

Beyond The Pale

April 2026



- **SPRING CROWN TOURNAMENT RULES**
- **MEET THE NEW BARON AND BARONESS OF AYRETON**

Spring Crown Tournament Rules

Middle Kingdom, A.S. 61, Spring Crown Tournament

Unto the Noble People of Our Beloved Midrealm,

It is with great honor and excitement that We, Louis and Sadb, do announce Our Crown Tournament to secure worthy Heirs to the Dragon Throne.

This tournament will provide a showcase for the prowess and skill of the finest fighters in the land, as well as an opportunity for one among you to crown your consort as the Middle Kingdom's newest Heir. We extend to you this exhortation, hoping that you will take up the challenge and seek to demonstrate your abilities in the arts of combat, chivalry, and honor. This event promises to be a spectacle of great renown, and your participation would lend even greater prestige to the tournament.

Let it be known that this Crown Tournament will be by invitation only for all those who do not hold a Patent of Arms. Those holding Patents, whether Combatant or Consort, may gain invitation by simple application to the Crown. If you or your Consort do not hold a Patent of Arms, find a Peer who knows your worth and ask for a letter of recommendation to include with your letter of intent. All letters of intent must be received on or before Our Coronation.

It is Our intent to allow the best fighters to compete with their best styles. To that end, we wish those combatants to have opportunity to familiarize themselves with the following rules and limitations:

- All weapon styles legal in Society combat are allowed under the following restrictions:
- Shield sizes will be judged against these standards:
- 24" x 32" for non-round shields (heater, kite, oval, etc.)
- 28" diameter for round shields
- Variations in size or shape will be subject to the will of the Crown, but should not vary significantly from the above. There will be no allowance for "proportional" sizing.
- Single handed swords shall not exceed 42" in total length, (pommel to tip).
- Two handed weapons shall not exceed 72" in total length, (pommel to tip).
- Pole weapons must have a head formed to approximate a period example.
- No "back-up" weapons may be used in conjunction with two-handed weapon styles.
- No obviously modern sporting equipment or logos allowed to be visible upon casual inspection. This includes covering or otherwise disguising modern footwear.
- All plastic, except for basket hilts and shield bosses, must be covered with, or painted to resemble period materials.
- All clothing and equipment on the list field shall be in good repair and demonstrate appropriate respect for the Crown and the aspiration to occupy the Throne. No visible duct tape repairs at the start of the tournament.

The Method of the Tournament shall be as follows:

- Double elimination, the first tree of which will be randomly drawn, as per Kingdom Law.
- Bye fights will be non-destructive.
- All bouts prior to quarterfinals will be decided in a single pass.
- Quarterfinals and semifinals will be fought best two out of three.
- Fighters in the losers bracket of semifinals must win two sets to advance to finals.
- All bouts prior to finals will be fought with each fighter's choice of weapon style.
- Finals will be fought best three out of five bouts:

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- The first fight will be each fighter's choice of weapon style.
- The second fight will be matched weapon style, determined by the lower precedence fighter.
- The third fight will be each fighter's choice of weapon style.
- The fourth fight, if required, will be matched weapon style, determined by the higher precedence fighter.
- The fifth fight, if required, will be each fighter's choice of weapon style.
- For matched weapon styles, bucklers less than 18" in diameter are considered a separate style than weapon and shield.
- In the event that a fighter cannot answer a matched weapon style holding the appropriate authorization, the fight shall be forfeit. We encourage all combatants to have authorizations in both single and two-handed weapon styles.

Winning the Crown Tournament is a highly coveted achievement and a great opportunity. You will have the honor of placing your Consort upon the throne, where you will have the ability to inspire and make a lasting impact on the Kingdom and its populace. Serving as Crown also affords opportunities to have new experiences, reward people's efforts, forge new friendships, learn more about the Kingdom and Society, and share the Dream in a unique way.

This tournament is a celebration of the best that the Society has to offer, with competitors showcasing their skills in the arts of combat and chivalry. We urge you to consider this invitation, and hope to see you on the field of battle, striving for honor, glory and the Crown.

A letter of intent should be sent to trh@midrealm.org and copied to seneschal@midrealm.org. The letter of intent should NOT include photos of personal information. Instead, that information (SCA membership cards and drivers licenses), must be submitted using the following google form:

<https://forms.gle/NC83yQVTFveKE67a6>

Recommendations from Peers for Crown Tournament candidates should be e-mailed to trh@midrealm.org

Their Royal Highnesses,

Louis and Sadb

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The investiture of Baron Cerian and Baroness Gwynneth at RUM in October 2025. Photo by Lord Cyrus Rhaedestos.

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All About Ayreton

By Baronesse Claricia de la Mere

Every canton, shire, and barony in the Middle Kingdom develops its own rhythm and character and while the Barony of Ayreton is one of the Midrealm's newer baronies, it has quickly become a vibrant gathering place for creativity, scholarship, and community.

Ayreton encompasses the greater Chicago area and is part of the Midlands (Illinois) region of the Kingdom. Like many SCA baronies, it serves as a hub for a wide range of activities - from martial practice and archery to music, brewing, cooking, and the many pursuits of the arts and sciences. The barony is also home to a variety of guilds and activity groups that reflect the diverse interests of its populace.

The Barony itself was established in 2010, formed by bringing together several long-standing local groups into a single community. These groups were: Foxvale, Grey Gargoyles, Rokkehealden, Tree-Girt-Sea, and Vanished Wood. These groups all became cantons within the new Ayreton (Grey Gargoyles is no longer an active group).

At RUM in October last year, Ayreton welcomed its third set of Coronets: Cerian Cantwyr and Gwynneth verch Ieuan. They took over from Gareth Ostwestly and Hillary of Langforde. The first Baron and Baroness of Ayreton were Henry of Exeter and Nadezda ze Zastrizl.

To learn more about the people who help guide this lively community, we spoke with Their Excellencies of Ayreton. In the following interviews, the Baron and Baroness share their perspectives on the barony, its people, and who they are in the SCA.

Before stepping up, Baron Cerian had been elevated to both the Order of the Laurel and the Order of the Pelican. He has a special interest in the bardic arts.

Baroness Master Gwynneth is a member of the Order of Defense, as well as many other awards at the baronial and Kingdom levels. She focuses on mental health in the SCA, especially for female fencers.



The newly invested Baron Cerian and Baroness Gwynneth alongside Baroness Meadhbh Ballach ingen Eochada, and next to her are Baron Gareth Ostwestly and Hillary of Langforde, the previous Baron and Baroness of Ayreton.

Six Questions with a Coronet

Master Cerian Cantwyr, Baron of Ayreton

SCA Name and Title: Baron Cerian Cantwyr

Modern Name: Charles Grab

Pronouns: he/him

1) How did you find the SCA?

I was visiting my parents - probably to eat dinner, do laundry, or both. My sister was on break from college. She and a friend were planning to go to something on campus. The friend had to back out at the last minute. My sister wanted to go, but not by herself. That's when my mother gave me The Look. I suspect most of you know The Look. It said, you're going to be a nice big brother and take your sister to this thing, aren't you?

It turned out to be the local SCA meeting. Clearly we knew nothing about it, because we got there on time. The room was empty. Thankfully, right before we left, people began to arrive. I've been here ever since.

2) Why did you put your name in for consideration to be the next Coronet of Ayreton?

I started on this journey because Hillary [the previous Baroness of Ayreton] is my squire sister and she asked me to. Family can do things like that. I spent the summer talking to friends who were current or former landeds, trying to figure out if this was something I thought I could do. In the end, I thought I could and that it would be a good way to give back to the people of Ayreton.

3) Tell us about Ayreton - what do you love about your Barony?

Ayreton rocks! We are a wide ranging group of folk who do an incredible variety of different things.

4) What are your 2 favorite things to do in the SCA?

Performing and instigating shenanigans.

5) What's an SCA activity you'd like to try, but haven't yet?

You mean I have to pick just one?

6) What is the best feast dish or period food you've ever eaten?

Líadan Liathán cooked her dream Irish feast for a Simple Day several years ago. There was a smoked pork dish to die for.

As a runner up, Tree-Girt-Sea once did an all illusion feast. Everything looked like something it wasn't. The appetizers looked like desserts, and the desserts looked like appetizers. It was a ginourmous undertaking - which may be why, as far as I know, no one else has ever attempted anything like it.



Baron Cerian. Photo by Sir Ixtlixochitl (Bo Ring).

Six Questions with a Coronet

Master Gwynneth verch Ieuan, Baroness of Ayreton

SCA Name and Title: Baroness Master Gwynneth verch Ieuan

Modern Name: Kari Holman

Pronouns: she/her

1) How did you find the SCA?

The summer before college a friend took me to the local Ren Faire for the first time. I'd said "I wish there was something like this I could do year round." I was so surprised to learn there was a chapter in the tiny college town I was moving to. I found the Shire of Dernehealde at the college student involvement fair and they took me under their collective wing to give me a wonderful welcome into the SCA.

2) Why did you put your name in for consideration to be the next Coronet of Ayreton?

For two reasons. First, because I want to be my predecessor, Baroness Hillary of Langforde, when I grow up. Her enthusiasm for the barony and everyone in it guided our barony for ten years. Second, because the people of Ayreton are some of the best in the kingdom. The support and camaraderie here are something special. I wanted to do my best to nurture that and keep it strong.

3) Tell us about Ayreton - what do you love about your Barony?

The people, the people, the people! We are lucky to be located in and around a large city, but while that may give us a larger pool of new potential participants, it doesn't make them stay. The populace of Ayreton themselves are what make people stay. I have so many stories of folks going above and beyond for each other and in our modern world it's so unusual but here it's just how we do.

4) What are your 2 favorite things to do in the SCA?

Fencing and shenanigans! In all honesty, I love bringing people together and watching them do the things they do. Fun bits of mischief, of course, included.

5) What's an SCA activity you'd like to try, but haven't yet?

I hope someday I can fit archery into my schedule.

6) What is the best feast dish or period food you've ever eaten?

I once had the most incredible cold meat pie. I didn't think cold food could taste that savory.



Baroness Master Gwynneth. Photo by Lord Cyrus Rhadestos.