

Agreement Between the Barony of Ruantallan and the Canton of Seashire

The Seashire Dormancy Committee identified that there was a lack of defined boundaries between the responsibilities of groups within the Barony of Ruantallan. In order for Seashire to have a clear purpose and continue to operate, Seashire must take back responsibility for local meetings and events. We believe that once Seashire has meaningful work to do, it will be easier for the Canton to find officers who have a commitment to do that work.

Ironically, when we put out our proposal for comment, commenters identified that many of the proposals were reforms to the Barony, which had little to do with Seashire's process. Therefore, the proposals identified below as those being acted on are those that directly relate to a division of work between the Canton of Seashire and the Barony of Ruantallan. All other proposals are passed on to the Barony for its consideration when it reviews its own governance in the coming year.

We also identified problems with communication (Curia meetings not announced, missing minutes, people doing their own thing and not working together), and with mentorship of new officers, who often take up their position with no training from the previous officer. Proposals to deal with those issues as they apply to Seashire are also included in those being acted on.

We have removed the proposal about Championships at the Canton level. While we still believe there needs to be some work around the role of Champions in the Barony, it was a controversial proposal, it would affect all the Cantons in the Barony, and therefore it needs wider discussion. There is no need for this to be a stumbling block in the Dormancy process.

The Baronial Curia has agreed that the following Proposals are acceptable, and that the Canton of Seashire can proceed to the governance stage of its Dormancy process with these Proposals in mind. Numbers refer to the original Proposal document.

Proposals Being Acted On:

1. Publicized (official) events sponsored by the Barony of Ruantallan will be limited to:
 - a. Baronial annual events, currently defined as Twelfth Night usually in January, War Camp weekend nearest 1 July, and Baronial Investiture Anniversary (BIA) usually in October.
 - b. Annual Baronial Championships. These may include A&S, Bardic, Rattan, Rapier, Archery, or any other champions the Coronet should deem necessary. Whenever possible, Baronial Championships should be combined with other Baronial events, or with each other, to relieve pressure on the calendar and the need for autocrat teams.
 - c. Kingdom events such as Crown, Crown Principality of Tir Mara events such as Championships, and such Royal Presence events where the resources of the Barony are needed to support the size of the event, may be sponsored by the Barony.
All other official events in HRM will be sponsored by Seashire.

5. All A&S meetings, marshall practices and other such gatherings in HRM will ordinarily be sponsored by Seashire, and wherever practical announced to the rest of the Barony. The exception is for meetings and practices designed to rotate around the Barony, or mini-events like Baronial Archery Practice which happen occasionally and are publicized to the whole Barony or beyond.

6. All Seashire Curia Meetings will be open to all the people of the Seashire. This means they must be announced by all usual communication channels no later than two weeks before the meeting (as is already policy), all interested people may attend, some means of having their voices heard needs to be arranged, and minutes and financial statements must be posted in a timely manner on the relevant webpages (as is already policy). If necessary, the Curia will appoint a recording secretary to handle notice of meeting and distribution of minutes (secretaries are period). If we are going to get engagement, transparency is an absolute must.
7. The Canton of Seashire will establish an Althing, held at least annually, where people of all stations are encouraged to speak about anything that concerns or inspires them.

Proposals Referred to Ruantallan Curia for Consideration

2. Baronial events will be on a rotation through the Cantons. A call for event bids will be issued by the Baronial Seneschal six months before the usual date. If a bid is not submitted by the Canton whose turn it is by four months before the usual date, other Cantons will be invited to bid. Where necessary, the Barony will provide help to any Canton to run the event.
3. A section will be added to the Ruantallan SOP laying out the expectation for Baronial Champions. These include swearing service/fealty to the Coronet, attending the Coronet at Baronial Courts and at other times as requested, organizing the contest for their successor, communicating with the Baronial Signet to ensure a scroll is prepared, and turning over the regalia in good order to their successor on their installation. Our official documents are currently silent on the topic of champions, and this formalizes a tradition that not everyone knows.
4. Since Champions belong to the Coronet rather than to geographical areas, tournaments and contests sponsored by Cantons will be styled as something other than Championships. We wish to encourage such other kinds of contests, such as prize tourneys, melee contests, focussed A&S competitions such as Cloth of Gold (look it up if you've never heard of it), etc., while maintaining the privilege of the Coronet to name champions.
7. The ancient institution of the Ruantallan Parliament will be re-envisioned as an annual meeting of all nobles and gentles to consider the state of the Barony and launch policy initiatives.
8. The Baronial Curia will begin a two-year process, guided by the Curia and the Parliament, of developing a set of five-year goals. These goals should foster growth and mutual support of our members, and should also consider our relationships to our wider community and also the East Kingdom and the Crown Principality of Tir Mara. There should be a broad consultation with the populace through a number of methods to determine what their desires are for the future of the Barony. The conversation should stay focussed on what is in our power to do.