

Heraldry

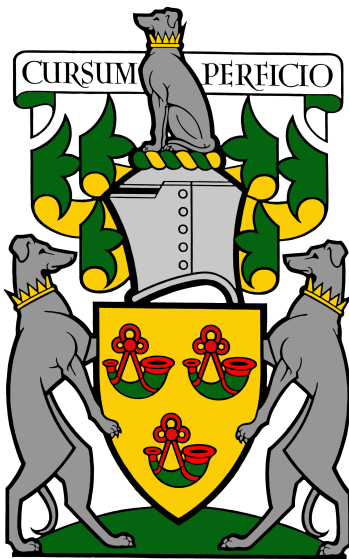
Information for Clan Hunter members

We encourage Clan members to read this so that they may be better informed and able to pass on correct information to their family and others within the Scottish diaspora. For further information:

<http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/>

<https://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/>

A Coat of Arms



Arms of the Chiefs of Clan Hunter (Male)



Arms of the Chiefs of Clan Hunter (Female)

Arms: *Or, Three Hunting Horns Vert, Garnished and Stringed Gules.*

Crest: *A Hound Sejant Proper, Gorged with an Antique Crown, Or.*

Supporters: *Two Hounds Proper, Gorged with Antique Crowns, Or.*

Motto: *Cursum Perficio*

The term *Arms* is from Armaments - weapons used by knights in battle: swords, armour, shields. To distinguish between warring parties when wearing full body armour, symbols and colours were worn or painted on shields for identification. In the Arms of the Chief of Clan Hunter shown above, the description "Or" is of the gold background, which with the crown on the hounds, indicate a Royal Appointment. This is often substituted by yellow. "Hunting horns vert", means green hunting horns. "Garnished and stringed gules" is the heraldic description given to the strap attachment on the horns. The shield and helmet indicate a male, a diamond or *lozenge* base indicate a female Clan Chief.

This Coat of Arms is the exclusive personal property of the Chief of Clan Hunter and is protected to them by law in Scotland. It is inappropriate for any Clan member to claim this Arms as their own. There is no such thing as a Clan or a Hunter surname Coat of Arms.

The Court of the Lord Lyon

A Coat of Arms is granted to an individual or an organisation and in Scotland this is undertaken through the Office of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. The Right Honourable the Lord Lyon King of Arms is the Scottish legal official who regulates Heraldry in Scotland and grants new arms after due diligence confirming proven genealogical pedigrees or claims to existing arms. Once approved, the Letters Patent of the particular coat of arms is then entered into the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. The register dates from 1672.

The Court of the Lord Lyon is fully integrated into the Scottish legal system and is the oldest heraldic court in the world that is still in daily operation. The misuse of arms is a criminal offence in Scotland and prosecutions are brought before Lord Lyon being the sole judge. Appeals from the Lyon Court may be made to the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The Lyon Court does not have universal jurisdiction and usually cannot accept applications (petitions) from outside of Scotland. Its equivalent in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland is the College of Arms, which is a royal corporation and not a court of law.

According to the Lyon Court's official website, *"the governing factor in the case of an original Grant of Arms is the domicile of the petitioner or the ownership of property in Scotland."* In the second case, when the petitioner is not able to reside on the land, for example a souvenir plot of land or forestry, the land is considered *not of practical use* and therefore not able to bring the owner into the Lord Lyon's jurisdiction. One exception from this principle applies to Commonwealth citizens if their local jurisdiction does not have its own heraldic office. *"Commonwealth citizens, in particular those of Scottish descent - save for Canada and South Africa which have their own heraldic authorities - can apply to the Lord Lyon King of Arms."*

We have a number of overseas resident Clan Hunter members who bear Arms (armorial) as they have been able to genealogically prove Scottish ancestry and have petitioned and successfully matriculated Arms through the Lyon office. In our family archives at Hunterston, we have a number of matriculations from previous Clan Chiefs which are legal documents proving descendancy for future generations.

A coat of arms can only belong to one particular person at a time. Without such protection, a coat of arms would be useless as a form of identification and worthless as a piece of private property. Furthermore, a misappropriation or unauthorised use of a person's coat of arms is still considered a 'real injury' under Scottish common law. The Lyon court has the power to fine and ensure items bearing the offending Arms are removed, destroyed or forfeited. Historically the punishment for the usurpation of arms were severe. In Acts dated 1592 and 1672, the Court was given the full power to fine and imprison offenders.

Crest Badge



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

Although the Crest Cap Badge is purchased by, and the item itself is therefore owned by the Clansman, the Heraldic Crest (Hound) and Motto (Cursum Perficio) on it belong to the Clan Chief, and not the Clansman. They are the Chief's exclusive personal heraldic property, which the Clansman is permitted to wear to indicate allegiance to their Clan Chief.

The rights to the use of this heraldic property are protected for the Clan Chief in Scotland by law. The Court of the Lord Lyon has legal powers to enforce the protection of these rights in Scotland. Our Clan Chief owns the copyright on the drawing of the badge shown above.

The Chief of Clan Hunter has given approval for Clan Society members to reproduce the Clansman's Crest Badge for their personal and non-commercial use provided that the wording *Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter* is placed underneath the badge. This may be abbreviated to *Member of Clan Hunter* in circumstances where space is limited. The wording *Clan Hunter* alone is not sufficient. This will indicate that the person concerned is not misappropriating the badge. It is the Crest Badge of all Clansmen. Clan members will receive a digital package containing an authority for non-commercial use signed by the Clan Chief on joining the Clan Hunter society.

The Clan Hunter administration is aware of commercial items being offered that infringe these laws of heraldic property, in particular through souvenir shops in Scotland and commercial vendor tents at highland games and online. We ask Clan members not to purchase these unauthorised and, in many cases, illegal goods that may portray either a generic coat of arms purporting to be the arms of all Hunters, or items with a Clan crest badge containing an unauthorised design. Our Clan administration works hard with commercial suppliers to bring quality and approved goods to members that are sold through the Clan society which directly helps to maintain our Castle.