

Minutes of the Meeting of the Drachenwald Academy of Defence

Held at Collegium of Defence in Mynydd Gwyn May 6th 2017

1. Everyone was welcomed, and thanked for attending the meeting
2. A check of numbers indicated that sufficient people were attending or voting in absentia to make changes to the Charter and By-Laws.
3. **Gwenllian verch Andras** was voted in as new Academy Scribe, to take over the position on December 1st 2017.
4. Voting on changes to the Academy Charter and By-Laws (proposals of changes as announced are included at the end of the Minutes).

4.1. Minor changes – typographic and wording – minimal discussion – **motion passed**

4.2. Major changes

I Discussion indicated no general favour for requiring Rapier Spear authorisation, or fighting it as a form for Provost and Prefect – a phrase that had been used in pre-meeting discussion “tournament weapons forms” was thought by various members to be indicative of the forms that should be required.

Point1 - proposal that Spear authorisation required for Provost and Prefect – **motion failed**

Point 2 - proposal that Spear must be fought in Provost and Prefect Prizes – **motion failed**

II Discussion suggested the majority of members were in favour of allowing Provosts the most flexibility possible for the weapons forms they should fight during their Prize Playing. **Option 3 passed** (Provost Candidates required to fight five weapon forms they are authorised in)

III It was generally agreed that requiring a specific number of ropes for Academy braids was not followed at the moment, so this should be changed – **motion passed**

IV Minimal discussion – generally in favour of the By-Laws not being contradictory – **motion passed**

V Discussion to clarify that this is not intended to prevent members of the Academy wearing an Academy-badged tabard, and that the part of the proposed changed mentioning that the Preceptor has a tabard in their keeping, is to bring that into line with how the Academy banner is described – **motion passed**

VI Discussion centred on what proportion of the membership two members would have been when the Academy was formed and the By-Laws written, in comparison to what proportion five or ten members would be of the total active membership within Drachenwald currently. Suggestion that a future revision of this might include a particular proportion of active members rather than a specific number, although it was noted that this would require the Scribe to keep track of active members currently resident in Drachenwald, which might take some time to implement. **Option 2 passed** (a minimum of five members must propose removals from the Academy or from office)

VII Little discussion, focussed on allowing most flexibility if it is hard to find candidates for offices at some time – **motion passed**

VIII Little discussion, generally in favour of keeping future potential changes to the By-Laws simple – this change would mean changes to one section rather than eight if methods of communication change – **motion passed**

All changes to the Charter and By-Laws will be made and posted as soon as possible.

5. AOCB

•Results from Prize Playings held earlier in the day:

Lord Rannulf Sweartfaxe successfully Played the Prize for Free Scholar, sponsored by Mistress Genevieve la Flechiere

Lord Maredudd ap Gwylim successfully Played the Prize for Provost, sponsored by Lady Gwenllian verch Andras

•A point for consideration and discussion by all of the Academy was raised by Pan Vitus – the Academy appears to have a gender imbalance at its higher ranks – of those listed on the website, roughly half of the Free Scholars are women, while at Provost it is about 15%, and at Prefect about 13%. Questions that we may want to consider include is there something we should be doing about this, and where are our lady Free Scholars going? Lady Catlin mentioned she is planning on teaching a class at Thrust Piva Riposte on Fencing and the Female Brain, which will hopefully include open discussion on this and other matters. It was suggested that this could be videoed or live-streamed, which will be looked into. Something for everyone to think about.

6. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and voting, and for getting through everything quickly, and the meeting closed.

Details of changes proposed to the Charter and By-Laws

I. Weapons forms - as Rapier Spear is an official form, we should make a decision as to whether we wish to particularly incorporate weapons using the spear rules into both the requirements for required authorisations for prize playing for Provost and Prefect, and also the required bouts to be fought in Provost and Prefect Prize Playing.

Point 1. It is proposed that Spear authorisation required for Provost and Prefect

Point 2. It is proposed that Spear must be fought in Provost and Prefect Prizes

II. The Charter, on Provost Prize Playing currently says (including minor changes) “A provost candidate must be invited by a Sponsor of Provost rank or higher to "Play the Prize". They will fight at least three (3) Provosts or members with a higher rank (their Examiners), twice in each weapon form of one weapon category (they do not have to win these bouts). This will be followed by an open 30 minute round where they will fight all challengers. Additional fights may be added to the Prize Fight, by mutual agreement of the Sponsor and the Candidate.” The current practice in prize playing appears to have been (in some cases) to fight their Examiners in five chosen weapon forms - most often a mixture of heavy blade and cut-and-thrust. Do we want to continue to require fights against Examiners in all forms of one style, or do we want more flexibility?

Three options are proposed:

1. Provost Candidates required to fight all forms of one style (status quo)
2. Provost Candidates required to fight all forms of one style, but are allowed to substitute forms from another weapon category with the agreement of their Sponsor
3. Provost Candidates required to fight five weapon forms they are authorised in

III. Both the Charter and By-Laws currently specify specific numbers of ropes for all of the braids of rank, but recent discussion on Facebook has indicated that current practice does not always follow this. Do we wish to continue to require specific numbers of ropes of each particular colour in a braid?

It is proposed that to remove all references to numbers of ropes to be used in braids of rank

IV. The By-Laws, in section 2.3.4 “The Preceptor and Academy Scribe cannot be removed from the Academy before they are removed from their office.” contradicts the procedure described in 2.3.2 “At least two (2) members must announce to the Preceptor (or the Academy Scribe if the Preceptor is to be removed) that they want to remove a particular member from the Academy.”

It is proposed to remove the words “(or the Academy Scribe if the Preceptor is to be removed)” from section 2.3.2 of the By-Laws

V. In the By-Laws, section 4.1.1 it states “Officers will not wear any special markings to signify their office.” As there is a tabard that has been used by Preceptors, this should be changed to allow this.

It is proposed to change section 4.1.1 of the By-Laws to read “Officers do not have any special markings or insignia to signify their office. A tabard bearing the badge of the Academy is in the keeping of the Preceptor, and may be worn by them.”

VI. In By-Laws sections 2.3.2, 5.2.7.1 and 5.3.3.1 a minimum of two members are required to start proceedings to expel someone from the Academy (2.3.2) or remove the Preceptor (5.2.7.1) or Scribe (5.3.3.1) from office. As the Academy has grown, do we now want to increase the minimum number of members who must propose the expulsion of a member from the Academy, or removal of the Preceptor or Scribe from office?

Three options are proposed:

1. A minimum of two members must propose (status quo)
2. A minimum of five members must propose
3. A minimum of ten members must propose

VII. Sections 5.2.6.6 and 5.3.2.6 define how long a member may hold the office of Preceptor or Academy Scribe, currently allowing a maximum of two consecutive terms. Do we want to change this from a prohibition of holding more than two consecutive terms in office to a recommendation only?

It is proposed to change part of sections 5.2.6.6 and 5.3.2.6, currently reading “but not longer than two (2) consecutive terms” to “but it is not recommended to hold the office for more than two (2) consecutive terms”

VIII. There are various places in the By-Laws where multiple means of communication with the members are mentioned for matters of important Academy business, most commonly “over the Drachenrapier e-mail list and in the Dragon’s Tale”. In order to streamline updating this as communication methods change, it is proposed that a section be added to 1.1 to define the official means of communicating Academy announcements, and then to update the relevant sections that refer to these means.

It is proposed to add a section 1.1.6 to the By-Laws “The official means of communicating notices of meeting or proposals to expel members or remove people from office are The Dragon’s Tale and the Drachenrapier email list. Other communications to the members, including announcement of Prize Playing, meeting agendas, and changes to the Charter and By-Laws, should be made via the Drachenrapier email list and the Drachenwald Academy of Defense Facebook group.” The wording in subsequent sections referring to communications to members (2.3.2 / 3.2.2.2 / 5.2.3 / 5.2.7.1 / 5.3.3.1 / 6.1.1.1 / 6.1.1.2 / 7.1.2) will be updated to reflect this.