

# September 2023 Østgarðr Commons Minutes

*The monthly commons meeting was held September 20, 2023. Here are the minutes as recorded by Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin.*

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## Attendance

### *Present*

- Angelica di Nova Lipa, Vicereine
- Sofya Gianetta di Trieste, Vicereine
- Nagashima Ichiro Ujimichi (Uji), Seneschal
- Alienor Salton (Piglet), Exchequer and Whyt Whey Seneschal
- Drasma Dragomira, Herald
- Friderich Grimme, Webminister
- Zahra de Andaluzia, Chronicler
- Lada Monguligin, Acting Social Media Officer
- Albrecht Anker, Chatelaine, Acting Armored Combat Marshal
- Kunigunde Wedemann, Chancellor Minor
- Vitasha Ivanova doch', Minister of Lists
- Alexander MacLachlan (Alec), Fencing Marshal
- Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin, Historian
- Arnora Ketilsdóttir, Brokenbridge Seneschal
- Iola Wulfsdóttir, Lions End Seneschal
- Meadhbh mac Pharláin, Northpass Seneschal
- Marcus mac Pharláin, Northpass Webminister
- Catelin Straquhin, Brokenbridge Herald
- Eadwine the Younger, Brokenbridge Exchequer
- Hanya Vladimirovna Polotskaya, Brokenbridge Arts and Sciences
- Ragnarr Bliskegg
- Oliver deBainbrig
- Jenna Childslayer
- Gibbs Moryss
- Richard the Poor of Ely
- Robert D'Whitmont

- Eva Eva

### ***Absent Officers***

- Brandr Aronsson, Minister of A&S

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## **Opening**

- Called to order at 7:33 P.M.
- *Jenna*: Recited the [SCA Harassment and Bullying Policy](#)

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## **Vicereines' Acknowledgements**

### ***Angelica***:

- *Angelica*: Barleycorn had a wonderful turnout and excellent weather, due to our having ordered it well in advance.
- *Angelica*: We have selected new champions, with our congratulations, and our thanks to those who served over the prior year.
- *Angelica*: Mathghamhain's quest for a perfect lemon does not seem likely to end soon.
- *Angelica*: Congratulations to Friderich for his recent elevation to the Order of the Laurel at Ducal Challenge; we are proud of his accomplishments.

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## **Office Transitions**

### ***Uji***:

- *Uji*: Thanks to Ervald for serving as Knight Marshal for many years — at least seven! — and for his continued service to the province. I would like to welcome Albrecht as our new Knight Marshal; thanks for stepping up.
- Albrecht has requested deputies for his role as chatelaine.
- Some officer positions will reach the end of their term in December: Seneschal, Herald, Webminister, Historian, and Fencing Marshal.

- I intend to serve as Seneschal for another two years, with the approval of the officers.
- Friderich will be stepping down as webminister; if you're interested in this position, let me know.
- The current herald, historian, and fencing marshal should each please advise me as to whether you intend to continue and we'll solicit nominations for any open offices.
- *Friderich*: Shouldn't we be open to letters of intent even for those offices where people are willing to continue?
- *Uji*: We have a tradition of allowing existing officers to serve again uncontested if they would like.
- *Mathghamhain*: I don't think that's a real tradition, or a good idea. When we rewrote the charter four years ago we tried to make it clear that people could volunteer for offices even if there was an incumbent.
- *Friderich*: Discouraging people from volunteering for positions leads the current officers to "fall on their swords" and just keep serving until they burn out.
- *Alienor*: It would be useful to review the procedures for officer selections laid out on pages 6 and 7 of the provincial charter.
- *Uji*: I have some homework to do. I will reread that section of the charter.

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## Event Steward Communication

### *Uji*:

- *Uji*: The event stewards' numbers should be available to all staff at an event to allow rapid response to issues that develop onsite.
- I would like to update the charter to make this a standard practice.
- *Lada*: We have a procedure for charter updates; it needs to be in writing, with notice and a review period.
- *Albrecht*: If we're being asked to vote, we should have a written proposal.

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## King's County Fiber Festival, October 7

### *Uji*:

- *Uji*: I sent a notice to the financial committee about this demo, and received responses from two people that were not enthusiastic. I'm leaning against it. So it doesn't look like we'll have budget approval for it.

- *Albrecht*: When we talked about this last month, we discussed trying to negotiate a better position and a lower fee.
- *Ragnarr*: In my previous discussion, they seemed pretty fixed about the price.
- *Catelin*: I started the signup process this week. I'd be happy to try negotiating on the price, but I can't make any promises.
- *Friderich*: The event is only seventeen days away so we should iron this out. Is there a price at which it would be approved?
- *Lada*: As of the last meeting, I was under the impression that we were in favor of this, at the existing price, so this reconsideration comes as a surprise.
- *Uji*: The finance committee hadn't voted on it yet. The fee is \$215.
- ~~Uji~~: With more planning, we could make items to be sold.
- *Lada*: Is the province actually allowed to sell things? The price of \$215 doesn't seem prohibitive.
- *Alienor*: We have plenty of money and this fits our mission.
- *Catelin*: Has the finance committee voted?
- *Mathghamhain*: It doesn't seem like a vote was actually held. There were a few inconclusive emails.
- *Sofya*: I am in support of the demo. It's hard to gauge the return because it's not tangible. But I was there last year and it was an amazing day; people enjoyed it, and it successfully re-activated a former SCA member who then showed up to Barleycorn. Repeated visits to community outreach events helps to build our public visibility.
- *Albrecht*: I agree.
- *Mathghamhain*: Well said, Sofya.
- *Friderich*: If we decided to do this, it would be good to plan on a review process in a couple of years where we re-evaluate whether the results are worth the effort.
- *Lada*: Good idea, Friderich.
- *Alienor*: Catelin, I'd suggest focusing on negotiating a better location rather than trying to cut the cost by a small amount. I would argue against fundraising via product sales, because it requires complex accounting and I'm not convinced our local members would enjoy the experience.
- *Catelin*: It doesn't seem optimal for us to compete with the local minority-owned small businesses.
- *Alienor*: Agreed, I'd suggest we don't do that.
- *Alec*: Is it an Ostgardr or Brokenbridge demo?
- *Mathghamhain*: It was being discussed as a provincial demo.

- *Uji:* Alec asked whether this would be a provincial event or a Brokenbridge event
- *Ragnarr:* It would be a provincial event.
- *Alec:* Should the finance committee discuss afterwards?
- *Sofya:* I'd like to settle this now. It's just two weeks away. I'm in favor.
- *Alienor:* Yes, let's do it.
- *Angelica:* Yes, not to exceed \$215.
- *Uji:* Since others are in favor, I'll go along with it. Budget approved.
- *Friderich:* Event organizers, please send me event information, including a public-facing announcement and something for our folks about how to participate.
- *Richard:* The event website is [www.kingscountyfiberfestival.org](http://www.kingscountyfiberfestival.org).
- *Catelin:* We would need to bring our own gear. I'll organize with Ragnarr and Arnora to bring some tables and chairs. I'll try to organize some fiber-related classes, including non-traditional things. Also A&S displays, in-progress pieces, etc.
- ~~*Catelin:*~~ My memory from last year is they were open to putting us in a more central and visible location.
- ~~*Catelin:*~~ Did we ask about whether we could bring fighters?

- *Ragnarr*: We didn't ask.
  - *Catelin*: Are there fighters who would be interested in displaying, given that Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins is also that weekend? [No volunteers.] Okay, no fighters.
  - ~~*Catelin*~~: Contact me if you'd like to participate.
  - I think last year setup started at 7:30 AM.
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- *Jenna*: Last year I donated kumihimo kits, and can do so again if someone brings them.
  - *Hanya*: I have some small fiber craft kits as well and will bring them.
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- *Catelin*: The festival is intended to encourage the rediscovery of fiber crafts. They have classes, and artists' displays, and lots of great merchants.
  - The classes we taught last year were really popular.
  - *Ragnarr*: There was a goat last year!
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- *Catelin*: I'll be bringing tables and chairs,
  - I'd also like to set up a photo booth space for people to take selfies.
  - We'll figure out a lunch plan; we're in the middle of Park Slope and there are shops around.
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- *Friderich*: We have an eight-foot table we'd like to donate to the province. Is there someone who could pick it up?
  - *Catelin*: Yes, I can come by and pick it up.
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- *Alec*: What times does the demo run?
  - *Hanya*: It's open to the public from 10 AM to 5 PM.
  - *Catelin*: It's a cozy event, much less frenetic than Rhinebeck Sheep and Wool.
  - *Ragnarr*: Last year I started setting up at 9 AM. The morning is quiet, and the crowds don't really arrive until noon or 1 PM.
  - *Uji*: This is a great opportunity for deputy chatelaines to interact with the public.
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- *Friderich*: Are there newcomers or lurkers on Facebook who we could invite to join us in person?
  - *Albrecht*: I don't have a good sense of that. Most of the inquiries I'm hearing are from folks coming over from Bohurt and steel fighting who want to try our style of fighting.
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- *Eva*: What's the best way to park at this site?
  - *Hanya*: I've attended this event for years, and in the past, when arriving in the early morning, I've managed to find parking immediately around the park within twenty minutes or less.

- *Angelica*: What about public transit?
- *Catelin*: There are two subway lines and two bus lines. I'm not sure whether the subway stations are accessible.
- *Alec*: How many people attend?
- *Ragnarr*: Last year we had hundreds of people stopping by our booth.
- *Catelin*: There are a lot of local families who plan to visit.
  
- *Friderich*: Is there a chance we can organize some local A&S workshops for the weeks immediately after the event?
- *Lada*: The coffee shop where we organize scribal workshops would likely allow an A&S workshop.
- *Catelin*: I could maybe teach a knitting class?
  
- *Mathghamhain*: Do you need paper material for handouts?
- *Catelin*: Business cards would be nice. I have a template for those. And a QR-code display would be useful.
  
- ~~*Catelin*~~: I'll set up an online meeting to work on planning on Monday.
- *Friderich*: Please add it to the calendar or send me the information.
- *Alec*: Is the Brokenbridge commons on Monday?
- *Friderich*: No, but Northpass commons is.
- *Catelin*: Okay, we'll have our meeting Wednesday.

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## Goat's Tavern, October 21

### *Oliver*:

- *Oliver*: We have ten classes scheduled. The only thing we need now is to get people to show up. We are competing with other events going on that same weekend in An Dubh and Dragonship which will draw some people away.
- *Lada*: Is there a PayPal registration option?
- *Oliver*: No, I never requested PayPal.
- *Lada*: Send me the list of classes so I can get it added to the Facebook event.
- *Oliver*: Okay, I'll write up the list of classes.
- *Kunigunde*: I did some graphics for last year's event, and would be glad to refresh those — should I send those to Lada this weekend?
- *Lada*: Yes, that would be wonderful!

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# Kingdom Championships Bid, February/March

## *Alec:*

- *Alec:* We've been discussing putting in a bid to host the kingdom A&S championships at the Mt. Kisco American Legion hall in February or early March.
- I've had discussions with the kingdom event coordinator and they report that a bid for the bardic championship has already been accepted, but A&S hasn't been awarded.
- *Sofya:* We should ask whether there's interest among the populace.
- *Alec:* I know that we've already done three RPs in the last year.
- *Albrecht:* Give another barony a chance to do it. Our populace is burned out.
- *Jenna:* Yes, we're burned out.
- *Mathghamhain:* It's hard to know if people are burned out; maybe some are and some aren't.
- *Arnora:* Dayboard in particular requires a lot of effort. We could put together a plan that relied on people bringing their own food.
- *Friderich:* When we put together a team for an event, it might seem like there are a bunch of volunteers but there are often a few positions unfilled and it can be hard to find people to finish filling out the team — and cooking is often on that side of the ledger. I'd be glad to help with food, but probably need a bit more rest before leading the effort.
- *Lada:* People are clearly worn out; we should consider the possibility that our people are too tired to tackle this.
- *Catelin:* Agreed, I love a good RP but we are a little crispy
- *Sofya:* Yes, it sounds like people are depleted. I'd rather not push people to tackle a project when they're tired. I'd be inclined to wait 6-9 months and let people recharge.
- *Alec:* Okay, I'm willing to delay.
- *Uji:* It sounds like this event is not in the best interests of the province. I'd like the next R&P we do to be one when people are hungry to do it.
  
- *Kunigunde:* I joined the SCA right around the time of the last Mt Kisco event — what is the site like?
- *Friderich:* There's a large central hall with a stage, which we can decorate. There are two kitchens. The upstairs kitchen is in pretty good shape, but spacing is tight, not a lot of prep space. There's also a second hall and second kitchen downstairs. It is a great space for an event like kingdom A&S. There isn't a great place for gate, but we managed it in the past.
- *Lada:* The downstairs and upstairs spaces are not handicapped accessible.



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# Coney Island Mermaid Parade, June

## *Richard:*

- *Richard:* Planning for this begins in March every year.
- This could be a fun way to get out and make our presence known.
- We could march in the parade wearing light summer garb.
- There's probably a small fee to march, but for several years I have paid \$200 for a membership that allows me to be on the judges stand; if we were marching, I wouldn't be doing that, and would be willing to contribute that amount to our fees.
- *Uji:* Send us a reminder in March, and tell us how much it would cost.

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## Local Activities

### Fighter Practice

- *Uji:* Tuesday fighter practice is continuing.
- *Friderich:* Reminder to the marshals to tell me when the outdoor practice ends for the winter.
- *Alec:* Fencing will probably stay outside until November.
- *Albrecht:* Rattan will stay outside until it's too cold to practice.
- We might also do a spontaneous Saturday practice.
- We're looking for an indoor space for a once-a-month practice.
- I'm steering away from Manhattanville as it doesn't feel safe for armored combat.

### A&S

- *Uji:* Brandr suggested that it would be nice to have monthly A&S gatherings.
- *Eadwin:* This Sunday at 2:00 there'll be an A&S gathering at our place in Brooklyn. Come and craft with us. I'll be making food.

### Event Stewarding

- *Uji:* This Thursday night there'll be an event-stewarding workshop.
- *Sofya:* Lada, Ragnarr, and Arnora will be leading a class on event stewarding. Please attend, as we need to build our community of people who are comfortable doing this. Details are on the calendar, Thursday at 8:00.
- *Richard:* Running events is also a good way of getting awards.

- *Friderich*: Many of the folks in this meeting have run events before, but please encourage newcomers to attend this workshop.
- *Ragnarr*: We have a seven-page agenda for tomorrow, with so much material to cover. We have entry-level material but are also interested in teaching something new to people who are already event stewards.

## Apple Picking

- *Sofya*: We're planning on an outing for apple picking. Late October seems like the likely time frame. But remember that apples are more numerous earlier in the season.

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## Regional Events

- September 22–24: River Wars, Iron Bog
- October 8: Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins, Carillion
- October 14: Coronation of Matthias and Æsa Feilinn, Malagentia
- October 21: St. Andrew & Baronial Investiture, An Dubhaigeainn
- October 28: Nos Calan Gaeaf: A Winter's Eve Schola, Settmour Swamp
- November 4: St. Eligius, Dragonship Haven
- November 10–11: Golden Sewist Challenge, Beyond the Mountain
- November 11: Bjorn's Ceilidh, Concordia
- November 18: Hundred Minutes War, Rusted Woodlands

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## Other Business

- *Alec*: The demo in An Dubh scheduled for this weekend has been canceled due to weather.

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## Closing

- Meeting closed at 9:07..