

Ad hoc Derbhfine

Ad hoc Derbhfine Friday 3rd August 2001 at Tulloch Castle, Dingwall

Ancient Law decides Chiefly candidate

For the first time in 250 years the Liveries of the Honourable Clan MacAulay flew from the Turret of Tulloch Castle Dingwall, Scotland as Clan MacAulay gathered from around the world to select a Chiefly candidate from amongst their Eiders consisting of Armigers and Landowners.

No longer turning to the past for a leader their sights were focused on acquiring a Chief to lead them into the future.

Resplendent in his Heraldic Tabard and representing the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Mr Charles Bumett the Ross Herald at Arms, with three strikes of his black baton demanded silence as he called for the Ad Hoc Derbhfine there assembled to select a Chiefly candidate.

The MacAulays there gathered fell silent, sturdy men in kilts and women wearing tartan sashes. They are, it is said, the progeny of Kenneth McAipin, King of Scots from 800-830.

An Ad hoc Derbhfine occurs only a few times in a century and is an ancient Celtic Court summoned by the Lord Lyon King at Arms who rules on matters of Heraldry and Clanship.

In modern Scotland where the blood is strong and kinship is highly prized, the solemnity of the occasion was impressive.

There was one dissenting voice, Iain Davidson MacAulay who had previously been given a year and a day to prove his claim to a blood line back to the last Chief who died 250 years previously. Having failed to prove his claim, he still opposed the choice as Chief of Sqn. Ldr Iain MacMillan MacAulay, M.B.E. a former Japanese POW. who had devoted years of his life to searching for heirs of the last Chief and had recreated Clan MacAulay into this modern Clan now gathered from around the world to select a candidate.

Mr Davidson MacAulay was invited to address the Derbhfine and listened to in respectful silence.

His claim that the silent majority might shudder at the prospect of a Chief being appointed without coming from the Chiefly line carried little weight after the Clan had waited 250 years for leadership and having received none were eager to revitalize Clan MacAulay around the World.

The Derbhfine Court voted and the votes were meticulously counted by the Ross Herald at Arms. The result was resounding in Iain MacMillan MacAulay's favour -34 votes and 150 Acclamations-one abstention and one dissenting voice was raised. The Ross herald announced: "let the World know...it is the unanimous decision of the Derbhfine Court that Iain MacMillan MacAulay is the chiefly candidate. His name should go forward to the Lord Lyon King at Arms.

The Clan now awaits the Lord Lyon's approval but that did nothing to discourage the Celebration at Tulloch castle.