

Meet Your Officers Interview with a Seneschal

Grapevine's reporter talks with our current Seneschal

GV: *Welcome and can you tell us who you are in the SCA?*

SM: (The Honourable Lord) Baron Sorle Maknicoll, OSP CB GT AA. My arms are: Or, a hawk's head erased and on a chief wavy gules a bar wavy Or. My current position is: Seneschal of the Shire of Bordescros, in the Kingdom of Lochac.

GV: *How did you find the SCA?*

SM: I joined the SCA in 2006. I was aware of it beforehand – friends from University (and their friends) were involved in the forming of what is now Adora. I never got to an event until 2006 though, after I'd been teaching in central NSW and moved back to Sydney for retraining. I was invited to an event in Stowe, decided to go, and instantly found my 'home'. As a person with disposable income, and no-one I needed to justify my spending to, I fell hard ... armour, weekend fighting event, coronations, etc. I had always loved history, this was better!

GV: *What drew you in, and why did you stay?*

SM: Nothing in particular appealed, at first. I was interested in everything (mundane habit too). Early on I set a goal to get every box on the back of my combat authorisation card ticked (still not achieved). I hoped to contest Crown (which I did in 2013), go to all the big events in Lochac (still a long way off achieving), go to events in other Kingdoms (still haven't), learn heraldry (tick), and many other things. The people who I regular hung out with at events were eclectic and helped my generalist streak, but as the years passed I became more focused on heraldry and rapier.



*Baron Sorle,
Bordescros Seneschal*

I believe in the work of officers to make the SCA better for everyone else, and I take that responsibility seriously

GV: *What offices have you held, and why do you volunteer to hold offices?*

SM: I confess to having what is often called 'helium hand disease' – I'll put my hand up to help with just about anything. Something comes up and I think "I could do that", and often I end up doing that. I've been various officers (lists, webwright, marshal, herald) at the local group level, but I have also worked bigger picture: the SCA Ltd board, and the Kingdom Offices of Canon Herald, Historian, Crux Australis Principal Herald, and Webwright (fortunately not all at the same time). Since 2010 I've also been on the Masonry Team, specifically focusing on helping groups with WordPress websites. Sometimes these roles take what time mentally I have for the SCA and so my attendance or activities flag ... but I believe in the work of officers to make the SCA better for everyone else, and I take that responsibility seriously.

GV: *What does the Seneschal role consist of?*

SM: Being group Seneschal, especially during pandemic times, has been a challenge. I'm glad for all that other experience, but even still it hasn't really prepared me. Local, Kingdom and Corporate roles have very different focuses, and it's important to remember the scope of the role you're in (something I still struggle with at times). I'm also glad that I have good support from the other group officers and the Kingdom Seneschal's office. The role of Seneschal is different for everyone – depending on how many
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Event News
- Latest Shire Developments
- Mostly A&S news this month, with lots of photos.

Shire of Bordescros Grapevine

Autumn AS LVI
Feb-Mar-Apr 22
Volume 23

editorial



Welcome to the Autumn edition of Grapevine. In this issue you will find a new on-going series: Meet your officers. We start with our Seneschal, next issue will go on to the other Great Offices first, then the other offices will follow.

What is a Great Office, you ask? They are the offices that **MUST** be filled for a group to continue; the other offices make the Great Offices easier by taking on some of the load, and spreading it out among everyone.

I have to admit, my favourite office is List Officer. That's because Lists get a front row seat at all tourneys and all you need to do is keep score and send a report to the Kingdom officer after the event and at our monthly meeting to the rest of the Shire officers. Little work, lots of reward.

Of course, other offices are "more important" in that without a president, a treasurer and one other officer, you can't run a club or group, hence the Great Offices of Seneschal, Reeve and at least one of Arts & Sciences, Constable, Herald and Marshall. The nice to haves are the offices like Chirurgeon, Chronicler, Hospitaller, Historian, Web Wright, Youth Officer.

Also in this issue, Rowany Festival report from those in Bordescros who were able to attend. There were some great highlights!

- Lady Lowry

Meet Your Officers: Interview with a Seneschal cont...

other officers you have you might have a lot of non-seneschal work to do. If you have a full suite of officers then your role is to be the delegator in chief, and support them in their specialist fields. Running meetings and being the final (local) arbiter. Generally that latter point involves asking up-line more than it does making the decision yourself. It's a middle management role, which is not for everyone but can be rewarding in its own way when the group is succeeding.

GV: *Have you gained anything from the SCA you may not have had in your life, if you had not joined?*

SM: I owe a lot to the SCA. Most of my friends are SCAdians. I met my beloved wife through the SCA, and so my family is a direct result of the SCA

GV: *How do you balance family, a full time job and holding an office?*

SM: It is hard finding time for family, full-time paying work and being an SCA officer, but it helps to have an understanding spouse! Technology, ironically, is also a time-saver if you know how to use it effectively.

GV: *Do you have any major plans for your SCA future?*

SM: I look forward to being able to go to more events – but I think that needs our little one to grow up a bit more first, and the pandemic to settle down. I might also take break from being an officer for a moment if I can ... something has always come up and it's been a while since I didn't actually have a role (not counting my Masonry work which will always be there)

I encourage everyone to consider officer roles – it brings a different understanding of the SCA ... and you're helping other people have fun.

GV: *Any final words?*

SM: I encourage everyone to consider officer roles – it brings a different understanding to the SCA, and you're helping other people have fun. You don't have to go as nuts as I have, but even so I started with being Keeper of the Lists. Local group officers have a lot of support and relatively low stakes (unless you're the Reeve or Seneschal). However, I also encourage people to **NOT** take on officer roles! **It's not for everyone**, and it can take time away from being at events and socialising with others. Do what makes you feel happy in the SCA (as long as it doesn't hurt anyone). Feel free to talk to me about SCA songs sometime. I could use a distraction.

I also encourage people to NOT take on officer roles! It's not for everyone...

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Festival Awards and Accolades

AWARD OF ARMS

Teneg (2G) Yagaan was called into court on Sunday, War Day. One of 4 new armigers in the Kingdom of Lochac.

Her Majesty Sabine pointed out that most Kingdom officers are already armigers when they volunteer. It says much for Teneg's enthusiasm that without any previous rewards she has volunteered for a Kingdom Office.

Three cheers for the Kingdom Equestrian Officer, Teneg Yagaan of Bordescros!

Other awards of note (to past Bordescruxians and Friends of the Crossing)

Baroness Nimue was called into court and inducted into the Order of the Rowan and James Douglas into the Order of the Laurel for his brewing.



Teneg's Tuq arms

What's in a Name? Why all these new names?

We've noticed ads on Facebook mentioning the Althing and Craft Hall. What's that all about?

When discussing making the SCA more approachable and understandable for newcomers, it was thought that terms like A&S were not easy to understand. What does A&S mean? Just saying Arts and Sciences, is not much clearer—so what do they comprise? To explain that it includes arts, crafts, scientific knowledge etc, each time we use the term negates the purpose of having a simple term.

So, rather than use SCA specific terms, like A&S, we thought a more generic term, like Craft Hall would let people know what we were doing but still have a medieval flavour.

Then, seeing as Craft Hall and the meeting and Fighter Practise all take place on the same day, some of us thought Althing (named after the Norse Althing, of course) would be appropriate, so both names have been adopted.

Craft Hall lets people know we are doing crafty stuff, and Althing hopefully lets people know we are doing all the things... and hopefully, now that COVID restrictions are lifting that means all our members and newcomers will come along to Craft Hall on the day we hold our Althing, all ready to armour up, or craft, or just chat and enjoy each others company.

A surprise gift:

At the Okewaite feast on Easter Saturday, Teneg, Heidi and Kitty were surprised to be approached by Baroness Politarchopolis. She told them she was impressed with their keenness and fostering of equestrian activities, and their support for Polit events like FOG. And she wanted to reward them, so she gave Teneg and Heidi each a ring from her own hand, and to Kitty a pair of hand carved dice. They were, understandably, thrilled by this kind gesture and will treasure these gifts.

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Rowany Festival AS LVI Diary ~ Day 1

Four members of the Crossing sojourned to Rowany Festival AS56.

Baron Magnus camped with his household and the other three camped in the Equestrian Campsite.

Teneg Yagaan, Lowry ferch Gwynwynwyn and Heidi the As-Yet-Unnamed, travelled the 'highway to hell' on the Wednesday, both vehicles towing trailers with our Horse Members, Iva and Pink. Problems with the carriages meant what would normally be a five and a half hour trip, took nearly 12 hours... up at 4 am set out at 5 am, arrived around 4:30 pm. Very tired and somewhat cranky.

Then there was horse infrastructure to set up, tents, beds, just the basics. Elyssa and

Lucy from Okewaite turned up to assist, thank all the gods that be... we were able to actually sleep in a tent out of the rain that night.

The horses were fed, and given space to stretch their legs, which improved their moods quite a lot. Poor babies being cooped up so long, standing in their own dung; it must have been SUCH a relief to be on solid ground and able to sit and rest their legs after standing for so long.

Light dinner of Potato Bolognese at Okewaite camp, showers and fell into bed. With hopes that Thursday would be a better day.

Cont p.5

EQUESTRIAN AUTHORISATIONS + A NEW TRADITION

There were several Equestrian authorisations at Festival with 4 people being authorised as safe to handle horses, and having enough knowledge to begin training their own horse in SCA field sports and activities. There were also some re-authorisations after the COVID hiatus.

Some training was also provided in field games, in horse archery, tilting at quintains, etc.

Several keen "squires" were in the Equestrian camp each day; mucking out, feeding and grooming the horses.

And a new tradition was born this Festival: that of
THANKING THE HORSES.

The horses worked all week, they had their breaks, but they were pretty much on duty most of the week and no safe paddock to run free in; so as a thank you, we gathered and a speech was made thanking the horses for their input, then many pats and lots of carrots were enjoyed by our 4-legged members.

R: Lucy, beautifully controlling a somewhat annoyed Pink.



*Lower L: Narran, newly authorised 'nomad child'
Lower R: Gwilim with Heidi and Iva, preparing to ride*

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Rowany Festival, Days 2-4

Thursday was a beautiful bright day, crisply cold and sunny. Horses fed, breakfast over, the equestrians set up the field for practise and games: tilting at the quintain; horse archery; tent pegs (to pick up from the ground), etc. The hill above the carpark blossomed with bunting, and equipment.

Miss Kitty also arrived, with Nav, so we had two beautiful Appaloosas (both males) and one gorgeous Palomino mare. Another yard set up, and a caravan/float added to the camp.



Kitty on Nav

We still had not been able to get the camp loo set up, so were trekking 150 steps to the nearest Porta-loos and 300 steps to the nearest Non-ambulant Loo. Lots of exercise was had by all!

First-timers to Festival learnt to pace themselves with how much they took on in the way of volunteering; it is easy to tick boxes, not so easy to fit 2 hour shifts into horse care, classes taught, authorisations of equestrians, and all the other things on the schedule. Still we all managed at least one shift on the gate, and some managed to fit in a toilet cleaning roster as well.

Lowry set up the games in the tavern so people could come in and play if they ran out of other things to do, most of the day taken up by the games and life's necessities, getting to the far end of site for each meal was a bit of a stretch.

Friday was pretty much the same again. This time the games were inside the great hall, but no-one turned up, so Lowry was invited to join the



Senet, Games night in the Tavern

Whisky Wankers in a whisky tasting. Lots of different whiskies, some quite bland blends, others rather interesting single malts, including one from Japan. Sensibly, she only had a dribble of each, not a shot of each, as there were 12 varieties to taste. Slight headache the next day, but not actually hung over.

Games Guild meeting only had 1 attendee, but some good ideas came out of the discussion.

Saturday saw more equestrian authorisations and training; and the Tavern night for the Games. Several Gentles came along and learnt games, no tourney as people preferred to play for fun.

*Playing Gluckhaus, L toR:
Takame, Constantine,
Gwilim, Lowry*



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Rowany Festival - WAR Day

Another new event this Festival was the “Cavalry Charge” at the start of the war on Sunday afternoon.

The two armies assembled, then two of the horses came onto the field, approached each other and their riders fought with swords from the saddle. This was a huge undertaking, as the horses only had about half a day’s training in what was expected of them.

It does show that it is safe to have the horses take part in war scenarios, if separation is kept between horse combatants and human combatants.

Here is the URL to see a YouTube clip of the action on the war field: <https://youtu.be/Xgm13-lxBKs>

It was great that the Steward, Crispin Sexi, and His Majesty King Leofric and all the Marshals present were able to make this happen and to test the safety of this type of spectacle in our wars.

The same with the horse parade: alt-

hough it was too muddy to take the horses down onto the village green, a parade along the made roads was approved and occurred without any hazards to horses or onlookers. It was a led parade, rather than a ridden one, but quite a spectacle to view, nonetheless.

Imagine what it would be like if we had half a dozen or more horses, instead of 3. How spectacular would that be?

Even half a dozen horses all trained to charge in line across, or to charge at a canter and then enfilade squares of “soldiers” (even if we use haybales as stand-ins for people) would be quite something to see and hear.

And a longer parade would garner even more attention than our three did this time, especially from the kiddies who stopped playing at their castle to watch the horses parade by.



Horse Parade through the camp on Friday

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Equestrian Pictures



Heidi and Iva, Tilting at the Quintain



KEqM, Teneg Yagaan, checking the safety of the Horse Archery lane.

*Training in Progress,
looking back toward the horse camp on the right*



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New Year LVII

Autumn Coronation

WHEN: Saturday, 7th May 2022

TIME: 9 am to 11:30 pm

VENUE: RSL Memorial Hall

ADDRESS: 101 Ford St BEECHWORTH VIC

PROGRAM FOR MAY CORONATION

8.30 am Site opens

9.00 am Constable Table opens

10.00 am A&S entries open – Market stalls open – Schola packs for the children

10.30 am Games at table

11.00 am Final Court of King Leofric and Queen Sabine

11.30 am Divestiture Ceremony

12.00 pm Lunch

1.30 pm Coronation/County/Duchy for out-going Crown

2.30 pm Rose Tournaments – Rapier and Heavy Rose Tournament
Arts & Sciences roundtables – try something new

4.30 pm Tournaments concluded

5.00 pm A&S judging completed

5.30 pm Feast Hall opens

6.00 pm Savoury Courses (Removes 1 and 2 served)

7.00 pm First Court of King Alain and Queen Safiya

7.30 pm Sweet Course (Remove 3) served

11.00 pm Venue closes

Please note there are no peerage meetings, at the crowns' request.

Here is a link to the map on Google: <https://tinyurl.com/2przdbky>

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RECIPE PAGE

Passionfruit Ceviche

Peruvian/Spanish dish from Conquistador era

Ingredients

300 g firm fleshed sea fish, e.g. tuna, sea bass, sword fish etc

Banana Passionfruit pulp (most modern chefs remove the seeds), 50 ml (5 or 6 fresh ones)

Chillies, 5 g (mild or hot, depending on your preferred taste), chopped

Tomatoes, 30 g, any colour, or type... cherry toms are nice in this, also chopped.

Salt & pepper to taste (paprika pepper rather than European black pepper)

Corn chips or tortilla chips

Plantain, sliced and fried.



Ceviche with Passionfruit, chilli and tomato.

Method

1. Cut fish into 1 cm cubes
2. Squeeze passion fruit pulp.
(I quite like the seeds so left the seeds in, but you can strain them out if you like.)
3. Allow to cure for approx. 2 to 10 minutes. Check occasionally to see when ready.
4. Add remainder of ingredients and stir through.
5. Adjust seasoning.
6. Serve with tortilla chips and/or fried plantain.

The original Inca recipe is not written down, so this recipe included some ingredients *introduced by the Spanish in the 15th century*. The idea is to just cure the outside of the fish and then eat it fresh. I sliced mine very thin, because I am not a fan of raw fish and then it overcured. NOTE: Incas would not have had Lime juice or Onions (they were not available until introduced by the Spanish). I removed them for a more accurate Inca recipe, but of course you can add them to speed the curing process.

SERVING IDEAS:

1. a salad of herbes on the plate, the ceviche on top with just a drizzle of olive oil, which is then scooped up with the crispy tortilla chips, or the crispy, fried plantain
2. serve on a bed of quinoa, with some cooked sweet potato (yam) and corn kernels.

Link to the Modern Peruvian recipe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywOLf8sSsqA>

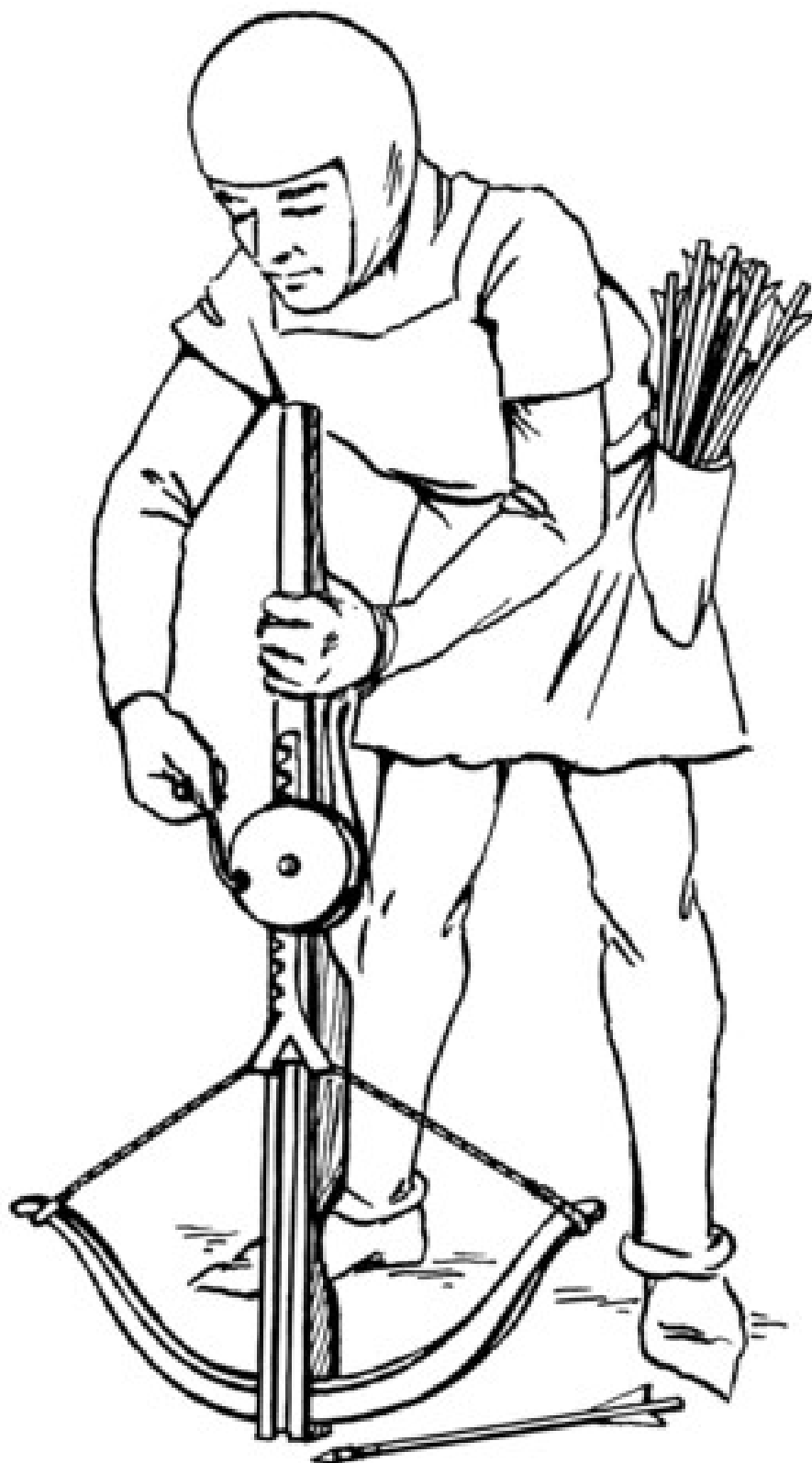
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An image to colour in: a crossbowman cocking an arbalest

Here is something for the younger among us—or those who just like art and colouring in...

You could use the rest of the page to draw a picture of what he is about to aim at.



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FINAL WORDS:

1 Although the Victorian and NSW governments have relaxed COVID restrictions, the SCA Ltd has not altered its stance, as yet. We still need to vaccinated to attend indoor events. BUT watch this space as things may change soon.

**2 Membership: @ 1 May
Adults 30,
Minors 12
Total 42**

Shire of Bordescros CONTACT DETAILS

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AS LVI

REGNUM

SENESCHAL	Sorle MacNicoll	Jeff Nicholson
..... DEPUTY	Undewyn Maccuswell	Andrew Walker
REEVE	Lowry ferch Gwynwynwyn	Tracey Sawyer
ART & SCIENCES.....	VACANT	
HERALD	Gabrielle Hamilton	Gabrielle Bulters
MARSHALL	Iokell Robert Campbell	Scott Murrowood
CHIRURGEON	Isolda Deye	Anastasia Walker
CHRONICLER	Lowry ferch Gwynwynwyn	Tracey Sawyer
..... DEPUTY		Suzanne Olesson
CONSTABLE	Myrun katla	Billie Wells
HOSPITALLER.....	Cairistiona inghean Raghnaill	Joy Walker
LISTS	VACANT	
WEBWRIGHT	VACANT	
YOUTH	VACANT	



Equestrian charge to start the afternoon war scenarios, Festival LVI

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