

STATEMENT BY THE KONUNGR.

Thank you all for coming to this meeting at the beginning of what promises to be yet another highly successful year for the society.

First of all I would like to thank all the Jarls and Officers in the Society for all their hard work last year. Those who are leaving our ranks will be missed, and I wish success for those who are moving on to pastures new.

There is a possibility that we shall be having some form of input in the Jorvik festival next year leading to the society being involved in the whole event the following year. As soon as more information is available I will let you know.

Technology is taking a far greater part in the communications of our society. I think that it is important that we do not lose sight of our ability to speak to one another. Although as Konungr I feel obliged to read all the emails I receive I sometimes feel that one simple phone call would stop a misunderstood situation getting out of hand. This is one reason why this meeting is so important.

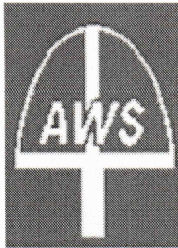
During the winter I have taken the opportunity to study the society survey to try and identify possible areas that need addressing. Every society contains a few disenchanted members who voice negative opinions, and a few who never leave the house but pay their subscriptions every year. We are no different and have both sorts of members. What we do have that is different from a lot of our competitors is a stable society with a majority of satisfied members. I hope that this will continue for a long time to come.

Finally, it is important that we keep up our recruitment campaigns at group level. This is where the new blood of the Society comes from. Your local friends and their friends usually produce good steady members rather than an advert which attracts strangers.

If new Jarls, new Group Leaders and new Society Thegns need to contact me, could you please telephone between 9.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. from Monday to Thursday - it would be most appreciated. Our answer/fax machine will automatically cut in after fifteen rings if we are not in.

Please take time to read all the information in the documents that you have been given today.

Tony Sayer - Konungr of the VIKINGS.



Action Warrior Solutions

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st January 2003

	£	£	£
Income			
HSBC Advert	88.00		
Thomas a Becket	440.00		
Ivarr the Boneless	2012.00		
Battle Abbey	600.00		
The Viking Experience – use of insurance (Blue Peter)	90.00		
Total	3230.00		
Expenditure			
HSBC Advert		80.00	
Thomas a Becket		400.00	
Ivarr the Boneless		1644.99	
Total		2124.99	
Excess of income over expenditure			1105.01
Current Account			
Balance in bank 1 st February 2003			0.00
Income			3230.00
Interest on current account			0.18
Expenditure			2127.99
Transfer to The Vikings			1000.00
Balance in bank 1 st February 2004			105.19

ACTION WARRIOR SOLUTIONS - REPORT

AS AT 15th MARCH 2004

We have received 64 enquiries since 17th December 2002, these have been many and varied, and a number were for people who expected us to work for free, so nothing new there then.

The results of these enquiries so far:-

Sixteen jobs done including filming, providing people for students to photograph/video, providing photographs for books etc, a couple of radio appearances, and pointing someone in the right direction for a video by Antonio Carlucci! The Ivarr the Boneless shoot involved 30 people at the Training Weekend for about an hour, with a further 12 receiving 2 days paid work at West Stow and was shown by Channel 4 on 12th June 2004, whilst **"1066, The Battles of York, Stamford Bridge and Hastings,"** has now been published by Pen and Sword Publishing with a full page advertisement for The Vikings appearing at the back.

There is currently one job to be outstanding which is to be done on 7th April by 20 people travelling around London on a bus with some Vikings from Iceland and Denmark. Expenses only on this one, but the people who applied will be getting a return flight from Iceland.

There are still eleven jobs pending, a couple of which are for photographs to use in books etc.

Despite our best efforts last year we didn't get the cookery show, even though I did send off details of three people who would have been interested.

One enquiry which came in through a group website didn't get any replies from the company, but Draum Broedr is to be commended for following proper procedure and forwarding the enquiry to AWS first. Since it was a local event requiring very few people they were then asked to deal with it themselves however at least we knew only one group was bidding for the work..

As you know all events are advertised on the Vmail, and interestingly although for a couple of the enquiries I personally came in for a lot of stick about our selection criteria, it is notable that the people who complained never put in for any work. To date, almost everyone who has asked to partake in an event has been accommodated. AWS will only directly approach individuals if we are asked for a particular physical type or skill set that only a known few could fulfil, otherwise all shoots will be advertised as widely as possible (including in the Runestaff, if time allows) to give everyone a chance to apply. Similarly, criticism has been made about our choices of job to accept – we will bid for any work which we deem will not reflect the Society in an adverse

light, and we are willing to forward requests for individuals to appear on "Life-Style" programmes, although always accompanied by a health warning, in that we will have no control over how the individual, or their choice of hobby, will be portrayed in the final programme.

Prepared 15.3.04 by Sandie Gillbanks – AWS secretary on behalf of the Committee.

* My error here, it was more the content of the programmes than the selection choice, ie the Teen filming, and the other freebie. Sandie



Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st January 2004

	£	£	£
Income			
Shows	17,849.00		
Memberships	10,278.58		
Sundries	1,106.75		
Total	29,234.33		
Expenditure			
Show Expenses		(13,218.73)	
Administration		(11,785.40)	
Capital Purchases		(1,061.26)	
Props Grant		(300.00)	
Publicity		(788.46)	
Sundries		(907.82)	
Total		(28,262.67)	
Excess of expenditure over income			(1172.66)
Current Account			
Balance in bank 1 st February 2003		2,248.49	
Income		29,435.33	
Interest on current account		3.87	
Transfer in from AWS account		1,000.00	
Expenditure		(28,262.67)	
Transfer to deposit account		(494.00)	
Balance in bank 31 st January 2004		3,931.02	
Deposit Account			
Balance in bank 1 st February 2003		8,953.65	
Transferred from current account		494.00	
Interest		5.27	
Balance in bank 31 st January 2004		9452.92	

Treasurer

Secretary

Konungr

Income**Memberships****10,278.58****Sundries**

Refund of banquet loan	590.00
Walesby accomodation	175.00
Radio sales	341.75

Total**1,106.75****Expenditure****Admin**

Awards	(146.20)
Communications	(421.21)
Company Registration	(15.00)
Jarls Meeting	(140.54)
Schools visits meeting	(50.00)
Data Protection registration	(35.00)
Training weekends	(1033.50)
Play weekend	(700.00)
Insurance	(6008.18)
Runestaff production and distribution	(1,500.00)
Stationary	(1,189.31)
Postage/Phone/Photocopying	(546.46)

Total**(11,785.40)****Capital Purchases**

Radios	(1,061.26)
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Total**(1,061.26)****Publicity**

Photography	(245.00)
Web Pages	(283.22)
Display materials	(260.24)

Total**(788.46)****Sundries**

Donation – Gerry East	(150.00)
Misc.	(32.82)

Total**(182.82)**

Shows

Carlisle	1920.00	
Expenses		
Transport and travel	(909.00)	
Profit		1011.00
Melton Mowbray	1550.00	
Expenses		
Transport and travel	(412.00)	
Turf and Sand	(25.00)	
Total	(437.00)	
Profit		1113.00
Amble	3000.00	
Expenses		
Transport and travel	(2398.00)	
Profit		602.00
Colchester	1200.00	
Expenses		
Transport and travel	(865.00)	
Profit		335.00
Old Sarum	1920.00	
Expenses		
Transport and travel	(1463.17)	
Profit		456.83
Largs	5700.00	
Expenses		
Camp site	(3587.00)	
Finders fee	(250.00)	
	(500.00)	
Total	(4337.00)	
Profit		1363.00

Hastings 2003	1950.00	
Expenses	(2386.20)	
Profit		(436.20)
Outstanding claims 2001/2002		(176.59)
Medium shows	609.00	
Expenses – Toilets, Beaumaris	(246.77)	
Profit		362.23
Total profit on Shows		4,630.27

Althing - Old Sarum - August 2003

Paul Murphy - the change of rules was tried out on the battle field today.

Who liked it? - several

Who doesn't mind? - a few

Who didn't like it? - none

Does an arrow in the chest count as a kill?

Paul - take it and ham it up. It's unlikely that you'll get a follow up shot.

Tablet - we don't want to shoot people on the ground. Others around will have other weapons to finish off.

If you're close enough, negotiate.

Georgia - are there any more English Heritage shows next year?

Roger - EH will assess the situation this year. They'll get feedback from the public. It isn't working for us.

Bryan - is Old Sarum not run by the Special Events Unit?

Roger - there is no Special Events Unit now, it is locally organised.

Tablet - I appreciate all Sandra's efforts re the insurance.

Sandra - not all the points are clear yet. The Kiddi Vike is OK now. The Cavalry is still not on. Em is looking into it. Griz's (?) boat is his responsibility. If it's not part of the battle - OK.

Dave Hall - what about foundry work?

Sandra - this mostly happens at Stow and the place has been named.

Caroline - what's the cost of membership next year?

Sandra - adult membership is up £5, children's membership remains the same.

All shows **must** be registered in writing with Sandra and Roger.

Ian Muirhead will put a form on the website or write to me.

10% of **all** shows go to the Vike.

We are looking at ways of getting premiums down.

Last year our public liability insurance was £700, now it's £7,000!

We're OK for the next 12 months. We'll put a cap on minibus hire from 1.9.03

We need to look for other ways of making money - the lottery, etc. Think of projects. Who has successfully applied for grants or has a project in mind? Please stay behind and talk to me about it.

Ian Grant - we're hard pushed to pay out for Medium and Minor show.

Sandra - you **can't** do shows without insurance.

Russell - Stow has agreed to find the extra 10% - can you do that?

Pete James - what if other societies want to come under our umbrella? And what about NAREs?

Paul Murphy - NAREs said if one society screwed up, the others would all lose out.

Sandra - we may pick up extra members as small societies fold.

Tablet - for smaller shows we could ask the organiser to sort out the insurance, then the client will be aware of the difference between that and 10%.

Geng - I'm willing to do film work for nothing and give the proceeds to the society.

Chris Abrams - can we cut out the payouts?

Sandra - I'm more than happy not to pay your expenses!

Terry Chadwick - are other societies putting up their prices?

Roger - yes - £400 for a minor, at least.

Caroline - can we gift aid the membership?

Sandra - I'll look into this - the membership thing was closed by the government.

Steve Lines - what is a practical time for notification of shows?

Sandra - we need as much notice as possible and at the provisional and confirmed stages.

Camie - when did the subs go up before?

Sandra - 7 years ago.

Bob - 650 Runestaffs cost £320-£325 plus £150 postage.

Chris Lines - can we put it on pdf? - No.

Neil Shepherd - can we look at family membership again? - No.

Steve Lines - can we reduce the space used in the Runestaff by only printing the 'phone numbers once a year?

Bob - no - information changes regularly.

Sandie - I frequently lose the Runestaff!

Bryan - some trimming could occur.

Bob - the more information people send, the more people will want to go to shows.

Terry Chadwick - just print the changes? - No.

Bob - shall I reduce the font?!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Caroline - can we elect to receive it electronically? - No.

Bob - we'll look into it.

Steve Richards - keep the Runestaff as it is.

Rumble (Ian Pearson) - we only need one copy per household.

Bob - others don't. We'll look into giving people the option.

Tablet - different options don't save money.

Terry Chadwick - a lot of us have email. We need to make a tough decision to save money.

Neil Shepherd - if everyone goes to shows to collect them, it will save money.

Ian Muirhead - how much is spent on the Runestaff annually?

Sandra - £2,500.00

Bob - Most of the information from the Runestaff is on the website. Who would like the Runestaffs sent electronically? Pdf format without names and numbers. Take it to the Jarls' Meeting.

In favour 30% of those present

Against 20% of those present

Abstentions 10% of those present

Bob - take it to your members.

Tablet - anyone could scan in the Runestaff and send it on themselves.

Sean Stacey - has anyone caught a virus off the Runestaff?!!!!

Tich - 2mm sword edge to a 0.7mm sword edge!! Let's change the subject.

Announcements, presentations and raffle

Steve Lines - from now every village fire must have a fire blanket. It costs about £20 per blanket and they are re-usable. We will start checking from next season.

Tablet - I'll run classes on how to use a fire extinguisher - a fire blanket isn't enough for a burning tent.

Paul Bradley - it's in the rules already that we have to have a bucket of water.

Steve Lines - this will go to the LHE meeting after the Althing.

Bryan - the beer tent by the car park is open from 8pm.

The following awards were made :-

Dreng - Maurice Walker, Simon Longland and Paul Bradley

Five Year Award - Emmeline Downing

Silver Hersir - Ian Grant and Robert Clegg

Silver Jarl - Robert Wilkinson

The raffle numbers drawn were :-

1, 494, 499, 341, 347, 95, 222, 349, 169, 246, 413, 205, 303, 373, 184, 342, 447 and 228

Jarls' Meeting - Walesby 5 April 2003Present :-

Tony, Charlotte, Bob, Roger, Sandra, Russell, Frania, Cathy Murphy, Jim, Sandie, Bryan, Tamsin, Stuart Tyler, Mark Holden, Paul Windett, Cordon, Chris Abrams, Blue Beneke, Steve Lines, Ros Sheard, John Sheard, Tony Thorpe, Ian Muirhead, Duncan Morris-Metcalf, Pete James, Paul Allen, Terry Warren, Robert Wilkinson, Ian Whitehouse, Ian Grant, Steve Richards, Neil Shepherd, Kevin Orchard, Pete Carss, Gavin Long, Josie Brown, Warwick Kinrade, Duncan Richardson, Camie, Mick Sprason, Mike Haywood, Ian Judd.

1. Apologies :-

Lisanne, Gareth, Paul Lydiate, Jon Finch, Nigel Tate, Kendal Kinrade, Richie Angove, Trix Randerson, Rachel Lowerson.

2. Matters arising

See Amendments of last minutes. Paul Murphy proposed and Sandie seconded that 'The combat rules and the health and safety rules should be removed from the constitution.' This was voted on :-

For the removal 31 Against the removal 0 Abstentions 0

Sandie - the fun weekend is really good.

Bryan - it's difficult to find indoor venues.

John Sheard - 21 June - hire a marquee (£620-£650) and a caterer - everybody bring booze. We could have a sit down get together.

Neil - what's the cost?

Ros - about £15.

Tony - volunteers are still needed for the Winter banquet and Jarls' Meeting.

Trading isn't Trix any more - the High Council deal with this.

Tamsin - how many members are there now? 671

Cathy - Sandra's notes about claiming in the Runestaff were very helpful.

Sandra - the register goes to the Living History every show.

Frانيا - I only need the number of combatants, it is not the society register.

Steve Lines - only Drengs and above can vote at althings.

Camie - I've been approached to see if the Vike are still interested in the Rochdale Project. We're just waiting. What plans do we have?

Tony - Paul Lydiate has all the details.

3. Financial Information - see other sheet.

There will be a separate set of accounts for filming next year. We are a charity and not meant to make money.

Pete Carss proposed to accept the accounts.

Kevin Orchard seconded it.

4. Dates

21.6.03	Chorley Ydalir Minor
27/28.6.03	Wellington, Somerset Medium
2/3.8.03	Exeter is confirmed Medium
21.6.03	Fun Weekend
6/7.9.03	Largs, 9 days 30.8.03 - 7.9.03
28.6.03	Wakefield - school festival Minor
17/18.5.03	Tolkein Weekend, South Birmingham (camp from Friday night)
6.7.03	Maidenhead Minor
13.9.03	Marlow, West London Minor
2/3.8.03	Avencroft, Bromsgrove Minor
21.6.03	Whittlesey Minor
20/21.4.03	Beaumaris - see Runestaff
25/26.7.03	Viking Festival - islands in The Baltic, fly from Stockholm.

5. The Questionnaire - see summary in The Runestaff

Paul and Cathy Murphy spoke briefly about this.

Steve Richards - we need quiet and noisy areas on the campsite.

Tony - the High Council needs to study this and comment and decide what to address first.

Sandie - we are now in Kay & Co because of someone's suggestion - thanks for that.

John Sheard - can we have a telephone tree for filming purposes?

Tony - are there any group leaders without email? Only Duncan Richardson and Steve Richards. Discuss this situation with your groups.

6. Websites

The changes to our site are ongoing.

7. The Society Logo

It can be used as a small logo on a letter head with the main group logo in the middle.

8. AOB

a. Fostri and Svein (Frانيا and Roger) - training only, it will take place.

b. Special Events (Roger) - see other sheets.

Kevin - contact other re-enactors in your area - what contacts do they have?

Robert - promo video? - that's in hand.

Roger - I need volunteers for regional co-ordinators - email Roger.

The regions will be :-

London and the South East; West Counties; The Midlands and the North West; The North East; East Anglia; Wales; Scotland.

Josie - the acting test is being re-written - scripting and directing tests.

Tony - the meeting is now at a close. Many thanks to Kathy Hall for the lovely meal.

The Vikings

Adult Membership Form

Surname _____ Forename(s) _____

Date of Birth _____ Profession _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Telephone No. (0 _____) _____ e-mail _____

Are you applying to join a group or as a provincial member? If you intend to join a group, fill in the groups name below and obtain the group leaders signature accepting you as a provisional member. If you wish to join as a Provincial member, write down Provincial.

Group Name _____

I agree to accept this application as a provisional member of the group with the rank of Thrall.

Group Leaders Signature _____ Date _____

I agree to abide by the rules outlined overleaf and detailed in the Rules & Regulations of **The Vikings**.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

Return To: Sandra Orchard, 2 Stanford Rd, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5DS with the sum of **£20.00** Provincial and Ledang members, **£17.50** Herred members (cheques made payable to **The Vikings**).

Membership of *The Vikings*

- a. A member of *The Vikings* is any person who has paid his/her annual subscription to the Society for the current year and who has been granted a membership card. Only those whose dues are fully paid are entitled to the privileges of membership. *The Vikings* reserves the right to refuse membership, without explanation. *The Vikings* has the right to withdraw membership from any individual or group should it consider this action to be in the best interests of *The Vikings*. All membership applications must be submitted to the Membership Thegn and will not be effective until the date of issue of a membership card.
- b. Membership expires on the 31st December of each year. Members must have paid their renewal fees before attending any function in the following year. Late renewals will incur a penalty fee unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- c. The minimum age for adult membership is 18 years. Only adult members may be combatant members of *The Vikings*. Junior membership is available, with parental consent. Only members of *The Vikings* may take part in events.
- d. The member agrees to be bound by the rules of *The Vikings* made now or in the future and by the terms of any contract entered into by *The Vikings* on his/her behalf.
- e. *The Vikings* is not liable for any injury, loss or damage incurred by a member arising from any of the activities organised by *The Vikings*.
- f. *The Vikings* is not liable for any injury, loss or damage inflicted by a member on a member of the public during any event, if that member was acting in contravention of the rules *The Vikings*.
- g. The member agrees not to organise musters, shows or commit *The Vikings* to any undertaking without the approval of the Konungr.
- h. Any member appearing in a public display must be suitably dressed and equipped. The member agrees to dress and equip himself/herself in accordance with the Authenticity guidelines laid down by *The Vikings* and to accept the authority of the Authenticity Thegn in judging the standard of this equipment. The member should never combine 20th century apparel with period costume when on a showground or representing *The Vikings* in any way.
- i. All members are expected to comply with safety guidelines, whether laid down *The Vikings* or event organisers. All members are expected to be conversant with safety rules - ignorance is not accepted as an excuse.
- j. All members are expected to obey orders given to them by an Officer of *The Vikings*. Grievances must be aired afterwards, **in private**.
- k. Members are at all times responsible for the welfare and behaviour of any children or animals in their care.
- l. The member agrees to assign to *The Vikings* the copyright of any photographic, film or written material which the member either produces or appears in, on behalf of *The Vikings*. The member retains no rights over the subsequent use of the material by *The Vikings* for advertising or promotional purposes.