



NEWS from DENMARK

NBC Meeting was held in Copenhagen in January 2011.

All the Nordic countries met and some fruitful discussions and planning around the Nordic Gathering to be held in Luthania in 2012 took place and also around the initial planning of the coming European conference in "Scandinavia" in 2013.

We were working with a variety of ideas – decisions have yet to be taken.

In September, 2011 our **National Assembly** will take place and to that event

we have over the past year been dealing with a great number of proposals that will be put forward.

The voting will show whether we are on the right track.

As of today Denmark has 5212 members with an age average of 69.3 and the number of members is declining.

The ISGF Mascot of Shep seems to have gone lost in Greenland – unless

Anybody can bring some light on this matter.

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen

International Secretary

NEWS from FINLAND

New guilds and new members

We have got two new guilds started this winter, and a couple more are on the way. This means several new members and gives hope of growth, because due to our relatively high average age we are still losing members.

We had our annual meeting in October last year and some new board members were elected. The Guild Master continues together with two other members from the old board. Our board has 6 members serving for a 4 year period and 3 members changing every second year. This might change in the future, as we are presently revising our statutes and by-laws and they will be put forward at an extraordinary annual meeting in October this year.

Activities

On February 22nd we arranged a Fellowship café at Finland's Scout Station in Helsinki (the main offices of the Finnish Scouts). There we served tea, coffee, sweet and savory cakes and pies. We showed videos from international scout events, chatted and enjoyed each other's company. Some of the guilds also had similar arrangements around Finland that day with a lot of guild members participating. Younger scouts were also invited.

The board is trying to "branch out" and get more of our members involved in the work. We have appointed several committees, their field of work being economy, international

activities, ideology, schooling etc. To help the committee members and the board to get better acquainted and plan their work, we arranged a seminar on the ship between Finland and Sweden one weekend in March. Altogether 30 persons participated and we felt it was very useful and even effective with both lectures and group work.

In the beginning of April one of our smaller guilds made a weekend trip to the island Saaremaa in Estonia to watch the first big birds coming. Unfortunately there was still a bit too much ice along the shore, but we saw several swans, a lot of different ducks, a few cranes and quite many cormorants.

A couple of our members will take part in the World Jamboree in Sweden, working in the ISGF info tent. We will also arrange a bus trip to the Jamboree for our guild members. They will be staying outside the camp and visit the Jamboree during day.

Liv Aure-Olli - IS Finland

NEWS from NORWAY

Projects to get involved in!

The long-term aim of international committee has been **to strengthen international involvement** on the part of the St George's guilds in Norway

The scout centre, Nyeri, Kenya

Individuals can get involved, take the initiative and involve others. This was what happened when our former national chairman Harald Pettersen visited Kenya in 2006. Lord Baden-Powell's grave attracts many visitors, and through fund-raising we have been able to

fulfill the dream of a theme park with activities, a café and a museum near to the grave.

Projects under the auspices of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (ISGF).

ISGF has methods that make it possible for many countries to support the same project.

Burundi



The national assembly 2009 started fund-raising to send schoolbags to Burundi. When the project was completed, we had contributed to distributing 1000 bags full of school stationery to poor children in Burundi.

Haiti

After the earthquake 12th January 2010, scouts, guides and guild members responded promptly by starting a school project and supporting local scout and guide work. Several guilds used fellowship Day as an opportunity to support the action.

ISGF provides good, up-to-date information on such projects, and we feel that we increase involvement and gain experience by working in this way.

A major project in cooperation with the scout and guide federations.



At the annual joint meeting between the St George's guilds and the national scout and guide federations in the spring of 2010, the Norwegian Scout Federation (NSF) invited the guilds to organize Home Hospitality in connection with the World Jamboree in Sweden in the summer of 2011.

The national guild leadership responded positively, and a committee with its basis in the international committee accepted the task. The guilds regarded this as a unique opportunity to cooperate on a project with the scouts and guides, both nationally and locally. The committee worked out a plan as to how the task could be carried out. This was presented at the Guild Masters' Meeting in the Autumn of 2010, and the local guilds endorsed the project.

The district chairmen were made responsible for contacting guilds and scout and guide groups in their district. NSF – that has the Norwegian secretariat for the jamboree – has provided lists of Norwegian groups that are sending scouts and guides to the jamboree, and these groups are being especially encouraged to receive foreign guests. The plan is that families of scouts and guides should be hosts and members of the guilds should be responsible for the programme for the three days that Home Hospitality lasts.

So far the committee can offer Home Hospitality to 900 scouts, guides and leaders. Many guild members have volunteered to help and are finding creative solutions. They are defying the fact that modern families plan their

holidays within strict limits and are not prepared to receive guests. A great effort is being made to ensure that Norwegian scouts and guides can experience international scouting in their own homes, and that foreign scouts and guides can get their wish to experience life in a Norwegian family fulfilled.

It will be thrilling to take part in the summer's adventure and evaluate this extensive project. We believe that it will give us useful experience and improve contact with present day scouts, guides and leaders (our future members...)

The St. George Guilds' campsite



Kvernmoen camp site, near to Halden in South Eastern Norway, is owned and run by the St George's Guilds. There is room for many tents, and this summer scouts and guides from Oslo will hold their district camp at Kvernmoen. There are possibilities for bathing and canoeing, and the site's "jewel" is Kvernkroa, the Kvern Inn, where overnight accommodation is available. Guild members are welcome! You can find more information at www.sggg.no.

<http://www.sggg.no/index.php?page=39>

Guild National Assembly in Moss 27th -29th May



At the National Assembly, a new national chairman will be elected to succeed Olav Balle, who has led the St George Guilds in Norway for six years and has now been elected as chairman for the European region.

We are pleased that membership has increased a little in 2010, and we shall continue to work on our profile, programme and prominence in accordance with our long-term plan for growth.

The survey that was made in connection with work on our profile showed that 40 % of those interviewed are willing to consider membership of the St George's guilds in the future. That means that we have 500 potential members, just among those interviewed... There's hope for the future!

Karin Thompsen – IS Norway

NEWS from ICELAND

As we enter the year 2011 - there is not much news to tell you.

Our general assembly will be held on May 7th and there we will elect a new board and a new National president.

As St. George's day falls on Easter Sunday this year - we are going to leave celebrations until May 7th.



In Iceland there is a tradition to welcome the 1st day of summer on the second last Thursday in April (21st) and that day scouts of all ages go to church and make a big parade with flags and brass bands. On this day there many scouts in all sorts of uniform are there, all making the same wish to everybody - May you have a good and happy summer - and that we wish you all.

Elín Richards - NP Iceland

NEWS from LITHUANIA

No news this time

NEWS from SWEDEN

Latest news from Sweden

After the long cold winter we now have the crocuses and daffodils in many places. We are planning our biennial meeting, this time in Falun on the 28-29th of May. As we can estimate now, we will be quite many participants! Of course we will take many decisions but also have a great time together. In the plan of action we are aiming at international meetings of different kinds, i.e. the World Scout Jamboree in July this summer, the NBSR meeting I Lithuania in June next year and finally the European Conference in 2013. There will be many possibilities to strengthen the brotherhood in our subregion!



Many guilds will bring stamps and post cards to the stamp bank when we meet in Falun. During the last year many guilds and individuals have sent stamps to the "stamp bank director" Björn Johansen. Some of them will be brought to the Jamboree, there are many stamps showing Swedish animals and flowers. Björn is hoping for cooperation with your countries! His mailaddress is b.johnsen43@gmail.com



In Sweden many of us are in different ways involved in the Jamboree either at campsite or in Camp in Camp or in Home Hospitality. We are really looking forward to welcome about 38 000 scouts from all over the world.



The campsite Rinkaby is well known to us after national jamborees in 2001 and 2007. If you want to visit the jamboree, buy a visitors ticket via the web www.worldscoutjamboree.se Maybe there will be a limit of 5 000 visitors per day.

Gunilla Engvall – NP Sweden and NBSR chairman

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The very latest news!

Try www.speidermuseet.no

Scout wikipedia of Norway has started!