

***Lions Faction Pack Up
July 2005***

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Acknowledgements

This PackUp is brought to you by the collective will of around 30 cuddly hippopotami.

That, and submissions from the following people: Vikiy Myers, Andy Barber, Brian Lynchehaun, Me (I wrote something... it's lousy but I did), Gareth Marklew, Amanda Hill and Marianne Wells.

Contact

If you want to get something published in PackUp, you can either email it to Derek.mcallister1@ntlworld.com or post it to Derek McAllister, 0/2 6 Kendal Avenue, Glasgow. G12 0DL

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

Letter from the Editor

Well it seems the short straw is well and truly mine, I'm not sure how I will measure up to the august company that have written here before me but I'll give it a shot. When I started with the Lions this publication was in the hands of Dan Osbaldeston, then, if my rusty memory serves me aright it moved to the illustrious Mister Daniel, and most recently in the tender care of our very own yellow ninja, Fergal. I've got to admit, I never expected to be here and never expected to be doing this. Nevertheless here I am, and if I can do even half as good a job as they did then I will consider myself very fortunate indeed.

Whilst I am here and since I have at least one column to fill I suppose I should put in some salient content so I will begin by listing your current NPC and Plot Team.

So your NPCs are:-

1IC: Vikiy Myers: Crown Princess Tope Shoshoni Lord General of the Lions
2IC: Graham Mills: Crown Prince Nathaniel Tremayne
3IC: Adam Sullivan: Prince Hengist.
4IC: Barnaby Smart (Head of Plot)

And your plot team is (in no particular order):-

Amanda Hill
Dave Jones
Steve Spencer
Iain McNeill
Derek McAllister

Everyone here can be reached via the plot team egroup which is lionsplotteam@yahoogroups.com feel free to drop us a line at any time with ideas, suggestions, praise, criticism, numbered Swiss bank accounts, you name it. We're here to try and make sure you have as good a time as possible at these events, so any feedback, about any aspect of the event is always appreciated; and I promise we don't bite (that costs extra).

Anyway enough wittering from me.... On to more sensible people.
See ya.
Dessie

Greetings from Vikiy

192 Alfred Street, Bury BL9 9EG
littlemisscowboy@yahoo.co.uk
Mobile: 07747 842308 (between 6pm and 10pm only please)

'lo all,

Well it's been an interesting year so far. Thanks to Graham, Adam, Barney and the rest of the plot team for holding the fort during the Winter and Spring Parliaments and the Heartland Games while I was on various states of baby duty. However, as of the Moots, I'm back in action (with happy grandparents playing babysitter). Thank you to you all as well for bearing with us while we juggled the various roles to keep the plot balls rolling. (It was supposed to be a war games weekend, honest!)

I hope you enjoyed the Moots and if you missed them, I hope you've caught up on the details. Suffice to say, Moot Two has proven to be an interesting thing to discuss and muse over, and will provide the faction with some good role-playing for a while yet. It was fab to see so many of you there and working for the faction in your various IC and OOC capabilities. Which Guilds don't we have large numbers of players in yet (or underhand totalitarian control)? Answers on a flattened duck to the email address above.

On that note (I am singing this letter to you, hear me croon), as it's our turn to host the Gathering this year (huzzah!), we need to have a crew of Lions to go down to Locko Park for the main Gathering setup this year. In previous times, main setup has benefited from having people there who have a direct involvement with what is created and built. There are a couple of people who have already said that they'll be along, but more would be good. If you can take the week off work/studying/sunbathing before the Gathering and get down to Locko Park for the Sat/Sun/Mon, then please email me directly to let me know and then I can pass names onto the LT office for agreement. You get fed for the week and don't have to pay for

Thursday night, and get into the Staff party on the Monday night, but you do need to be willing to work hard. There are a couple of guidelines, but I'll go into that by email with those who offer to come down and help. You will also get the faction's undying thanks and big cheers at a muster, so do it for an OOC 'Feeling Good About Myself' glow if nothing else. And at the end of the day, if we don't do it, it won't get built.

Gathering camping-wise, we're in the same plot that we were in last year (stagger past the beer tent, totter over the bridge and left). We're going to great lengths to make sure that the camp is Fire Safety compliant, so please do find a member of the faction's setup crew before pitching your tent, as if it's blocking an emergency exit or similar, we will have to ask you to move it, so a quick chat will save you time, energy and probably a couple of tent pegs. Please also remember that naked candles (as opposed to fully clothed and armoured ones) and gas lamps are no longer permitted inside tents, so dig out your batteries and mini-Maglites from under the stairs/behind the sofa/under Aunt Mabel's cat litter tray.

Weapon safety is an issue that has been raised during the year and I've been asked to pass on some comments to you all. Firstly, the Lions are still some of the safest fighters around, but please do remember to pull your head hits (or preferably, if there's a chance, don't do them at all). During the coming year, we're setting up an IC Faction Weapon Master slot with other Weapon Masters to help out. This is to ensure that not only the newer players have a chance to practice and learn how to fight safely, but also for us older ones to brush up on our skills. Referees will be sending anyone fighting dangerously in battles/mini-moshes to these people for 'retraining', so please do take advantage of this opportunity. It will be an IC thing, but with OOC backup to ensure everyone in the system has a chance of a safe fight.

I'm looking forward to the next few years with the Lions and hope that you'll have a fun and happy time as well, despite the various plot curveballs the plot honchos will be throwing at you. The faction's looking good again, we've only got a couple of bad guys to deal with (we will get Mr Darkendale, honestly, we will!) and then it's all down to the nearest tavern for a knees up.

The beers will be on Graham and Adam* (or they will be once they've read this packup!).

So get in touch if you'd like to do main setup. I do have a couple of places for Faction setup left, but all requests have to go through me to the LT office and we have a deadline to meet, so ask quickly or the spots will be gone. Have a good July and August and see you in a field in Derbyshire in a few weeks time.

Hugz

Vikiy

(* editor's note: Adam has read the packup and claims that the Beers will instead be on Vikiy. It seems the only way that this will be resolved is by fair combat. Any enterprising Lions out there might want to consider running a book on this one.)

Sammerix,
The Isles of Lantia
11th day, 7th month, 1105

Lions,

The Gathering is fast approaching and we find ourselves with several hard situations to face. The great loss of life at the Spring Parliament, followed by the Conclave attack on our Holy Isle means that Lantia is no longer the safe place we had hoped it to be. But we can reclaim all the islands for our own, take back what has been taken, rebuild what has been damaged and turn our home into the peaceful and secure place we all deserve to have.

There really is no harder thing to deal with than the loss of family and friends and those you work with, but recent years have meant that we have become a little more hardened to it.

In regards to Holy Isle, there is a report in this missive regarding what we know. With my own eyes all I have seen is fog and broken land, and I am praying to the Ancestors for those who were on the island. I have also cast my mind over what and who lies in Camelot, and entreat you to do the same. Those that have passed before us, both on our side and against us, were placed in our care to be watched over for all eternity. As soon as we can get onto the

island and into Camelot, we will take care of any survivors we find. Then we must set to work to care for those we have lost now and those we lost in previous times.

We know that we have spies in our ranks, this is the way that the Conclave works. I have no doubt that a copy of these missives will end up in their bloodsoaked and grubby little hands. So be it. We, the Lions, have endured through the thick and thin and we have faith in ourselves and our faction, so, to echo the chant used in Rhapsody's Moot ritual: Faith provides, the Lions survive.

We are strong and I know in my heart that we can overcome all that is thrown at us. It was fantastic to see us come together in the strong way we did at the Moots when our support and aid was requested by others. You should feel proud that the Lions stand together when needed and together in the face of all things.

May your ancestors watch over you and guide you in all things, and may you never feel that you are standing alone, because you never will be.

Tope Shoshoni
Lord General of the Lions
Crown Princess
Lion

A Missive from the High Incantor

The timing of my missive could not weigh heavier on anyone's Pattern than it does already. This year, we shall be hosting the Gathering of Nations on Lantian Soil. The thought of it chills my being.

We shall be exposing the Peoples of the Heartlands to the Unliving Darkendale, the Yfos, the Fotia, and the Fourteenth Draken. Lantian Soil shall be the target for Conclave Attacks, a focus for fleeing Void Demons, and innumerable other foes from all of the Heartland Nations.

Yet, amidst all this darkness there is hope. The coming of a delegation from far Cathay, the reforging of the Orb of Magic, the enchantment of artifacts to ward us from the forces of Unlife. Our faith.

So, come prepared to the Gathering of Nations - we shall be the last line between the gathering Darkness and the peoples of the world. We shall ensure the Cathayans come to no harm, that our Ritual Circles are not abused. We shall have faith, and we shall survive.

I am your High Incantor in Truth, in Honour and in Faith. Your Crowns will not let you falter, the Council will help you survive, and I shall help you maintain Faith. We walk with you even as you walk with us.

So, prepare your armour and glaives. Give honour to your Ancestors, and give focus to your magics. The Gathering of Nations will truly show the Heartlands who we are.

Lions.

In the name of the True Varus, and the sight of the Ancestors I remain,

Inquisitor Ezekial Crane
Lions High Incantor

A Letter from the Circle Warden of Rysarius

The Warden of the Circle of Knowledge politely requests that everyone who is capable of using void-related magics, to please refrain from using them on the Isle of Rysarius. I have asked the Crowns to make that a decree, but they were rather busy over the two weekends, so for now it is simply a request.

To be specific, please refrain from:

Spellcasting
Incantation (yes, it's void-based, I can explain if needed)
Transportation Magic
Ritual Magic

If you need to travel to or from Rysarius please use a boat. Obviously, if there is an emergency then do what you need to do. I'm simply asking for people to refrain from non-critical magic usage.

The reasons for this are fairly straightforward:
There is a war being fought on Orst, between two species of Fae. One of whom is using vast quantities of fire-related magics.

If magic is used on Rysarius, we deplete some of their power.

While most would say this isn't our concern, I feel that regardless of the victor of this conflict, it is not in our interest to appear to be a foe to either side. The history of the Lions is littered with misunderstandings that have led to vast amount of bloodshed (the Vo'or being a prime example).

If you are interested in more detail regarding these Fae and the situation, seek me out either by Ley, or in person. Please use a boat.

Ruok Silverscales
Warden of the Circle of Knowledge

First Approximation Analysis regarding situation surrounding Holy Isle.

Commander Jermaine Hunter
HMS Minotaur: Fleet Primus
Twelfth Day, Seventh Month, Eleven Hundred and Five
Seventy Five miles East Northeast of Fort Hatfield

As it stands there is a massive fogbank occupying the centre of the Steel Sea, starting roughly fifty nautical miles from the northern tip of Fort Hatfield. Due to the shifting nature of the fog it is impossible to obtain accurate measurements of same: However, my best estimate is that this phenomenon covers an area of no less than Seven Thousand One Hundred Square miles.

There are good indications of significant landmass a short distance into the fog bank, though final confirmation has not as yet been obtained. However the locations of these coastlines do not correlate with existing charts of the area; additionally the silhouettes of the coastlines do not match up with any known topographical maps of the area.

To date there has been no indication of safe harbour or landing point from which a more detailed study of the area can be made. The nature of the fog renders any attempt to manoeuvre a capital vessel through that area nigh impossible. Several attempts have been made to penetrate the fogbank with longboats, however all such attempts have been rebuffed by inclement weather.

The weather patterns within the fogbank are extremely unusual; extremely powerful winds seem to strike without warning, preventing any sustained travel in this region. Additionally there have been multiple sightings of tornadoes lifting huge quantities of water out of the sea, before releasing it back down. This results in a vast amount of water vapour in the air, and would appear to be at least a partial explanation for the levels of fog we are experiencing.

Further attempts to penetrate the fogbank will begin shortly, which we hope will allow a more detailed analysis of the situation.

J.H.

An Epsitle from the Head of the Council

Whilst Camelot is inaccessible, the Crowns will tour the islands of Lantia. Their itinerary will not be published in advance for reasons of security. Anybody wishing to contact the Crowns should pass messages through their local Sheriff's office, or through the office of the Consul Primus, at Watchtown, Andulus.

Until such a time is Camelot is secured again Watchtown, on Andulus, the site of my office, will act as the formal seat of government of the Lions, and administrative capital of Lantia. I ask that members of the faction and guests have patience if any delays to your service result whilst the administration adjusts to changed circumstances.

Given this day, the thirteenth of the, ninth month, of the sixth year of the reign of Queen Sapphire, at Watchtown, Andulus, on behalf of the Lord General of the Lions and the Crowns of Lantia,

Sir Oliver FitzOliver,
Consul Primus,
Hammer of Justice,
Lion.

A Dictation from the Head of the Council regarding Faction Positions

At the recent Moot of the Factions, the Crowns were pleased to confirm the following appointments to the Council, Arcane Council and other positions:

Appointments to the Council

Rufus (Mog) Navarre is appointed to the office of the Keeper of the Secret Seal (formerly the Magister Indices)

Ivory du Bois is appointed to the office of the Arcane Primus/High Arcane for the next year.

Warlord Alanna has stood down. She has the sincere thanks of the Crowns, Council and Faction for her efforts over the last year. The positions of Warlord and Sealord will be merged once again into the office of Knight Marshall. This office will be filled when a suitable candidate is found. Until that time the higher duties falling to that position will be performed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Nathaniel, and His Highness Prince Hengist.

Appointments to the Arcane Council

Midir of Armengar is appointed to the office of High Healer of the Lions.

Adara Darkendale is appointed High Mage of the Lions.

Appointments to other positions

Petal of House Soulsplitter is confirmed as Faction Liaison to the Alchemists Guild.

All of the above are duly invested with the full responsibilities, duties and obligations of their new offices. All have the full confidence and support of

Crowns, Council and people, and, save where otherwise stated, will serve until death, retirement or removal from office.

Any omissions from this list will be corrected at the earliest opportunity.

Given this day, the thirteenth of the, ninth month, of the sixth year of the reign of Queen Sapphire, at Watchtown, Andulus, on behalf of the Lord General of the Lions and the Crowns of Lantia,

Sir Oliver FitzOliver,
Consul Primus,
Hammer of Justice,
Lion.

A request from Robin Ashwine

I would like to ask anyone living on the coast to look out for a ship called the Hynd, crewed by the unliving who kidnapped me at the moots. It's possible they'll be coming to the Gathering to attack myself or the Healer's guild again, and frankly nothing would amuse me more than if we catch her out.

If she comes, she would most likely be approaching Lantia from the coast of Archon, traveling west towards Tamarus for the Gathering. She may not be so stupid as to try and approach such a seaworthy faction as ours, but please keep an eye out in case she is.

She's a small, two masted sailing ship with ash-grey sails and a black flag. The "Figurehead" is a burnt coffin chained to the front. We can't know if there are other prisoners on board so if she is sighted please tell me, John Ciall or Aldous Trevelyan as soon as possible.

Thank you

A. Robin Ashwine
Knight Companion of the Order Celestial
Head of the Healer's Guild College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A Note from the Lion Ritual Conclave

It has been a very successful Moot for our ritual teams. Once again we have been able to put all the slots allocated to us to good use. We have called on our faith to help our High Incantor help us, we have enabled our Fusion Reactor to keep those items we need in power, and we have created many new items to help us survive the battles ahead. As ever, this is due in no small part to the assistance and commitment of our contributors. Thank you, every one of you. We couldn't do it without you. Particular thanks to those contributors amongst the Celestial Knights and from Armengar who went above and beyond the call of duty in contributing to most every ritual over the weekend.

Rhapsody, our newest ritualist, has shown a lot of talent in his first effort. Welcome aboard. If there are any other ritualists starting out - or even just considering giving it a go, then do come talk to us. We'll do our best to help.

Thanks also to the Crowns and those members of the faction who made every effort to support us in our efforts. I know we were all glad to have our faction around us - particularly through the more difficult moments.

There's more work to do. At the Gathering each of your ritualists will be looking for support at the following times:

Friday 1900 - Rhapsody
Saturday 1400 - Ruok
Saturday 2100 - Adara
Sunday 1200 - Rua

I'm sure Rhapsody would appreciate the help of anyone who can be available for practice early on Friday. Please come find one of us as soon as possible if you can help.

We are always on the look out for good ideas and we are here to support everyone in the faction. Please come talk to us if you think we can help you.

As a final point, the Gathering is on our land and this is one of our circles. *All* of us can help keep an eye on what is going on in there.

I hope to see you all safe and well on Tamarus.

Rua Ni Dhiarmuid
High Ritualist
lrc@sprucemoose.net

A Warning from the Hammer of Justice

As reliable reports indicate that assassins, apparently acting on behalf of the Conclave, wielding blades coated in the most virulent poisons, have been active in attacking representatives of Factions attending gatherings of peoples, all Healers are advised that, should they be called to tend the victims of any attacks, immediate and urgent efforts should be made to purge all and any poisons from the bodies of the injured.

Given this day, the fifteenth of the, ninth month, of the sixth year of the reign of Queen Sapphire, at Watchtown, Andulus, on behalf of the Lord General of the Lions and the Crowns of Lantia,

Sir Oliver FitzOliver,
Consul Primus,
Hammer of Justice,
Lion.

Obituaries

Bashu (of the box)

Bashu came to Armengar with the Tribe some few years ago, and embraced his new home with enthusiasm, rapidly becoming almost indistinguishable from a native-born Armengarian, even to the point of following our Ancestor. He became a valuable member of our army, rising through the ranks to the position of Gan of Phoenix Legion.

In his dealings with the wider world, too, Bashu was enthusiastic, always ready to serve his faction, and doing sterling work as the Lions' Ambassador to the Jackals.

Bashu was not, of course, perfect; his enthusiasm often led him into error and he was more than once punished for forgetting his duty. But he took his corrections in good part, never made the same mistake twice, and wore his nickname "Bashu of the Box" with pride.

Bashu was as true, loyal, honourable and courageous an Armengarian as any of his native-born brethren. He will be sorely missed by many besides his adopted people.

Dillon Kymora

Some of us find our path early in life, others take a little longer. Dillon Kymora fell very clearly into the second camp. A number of early mishaps and misunderstandings led him, eventually to the Sheriff's office, and to the life of a ranger. When he had found his place, he proved to be a skilled, loyal and courageous officer, who thought deeply on issues, and cared deeply for his duty and his faction.

Dillon has now been missing since the Heartland Games, and, whilst he is not yet confirmed as dead, the fact that he is yet to report in, does not bode well

for his safety. If he does turn up, alive and well, I hope these words assure him that he was missed. If he is proven to be dead, his last works, an attempt to revive the Guardians to serve and protect Lantia and the Lions, and an, unfinished, study of the nature and abilities of the Sengoolian breeds, should stand as fitting monuments to his dedication to the good of the Lions, and a fitting rebuke to those who, in the past, might have doubted him.

Fragments

Eagles Reach: is alive once more as a small contingent of Legio Aquilla takes up residence again.

On Fort Hatfield rumours fly around the dining hall about ships sailing out south from Lantia. The signals were right, but no-one seems to know who they were, or where their destination.

Seen a few hundred paces from the Transport Circle of Rysarius, several signs hammered in random positions, with random facings read:
"It wasn't us. Please send a party of at least four people next time.
Ruok Silverscales"

On the South Coast of Sammerix the rhythmic beating of drums is once again heard at night. Reports are coming through of strange figures, dancing, silhouetted against bonfires.

On Tamarus, work begins again on the preparations for the Gathering, security has been increased since the appearance of The Darkendale's agents. Many traps have been located around the site of the Gathering but they have been easily cleared.

A large number of Mage's guild members, including Master Dark have arrived on the island of Amnor to turn off the Armengarian Circle, before it rips apart what is left of the city.

Guards from the Mage's guild are overheard in a pub on Archon talking about some situation on Halia. They seem to be glad that they have not been stationed there.

Lions Military Command reports that the aura of chaos has disappeared from Orlagnon a lot more often recently; indicating that the Darkendale is up to something away from home.

Situation on Holy Isle

If you believe that your character was likely to have been present on Holy Isle during Moot 2 please let us know at lionsplotteam@yahogroups.com as soon as possible.

Thanks

Well... that's about it folks

Hope you've enjoyed my first packup; it's a lot bigger than I expected it to be. Thank you very much to everyone who contributed.

See y'all at the Gathering

Dessie