

Lions Faction Despatches

OCTOBER 1107



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EDITORIAL

- LIONS PACK-UP OCTOBER 2007 -

Another main event season over and what a fun ride 1107 has been. We've turned a few tables, lost and gained some groups, had the best command tunnel ever! We've also been blessed with an awesome command team. Yeah, this is all about the Viks. I mean Ads and Dessie and Steve are great and all that, but as Dessie himself would say – Vikiy is prettier :-)

This year was my seventh Gathering. I know – no big deal compared to some of ye! But it has been enough to see the faction cycle through some rough times back into the good. Tope has been there driving us forward, making us shake off our complacency, taking away the straw and sticks and handing us the bricks to build the faction we wanted. That's nothing compared to what Vikiy has been doing. If I were to list all the responsibilities Vikiy has taken upon herself in her time on the command team, well, there wouldn't be much room left in this packup for actual content. I am sure some of the things she has done for love of the game and the faction, had her paying employer requested the same thing, they'd have been told to take a flying leap. Now it's time for all that strength and energy to go to other areas of her life. There's no doubt those endeavours will shine just as bright as this one has.

In the midst of all this hero worship, perhaps it's time to remember that our faction is brimful of people dedicated and committed beyond all reason to doing whatever it takes to make this faction great. I don't just mean the command and plot team – there's so many of us who have found our own ways to contribute to what the Lions are today. Again we're looking at a packup-filling list, but there's security, set up and take down, monsterring, banners and props, online booking systems, 10am camp cleaning, feeding refs, packup contributions... Let's not forget those who bust a gut for us ic, be it in keeping our characters alive, providing resources, inspiring role play, musical interludes... All of it is fundamental to a great faction and not even a Carlsberg command team could sustain one without it.

It works because we care. It doesn't matter if you're 11C or still reeling from your first event. If you care about the faction, you're part of why it is such a good place to be right now. You're part of a faction that made sure Tope got every bit the incredible send-off Vikiy deserved, and you're part of a faction that will continue to burn brightly under Ads' guidance. Thank you *everyone*, and keep up the good work!

Amanda.

Packup submissions to:
baj@sprucemoose.net

Acknowledgements:

A LIONS OF LANTIA PRODUCTION LIONS LOGO © BRUCE MYERS TYPESETTING: DAVID HEATON
STARRING: AMANDA HILL STEVE SPENCER ADAM SULLIVAN RUSS PHILLIPS MARIANNE WELLS
ALSO STARRING: NIKKI JEN PHILLIPS JOE LAMB ALLEN STROUD
INTRODUCING: ANDY BARBER SUE RICKARD
THE SOUNDTRACK TO THIS PACKUP IS AVAILABLE FROM ALL GOOD LARP EVENTS

FROM THE KING OF LANTIA

Lions,

So much has happened in the last few months.

We went to the Gathering of Nations to aid the Deep Dwarfs and in return, have our artefact reformed. We went to settle a score and to try and put an end to the troubles of the last few years. We also showed our enemies that the days of their dominance have gone. Along with our friends the Bears, Dragons, Unicorns & Gryphons, we put an end to notable enemies, finally making them pay for their actions. We showed a united front and a strength that was unsurpassed.

But it was bittersweet. As a result of the actions of an enemy and the results of it, our Queen, Tope Shonshoni, has abdicated and left the faction in order to protect it. None of us were prepared for what happened and we will always miss her. But I am sure I am not alone in wishing her a happy life wherever she and her family have gone.

So, we have returned to Lantia with a heavy yet determined heart, and it is unsettling to see the land changing as the borders between Orst and Erdreja blur, our own homes are unfamiliar. Lantia has grown and we find ourselves again trying to map it. We have our ongoing conflict with the 14th, with Sirocco and his followers, with the search for those responsible for endangering Tope's life, and with many others. But chief in our minds now is the cult of the beast and their leader Thrydwulf. We begin the search for him soon and he will be the first to fall. It is time to start to clean house, time to start being proactive and ridding Lion's lands of Lion's enemies.

I am proud that you have chosen me to lead you, prouder than you will know. And I will fight and strive to ensure that the duty, the trust and the honour that has been bestowed is well placed. The coming times will be difficult and we will need to work together in order to cleanse Lantia and, once and for all, declare it Our Land, the Home of the Lions.

Let us make the Lions' presence felt in all corners of Lantia and beyond.
Let all of Erdreja echo with our roar.



Hengist MacConnell

King Hengist MacConnell
Lord General of the Lions Faction
Jaguar of the Children of Malar
Gate Guard

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH HEALER:

Unfortunately, various events meant that we were unable to organise a party with the Bears' healers during the recent Gathering of Nations.

However, I did attend a healer training session in the Bears camp, and I have picked up some useful ideas from that. I intend to run a similar training session each time we meet up.

A change in the way that rituals work means that we need people that can heal aberrant patterns, use healing herbs and/or make healing potions. Currently I know of three Lions healers that can heal aberrant patterns, only one of whom is an advanced healer. Together with the alchemists in the faction, this is probably just about enough, but I'd feel much happier if we had more. If you are willing to learn this skill over winter, find me at the Order of Celestial's chapter house on Northern Tamarus – I will be more than happy to help you learn.

It appears that Thrydwulf is causing trouble on Sammarix, and so we shall be going to Sammarix to deal with this later this year. Reports suggest that he has used magical beguilements in order to influence the local people into doing his will. For this reason, anyone able to resist such magics, or able to remove their effects, is likely to be especially useful on the mission. Magical items that temporarily grant such abilities will also be useful.

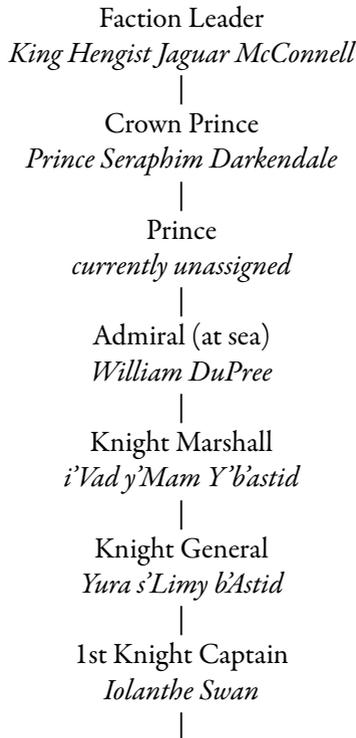
Elrood Brond

High Healer of the Lions Faction
Grand Master, Order of Celestial

Military Organisation

Following the deaths and some confusion at the Gathering, I here present the current military structure of the Lions faction. Everyone from Knight Marshal downwards will be wearing a mustard-coloured military sash when on duty in a military situation, but even when off duty please feel free to approach us with any issues or matters you wish to raise.

We make an active effort not to give orders except when necessary and in a combat or military situation – believe me, we have no wish to give ourselves any extra work. However, we will not always have time to explain orders and so we need you to obey the authority the faction has given us and allow us to keep the whole of our faction safe. The best time for raising issues is once the enemy are slain.



Knight Captain, or equivalent rank
Quinnan McCaffery
Joel Paltrow
Orpheus of The One
Lanceman Nathaniel Essex
Admiral William DuPree (whilst on land)

Knight Defender – *Sir Megiddo Darkendale Stone*. In battlefield situations, the Knight Defender holds the rank of Knight Captain.

Iolanthe Swan
Captain Iolanthe Swan
1st Knight Captain

Mentions of Merit

To Lions who showed particular courage and determination.

Karen Aldain – For thankless and unceasing work in ensuring Holy Isle was cleared of wraiths.

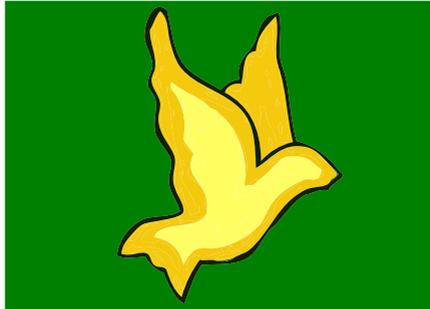
Jøsef Lambsen – For dedication to duty, and courage in the face of an enraged Kraken.

Ardeth Villyan (posthumous) – For protecting others and defence of the ritual group on Holy Isle

FROM THE CAPTAIN OF THE GATE

Lions, a suggestion was made that the Gate Guard need their own symbol – a sash possible to be worn by all whilst covering the gate so no group colours will be shown and picked up on. I present to you the new symbol of your gate and hope to see many of you proudly wearing the sashes next year when next we meet with the other nations

Asteria
Captain of the Gate



FROM THE HIGH INCANTOR

An Open Report to the Inquisition of the True Varus on Matters of Faith as They Have Occurred in the Year 1107 AF

Grand Inquisitor,

I doubt that this report will ever reach your eyes as I am unsure about the status of Arrakech after the Cataclysm. All reports I have is that the Empire Isles are now a single landmass and I fear for the Isle.

Regardless, I scribe this report on the past year so that the Inquisition (and the Lions) can remain informed.

This is my third year as the High Incantor of the Lions Faction.

The world has changed. The True Varus and the Ancestors have changed those blessings bestowed upon us and mages wield new arcane powers. Warriors are hardier, and the people more learned in general. The Lands of the Heartlands are changed.

Changing of Blessings

The key changes to Incantation are that the Ancestors no longer Repel our foes at our behest, but instead incite them to Fear. We can also bless our weapons in the Ancestors' names to Strike fell blows against our foes, and the ability to Lay a Pattern to Rest is more prevalent.

The powers of Light Incantations have also entered Erdreja, blessings that enhance the healing nature of the Ancestors, at the expense of the more warlike blessings.

The Great Erdrejan Fayre

The new Great Erdrejan Fayre hosted by the Guilds of the Heartlands were a joyful affair only blunted by two issues of note to the Inquisition – the arrival of corrupted fire elementals and the news that the Armourers Guild sought to create a weapon that is anathema to the Ancestors.

In my role as High Incantor of the Lions I opposed the Armourers in the Sacred Councils of the Incantors of Erdreja as did many of my fellows.

They were told to find another way to deal with their problems.

The Lions' Moot

The Moot of the Lions saw the Lions Faction attempting to empower myself and Hargrim Vorall of the Order of Celestial with the blessings of High Incantation. The assault of the corrupted Fire Elementals continued throughout.

The Gathering of Nations

The Gathering of Nations is the most notable event of the year, and was beset by unliving and murderers at every turn. The Friday was opened with an all-out assault by Lions-allied forces against the Tarantulan Nation in order to exact retribution and vengeance upon those responsible for some of the greatest atrocities I have ever known – murder, assassination, pattern-corruption and necromancy were but a few of the crimes known to myself.

I formed and led a large interfactional Incantor Wedge of phenomenal Ancestral power which, alas, could not find any of the corrupted dead to cleanse. Several of the regular living targets were dispatched, however.

Saturday saw much the same action, with me forming a slightly less powerful (though still awe-inspiring) Incantation wedge. This time, our drilling and dedication bore fruit as we dismissed the corrupted Pattern of an unliving Tarantulan Necromancer. The pattern was Laid to Rest in the name of the True Varus by myself.

The followers of the Ancestor named Vulcan were out in force for most of the weekend, using fell enchantments on all and sundry through the medium of the printing press and direct possession.

A sacred rite on the Saturday, dedicated to all Ancestors, was interrupted by Vulcan (by possessing one of the Rite Masters) and part of its power dedicated directly to Him. This allowed for him to send forth His Archons to wreak havoc among us. They were dispatched quickly enough without any loss of life (to my knowledge).

Sunday saw a few important matters of faith – firstly the Ritual Circle at Holy Isle was finally cleansed of its unliving menace. Wraith were dismissed in the Ancestors' names while a rite was completed to drive the vile crystal orbs, that call forth the shades, deep underground.

Secondly, the Ancestors finally answered the call from the Ritual at the Lions Moot and I am blessed once again with the Powers of High Incantation. Alas, in doing so for both myself and Hargrim, the strains on the Void and our Ritual were too great and as a result our Patterns were damaged (though not corrupted).

It is my fervent hope that with the True Varus' guidance, it shall correct itself over time.

Thirdly, we sought to deal with the corrupt fire elementals at the behest of the Dwarves of Igneous who were hosting this Gathering. The blessing of an Ancestral Weapon from the True Varus aided all on the field greatly against the more dire of the elementals. The gathered peoples of Erdreja were triumphant.

Finally, it was discovered that Beast Cultists on Sammerix, potentially master-minded by the renegade Bard Thryydwulf, are planning to fragment and Ancestor and place a shard of Them into each cultist. This will not be tolerated, and this Winter the Lions will be mobilising to prevent this atrocity.

Monday saw the sad departure of Queen Tope of the Lions but of matters of faith it was devoid.

I remain ever in the name of the True Varus and the service of Lantia,

Ezekial Crane

Ezekial Crane

Inquisitor of the True Varus

High Incantor of the Lions

An Open Letter from Her Grace the Prince Bishop

To Tope,

I do not know your whereabouts, so I cannot write to you directly. I understand that this is the way it must be, and therefore I make no efforts to find you, I merely hope that a copy of these dispatches might somehow find its way to your hand.

I was shocked and upset to hear the news of your resignation, but having heard the full story I am, once again, in awe of the dedication and love you have always shown for the Lions. Few moments in my life stand out so brightly as the night I was enthroned and the enthusiasm from every Palatinate Citizen present that I swear our service to you immediately – I have rarely seen such a consensus. You led us to greatness and made Lantia our home in the truest sense.

You were magnificent and regal, and yet grounded. You were formidable and masterful, and yet an approachable friend to all. You were an inspiration to me, and to many. Hengist has inherited a fine faction, and a difficult job. I have every confidence that you have left the faction in fine hands, and the Palatinate offers him full support as he makes the role his own.

I hope that now you and your family can live out the years in peace and happiness. You have more than earned it.

On behalf of the Palatinate, and in sight of the Palatinate Pantheon,

Ivory

✠ Ivory

REPORT FROM THE SHERIFF OF SAMMERIX

Well, I don't know what to say. This is the first time I have been asked to report in this manner. A bit about me, my name is Warren Polt, sheriff of Sammerix. I have recently returned from assignment to the temporary HQ built to liaise with the Mages Guild Guard near where the old ritual circle was. In the past few weeks we have seen a lot of traffic in the area – my job has not been easy. Everyone has to be checked against the Blacklist — sorry, the list of wanted criminals that frequent this fine isle. Still the operation is winding down now – most of the wizards have gone away and with my leaving, the HQ is to be disbanded. Still, the merchants seem to be happy with the re-opening.

I remain your servant,

Warren Polt

Warren Polt,
Sheriff of Sammerix

OBITUARIES

Pug Ugly,

Your colourful and frivolous facade brought smiles to many, and your heart was that of a true Lion. I suspect Robb has missed you as much as you missed him. May your friendship be renewed and your antics entertain the very Ancestors.

† *Zwoy*

Siobhán,

I promised to look after you, but I wasn't there at the end. I'm sorry. You had every bit of courage and honour that your brothers had, and I know they were proud of you, as was I. I'll miss you.

† *Zwoy*

Pug Ugly

You fell from the moon with Rob and his loss was greater on you than anyone realised. Now you have returned to the moon to be with him. I hope you are both enjoying tiffin and having a good laugh. When my time has come I shall again rejoin you both till then you will remain in my heart, Family and friends, Clan Batwat forever.

Asteria

Siobhán,

You always made your own choices. I may not have always agreed with them but when it came to the crunch, you faced the consequences with dignity and courage. You have my respect.

Margareth Sparkle

Ladies,

Are you aware that there are two fine specimens
of manhood going a-begging in your faction?

Firstly, let us consider Lanceman *Aodhan MacLeodhus* of the Prince
Bishop's Men.

A young man of good prospects, he looks good in a uniform and
has snappy dress sense out of one, I am told. He's human, full of youth-
ful enthusiasm and Ladies, you wouldn't kick him out of bed for leav-
ing crumbs!

Secondly, for those who prefer the strong silent type, Lanceman *Beastie*
of the Prince Bishop's Men.

This young beastkin, the furry one who looks so resplendent in his
PB's tabard, might look fierce, but Ladies, he's as soft on the inside as
his fur. He doesn't talk much, but he is agreeable, friendly, and even
housetrained, so he informs me. And he's very cute!

Any interested parties may contact me by ley, or send a message by
transport to Fal Dara, in Erin, to arrange introductions. Or indeed,
make the introduction yourself, Ladies.

Coitche Duine,
Paladin of Danu,
Matchmaker (part-time),
Dragon.

Songs FROM the HEARTH

For poems of greatness, songs of despair, and all the chords in between.

Tope's Farewell

by Jøsef Lambsen, Wavesinger

From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts

Lady Tope – We will never forget you.

I have heard many stories of leaders of men.

I have sung many songs of their deeds,

Of the battles they've won

And the lands they've laid waste,

There are many such hist'ries to read.

But of women there seem to be little and few.

Of their lives we hear never a word.

But today it would be

a crime of the worst kind.

to allow it to pass unobserved.

From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts

Lady Tope – We will never forget you.

She has given us everything we can now say,

That makes Lions the force that they are.

Hold her image before you-

Her legacy's yours-

Hail her name across all Lantia!

Never think the Tope name can be dulled by the blade,

That has caused many more to be lost.

Through the wide mists of time,

Hold her forth on your minds,

We'll remember, no matter the cost.

*From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts
Lady Tope – We will never forget you.*

How can one I had known for oh so short a time,
Have so deep an effect on my heart?
And for every deed-
That I know she has done-
To repay her, I never could start.

I can stand proud and say that I loved her,
As I've never loved any before.
We would give all we had,
To deflect this sad fate,
And the God's give us some moment's more.

*From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts
Lady Tope – We will never forget you.*

So to all those who call themselves Lions, this day,
Hail her proudly and hold her in mind.
And I beg now of you,
Keep her memory true,
On the day that she left us behind.

She has gone now and taken her husband and child,
And a veil over her we must draw.
But we'll sing out her praise,
To the end of our days,
To our Queen, and the Mother of all.

*From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts
Lady Tope – We will never forget you.*

*From the day that she left, she took part of our hearts
Lady Tope – WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU!*

Dante Childe

by Josef Lambsen, Wavesinger

The ship *Era Plama* brought him to our land, and with him Lord Konstantine came
In search of a woman, was hated by all - Ophelia Callisto, her name.
Her men fell up on them, left Konstantine slain, Beset them with metal and stone
Left him for dead – Friendless, he bled – Alone.

Chorus

(and we cry...) for the soul that was Dante, To the Gods who protect us we call,
That his spirit will join the All-Father, As this Childe was a father to all.

Now Palanor came, before death could hold sway, and brought him to Lantia's plains
The men of the mirror-shield hailed him as one, and Captain of them he became.
A promise he swore – till the Callisto whore Lay dead at his feet in the sand
He was a lion – and with them all – he'd stand.

Chorus

(so we'll strive...)

Now the nations had gathered, our spirits were high, and bright as the summer came on
We sat by the fire, with stars as our light, he joined us in laughter and song.
The mead had run empty, the ale had all gone, he left then to bring us his hoard,
Never returned – now for his name - we burn.

Chorus

(so we'll fight for...)

Tho' the man that we called Dante Childe is no more – his memory will always live on
We swear to the Gods, his assassins will pay, and vengeance be ours, e're long
A friend to the lonely, a leader of men, a Lion both loyal and strong..
And even in death – no Lion stands... Alone.

Chorus

(So we sing...) x2 to end

Chords:

| Verse: | | | | Chorus: | | | | |
|--------|---|------|------|---------|--------|---|---|--|
| D | C | G | A | | G A D | A | D | |
| D | C | G | A | | G A D | A | D | |
| D(5) | D | D(7) | D(4) | | | | | |
| D | C | G | A | | | | | |

A Soldier's Reply

Whilst I may seem to wear a dress
I assure you my courage is no less
I stand and fight with great success
And would not suffer a life of duress

You are a knight of renown and success
Yet I too would fight, I must confess
My cooking is bad and I wash even less
My tapestries are the height of Rubbishness

Your manner does to me impress
But I will not submit nevertheless
Should we ride as equals, Ancestors bless
Our strength and might.....yness

You are the picture of loveliness
A warrior, brave, a soldieress
Yet I am a soldier and no less
than you, I will not supress
My love of weapons and warrioriness

I'll ride alone if you do not redress
Your wish of me to be kept and less
than you in our future success
And I urge that you put me to the test
Challenge my mettle and prowess