get wins, but again, it does make it possible for somebody to get a win. And again, if you don't like people getting "easy" wins, come out and make them work for it.

An additional concern that arises in combat is not as big an issue in archery is safety. My response (as minister of war and joust) is that I am not going to allow anyone to take the field in any list where they are not qualified to fight. The question is whether a yeoman or guardsman who is not qualified on the sergeant's list would not be safe on the knight's list? My response is that would be an individual judgment call if there were not rules to the contrary.

In both archery and combat, the main reason that we should allow qualified sergeant's/bowman's list competitors to move freely on and off the knight's list is to allow people to PARTICIPATE, instead of sitting on the sidelines. New people are going to lose interest quickly if they don't have a chance to advance because we can't make lists. People like myself (or am I the only one?) who are striving to advance are going to grow increasingly frustrated. Losing is one thing, but not even getting a change to FIGHT?

Of course, simply allowing sergeant's/bowman's list fighters free movement is not going to solve ALL the problems. Not many sergeants' list fighters have steel, and there is a law preventing knight's list fighters from fighting shinai.

I honestly don't know what the solution is. We can't force people to come to events and enter the lists. We can't force steel fighters to bring their armor. What we can do is remove unnecessary impediments to making lists.

One last plea. Come to events. Bring your equipment. Enter the lists. Even if you don't care about advancement, those of us who do care need your help for it to be possible to pursue our dreams.

You don't feel like fighting steel? Due to nagging injuries, I have not felt like fighting steel for over a year. But if there is a list and I am physically capable of fighting, I am out there. In fact, there are times I shouldn't have been fighting that I was out there. Why? Because I need 3 steel winds for banneret, and I get precious few opportunities to try to get them. If you don't want me to advance, keep doing what you are doing. If you just want me to EARN it, come out and MAKE me earn it.

Sir Michael Sinestro

Word Search
By Dame Delia

CHIVALRY
COURAGE
DAME
EQUIPAGE
FAITH
FRANCHISE
HUMILITY
JUSTICE
KNIGHTLY
LARGESSE
LOYALTY
MERCY
NOBLE
ORDER
PROWESS
SIR
UMBRIA
VIRTUES

A S H U M B R I A L Y E C I T S U J

D E E T G T H E N A T Q U M B R I D

E G R Y I S E G A P I U Q E L O A S

Y R S L N U C A K T L H E Y N M D S

F A I T H J S I R U I O R D E R R E

L L M H K E Y C R E M C Y L K O U S

E F E G A R U O C S U N S A W Y W Y

C S I I U G N E E V H R S I L L S R

V I R N I Q A S I U Y F E H P T T L

I U B K P A S I M I L I G C R I Y A

H L M G A E R H U T I I U H O M A V

C O U R G P F C H R N C Q I W U Y I

B Y U R E I E N T K K O E V E H O H

S O A U B M C A A I L D B A S N L C

C L H S E U T R I V A L C L S I N S

E Q U I R H I F A I T O R R E S S E

CONTACT LIST—KINGDOM OF UMBRIA

The following is a list of the Crowns and Ministers of Umbria. The 4th column (phone numbers) will not appear in on-line versions of the Mug, in order to assure the privacy of our members. Ministers, please verify your information!

His Royal Majesty, the King	Sir Philippe De Bois Guilbert		
Her Royal Majesty, the Queen	Dame Justina Maria Murello	damejustina@yahoo.com	
Chancellor	Soren McClain	soren340@yahoo.com	
Minister of the Rolls	Zohara of Ayalah	ishtar23@earthlink.net	
Minister of Arts and Sciences	Dame Kate MacPherson MacIntosh		
Minister of Archery	Sir Raymond Picard		
Minister of War and Joust	Sir Michael Sinestro	mikezachary@webtv.net	
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Crown Marshall	Sir Pavo Rosalia	sirpavo@yahoo.com	
Physiker	Malaika	zoobyli@aol.com	
Hospitler	Lady Knight Keara Craig	kearacraig@hotmail.com	
Herald	Richard Corazon del Oso	corazon_dela_oso@hotmail.com	
Mistress of the Revel	Dame Iella	iella25@hotmail.com	
Royal Sorceress	Zohara of Ayalah	ishtar23@earthlink.com	

Subdivisions of Umbria—please see the Calendar for dates and locations of events hosted by each.

Canton of Thunar	Sir Waldham von Torsvan	waldham@hotmail.com	
Canton of Westerheim	Sir Michael Cu Campbell Soren McClain	veritas_777@hotmail.com	
Colony of Trinacria	Sir Ivan the Forsaken Lady Polgara	tyturner_2000@yahoo.com	
Canton of Cherbourg	Sir Pavo Rosalia Lady Aislynne de Chartier	sirpavo@yahoo.com lady_aislynne@hotmail.com	
Inverness Game Preserve	Lord Arimis de le Rouge	arimis_de_la_rouge@yahoo.com	

Upcoming Expirations

If you have already submitted your renewal, just smile.
Other wise see Lady Nisha, or submit your renewal to the Imperial Steward.

February 2002

Keith, Edward
Weatherly, Christopher
O'Neal, Antonella
O'Neal, James M.
O'Neal, Robert G.
Watters, Donald

Swatek, Misty
Atkins, Michael J.
King, Beverly
King, Clay
King, Michael
Malan, Sabrina
Yanez, Arcana Rowan
Yanez, Lawrence
Koch, Cindy L.
Myers, Joanne

March 2002

Chigges, Nathan
Swatek, James