



What's on in Europe



Three perspectives on the ISGF World Conference

Report by Hans Slanec, Chair Europe Committee

After approx. 28 hours traveling I arrived in Sydney, the venue of the World Conference. With nearly no break the meetings and conference sessions started 10th of October. So the meeting of the Region Europe too, where I could give important advises for the different voting. Raising the flags ended this day.

Oct. 11th the conference started with a festive opening ceremony. So many important Australian dignitaries were present: The Federal Governor of Australia General Peter Cosgrove, representative of Queen Elisabeth II, the Governor of New South Wales David Hurley, some ministers and further representatives from politics and administration.

Very impressive: the welcome given by a member of the Aboriginal People from the area around Sydney. He welcomed us with a ritual in his language and with the sounds of didgeridoo and acoustic sticks. The marching in of the flags of the participating countries ended this ceremony.

After a roll call we decided about the rules of procedure. Then the candidates that stood for elections into the World Committee were presented and got the "yellow scarf".

The proposal of Maldives, to become full member was carried. The triennial report of ISGF had been accepted as well as the financial report, the report about the development fund and the debtors.

In the evening, the Australian scouts and guides presented us the Cumberland Gang Show, a thrilling show with music and dance.

The 12th of October brought us the presentations of different activities and projects in our member countries. The representatives of WOSM and WAGGGS, the Ambassadors Guild and Fellowship Toy gave us reports about their work. Indonesia and Ghana presented their invitation to host the next World Conference in 2017. Before lunch break the official conference photo had been taken.

In the afternoon we had 6 workshops to design the Action Plan 2014 to 2017. I had been honoured to lead one of them. The results of these discussions had been collected and presented next day, where the conference voted for unanimously.

The next World Conference was voted by secret ballot and is going to be in Bali, Indonesia, in 2017.

Then we had to discuss a strategic paper how to improve the financial situation of ISGF. The ideas, how to attract sponsors, had sometimes been a bit "out of the world", meaning not realistic and not really a help for the member countries.

October 13th the conference had to discuss and to vote for the proposals to amendments in constitution and by-laws. As two Austrian proposals had been accepted and fully carried by the conference, there is no further need to present a letter of recognition from the scouts and guides, they belong to WOSM and WAGGGS, in this new member country. Representatives of WOSM and WAGGGS that are members of the ISGF World Committee will have no voting rights in the future. The Proposal according auditors, audit performance and refund of costs didn't get the 2/3rd majority necessary. Following the "new" constitution, the conference welcomed Argentina as new associate member.

The result of voting for the new members in the World Committee: Alf Runar Bakke, Norway, Mohammed Abdul Khaleque, Bangladesh, Wahid Labidi, Tunisia, and Mathius Lukwago, Uganda. As new auditor the conference voted for Angela Stroeter, Germany. The budget for the years 2015 to 2017 and the membership fee had been accepted.

A dinner cruise with heavy rain in Sydney harbour ended this important day.

The 14th of October gave a possibility to ask questions and to discuss problems with the members of the World Committee. We could advertise for our next European Workshop in Pannonhalma, Hungary, and showed a power point presentation.

The conclusion of the results of this 27th World Conference had been unanimously accepted after a short discussion. At the World Market all the participating countries had a possibility to sell goods, badges and more.

Before the closing ceremony started, the World Committee presented a report about the 60th anniversary of ISGF.

Mida Rodrigues gave thanks to Brian Jackson and the Australian organizing team. With the lowering of the flags the conference found its end.

But we will meet again at the 28th World Conference 2017 in Bali, Indonesia

Sydney Conference – as an observer by Katharine Diver, Secretary Europe Committee

The conference was held in a large hall which is part of the Olympic Village built for the 2000 Games. The Organising team had obviously been working very hard to make the Conference friendly from the first time you stepped through the door – there were people to help you find your way around the hall, the local area or even further away, to help you with registration and giving you your Conference bag, and even just to have a chat.

The Conference hall was entered through a specially constructed gateway on which the local and ISGF flags were hung. The opening ceremony was made all the more special by an Aboriginal Elder playing his didgeridoo on stage – what an evocative sound and so recognisably Australian!

Whilst at the Conference, observers could, of course, attend the business sessions, swim in the Olympic Pool, tour the Olympic Stadium or go by train into Sydney centre, or go to a room set aside to enable you to paint the blank boomerang which was in everyone's conference pack. This was a fun way to learn about Aboriginal art, whilst having a chat with your neighbour about their country and culture: a great way to exchange friendship and ideas.





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Three perspectives on the ISGF World Conference (contd.)

A first timer's experience of the 27th ISGF World Conference by Doris Stockmann, Vice-chair Europe Committee

I was impressed by the warm welcome by the Australians – always friendly and ready to find out if one had some questions. The building in the center of The Olympic Park, which was built for the Olympic Games in Sydney 2000, was a good venue. There was plenty of room for the session but also eating facilities and smaller rooms for meetings and workshops. The only thing that was missing was internet connection. I have attending many conferences but this was my first experience of an ISGF World Conference. The World Committee had done a good job of preparing documents and the chair managed to keep the time table every day, which is not always the case. A very good idea was the Action time with so many interesting presentations on different matters. Most of the presentations were very well prepared and at least I learnt a lot about ISGF activities.

It is a great pleasure to introduce Alf Runar Bakke from Norway who is a newly elected member of the World Committee from Norway. To his left is Martine Levy, who presented the plans that France has for the next Europe Conference that is going to be in Tours in September 2016 – see you there.

The content of the conference is well described by Hans so I am not repeating that, anyway the minutes of the conference should be soon available

It was also very nice to have the opportunity to see a little bit of Australia. In spite of the weather, the boat tour of Sydney was an interesting experience and the day tour to Tobruk Station, Maroota Working sheep station with sheep shearing was one of the best arranged and interesting tours that I have attended. The 5 day tour after the conference covering the Riverina area of New South Wales visiting artists, wineries, farms, museums and seeing fantastic landscapes was most enjoyable, especially because we were a small with only 17 people attending - no queues. Our driver was a fantastic guide, who told us a lot about Australia and was very flexible with the program.

Now at home I am thinking of all the new things I learnt and the ideas to develop the fellowship. Of course many new friendships are of great value. A big thank you goes to all the Australians who had worked so hard as well as to the World Committee – it was a fine experience to attend the 27th ISGF World Conference.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Price	Registration
16-20 Mar	6th European Workshop	Pannonhalma, Hungary	195,00€	Closed
26-30 Jun	Nordic Baltic Sub-Region Event	Horsens, Denmark	740,00€	19th Mar
7-13 Sept	26th Western Europe Sub-Regional Gathering	Oostduinkerke, Belgium	480/525,00€	28th Feb
23-27 Sept	8th Central Europe Sub-Region Conference	Zeillern, Austria	250/290,00€	31st Mar
22-27 Oct	Mediterranean Gathering	Marrakesh, Morocco	550/665,00€	15th May



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**6th European Workshop – 16-20 March
Pannonhalma – Hungary**

Visibity and how to get new members

Day	Activities
16th	Arrival Welcome Introductions and Expectations
17th	News from ISGF since the World Conference 2014 The phases of life and six columns of the guild programme Visit to the Arch Abbey Pannonhalma
18th	City tour to Győr and the banks of River Danube A view on the generations in scouting and guiding Sharing experiences on recruiting new members
19th	Visibility and good relations with Guide and Scout organizations Practical work: Designing a flyer to interest new Members Conclusions
20th	Departure

More information on Pannonhalma:

<http://www.1hungary.com/info/pannonhalma/>

<http://gotohungary.com/pannonhalma-abbey>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pannonhalma_Archabbey



The European Committee is glad to introduce the first issue of the Newsletter "What's on in Europe", a joint effort of its members:

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Sara Milreu

Please do not hesitate in forwarding your remarks and questions to samilreu@yahoo.co.uk

Reminder Annual fee

The annual fee is **€40** for the year 2014 and is due to be paid. Those who have not paid the fee are reminded to pay it as soon as possible to the Europe account:

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The treasurer Doris Stockmann