

# ROYAL JOUST

Westminster, 12 February 1511

Be it known to all men that, whereas certain letters have been sent and directed unto the most high noble and excellent Princess, the Queen of England and of France,<sup>1</sup> from her right dear and best-beloved cousin noble Renome, Queen of the Kingdom, named Coeur Noble, having knowledge of the good and gracious fortune of the birth of a young prince<sup>2</sup> that it has pleased God to send to her and to her make; which is the most joy and comfort that ought be to her and to the most renowned Kingdom of England; considering the valiantness, virtues, and expert noblesse which highly abounds in her most dearest cousin, the King of the same,<sup>3</sup> has sent four knights born in the Kingdom of Coeur Noble, whose names follow—that is to say, *Coeur Loyal*, *Valiant Desire*, *Bon Valour*, and *Joyous Panser*<sup>4</sup>—to accomplish certain feats of arms, which at the instance and desire of the said Princess has gotten and optioned of the King, our sovereign lord, license to furnish and accomplish these articles following.

And forasmuch as, after the order and honor of arms, it is not lawful for any man to enterprise arms in so high a presence without his stoke and name be of nobles descended; in consideration these four knights be of so far and strange parties, they shall present themselves with their names pictured in their shields.

These four knights shall present themselves in the field at the palace of Richmond (or elsewhere it shall please the King's Grace) at the time of Candelmas<sup>5</sup> next or nigh thereupon in harness for the tilt, without tache or bracket, with volant piece on the head, rondell on the guard, and rest of advantage, fraud, deceit, or any other malignity.

To every comer shall be run six courses, provided always if the comers be of so great number that they cannot reasonably be answered for one day, it shall be lawful for the four challengers to enter the field the second day, and so to answer all the comers to the full number, be served of such as be noble of name or of arms and without reproach.

All spears to be garnished and brought to the field at the provision and charges of the challengers, of the which spears the answers always to have the choice.

If it happen any man, as God defend, to kill his fellow's horse by way of foul running, he shall be bound, that so does, to give the horse that he rides on to his fellow or the price of the horse so killed, at the discretion of the judges.

Who strikes his fellow beneath the waist or in the saddle, with full course, by way of foul running, shall be disallowed of two spears before well-broken.

Who strikes his fellow uncharged and dis-garnished of his spear shall be disallowed at the discretion of the judges.

Who breaks his spear above the charnel<sup>6</sup> to be allowed two spears well-broken, after the old custom of arms.

Who breaks his spear morn to morn, to be allowed three spears, after the custom of arms.

Who breaks most spears is worth the prize.

Who strikes down horse and man is better worth the prize.

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<sup>1</sup> Catherine of Aragon (1485–1536), Queen of England (1509–1533)

<sup>2</sup> Henry (1 January 1511–22 February 1511), Duke of Cornwall

<sup>3</sup> Henry VIII (1491–1547), King of England (1509–1547)

<sup>4</sup> Henry VIII; William, Earl of Devon; Sir Thomas Knevit; and Sir Edward Neville

<sup>5</sup> The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple; 2 February

<sup>6</sup> hasp used to secure the helm to the breast-plate

Who strikes his fellow clean out of the saddle, is best worth the prize.

If any gentleman challenger, or defender, break a staff on the tilt, to be disallowed a staff.

It is the pleasure of the King, our most dread Sovereign Lord, that the Queen's grace and the ladies, with the advice of the noble and discrete judges, to give prizes after their deservings unto both the parties.

That every gentleman answerer do subscribe his name to the articles.

It is the humble request of these four gentlemen that if in their articles be comprised more or less than honor or courtesy requires, ever to submit them to the Queen and the ladies, and they always to add and minish at their noble pleasures.

The First Day

Richard Grey, Earl of Kent  
William Parr  
Richard Blunt  
Rowland

Thomas Cheney  
Robert Morton  
Thomas Tyrell  
Christopher Willoughby

The Second Day

Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey  
Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire  
Leonard, Lord Grey  
John Grey  
Thomas Boleyn  
Thomas Lucy  
Gryffyth Don

Charles, Lord Brandon  
Edmund Howard  
Lord Marquis  
Richard Tempest  
Henry Guilford  
John Melton