

Steel Meeting

Markland Recreation Fighters Guild

Minutes Of Meeting

January 11, 2004

Attendees:

William Marlow (Greycloake)

Andrew Mychalus (Drey)

Siobhra DeWar

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. Among the subjects opened for discussion:

1. The possibility of holding events with other historical recreational combat organizations such as the "Vikings" and "Regia Anglorum", and
2. A proposal for the Markland Recreational Fighters Guild to seek more authority/autonomy from the Witan/Fyrd of Markland.

Discussion Topics:

- I. Drey made the suggestion that we issue invitations to other combat groups to run clinics for the Guild so we can see their fighting style and ascertain for ourselves whether we need to make any training/rules changes so they can participate in Markland events, or our fighters can participate in their events.
 - a. The Vikings: Drey and Shiob had both downloaded the 70 page training manual from the Vikings website and gave two copies to Greycloake for the Guild files. The Vikings do both "show" and "combat" fighting. After reviewing their manual, it was thought that there should be little problem with allowing fighters trained by the Vikings group to take part in Markland rec battles. Markland fighters would have to be brought up to speed on defending against spear attacks, etc. before they could safely participate in Vikings events. There is a possibility that a representative of the Vikings will be able to attend MTT at Marietta Mansion in April.
 - b. Regia Anglorum: After some discussion among the attendees, it was more or less agreed that Regia Anglorum has too many communication problems; not only with outsiders, but among their own membership. This would create difficulties we don't really need to deal with.
- II. Authority/Autonomy - Greycloake brought up the issue of authority. The Guild is fairly autonomous "unless we want to change anything." Greycloake believes that the Guild and the fighters who belong to it should be the ones who determine the rules and guidelines for recreation fighting. He also suggested that we make a proposal to the Witan that the Guild be given authority to alter the rules to make them more compatible with other recreation fighting groups. He also thinks that there should be more rec events held during the calendar year to give all those who want to become qualified more chances to practice, participate, and qualify.
 - o Level 1: Simple, wholesale changes. - Less discussion, faster approval. Drey suggested that a wholesale change of our rules as one submission every few years could work. This would require less discussion and speed up approval process. He didn't see that changing our rules, as long as we didn't change anything that violated the "spirit of our regulations", would be any problem.
 - o Level 2: Limited autonomy. - Giving the guild the autonomy to make changes to syntax (i.e. change of diameter on weaponry, etc.), minor changes in spelling and punctuation, restating rules more clearly, simply codification. Such changes would be subject to the

review of the Safety Officer and a vote of the recreation fighters. Only rule changes which affect the practice/regulation of our guidelines should be subject to review and approval of the Fyrd.

- Level 3: Full autonomy - Giving the Guild full and complete authority over all rule changes, combat guidelines, training, etc. would probably lead to a lot of acrimony. This level was not accepted by the members in attendance. They agreed that such wholesale changes are harder to push through and that Level 2: Limited Autonomy was probably the best proposal to make.

III. Change in existing practices

- . Election of Head - Siob suggested that we elect the head of the Guild from among the Guild itself and not have him/her appointed by the Shire Reeve.
- a. Changes in Training
 1. For Mixed Events - Need to include training with spears and other pole weapons as other fighting organizations use such weaponry (how to defend, how to use, etc.).
 2. Add a Qualification bout - 2 minute free style combat for fighters wishing to become steel qualified.
 3. Horses at Events - add rules regarding safety, the establishment of a "bail out" area for horses to calm down, etc.
 4. Add Basic Combat Assessment - i.e. how to block arrows, etc.
 5. Add Advanced Combat Assessment - formation training, shield walls, etc.
- b. Amending current rules for mixing styles - Drey suggested we include the "Target/Off Target" graphic showing where blows can be landed from the Vikings rules.
- c. Basically, Keep It Simple: narrow weapons scope, include formations training, etc.

IV. Rumors of Bloodshed and Combat Gory - Siobhra brought to light a rumor that is presently going through some Markland members regarding recreational fighting: that Markland recreation fighting is trying to change so that full combat style is allowed. She also reminded us that there are people who say they want training, but problems arise with Steel Qualifiers who do not show up at events, and possible trainees who don't show up at practices. It was agreed that SQs need to attend more events and group training.

V. Cross Qualification - Participation of outside fighters in Markland recreation combat events was approved by the Fyrd at the Summer Althyng. In order for fighters qualified in other organizations' combat styles to participate in Markland events, they must:

- . provide their membership/qualification card
- a. know weapons limited to Markland rules (sword/shield, axe, club)
- b. pass basic combat competency
- c. receive combat briefing by head qualifier and second qualifier
- d. pay the \$5.00 temporary membership fee approved by the Fyrd at the Summer Althyng

VI. Basic Recreational Standards - It was suggested that we add that fighters being considered for qualification include a simple canvas wedge tent in their kit. Clothing standards for a fighter ready to become steel qualified remain the "Markland Basic Standards" proposed by Matthew Amt.

VII. Guild Rank Structure - We have five (5) ranks within the Guild. Drey suggested that these be delineated in the Glossary of our guidelines. He further suggested that we focus our rules on training and administration, expanding the scope of rules and clarifying them, working on weapons specifications, etc.

- 1st Rank - Basic/Novice - this is someone who received enough training to be considered "wood qualified" for a battle.
- 2nd Rank - Trainee - this is a fighter who is in training to become steel qualified.
- 3rd Rank A - Basic Qualification - a fighter who has become qualified under Markland rules of combat to wield steel weaponry in a Markland recreational battle.
- 3rd Rank B - Advance Qualification - a steel qualified fighter who is qualified to participate in combat styles of Markland and one of more additional combat organizations.
- 4th Rank - Apprentice - a steel qualified fighter who is in training to become a steel qualifier

- 5th Rank - Qualifier - a steel qualified fighter who has undergone his apprenticeship and is now qualified to train others in Markland combat.
- VIII. Problems with Dyes - Joe Carpenter still is retaining custody of the dyes we use to make qualification disks. We may need to purchase an entirely new set if he does not turn it over to the Guild soon. Possible variation of disks for the different ranks? (i.e. wood, different metals, colors, etc.)
- IX. Future Events and Miscellaneous -
- Spring Rec Event???
 - MTT-April at Marietta Mansion, MD-possible visit from "Vikings" rep.
 - History Alive
 - Summer Rec Event???
 - Stamford Bridge
 - October - event held by the VA Medieval Arts Society (former group in Markland). Stamford Bridge will be one of the battles reenacted. Drey is planning to hold qualifications/training with the group over the summer.
 - Hastings - October 11 (+/-), Markland to host the 36th annual reenactment of Hastings. Location TBD.
- X. Conclusion of Meeting - It was agreed that the edit of the rules would commence and only be submitted to the Witan when a complete package is ready. Basic changes in syntax, etc., impinging language to conform with international rules, but making no substantial changes to our procedures.

Our Proposal To The Witan/Fyrd Of Markland:

The Markland Recreational Fighters Guild (Guild) proposes the following additions and/or changes to the existing rules and guidelines of Marklandic Recreation Fighting:

Change 1:

- Rule 1: A statement of principles/purpose
- Rule 2: The Markland Recreation Fighters Guild
 - The purpose of the Markland Recreational Fighters Guild (Guild) is to regulate recreational battles within Markland.
 - It is understood that the Guild is under the direction of the Witan of Markland but has limited authority to make grammatical, syntactical, and editorial changes to the existing combat rules and guidelines without the review and approval of the Fyrd as long as such changes do not substantially alter existing practices.
 - Any substantive changes to the existing rules would be subject to the review and approval of the Fyrd.
 - Publication of all changes to the rules and guidelines prior to subsequent review and approval and after approval has been received will be made via Markland's publication venues: the Markland website, the Plague, and the Markland Annual.