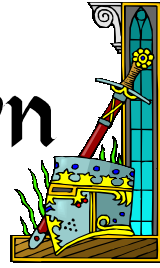


Kingdom of Lochac

Fighting for the Crown



In the Thirty-fifth year of the Society, Lochac held a tourney to decide who would be its first King and Queen. In 2003, being the Thirty-seventh year of the Society and the second year of the Kingdom, any Member who is authorised to fight may enter the lists, saving only the Sovereign and his Consort (and such individuals as may be personally unacceptable to Them). Prior to the tournament, Their Majesties usually hold a meeting with those wishing to enter the up-coming Crown List to explain exactly what is involved and what will be expected of them, (and their Consort) should they be the winner.

Twice a year, in July and November, the Crown summons all to a great tournament. Those who wish to enter are asked to sign up with the List-keeper, the Chivalry separately from the unbelted fighters. At the Invocation of the Crown Lists, the Chivalry and their consorts are called to assemble before the Thrones. The unbelted fighters and their consorts are then called to assemble in a line behind the Chivalry. The members of the Chivalry are then announced by name and then such unbelted fighters who have been chosen to stand with the Chivalry, (to be made a *knight for the day* is considered a great honour). The fighters, after making their reverence move to either side of the Throne, (depending upon which list-field they have been assigned to) the row of unbelted fighters are asked to move closer to the Throne. The King then asks the Earl Marshal to recite the rules and conditions and the Herald administers an oath binding all to the high purpose of the day. Then each unbelted fighter, as his name is called, challenges any one of the fighters in the line of Chivalry for the honour of the first round of Combat. He then steps forward, with his consort, and they are presented to Their Majesties. The tournament then starts, using two list-fields. The Lists are usually double elimination and each encounter is a single fight. . . . until the final round, which requires the victor to win two-out-of-three.

Before the final round is fought, Their Majesties enter the List-field with the Chivalry as escort, followed by the Marshals. The Knights kneel around the edge of the field. The first fighter, with consort, banner bearers and attendants, then enters the field, followed by the second fighter, with consort, banner bearers and attendants. The consorts are then entrusted to Her Majesty, whereupon, they (and the banner bearers and attendants) return to the Royal Pavilion. The Royal Consort and the two prospective consorts have unobstructed places of honour at the side of the field to view the Finals.

The Court investiture of the Crown Prince and Princess is held at a great Feast on the evening of the same day that the Crown List has been fought. The Crown Prince is crowned with a wreath of laurel leaves by the King and the Queen then hands a rose wreath to the Crown Prince, whereupon he places said wreath upon the brow of his new Crown Princess.

