

Barony of Wyewood

Baronial Meet and Greet

Notes from June 14, 2019

Moderated by HL Gera Gangolffin, MKA Jeri Sisco

Recorded by Lady Gwir verch Merewith, MKA Kris John

Candidates Presented

Numbered to match letters of intent and resumes at <http://www.wyewood.org/wp/baronial-polling/>

Candidate Pair 1	Candidate Pair 2	Candidate Pair 3
Master Martyn Baxter <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA Brandon Scheltema Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA Denise GarlingtonFacebook: Denise Alessandra Garlington	HL Alarich von Thorn <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA Peter Von Groote IV Magistra Aline Swynbroke <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA Rebecca Williams Von Groote	Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA Arthur Giboney HL Aurora Rose Prindel <ul style="list-style-type: none">MKA MKA Whitney Giboney

Format

HL Gera opened the discussion and described the format to be followed. Individuals introduced themselves and were presented with a number of questions that they had been given previously. For the last 20 minutes, the populace was given time to ask questions. The session closed with candidates offering closing remarks.

How long have you been in the SCA? Describe your participation on a Local, Regional, Principality/ Kingdom, and inter-Kingdom level.

Candidate 2:

Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Laurel
- Has been active in the SCA since high school
- Experience in An Tir, Middle Kingdom, Calontir, Ansteorra
- Served as branch Chatelaine in multiple kingdoms, as well as branch Herald
- Served Society on the SCA legal committee

Lord Alarich von Thorne

- Wyewood Herald
- Has been active in the SCA in high school
- Experience in An Tir, Middle Kingdom, Calontir, Ansteorra

- Served as kingdom and branch Seneschal, branch Herald, branch Knight Marshal, and other regional offices on occasion.
- Moved to Wyewood for employment and found it to be a good home.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro

- Current Baroness of Wyewood
- On vigil for Order of the Pelican
- Has played for 24 Years
- Served as Kingdom Lists Minister for many years. Currently serves as Crier Listings Editor and works with the Kingdom Website and has for 8 years.

Master Martyn Baxter

- Master of Defence
- Has played for 30 years
- Experience in An Tir, Middle Kingdom, Calontir, and Drachenwald
- Served as Seneschal of Wyewood (current), baronial and regional Rapier Marshal offices, kingdom Deputy Rapier Marshal.

Candidate 3

HL Aurora Rose Prindel

- Has been playing for 11 years
- Focus is on Arts and Sciences and she started with Archery
- Concentrates on Largesesse and kingdom service
- Currently serves as Wyewood YAFA coordinator.

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow

- Has been playing for 11-12 years
- Experience in Wyewood and An Tir, occasionally plays in Spokane/Wealdsmere
- Currently serves as Royal Archer for the Kingdom, was also regional Archery Marshal for 6 years.

What experience do you have outside of the SCA that might assist you in serving as baronial coronets?

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro

- Administrative Assistant and Secretary for many years which gives her experience at being highly organized.

Master Martyn Baxter

- Customer Service for full career which has taught him well how to approach and talk to people. He is very experienced with greeting others. Currently works in logistics meaning he has to approach others often.

Candidate 3

HL Aurora Rose Prindel

- “CEO of the Gibbons household” which means being organized
- Previously worked in Customer Service, developing skills to work well with people.

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow

- Certified Welding Inspector which means he must communicate well and receive feedback. He also has experience with problem solving through this profession.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne

- Long background in Customer Relationships, specifically helpdesk work. He is skilled at working with unhappy customers to turn things around.
- Has also worked in management where he has organized events and people, handled funding, and troubleshooting. Many of these jobs have meant working also worked under pressure in high security situations.

Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Worked in restaurants and retail for many years while putting herself through undergraduate and law school.
- Now works in higher education, her students refer to her as an “Academic Concierge”. She helps students navigate school and problem solve
- Previously was a program manager in higher education which included experience in human resources, budgeting, and problem solving. This taught her that even if something is not your job it is your job.

Will your modern life permit you to attend Baronial events, meetings, and socials on a regular basis? What about Kingdom events?

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- They already go to most Kingdom events unless it’s logistically unfeasible
- Baronial events are accessible because they live in the area and have a schedule that works for weekend obligations.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- They already attend all Kingdom events possible, and usually together.

- Alessandra currently spends most weekends doing events and does not see that changing.
- Martyn pointed out that they try to carpool as well.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- They attend Baronial meetings regularly and have been attending Kingdom events.
- They will prioritize all Wyewood events and regular meetings.

What are the three most important current challenges our Barony faces?

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Lack of full participation (thanked people for attending tonight) is a concern. Would like to address this by reaching out to inactive members in the Barony and recruiting more. One strategy that would help with this is developing a keystone event (i.e. June Faire, Ursulmas)
- There is also a need to increase awareness of Wyewood Kingdom-wide. Currently the Barony is doing a great job but can improve.
- Developing more financial security through a keystone event would be beneficial as well.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Martyn sees a need for more leadership and participation in offices to avoid volunteer burnout. This includes getting Event Stewards to step up and members committing to volunteering at Events ahead of time. We need to see new faces and recruit more, including demos.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Arthur acknowledged they are on the same page about the need to get more recognition Kingdom-wide and to develop event we are known for.
- They also agree financial security is a priority.
- Getting more local Barony members to participate is needed as well.

Describe your goals and plans for the Barony (couples may respond together).

What sort of plans/projects do you intend to implement during your tenure?

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- They have been discussing encouraging a keystone event and more participation.
- They also are considering the possibility of expanding the award system.
- Martyn also mentioned creating a more cohesive regalia for Champions, using fundraising proceeds.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- They also support an increased demo presence and creation of a keystone event.
- They want Wyewood to be more visible. This would include having items the populace can wear to signify their membership in Wyewood. It would also include having more heraldry at events and making sure that Wyewood is seen.
- Aurora would really like to boost the youth activities through recruiting.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- They agreed with the previous answers and the need to increase pageantry. They'd specifically like to see an increase in populace banners in addition to the Baronial presence. Specifically, they would like to encourage people to develop personal heraldry.
- They would like to develop a keystone event with feedback from the populace to develop a vision.
- Increasing exposure to regular practices through better promotion like partnering with a local games shop, increasing awareness of our non-profit status.
- Alarich also emphasized the need to increase our education outreach in the community.

Building membership is an important topic SCA-wide. What would you do to encourage and support the recruitment and retention of a newcomer base and the preservation of our invested membership?

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Reinforced what they mentioned in the previous question and added that a regular gathering like Wyewood in the Park would increase visibility and bring in people - doing something unusual in a public space as a venue for educational outreach and encouraging people to interact.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Martyn mentioned that he talks about the SCA and public events in everyday life whenever he's with customers and emphasized the importance of personal sharing.
- Alessandra spoke to the need for the key event and expanding more on activities we are currently doing.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Demos, demos, demos – if people see us having fun, they will want to see if they will have fun. We need to find more ways to be visible.

- Aline also mentioned that she talks a lot about the SCA in her personal life.
- Aline added that there are three community colleges in Wyewood and it's important to reach out to those populations

What is your strategy for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within the barony?

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- It's important to gather more information about marginalized groups, asking questions and being open.
- It is also important to learn from mistakes – it's important to learn and not repeat errors.
- Martyn spoke to educating ourselves on how to include communities in a sensitive way, and mentioned specific experience with the deaf community. He cited the need for discussion and communication

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Aline is excited about is the change in the SCA mission statement to be more inclusive of non-Eurocentric cultures. She hopes that people will feel more seen in the SCA and more included.
- She would like to see that expand through classes we teach so they are less Eurocentric.
- Aline mentioned a Ramsgaard event in August entitled Mihko Wegwan, a cross-cultural arts and sciences event; that showcases Indigenous & pre-seventeenth methodology & techniques.
- Alarich feels we need to be open, approachable, and available. Emphasizing everyone is welcome and we are here to help everyone explore.
- Alarich mentioned that the College of Heralds is Eurocentric and will need to change to accommodate inclusivity, and the bureaucracy has to get with the program, change is uncomfortable but must be done.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- They mentioned outreach and a willingness to accommodate people with special needs and who need a different environment. Arthur shared a story of working with children in archery, specifically one girl who had physical limitations and was able to do archery and she commented, "I never thought I could do sports."
- They want to find more people who think they can't and work with them to show how they can.
- Aurora mentioned being welcoming and helping people with different concerns to make the experience more comfortable.

This job requires diplomacy, mediation skills, and a thick skin, as you will need to engage in difficult conversations and make unpopular decisions. Tell us how your experience and temperament prepare you for that challenge.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Alarich said he has no problem making hard decisions but understands people need to know why a decision was made and that one needs to be willing to explain. We also need to understand that anger over a decision is not personal. We are adults and need to be treated as adults.
- Difficult decisions have to be made, but they need to be made and communicated with honest, calm explanation.
- It is also important to make sure people have their say in decision making.
- Aline added that people are going to have feelings and it's not the Baronial job to avoid feelings. She reiterated not taking things personally and mentioned meeting people where their feelings are at.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- It's all about communication and not assuming one is right, coming at a decision with accurate information is important but being open to others' opinions is important as well.
- Arthur shared that through his involvement in Marshalling he has learned that a decision in that realm comes down to "is it safe" – what is the key issue and focus on it, not all the other bits and pieces.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Taking time in the process to step back and make sure emotions aren't affecting a decision inappropriately is important.
- Seeking feedback and sounding boards when possible.
- Sometimes people's feelings will be hurt.
- Martyn mentioned that he has learned a lot through Customer Service – stay calmed, focus, talk through it with a smile.
- He also has experience with mediation training and the need to encourage others to work out a situation with the person involved first.

What personal associations - fealty, dependent relationships, household(s), etc. do you have and what effect will they have on you being the Baronial Coronets? What effects will the Baronage have on them?

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Members of Clan Carn, as are the current coronets. There is a good relationship between Clan Carn and Wyewood
- As Royal Archer, Arthur has fealty to the crown.
- Aurora does not have any additional relationships that would affect her ability to serve.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Alessandra
 - Member of Clan Carn and noted that membership did not influence her current service as Baroness. It helps that it's a broader geographic group than Wyewood and that means it doesn't get involved.
 - Currently has a friendship with her Pelican and does not see that changing after she is elevated to Pelican in July.
 - Already in fealty to the crown.
- Martyn
 - As MOD, swears fealty to the crown.
 - Forming a household with a good friend.
 - As a Sergeant, he is loyal to Wyewood with his first duty to the Barony, then the Crown.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Alarich
 - Indicated his most important relationship is with Aline.
 - Has a teacher/student fealty agreement for mentorship in accessing resources with an out of kingdom peer.
 - Swears fealty directly to the crown.
- Aline
 - Agreed that most important relationship is their own.
 - Not part of any An Tir households.
 - No longer in fealty to Laurel, as they are peers now
 - Has an apprentice, which emphasizes a mentorship role

Because this is a distance race, not a sprint, please tell us about your support system. What is your system of mentors and caretakers?

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Martyn
 - Has his PNW family.
 - He and Alessandra rely heavily on each other for support and work on preventing burnout together. They understand burnout is a high potential and have organized a good check and balance system that is organized.
 - He plans to prioritize personal time outside of the SCA to recharge.
- Alessandra
 - Has family in the area who are very supportive as well as SCA family here and in other baronies and in Avacal.
 - Has one friend who has committed to let her know when she needs a “time out”
 - She also tries to follow advice from another Baron who said to keep one weekend a month free for yourself.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Aline
 - Have made a number of friends in Wyewood (indicated the audience) who they hope will let them know when they need to make adjustments, “You’re being a dumbass, stop!”.
 - Have people they seek out for advice here in this region and throughout the Known World.
 - They also both have interests outside of the SCA and have friends in those interests who will help them assess and prioritize.
- Alarich
 - Has no doubt whatsoever that he could turn to his predecessors and get their take.
 - He would count on the Barony to express care to the Coronets and make sure they are practicing self-care.
 - They have many people but main support staff is the people in the room.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Aurora
 - They have their household and many peer friends who have advised them and who they can depend on when needed.
 - They don’t claim to know everything and are willing to learn. They know they don’t have all the answers
- Arthur
 - He meets people and observes, then reaches out when needed for help
 - He also hopes people will pull aside to share concerns

Why do you want to do this job?

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- While they have been in Wyewood for a short time, they have found a home here.
- Because they have love for Wyewood and want to make sure crown knows it can field multiple candidates for Coronet.
- They want to see Wyewood grow and accomplish much.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Want to see Wyewood grow. They believe they can help that having seen it evolve from the beginning.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Martyn
 - It's the fifth barony he's been in and first he's loved. It has become home and a family.
 - He wants to give back in the best way possible and he wants to be part of encouraging Wyewood's success.
- Alessandra
 - Already in the job and still having fun. She is enjoying serving the barony in this role and would also enjoy serving in another role if needed.
 - She likes to give service as demonstrated in her upcoming elevation to Pelican.
 - Serving this Barony has been a joy

Populace Questions

Donatello Asino/MKA Mike Freeman – what do the potential B/B feel about Sergeantry and what are plans during tenure

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- They don't know much about Wyewood Sergeantry and would want to look into it and understand more.
- They will get feedback from the populace about what they would like and how to get current Sergeants more involved. Asked who current Sergeants in the room were.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Martyn indicated his active involvement as Emeritus Sergeant

- They have had a lot of discussions about trying to develop the Sergeantry program and creating a foundation to make it part of Wyewood’s structure.
- Alessandra has been attending other Sergeantry trials to see how they can make ours the best possible.
- Alessandra wants to encourage more people to try out and one specific change they are looking at is spreading the trials over time instead of just one day.
- They would also like to see the Sergeantry more involved with the Barony

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Alarich opened with, “I love the idea of the Sergeantry.” He is a Sergeant candidate and wants to see it grow and for the Sergeants to find their place. They have a role, and just have to figure out where it is.
- This is a new barony still and they want to see people be sergeants. It still has potential as path to peerage even if not formal because a Sergeant develops every quality needed. They want to help foster that and see it grow and go.
- Aline – one of the exciting things to her is that the Sergeantry serves the Baroness, but the Baroness should also serve the Sergeantry.
- She would encourage people to participate through offering more classes that emphasize Sergeantry knowledge, demystifying what the trials will be and growing the full population.

Tvoromir Danilov/MKA Mir Plemmons – Thumbnail sketch a time when someone you led/mentored inspired you

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Alessandra shared that when she was Kingdom Lists Minister and began teaching the mechanics, she had a few people who took instruction and made it their own, expanding on it. She’s been so happy to see how the people that followed have made improvements with the role.
- Martyn mentors a person in Ramsgaard he teaches. She is inspiring because she takes what she has learned but then just has fun. She particularly encourages having fun at events and at what you’re doing - if you’re having a blast you’re never going to get bored or tired. This has really encouraged him to teach more people.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Alarich shared that when he was a Seneschal, a young man wanted his mentorship. Alarich and his brother took this rough young man under their wings. Alarich took him as a man at arms. He gave him the Book of the Courtier for a summer trip and received a letter with “I’m so sorry.” He had been reading the book and had an epiphany about how he was affecting people. He is now one of the premier heralds at large around Ansteorra and brought Alarich back into doing mentoring.

- Aline had a young lady at a local shire, who was naturally combative. She encouraged interests that the young lady mentioned by sending articles. This woman contacted Aline after they moved to say she was entering for the Queen's Prize at an A&S event. Aline is proud to have taken from awkward to winning that A&S event.

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Arthur enjoys teaching in general. When he can teach someone archery or another skill and see their face light up, that's what he finds fun. Having people come back to him and show him how they've improved or built upon is also gratifying.
- Aurora has been really inspiring being the teacher at sewing night. It has been fun to see people come and build the skill and see their success. She loves seeing how excited they are to be getting into the game farther and is super excited to facilitate.

Antonio de Valenza/MKA Ian Mosley – Something terrible is going to happen during your term...how do you respond when things go off the rails and how do you ground yourself to deal with that?

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Aline mentioned she received some bad news at Kingdom A&S. She walked to a corner and took ten minutes to cry. Then moved forward and presented her entry to the judges, putting one foot in front of the other.
- Alarich said he tries not to make others uncomfortable with his suffering. He is good at compartmentalization. Bad things can happen

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Arthur said that dealing with when bad things happen or having a bad day is just one of those things you have to deal with and the people around you shouldn't have to. He does everything he can to not make it their problem until he can get to a place to clear his head and move forward.
- Aurora takes to minutes to have emotions, then goes back to work. She emphasized taking the time you need then moving on.

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Alessandra says it's important to take the time to resettle, then move back in, kicking into high gear and solving things with a full team, looking for answers and solutions as a group. She referenced the smoke affecting Champions and the weather situation with the Feast of St. Bubba where many people stepped in to problem solve and move the event forward.
- Martyn indicated it's important to calm yourself down and take yourself from the situation.

Closing Statement

Candidate 3

Arcos Arthur of the Greenarrow & HL Aurora Rose Prindle

- Aurora shared that they really want to continue the great lineage of the Barony and help it grow, doing all the things mentioned.
- Arthur wants to see the Barony grow. He wants to be a Barony that people outside of the Barony and maybe even outside the Kingdom have heard of.

Candidate 2

HL Alarich von Thorne & Magistra Aline Swynebrook

- Aline said they love it here and want to make it home, the best home it can be. They are going to do that whether as Baron and Baroness or not.
- Alarich wants to help Wyewood become a shining beacon of happiness...

Candidate 1

Baroness Alessandra da Montefeltro & Master Martyn Baxter

- Alessandra emphasized that Wyewood is a state of mind.
- Martyn said that Wyewood is home, and he wants to have an impact on the kingdom where people know they are welcome. He wants legacy to be an example and that while we are growing, we look mature and are something other Baronies strive to be.