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Dear Provincial Member

THE VIKINGS – PROVINCIAL MEMBERS NEWSLETTER.

This letter is prompted by the Jarls meeting held at Walesby on Saturday 3rd April.

Society Logo

This has changed so that the Viking, Saxon etc is above the main wording.

Junior members

Some combat training has been done in the LHE at last year's shows. This seems to work well but RTT (combat) are needed to help with it and other helpers would be appreciated.

Fostri – Juniors become eligible to become Fostri once they are 13 years old and provided that they have passed a basic assessment appropriate to their role. This could be a village of combat role but the assessment would be simpler than the adult version. There ought to be a formal promotion and ways of doing this are being looked at.

Once they reach 16 years old they become eligible to become Svein but to do this they need to take the formal adult assessment.

Booking shows

Before accepting a booking, we should telephone Roger Barry to check that the date is still clear. Minor (or medium) shows should not be accepted on dates where there is a major show; nor should they be booked for bank holiday weekends. Insurance cover may be withheld for any shows that infringe this policy. The society insurance is being changed to provide £5m cover and the start date is being moved so that we do not have to renew at the same time as we are likely to have a show.

A risk assessment must be done if booking a show. Dave Hall has a generic risk assessment, available in the form of a word document, that can be adapted to the requirements of the specific show. Signs warning the public that they are entering an area in which there will be hazards are something that we probably ought to have.

School visits

It has been proposed that we should provide schools with a feed back form; if anyone has any ideas for this please pass them to Sandi Gilbanks. We need to get written

permission from the school if taking weapons onto school property. It has been suggested that we should actually use a written contract.

Dates for shows.

A lot of information is in the recent Runestaff but some of that has already changed and there are various additions. If it is in Runestaff and not mentioned here the details are unchanged.

2004

- 10 – 11 April – Bells Farm – Cancelled.
- 17th April – Cellerhead (Stoke) minor.
- 1st May – Minor confirmed at Hackney
- 8th May – Kettering – Minor.
- 15th May – minor at Binchester.
- 23rd May - Letchworth but details not finalised.
- 22nd-23rd May - Richmond has been cancelled for this year but may be moved to next year.
- 29th – 30th May – Minor at Cosmaston (near to Cardiff)
Elvaston – As in Runestaff
- 12th June – Waterbeach (Cambridge) – minor.
- 3rd July - Bishops Stortford – Cancelled.
- 3rd July – Minor at Brindle (near to Preston).
- 4th July – Sutton Hoo – The LHE remains as advertised but we now need to do combat as well. For the combat we are allowed 10th C kit.
- 10th July minor at Bede's World.
- 17th – 18th July - Amble – As Runestaff
- 24th-25th July – Caerphilly (the castle may be part of the show this year).
- 31st July – 1st August – Amlwch – A Gokstad replica will be coming over from Ireland on the Friday and volunteers are needed on that day for a beach raid (to be filmed as advertising for the show). The raid may be repeated on the Sunday.
- 7th-8th August – York (Major living History only) – to be confirmed.
- 7th-8th August – Stonelea (minor & for medics only)
- 7th-8th August – Exeter
- 14th-15th August – Battle Abbey - Major
- 23rd-24th August - York (Major living History only) – to be confirmed.
- 28th – 30th August – Old Sarum - Major
- September – Carrog Hall (Llangollen) Date to be confirmed.
- 18th Sept – Coosham Dean – Minor.
- 9th-10th October – Battle Abbey – Major
- 25th-31st October – West Stow.

2005

- 13th-14th August – Stonelea EH Major (Battle of Stamford Bridge)
- 1st-2nd October – Hounslow – Major
- 15th-16th October – Very Major Hastings.

In addition to these we may get some other shows linked to Hastings, eg to represent Tostig's raids on the south and east coast.

Two hit rule in Combat

This is to continue and will be explained at the training weekend and some shows. Do not go down in the shield wall – step back and then go down as this is safer, especially if there are archers about.

Show date line

The Salisbury show will be the 9th C battle of Wilton. This still leaves us with three 11th C, two 12th C and one 13th C shows this year. Without them we would have been short of major shows so although many members do not like late period shows we cannot afford to be fussy. In terms of authenticity we have problems as much of our kit is barely adequate for Hastings. Some items have far more impact on appearance than do others. Shield shape is one of the major factors and we are encouraged to have kite shields for the later shows. Oseberg tents should not be taken to late shows – many of these tents can be pitched with an alternative frame consisting of two uprights and a ridge pole. While this is a compromise it is easier to transport and does not look as out of place as the Viking frame.

Offensive Weapons

When transporting weapons keep them at the bottom of the load so that they are not only out of sight but cannot be considered to be readily to hand. Try to ensure that they are secure at all times – e.g. lock in car at night and do not leave in unlocked trailers or on roof racks.

Communication at shows

In situations where society officers are not staying on site they should ensure that the stewards know where they are and at what time to expect them to appear on site.

Gordon Monks will not be able to attend the Amble show and has asked for volunteers to do stewarding at that show.

Yours Sincerely



(Robert Wilkinson)
Provincial member's coordinator.