

Crown Tournament Variance Granted to the East Kingdom Final Report

Introduction

On July 21, 2024, the Board of Directors granted the East Kingdom a variance to conduct a one-time Royal List by fencing/rapier combat and requested a follow-up report to judge the experiment and assist any other kingdoms that might want to try something similar. The East has collected data that indicates the response to the tournament, information on how the tournament was run, and a summary by the kingdom seneschal and other official staffs' observations of what succeeded or didn't as well as the reasoning behind those beliefs.

Paid Members in the East Kingdom

The number of paid members in the East Kingdom rose by 181 since the intention to seek a variance was announced.

January 2024 - 2807 members

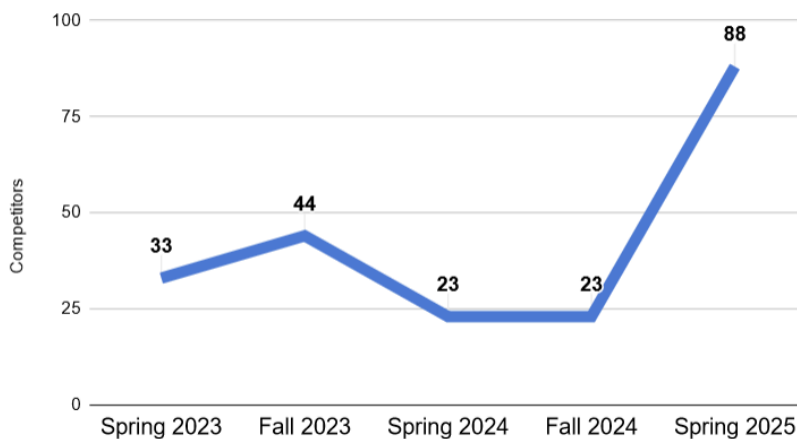
April 2025 - 2988 members

Combatants and Consorts Participating in Crown Tournament

Historic Data

This chart shows the number of combatants who were announced as intending to participate in crown tournaments since Spring 2023.

Number of Competitors in Recent Crown Tournaments



The locations of each tournament is listed below to account for the impact of geography:

Spring 2023 - Carmel Hamlet, NY

Fall 2023 - Topsfield, MA

Spring 2024 - Upper Gagetown, NB, Canada

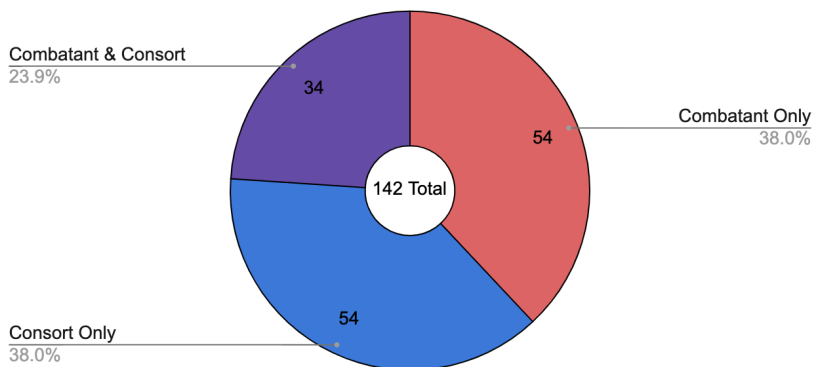
Fall 2024 - Rutland, VT

2025 - Schaghticoke, NY

Spring 2025 Combatants and Consorts

A combined 142 combatants and consorts were announced. 88 were combatants and 34 of the combatants were also consorts. This is a higher number of combined combatants/consorts than is usual for a crown tournament in the East. The breakdown is shown below:

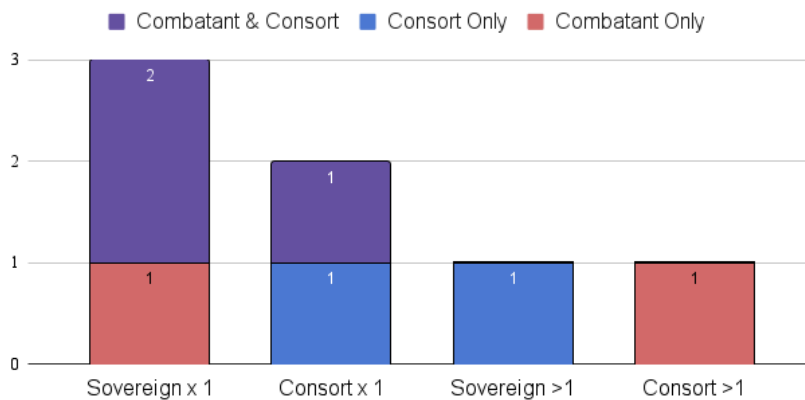
Participants Entered



Royal Peers

This chart shows the number of royal peers participating and counts only their highest rank (not every rank achieved) as indicated in the Order of Precedence. Those who won a crown tournament and reigned are called Sovereigns in the East. Those who were fought for and reigned are consorts.

Royal Peers

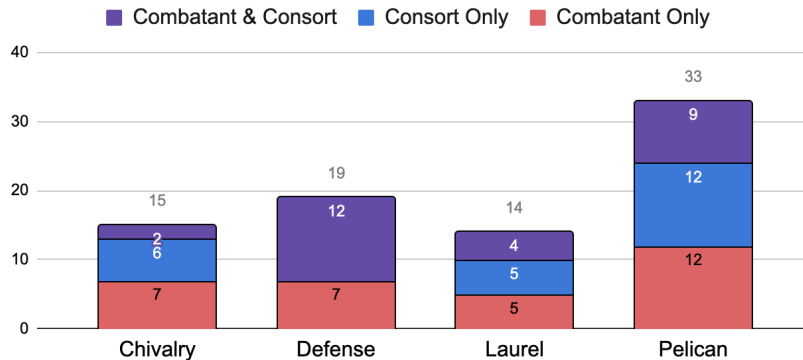


Other Patent Level Peerages

This chart shows all other patent level peerages held by participants. Although many entrants

hold multiple peerages, only one individual is a member of both the Order of Chivalry and the Order of Defense.

Peerages

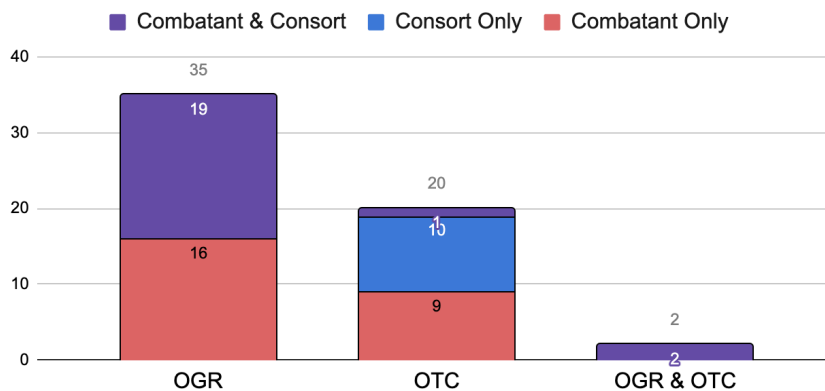


*Those with multiple peerages are counted once in each category

Grant of Arms - Armored and Rapier

This data shows the number of participants with grant level awards in armored combat and in rapier. The Order of the Tygers Combatant (OTC) is for armored combat. The Order of the Golden Rapier (OGR) is for rapier.

Rapier / Armored Grants of Arms



Day of Competitors and Attendance

Number of Actual Competitors

Historically the number of competitors who show up to participate in a crown tournament is lower than the number registered. This tournament was no different. 88 competitors were announced. 84 competitors participated in the tournament.

Attendance

The attendance at the event was unusually high for any East Kingdom event in recent or distant memory, especially given that the two nearest kingdoms were also holding their crown tournaments the same day. The estimated attendance on site is 745 adults and 58 minors,

including out-of-kingdom royalty, members of the Board of Directors, and Society officers. In addition, the tournament was live streamed with commentary. The highest number of simultaneous live streams was 562, although there is no way of knowing how many people were watching due to watching parties and household viewing.

How the Tournament Worked

The tournament made no changes to the traditional format of an East Kingdom crown tournament except for substituting rapier for armored (rattan) combat. The tournament was run as described below.

- The tournament started with round robin pools of 10-11 each from which the top 2 combatants progressed to the next stage.
- Those top sixteen combatants from the round robin pools competed in a double elimination tourney until four combatants remained.
- The top two combatants from the Winner's bracket advanced to the semifinals and competed against the top two combatants from the Wounded bracket. One combatant from the Winner's bracket and one from the Wounded bracket faced each other. The first combatant to sustain two losses cumulative (including losses from the double elimination tourney) was eliminated. In other words, the combatant from the Winner's bracket needed one win to advance and the combatant from the Wounded bracket needed two wins.
- The finals were fought between the two combatants advancing from the semi-finals. Previous losses or wins were no longer counted. The winner was the first to win four bouts, which is traditional in the East. Weapon choices were set by the monarchs, which is also traditional. The first weapon was great sword (two handed sword as defined under rapier conventions). After that, the loser of each bout picked the next weapon form. There were four bouts total with the other weapon forms being single rapier, rapier and dagger, and rigid parry (stick) and rapier.
- The official brackets for the day with the names of the competitors are in Appendix E.

Appendix A - Report of the Kingdom Seneschal

The tournament ran smoothly and without contention with an upbeat atmosphere and exceptionally large numbers of both combatants and attendees. We believe there were three major factors that made this happen.

- 1) Familiarity - The only change to the structure of the event and the tournament traditionally used for royal lists in the East was using rapier instead of rattan. The procession, shield trees, and round robin/double elimination/final round were all familiar to combatants and attendees or they could easily find someone to explain them.
- 2) Excess Volunteers - Volunteers came from all areas of the East Kingdom. The reasons varied - they wanted the East to succeed, they wanted to support the fencers, and because a rapier crown was new and exciting. If more bodies were needed to do jobs or give someone a break, they were available.

- 3) Broad Support - The East Kingdom has worked hard to build respect and crossover between all its communities, including the armored and rapier communities. As shown in the data above, the East's armored community showed up as competitors and as consorts. There was also representation in the lists and the volunteers from Easterners known for their excellence in archery, thrown weapons, equestrian activities, and arts and sciences activities.

The areas in which the largest challenges could have happened were running the lists, the size of the attendance, and the live stream. Reports from the Kingdom Rapier marshal, Mistress of Lists, Head of Preregistration and Check-In, and the Webministry are attached. They didn't identify any problems related to the change to rapier.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for giving the East Kingdom the opportunity to run this experiment. The opportunity to try something new energized the East Kingdom, resulting in a surge of interest, volunteerism, and joy for many people. I expect that the East will be approaching the Board in the future to discuss next steps so we can continue to build upon this success.

If you have more questions, please reach out to Sean Veale (Kurfurst Matthias Grunewald) at altcrowndeputy@eastkingdom.org. We will be happy to supply any additional details you need as you consider the execution and impact of the variance you granted.

Thomas of Effingham
East Kingdom Seneschal

Appendix B - Report of the Kingdom Rapier Marshal

All in all I would say it was a very successful day.

There are things I would do differently if I ever had to do this again or would suggest to whomever does.

In our outdoor lists we worked with a 20'x20' area, I think, space permitting we would want to grow that to 30'x30'.

When the weather forced us indoors we were limited on space so the lists inside were 15'x15', an area Eastern fencers are well accustomed to but one I would really rather not use if it can be avoided in the future.

We inspected the floors of the building the night before and the morning of and they seemed fine. Unfortunately what I was not aware of is that the site stores vehicles in these buildings when not renting the space. Once the floors got wet from people tracking in the rain they became a bit slick in areas due to unseen oil or fuel saturation.

The marshals did their best to protect people from the worst areas and I went to every list and pointed out the issue to all fencers as soon as I was aware of it.

The marshal staff was comprised of twenty-two experienced individuals. We had very few incidents that made their way up to me, none worthy of a full report. The closest thing to needing a full report was that one of my marshals was very lightly struck in the side of the face from a stray parry. The fighter in question could not see the marshal because they were behind him and the marshal himself told me that he failed to dodge when he should have. I did have words with the fencer due to some other behavior during the day, just asking him to take it down a few pegs as he was very ramped up. He agreed and thanked me and there were no further issues from the fencer for the rest of the day.

We had one slip and fall that took someone out of the tourney, mostly due to pulling a muscle in the fall. My follow up has been that the fencer is fine and was more shook up than anything.

Overall, I would say that the comportment of the day was quite high. The fencers seemed to understand the seriousness of the day and stepped up to the moment. I do think there are things in the lead up to crown that could have been handled better but those are logistical issues, not crown issues per se.

Griffith Davion
Kingdom Rapier Marshal, East (Emeritus)

Appendix C - Report on the Livestream

Streaming of Crown Tournament was a well received success. In an approximately two month time frame, a team of twenty volunteers came together to plan and execute a high production livestream designed to showcase the unique nature of the event and to do honor to the rapier community and to the larger audience around the world. This necessitated extensive planning to account for the restricted infrastructure and connectivity of the site and the vagaries of nature.

The end result brought together a combination of multiple cameras, pre-produced graphics, mixed audio sources, day of photography, a prepared laptop production station, and a panel of knowledgeable and informed commentators sending a single mostly continuous video stream via YouTube over about an eight hour day. After the livestream and the event concluded, a lightly edited full quality local recording was uploaded to YouTube for historical record.

The livestream peaked at 562 simultaneous viewing streams. Approximately a third of these were to smart television systems and reports of watch parties were received. In the days since, both the original livestream and the cleaned up recording have received hundreds of additional views. Analytics indicate viewership from 41 US States as well as Canada, Sweden, Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, and Finland.

Symon of Barnesdale
Project Lead and Stream Engineer

Appendix D - Report on Reservations and Check-In

This event had larger than usual attendance for an East Kingdom event with tight time constraints for processing attendees due to the timing of the tournament. Admission was quick due to advance work, technology, and a large number of volunteers.

	Pre-registered	Day of	Total
Total Adult	586	159	745
Total Minor	45	13	58
Total Non-member	43	39	82

The team consisted of 25 volunteers with a core team of four. We used a drive-through check-in, made possible by the setup of the site, which had five lanes at the entrance. We were able to run multiple lanes of check-in at a time, with someone directing traffic to either the lanes or the satellite "day of" tent for attendees not preregistered. We were equipped to check in "priority" guests (combatants/consorts/royals/BoD/department heads) if there was a rush, but we never had more than two vehicles waiting per lane. All guests received a yellow parking tag, which allowed them to use the reentry lane, and priority guests received a marked parking tag for priority field parking.

We encouraged preregistration and checking in on Friday to avoid the Saturday morning rush. The combination of quick check in and extended gate hours on Friday meant that there was rarely a wait. For those who hadn't preregistered, an on-site registration system was created with a QR code. The code connected them to a Google form where they could fill in the information normally written down by hand at gate and have their gate fees calculated. This allowed multiple people to 'sign in' at the same time, allowing gate to focus on payments, membership cards, and waivers.

Tola knityr
Reservations and Check-In Coordinator

Appendix E - Report from the Mistress of Lists

As for the actual tournament, I ran it the same way I run every crown. Weapons form added a few differences, such as I took the extra step to confirm weapons forms per the databases as this was more of a potential concern in the finals than with armored combat. Typically I simply confirm that they have a valid and up to date authorization.

There is a fair bit of leg work in advance to collect data that is the same for every crown tournament. Most of this data is used to randomize the initial pools to the best of my ability. I confirm authorization status, highest martial award for the relevant discipline, if they are part of a combatant couple, their region/local group/household/usual practice, if they are in a Peer/dependent or student relationship within the relevant discipline, and if they are in a combat unit. The process uses index cards, names on the front with the data points listed, and on the back, the highest martial award held. We start with the highest award holders, shuffle and lay down the cards face down and ask Roses, children, random people walking by to pick a card and then lay them out into the pools. Adjusting as we go, per the data points. Then we take the Order of High Merit group using the same process, then the Silver level, then the balance of entrants. Pools are reviewed for any conflicts of interest and adjusted. This is done with help, usually the Earl Marshal/Kingdom Marshal or a deputy. The final pools are reviewed by the Crown.

When we hit the double elimination portion, combatants that had been in the same pool are separated and data points are again considered as much as humanly possible when pulling the face down cards randomly to set up the initial pairings. If both of a combatant couple make the double elimination portion, they are absolutely separated on the tree as are any Peer/dependent or student pairs.. Other points may or may not come into play depending on who makes it through. The pairings are reviewed by the Crown and often the Kingdom Marshal as well.

Each Crown Tournament, I put a team together to run it. The larger the pool of combatants, the larger the team. This recent Crown was larger than we've seen in a number of years, but not the largest I've personally run.

We knew going in we would need 8 pools, and it works best with two MoL's per pool. Not all who volunteered and worked the day were warranted MoL's but I held a number of zoom training sessions to prepare everyone. I also set up 8 kits, one for each list, of all materials they would need. We also knew there was a possibility of having to separate the lists into two buildings if the weather turned adding a layer of complexity to the planning. In the end the tournament was run with a team of 17 MoL's in addition to myself, and 4 bouncers to keep the MoL zone free of spectators.

To assist the web ministry effort to broadcast the tournament, I also created the formatted and labeled white boards for the double elimination tree so anyone who wished could trace the progress and the web ministry team could photograph it to share in their broadcast. This was handled by part of my team. We received good feedback on these. My team and I also came up with plans to support the Jongleur herald with their efforts that worked pretty well and enabled them to get the shield trees up in as timely a manner as possible. I don't know what else you

need, I think I've covered everything, but please feel free to ask any questions you may have. I'll get the trees and the list of my team over to you soon.

Ellesbeth Donofrey
EK Minister of Lists

Round Robin Pools

KINGS LIST - 1
(11 *Combatants*)

Alanna of Skye
Brendan Firebow
Brian le Wolfhunt
Caitrina Gordon (Katya)
Christian Woolfe
Erhart von Stuttgart
Godric of Hamtun
Jon Radburne
Robert Tytes
Solveig Bjarnardottir
Xavier the Sinister

KINGS LIST - 2
(11 *Combatants*)

Ælfwine Akeworthe
Aethelhawk Keyfinder
Aurelia Colleoni a'Buccafurno
Chatricam Meghanta (Meggie)
Ian Douglas
Lawrence Thornguard
Mat Wyck
Ozurr the Bootvgiver
Rodrigo Medina de la Mar
Sylvain du Soleil
Thomas de Castellan

ADVANCING FROM KL-1

Brendan Firebow
Robert Tytes

ADVANCING FROM KL-2

Ozurr the Bootvgiver
Rodrigo Medina de la Mar

KINGS LIST - 3
(10 *Combatants*)

Adelina des Verrieres
Corwin Blackthorn
Gaius Claudius Valerianus
Jacob Of Dunmore
Muirenn Ingen Ciric
Ogedei Becinjab
Owyn Greenwood

KINGS LIST - 4
(10 *Combatants*)

Albion Drake
Amline de Fleury
Camille des Jardins
Collin Monro of Tadcaster
Jaime D'Ignis
Leonete D'Angely
Llewellyn Walsh

Phaedra de Vere
William Deth
Yin Jinyu

Magdalena von Kirschberg
Nicolas le Verdoyant
Olan Blackhand

ADVANCING FROM KL-3

Ogedei Becinjab
William Deth

ADVANCING FROM KL-4

Albion Drake
Llewellyn Walsh

QUEENS LIST - 1

(10 Combatants)

Aziza Andrade
Cailleach Channaigh Bhallach
Gilbert Christian Blackmoore aka Gilchrist
James O'Galleghure of Tyr Connal
Magnus Morte
Nataliia Anastasiia Evgenova
Orlando di Sforza
Rodrigue de Ignis
Vettorio Antonello
Wentlyanna Bengrek

QUEENS LIST - 2

(11 Combatants)

Antonius Hasebroek
Cedric of the Floppy Hat
Eliayahu Al-Talhi
Grim the Skald
Grimolfr Skulason
Isabel del Okes
Leana Doucet
Liadan ingen Chineada
Matthias Grunwald
Tanaka Raiko
Tiberius Iulius Rufus Primus

ADVANCING FROM QL-1

Magnus Morte
Orlando di Sforza

ADVANCING FROM QL-2

Grimolfr Skulason
Matthias Grunwald

QUEENS LIST - 3

(10 Combatants)

Aesa Ormstungs
Bo of Malagentia
Eldrich Gaiman

QUEENS LIST - 4

(11 Combatants)

Alastar Tucker
Caoilfhionn inghean Fhaoláin
Declan Gobha

Gregori Rogue Montana
Gwenhoivar of Lindley
Jean Xavier Boullier
Kara Njalsdottir
Mage Cunningghame Alias Blue
Osanna Schade
Rose Erembourc

Donovan Shinnock
Douglas Douglas
Edvard Mikaelsson
Nuno Cabral do Mar
Pandarus
Richard Crowe
Trian O'Bruadair
Úlfarr Gylðir

ADVANCING FROM QL-3

Bo of Malagentia
Gregori Rogue Montana

ADVANCING FROM QL-4

Donovan Shinnock
Trian O'Bruadair

Double Elimination Tree

