

College of St Basil the Great
O-Day Planning Meeting
20/1/11
Minutes

Present: Alana Bennett, Nancy White, Ellen O'Connor, Aimee Harrison, Keg Kegglesworthy of Keggleston, Marcus 'n' Sullivan, Newbie that is called James, Dylan that is of the Kerr

Late: no-one! ☺ (Seneschal is happy)

Start time: 8:24pm at Marcus' house of awesome

End time: 10:00pm

Meeting of epic ends!

Alana drops laptop slightly (he now rattles :S)

Item the first: the device/banner

Problem:

- Our current device did not meet with herald approval and we have lost the banner :(
- No conflicts but device is too slot-machine-y
- Also a problem with the chevron?
- We need to decide on a new device ASAP, make banner, get it registered! ☺

Suggestions from mailing list:

- Get rid of book
- "keep the book and put the wreath as a sable tertiary charge on the book." (i.e. Put the wreath on the book)
- Columb's idea: "Per fess embattled argent and sable masoned argent, in pale a fox rampant maintaining a grenade sable and a laurel wreath or". (Basil Brush standing on the top of a black wall holding a grenade) (But Bastian has black wall and there was a general consensus that the current design is great ☺)
- Turn chevron into pile? [this was a separate suggestions and the non-herald brain of the seneschal can't remember the details....]

Suggestions:

- Keg suggests a laurel-shaped beacon from one of the towers.
- We cannot get rid of towers – they have awesome history – were thought up drunk and drawn on a cigarette packet. Seneschal agrees: towers too awesome.
- We are also too attached to the book
- So we will probably stick the laurel wreath in the book
- We might add broken bits to the towers in the banner (since that will come under artistic license....*taps nose* ☺)

Actions:

- Alana to double check emails and see what the exact problems were [DONE]
- Further discussion to follow on mailing list
- People to talk to knowledgeable herald-like people! ☺

- We will start making the banner either this Thursday or next Thursday

Part the second: O-Day

Strategies:

- Ellen has muchus ideas:
 - Pick best public speakers to engage with potential newbies
- *Alana embarks on mini-rant about being nice to newbies*
- Back to Ellen:
 - Emphasise safety! Let newbies do a *little* interactive training but only one at a time.
 - Emphasise safety. We are a safety conscious club ☺ Not as dangerous as it looks! :P
 - Do NOT talk about: no bad tales, limit tales of drinking (focus on creative aspect – we do brewing!), NO SCA politics, NO historical accuracy pedantics. Also, armoured combat NOT heavy! :P
 - Emphasise the awesome factor – feasts=great night out etc.
 - Emphasise that we are part of a wider community
- Sales pitch! ☺
 - Open with enquiry about what they know about UWASCA.
 - *Lightning bolt!/LARP digression*
 - Basic info. Yes we are a *little* bit like that movie, but far more awesome and more like real people. We are a **living history group**
 - Requirements – what we do. [Non-costumed] training a couple of times (from 4:00 *onwards* - come any time!!!) a week to train etc.
 - We attend events. Must attempt pre-1600 costume and must be polite and courteous.
 - We are awesome. Yay!! We are nerdy but we are not full of weird creepy ridiculous people. We are mostly normal people in awesome clothes.
 - Then ask them what they are interested in (and direct them to knowledgeable people about that area)
- One College person behind desk to do money. Aimee. (But we can swap around). Everyone else standing up and talking to people!
- Wide scope – fighting is for guys and girls, numerous styles of fighting...
- Apparently we now have to climb a climbing wall in armour :P
- We shall talk to the magical microphone man to arrange announcements about fighting demo times
- We will have muchus brochurs etc to give out. And stickers too!!

Displays:

- Things that worked last year: A&S displays, demos at set times, dancing, people wandering around in armour.
- Alana says more music! ☺ Wandering minstrels!! :D
- Everyone wear speccy garb!! :D Accessorise!
- Stuff for people (well, those at meeting) to bring:
 - Alana: psaltery, books, armour, shinies, misc awesome stuff...
 - Nancy: loom, mannequin?, whiteboard
 - Ellen: pomander, books, chain mail, pin board, chalk
- Also bring exciting projects – seeing stuff being made is interesting for newbies

- Photo board:
 - We need more photos!
- College photo shoot?
 - Sunken garden in spiffy garb
 - Recreate portraits etc?
 - We could even make this into a fundraiser – print pictures in calendar form?
 - However, we are lacking time to do this properly – make this a long-term project
- Pre-O-Day workshop:
 - Ideally same as last year – at the house, everyone sleeps over...
 - However, Chris has disappeared [Edit: Chris was sighted recently. Still alive. Everyone relieved. :P]
 - Marcus to ask Morgaine (who probably won't mind?)

Actions:

- Aimee to get more photos! ☺
- Everyone to suggest nice photos to Aimee!!
- Everyone bring banners (how to get portable holes and poles?)
- Return to idea of photo shoot in AGM
- Everyone see above for basics of what to bring
- Also, bring chairs – not sure how many (if any?) are provided
- Alana to send big email to populace [In progress]

Point the third: retention of newbies and ongoing stuff

Ideas:

- Banner at training so that people can find us (this worked well last year)
- Have training schedule – stuff at specific times. E.g. dancing, armoured training
- First couple of weeks: keep hinting at awesome stuff to come – sneaky marketing to keep people coming back! :D Mwahaha... (e.g. Sophie's demo dance set at Newcomers')
- Have warm-ups and fitness training – make it a habit.
- Portable pell (Keg says so)
- Get to know people in first weeks: names, courses, have chats after training.
- If people can't go to Basil trainings make sure they know there are other trainings. But say: "I'll be going to Sunday training, do you want to come with me? I can give you a lift if you can't make it." (So they don't worry about being alone)

Events:

- 2 weeks before Newcomers' Feast
- Basic garb making
- Have cotton which we can give to newbies for a donation. (But if people leave the college they *MUST* return the fabric or loaner garb to us!!)
- NEWBIE GARB COMES BEFORE OUR GARB
- We do have some nice loaner garb – always offer this as an option! Not everyone wants to sew (especially don't force sewing onto guys) (See Alana or Catherine for loaner garb)
- Have sewing buddies
- Easy garb: Italian, Viking, boy garb.
- We need to have at least 2 sewing machines at A&S nights – as well as an extension cord and a powerboard.

- Activities for those not interested in sewing: belt making, pouch making, sword making (let them make it and use it but keep it with the College gear, use College basket hilt – so if they leave we keep the sword. If they want to have the sword they pay for the basket hilt)
- Garb: be understanding and open to garb attempts. A tabard and jeans is still an attempt. No criticising newbie garb until they should know better (and even then no criticising – suggest an alternative politely). IT IS HOW PEOPLE TREAT YOU THAT MATTERS NOT WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE – you can still have a wonderful event in jeans and tabard. Can ruin this experience if we are critical and rude.

Workshops:

- College armouring workshop – update the loaner equipment. Have at least useable 5 College swords and shield as well as armour.
- College-coloured loaner garb – a wearable college tabard that can wear over a shirt.
- Sewing workshops/movie nights:
 - Hold these at uni – better than going to houses for newbies. See if we can hire a projector/DVD player/anything we need (or just get people to bring...). We can have them at houses later (when newbies are more comfortable)

Attitude:

- Talkings to happened – if we have had complaints we obviously need to do something about it
- Note: complaints appear to be unfounded – we *were* at Tuesday trainings and we *were* polite to newbies on O-Day
- Avoid cliqueiness – makes it harder for newbies to get to know us
- James offers to act as contact between newbies and older members
- DON'T leave people along – chat to them! Involve them!

Trainings:

- Officers need to take charge of their specific area (A&S, rapier, bard)
- Schedule (see above)

AGM

- It was decide to move the AGM to before we get new members
- Meeting business could scare people off – not that interesting for newbies
- We can have another meeting to elect Fresher Rep and any other unfilled positions later
- Notification will be sent out to Baronial people but after discussion it was decided that only College members should be allowed to vote for positions
- AGM date: Thursday 17th February. Location and time TBC.

Actions:

- Alana to make a catalogue of loaner garb
- College to buy cotton ☺
- Nominate who will bring sewing machines, cords and powerboard each week
- Alana to notify populace and Colleges of AGM