

*Lions Faction Pack Up
April 2005*

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Acknowledgements

This PackUp is brought to you by something witty that I can't think of right now.

That, and a big influx of stuff by various people, who I should list. Really, I should.

Contact

If you want to get something published in PackUp, you can either email it to fergal@armengar.org, or post it to Fergal O'Brien, 70 Seapark, Malahide, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

If you want to get in touch with the Lions Plot Team, we can be contacted at lionsplotteam@yahoo.com

April 2005

Camelot
Twenty-third day, fourth month, 1105

Greetings,

Well, er, that was unexpected. I've checked the documentation, and can confirm - Choices had more character deaths than any of the Darkness Rising events. Yes, even Death-toll Rising 2. Even more surprising is that only one of those was a player on player kill...and that was a suicide.

Might I just say, on behalf of the plot-team, that the spirit in which the players took this massive death-toll is quite heartening. Not only have we seen a run of Choices t-shirts (available in both victim and survivor variety, as well as the Peter Swift "we're gonna need a bigger boat" edition), but we've been inundated with new group ideas as people have bounced right back, eager to throw their next characters into the fray. You guys are quite incredible.

This is part of why I'm sorry to say that I'm outta here. From the Heartland Games, I'll be on the Bards NPC team and so won't be working directly with the Lions plot any more. The previous editor of this august publication, the dynamic Daniel Williams, is also taking a step back, but in his case it's to enjoy being a player after years of work behind the scenes.

What can I say? It's been fun, and I expect to have the bardic rumour mill swamped with tales of Lions' exploits over the coming events.

Go n-éirí libh,

Fergal

PS There is an extensive round-up of event feedback at the back of this issue. It's worth a look.

Dear all,

Letters such as this are sometimes the hardest things to write and sometimes the easiest. I shall see how this one goes.

I'm sorry. From the bottom of my heart, I am truly sorry. I regret that we lost people, friends, family, acquaintances and colleagues on Rysarius. I regret that I did not get to know them as well as I should have before they were taken away from us. I regret the pain and suffering that we, as a faction, are undergoing. But most of all, I personally regret that I wasn't there with you all, fighting with you, saving people with you, working with you to plan how we should have taken the field and won.

As far as I can ascertain from the reports I have heard, we made some big mistakes and people lost their lives because of them. This we is a collective we and I firmly include myself in it. We **all** failed those people through naivety, arrogance, indecisiveness, apathy, disinterest, miscommunication, impulsiveness, and several other characteristics that have taken on a life of their own in our faction. The Spring Parliament this year was intended as a training weekend, to prepare us for the coming year and the battles that it would undoubtedly bring. The year got a jump on us and we weren't ready. The actions we fought have exposed just how unready and ill-prepared we are for any military engagements we might face, be they at home or somewhere else in the Heartlands. We failed again to remove Benedict from this plane of existence and he is gloating. I do not want to have any more lives on my conscience and I don't want to have to feel this level sorrow again as your Lord General.

My condolences go out to all those affected by this tragedy - which means every single one of you. We have all lost through this and I intend to turn this into something positive. So please get your negative thoughts out, dust them off, examine them and see why you have been harbouring them. And then say to them, "I regret to inform you that you are no longer needed" and burn them into cinders in your fireplaces. Negativity takes away and detracts, positivity adds and benefits. I need you all to be positive and constructive in your opinions and actions. And we need to be positive for each other.

No Lion stands alone. And we, as a faction, must come together as a team, build a framework of support and action with each other - between groups, be they religious, military or friendships. We must learn how to work as a team, with orders and leaders and channels of communication, both up and down. We must remember what happened and never let it happen again. Use the Heartland Games to start and reinforce this process, and look to the future and our time of revenge.

May your ancestors guide you and watch over you in your work

Tope Shoshoni
Lion
Lord General
Crown Princess
Child of Malar

A Letter from Benedict Darkendale

Lions

Remember this - I let the survivors walk away. I let the patterns of the deceased leave rather than ensnare them. I had it within my power to destroy all that breathed upon the fields of Rysarius and take all that did not. But I was generous.

You may feel a need for vengeance, righteous anger, a burning hatred driving you to make me die once again. Or maybe sorrow at the passage of your comrades to the great beyond, regret for words left unsaid to the departed, despair at the loss of lives cut short by fickle chance.

I care not.

Those of you who survived owe me your lives. All owe me for the safe passage of the dead to the ancestors. Be grateful that any were spared and keep to the deal that was struck. If you transgress again then you will find that I am not always so merciful.

Baron Darkendale of Orlagnon

Regarding Justice

Dear Lions

I know in the light of the events of these past few weeks this matter may seem trivial to a large number of you, so I'll keep it brief. Over the last few months, both Cosaint and my brother Arrius were adamant that this trial should lay everything out in the open, and that I should do everything in my power to clear my name. I agreed with them.

However, it didn't happen that way. The two charges I pleaded 'not guilty' to (Treason and Negligence) were dropped - but the implication was "we think you did it, but you were mad so that's ok". As a result, I had no chance to put forward my case, or do anything to remove the suspicions that clouded the faces of those I consider my family - my fellow Lions.

So I make the following offer. I have agreed to a full hearing in the sight of Astalon, the Palatinate Ancestor of Justice, at the Heartland Games to allay any remaining suspicions that may linger. Any and all who wish to attend this to hear what I have to say are welcome.

Sheyna Darkleaf
Priestess of Selune
Lion

Regarding Guardians

My fellow Lions,

As I'm sure you have heard the faction is currently recruiting volunteers for the posts of new guardians of the islands of Lantia. As some of you may know at the spring parliament one of the fallen was Gabriel of Pardulon the last of the original guardians made by the Draken. Let us send a message to Benedict Darkendale and reinstate the Lantian guardians. With their help we shall be stronger, strong enough to destroy the fool unliving Benedict and his unliving army.

I have had some come to me wishing to take up a post guarding a circle on Lantia but we are still well short of our total. If you feel like trying to do your bit for your faction, your homeland, your group, your friends, and the memory of those lost, then get in touch with me at blackjester@gmail.com and we shall see if we can't find a place for you. This project may effect the entire faction with its outcome and I urge you to volunteer and help out.

If you want more information on the guardians, their role, their duties please get in touch using the above ley.

Applicants may be tested for their suitability for the role of guardian of certain isles. Combat training in applicants is not compulsory but it is preferred.

Dillon Kylemora
Sheriff of Lantia

Rituals

Now is the time.

Shortly we shall meet together at the Heartland Games in what we hope will be a peaceful event with the other factions. With luck, we will not have too many major disturbances. The island of Roak may not have a ritual circle, but it will be no holiday for the LRC for now is the time for planning.

There are many ways in which the LRC can support the factions, and as always we look to you to offer suggestions on how we can help you - either as a group or as the faction. Needless to say, there are certain priorities that will be addressed. We have our ideas but we welcome yours too.

This is our time to plan so that we are prepared for the Moot and the Gathering. This is your time to work with us so that the faction's ritual resources are put to best use. Perhaps it is also time for a reminder. The LRC was established for the benefit of all the faction - our ritualists work for the faction, not their individual groups. A ritualist can be made available to any group with a sound idea who are willing to work with us and help provide contributors.

In short, if there's a way we can help, come talk to us. If you will not be in attendance at the games, we can be easily contacted at any time (lrc@sprucemoose.net).

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome Runt and Ruok as the new wardens of the Sammerix and Rysarius circles.

The best of luck to all of us in our various endeavours throughout this time.

Rua Ní Dhiarmuid
High Ritualist
Lions Ritualist Conclave

If anyone would like, or has an idea for, a Faction Ritual slot at Moot 2 or the Gathering, please contact the Lions Ritual Conclave: lrc@sprucemoose.net.

Also, if anyone with ritual capabilities is interested in becoming Warden or Emmerix or Amnor/Armengar, please contact Adara c/o the above Ley.

Many Thanks,

Adara Darkendale
Warden of Akamon

Naval Careers

My Fellow Lions,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this missive to you, following the last faction parliament the lions fleet command has been severely diminished due to the death of Acting Sealord Sebastian DuPont, the outgoing sealord Lucas Fairbanks Sena R'Ios and Acting Sealord Dryden.

On this note I extended an opportunity to you all, to join the lions fleet and see the world. There are opportunities for people of any abilities be it mage, incantor, healer, fighter, or non-combatant, the only requirement is that you can deal with a rocking ship and if you join Royal Fleet, no tricorns while on duty.

Fleets now hiring are

Royal Fleet.

Fleet Primus.

and the Trident.

Anyone who is interested may contact me on my private leystone
johnciall@armengar.org

Acting Commadore John Ciall.

Lanceman of Blue Lance.

From the High Incantor

Lions,

The toll of the gathering at Rysarius hangs heavy on us all as I write this. Sadness echoes around the halls of Camelot, and throughout the settlements on Holy Isle. Anger rebounds from the walls around the citadel, and in the chambers I have taken I imagine that this can be heard all the way to Orlagnon.

Where Benedict Darkendale is laughing.

Prince Tremayne has declared that it ends. Our allies, our families and our friends call for an end to the Unliving Darkendale. The True Varus, and the Ancestors demand it. We shall answer their calls.

On Saturday the 28th Day of May in the Year 1105 - the Second Day of the Heartland Games on the Isle of Roake. We shall take Council. I name it a Council of Retribution, a pledge to Vengeance for our Fallen. You may name it what you will.

Many among us have started to plan for Benedict's undoing. We are doing so individually, yet in this purpose we are one. Let us come together and act as one. Put out the call to your family members, to your allies, and to your friends. Come together, so we may act unified, and strong of purpose- share your knowledge, your wit, your martial and arcane strengths. From this we will forge the iron fist that Prince Tremayne called for. Through this we will grant Benedict Darkendale the oblivion he seeks.

We are Lions. We will not stand alone.

In the name of the True Varus and the service of Arrakech and Lantia,

Ezekial Crane

Lions High Incantor

Arrakech Inquisition

A Missive of Grief

I would write things down to say how much I miss my brother and Sister but right now I can't. Words can't express how much I miss them. I hope others have sent the words to express what they were like.
Quite Simply to Me

Sebastian was my brother, My best friend and My hero.

Debrenni Was my Sister, My friend and my Heroine.

Amergin Was My friend and I have the precious last week together on holiday having fun. I miss him.

Peiraos, My love, My hero in his own way and my best friend.

I've have lost nearly everyone,

All I have left in Family terms is Kara, Peiraos, Mathias and Keely, I hope they will keep me strong. Keep me going.

I want to thank again Everyone for their support through this difficult time. The crew and I have had the twelve days of mourning and some will be leaving our lands now back to their homelands. I wish them all well and All the best for the future.

And its back to Duty.

So whoever is now in charge of the Navy, Sebastian's crew are under my command until the children are grown. I can send in a copy of Sebastian's will if you need to see it. So we are now reporting for duty.

Erienne DuPont.

Obituaries

Rysarius.

A name that will live on in the Lions memory. For on this Island over two days, 44 Lions and their allies gave their lives fighting for what they believed in. Whilst you may disagree in what that was and whether it was worth it. Here is not the place to debate it. What is important is to remember these names and for what they died.

Ameirgin	Sebastian Du Pont	Caoimhe ni Fiach
	Sir Harold	
Sandry Garrowby	Thomasson	Nate Torden
Fetchit	Nikit	Dryden
Remus	Maya	Cathan MacBruid
Mirumoto Hiigara	Milo	Erikk Vor
Tolkas Vana Anfauglir	Kelam Elfmoon	Draidik Bro
Kagh Bagh Louie	Dramasus Olivari	Fiachra MacAncliamh
Blaze	Maestus Dhakk	Torvale De Gales
Aralyn Cormallen	Ba'loo McEwan	Cory McEwan
Fillippe D'Arcy	Arrius Darkleaf	Anath Eventide
Sir Thomas	Lucas Fairbank Sena	
Richardson	R'Ios	Sir Ghillian Aviendhu
Gabrielle	Shadow Forge	Ewan Lochiel
Corrigan Macrombi	Debreni Du Pont	Krom
		Goblin super soldier
Oisin MacNeassa	Ug	no.5
Dr Tombes	Savant	

They died fighting for a variety of reasons, some were trying to destroy Benedict for personal reasons, and others because they felt it was "the right thing to do". Some were there for Vengeance, some for Justice. Others died simply because a Lion was in trouble and they

were trying to save them. Some I'm sure were there only because they were ordered too. No matter what each and every one of them made a conscious choice that resulted in their deaths. It was this choice that makes them worthy of being remembered. Whatever you consider these individuals. Be it hero or fool, warrior or victim. They all stood up for their beliefs and that is what being a Lion is all about. So join together and remember the dead of Rysarius and remember what they died as and fighting for. They died as LIONS

Lochlan Douglas
Tribune and Lance Sergeant Prince Bishops Men

The city's streets are empty now to me
And where'er I seek it, comfort find I none.
In my sorrow all seems dark and bleak,
For three who were my friends now are gone.
Loyal brave and true they were, all three,
And in my heart they ever will live on.
The tears I cry are selfish tears, for me;
They are at peace, wherever they have gone.
My steps, my words, are weighted down with grief
But whate'er my sorrow I still will carry on;
In freedom's cause my friends did take the field,
That cause I still will fight, though they are gone.
And yet for my own loss I still must weep:
Ancestors, hold them gently; grant them peace.

(For Ameirgin, Caoimhe and Fiachra)
-Fionnuala Ni Riain.

Captain Aralyn Cormallen of the Fifth Legion of the Countess' Guard was a true Son of Arrakech. His leadership, and strength of arms were a valued asset to the Iron Legions. His service in the territories of Lantia exemplary. May his Immortal Pattern rest with the True Varus.
-Ezekial Crane

Maestus Dakk

Named by Gwion Ap Taliesan, Maestus was a fae who drifted into this faction and stayed because, unlike elsewhere, he'd found people who would accept him. He joined House Demetus in 1103 and as faction jailer he dedicated his time to the prisoners' rehabilitation. Long known for his somewhat morose nature Maestus took a sudden turn for the seelie on Saturday night, surprising us all with his cheer and enthusiasm. Sadly his epic mural of Oliver Fitzoliver will now remain unfinished after Maestus' death at Benedict's hand on Rysarius.
- Robin Ashwine Sena R'Ios

Lucas Fairbank Sena R'Ios

My cousin began his sea-faring career as Captain Struan Robert's cabin boy aboard the *Morning Cloud*, his wanderlust displaying itself in a life long affinity with the sea. His first command was House Demetus' flag dinghy, the *Tempting Fate*, but he quickly moved up the faction ranks through Captain to Admiral to Sealord, with Emperor being the next natural progression. He risked his life many times for his faction and friends but always retained a sense of humour and had time for everyone.

He met Caoimhe when the Armengarians joined the faction and they slowly fell in love. Both resigned their commissions within the faction

and Lucas planned to retire following the Rysarius mission to take up farming. When Benedict attacked us Lucas saw Caoimhe fall and lost his life trying to save her. He will be greatly missed.
- Robin Ashwine Sena R'Ios

I first met dryden when I joined the tribe and came to Armengar this was before he had taken the spirit of malar and the voice of his previous ancestor was removed from his head, We lost touch for some time when he joined the fleets and left the citadel of Armengar and I stayed, at the heartland games 1104 our paths crossed again as I joined royal fleet as a captain. Dryden was always a friend to a confidant a commander and me, he died as the hunt master of malar. He shall be sorely missed.

He has been buried with full naval honours in a traditional sea burial on the steel seas.
- Acting-Commodore John Ciall, Royal Fleet.

Sandry Garrowby did not want to be a leader, but that didn't stop her being a good one. She was no paladin, but she stood between innocents and darkness at the cost of her life.
Goodbye, Captain.
May you always be warm when you walk in Winter.
- Jutah Fate

Ameirgin
He was what he was and let no-one say otherwise. He didn't try to be anything else. He never strove to reach beyond the place assigned him. He was loyal and steadfast and resolute. Like the Walls he embodied he stood firm in the face of everything, and nothing could move him. He was a child, but refused to let that deter him or let others sway him.

He died doing what he did best and that will never be forgotten

Cara

For Fillipe,

Always in my heart.

Sleep well, love.

Adara

Draidik Bro

A warrior with a true heart and a strong arm, his soul was set upon principles, Honor, justice and war. He lives his life by these things, and he died by these things. He wouldn't have had it any other way.

He died fighting for life, and for those he loved. He died surrounded by friends, both fallen and standing. He wouldn't have had it any other way.

He was a leader, a knight, a friend and much more to many people. Words can't say how much he will be missed. He had such courage, he never faltered, he had wisdom untainted by knowledge's of unnecessary things, he was a great leader to us. We gained so much under his rule, and lost so much in his passing.

You will be sorely missed my friend, more than you could know.

- Rowan

Arrius Darkleaf

You always had a tendency towards finding trouble, but a combination of skill, luck and sheer bloody-mindedness usually saw you through. I'll miss your caring nature, always so carefully hidden behind that wall of devout stubbornness you showed rest of the world. May Our Lady's light guide you to a new dawn, little brother. I'll miss you.

-Sheyna Darkleaf

Captain Aralyn Cormallen of the Fifth Legion of the Countess' Guard was a true Son of Arrakech. His leadership, and strength of arms were a valued asset to the Iron Legions. His service in the territories of Lantia exemplary.

May his Immortal Pattern rest with the True Varus.

- Inquisitor Crane

Vale de Gales chose not to join the Lions when the faction first arrived in Avalon, choosing instead to travel the world and see its sights, an aim that took him several years and the length and breadth of Erdreja. He came back to us at the parliament on DuPre island, looking for his many siblings. He decided to stay with the Lions for the time being and remained on Tamerus, exploring and producing some wonderful artwork. His aim on coming to Rysarius was to find the Wayward Flame and ask it for an answer he had been searching for, but this plan was cut short on Saturday morning when Crystal announced a Lion was trapped behind enemy lines. Vale never hesitated to jump to the rescue and fought valiantly against Benedict, even as a wight defeating Benedict's control to allow himself a few moments with his friends. As a fae, he will reincarnate at some point, but we'll always miss the Vale de Gales who came into our lives so briefly.

- Robin Ashwine

Corrigan Macrombi

What can be said about Corrigan that hasn't been said before? He's been called cantankerous, bold, honest, stropky, loyal, dedicated, hardworking, nitpicking, bloody minded, loud, heroic, brave, brilliant, argumentative...and it's all true. He was very confident in who he was and what he did, and endured anything that went wrong in his life (of which there was sadly quite a lot) with stoicism and control and always made time to educated and aid those who

asked. He found a home in the Lions and carved a niche for himself as an accomplished alchemist and a hard working sheriff. He was killed by Benedict while defending a group of Lions paralysed by fear and had he not done so, many more of them would have fallen. Corrigan, you were an infuriating sod. But I'll miss you.
- Robin Ashwine

Dry recounting of her exploits do them no justice. Praise of her virtue ultimately falls short. Caoimhe, I was proud to be your friend, but prouder still when you stood as my adversary. None deserve their rest more.
- Cosaint

Mirumoto Hiigara understood something that is fundamental to the Lions; it does not matter where you are, but who you are. Unknown leagues from home, he held strong to his beliefs. His compassion and courage should live as an example to all. Rest well Hiigara. The only mirror you ever truly needed was the impact of your bravery on others.
- Cosaint

Debreni,
Walk the chosen path. Sometimes we stumble, but others pick up what we drop.
- Cosaint

Caoimhe Ni Fiach
Tell a thousand tales of bravery, and there will always be one which still defies classification. A man can have generations of tales of courage and self-sacrifice committed to memory and still not find a suitable comparison. Thus I find myself now. I cannot describe the breadth of Caoimhe's courage to you. Words cannot express the sacrifices she made; she who saw the future and all it's promise, but forewent her own desires in favour of a distant possible gain for her people and further again to prevent disaster.

Event Feedback

Howdy folks

At the end of the last event I put together a feedback questionnaire that I passed to everyone who had prebooked and I had an email address for. The results of which have been collated and distributed for your perusal.

I guarantee that there is more probity in this instance than you will find in any other postal ballot in the next 3 weeks

I'd like to thank everyone that responded to the questionnaire; it's difficult to know if things are going right or wrong if people don't tell you... so... cheers, I appreciate the feedback (both the good and the bad)

So... out of a total of 37 responses:-

Catering Van Quality

Excellent	5.6%
Good	38.9%
Adequate	38.9%
Bad	13.9%
Appalling	2.8%

Analysis: Looks like the van was a good idea, but they could have been of better quality

Banquet Quality

Excellent	83.3%
Good	13.3%
Adequate	3.3%

Bad	0%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: Looks like everyone really loved Charley's work. I think that has raised the bar for event catering

Set Dressing

Excellent	2.7%
Good	56.8%
Adequate	35.1%
Bad	5.4%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: It did the job, we were unfortunately hindered by the restrictions of the site (e.g. had to use gaffa instead of staples) which brought the feel down a bit

Site Quality

Excellent	37.8%
Good	45.9%
Adequate	13.5%
Bad	2.7%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: The churning up of the main field, and the roped off area meant the site wasn't as good as it could have been, however most of you seemed quite happy with it.

Ref /Marshall Quality

Excellent	35.1%
Good	62.2%
Adequate	2.7%
Bad	0%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: Doesn't look like there were any problems there.

Monster Quality

Excellent	32.4%
Good	54.1%
Adequate	10.8%
Bad	2.7%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: We had a pretty good monster team this time, including some newbies from north of the border.

Plot Quality

Excellent	27%
Good	54.1%
Adequate	16.2%
Bad	2.7%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: Difficult one, by 11:00 Saturday morning the plot document was well and truly shelved as we raced to keep up with player action. It was one hell of a rollercoaster ride. Overall it seems to have worked fairly well

Fight Quality

Excellent	27%
Good	56.8%
Adequate	13.5%
Bad	0%
Appalling	2.7%

Analysis: Whilst there weren't many fights those that there were seemed to have been good and safe.

Sunday Fight

Excellent	51.4%
Good	32.4%
Adequate	13.5%
Bad	0%
Appalling	0%

Analysis: The words most often used here were "Scary" and "Ouch" whilst there were some mistakes made during this fight, it seems to have been really well received.

Overall

Excellent	43.2%
Good	45.9%
Adequate	8.1%
Bad	2.7%
Appalling	0

Analysis: Well on the Sunday I was sat with my head in my hands in a state of extreme shock wondering what the hell we had just done. Afterwards people told us that it was really good, and they enjoyed themselves (I was I have to confess somewhat dubious about that). The figures provided seem to have borne fruit. Overall it seems like the Parliament went down pretty well. However I assure you that we will not be trying to raise the death count in subsequent events.

Cheers

Dessie