



# NEWS LETTER

November 2012

## NEWS from DENMARK

### Master meeting,

23-23 September, 2012



During that meeting we learned about the results from three working groups of:

- Visibility
- New ways of Personal development
- Increase of number of members

The groups will continue their work during the autumn.

An external consultant was attached to run the meeting and an introduction was made to social media such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and others. Those are tools we should learn to use, as do our potential new members.

A topic of persons and profiles gave room for afterthoughts.

Sunday was time for a presentation about Conflicts or Constructive Disagreement. Out of 188 possible, about 120 guilds participated.



### In April 2013 Sct. Georgs Gilderne in Denmark will celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It was discussed how to celebrate the occasion and the following was agreed upon:

- Publication of a commemorative issue of our magazine "Sct. Georg".
- Possibly a donation for voluntary work in Denmark, with the possibility for the local guilds to continue, if they so wish.
- Flashmob in various towns spread over our country.

### Hiking groups – the Danish way

By Gerda Abildgaard, PR Secretary



About 20 years ago the first hiking group was formed in Denmark. The group was formed independently of guilds and districts, which means that the guild members meet members from other parts of the country and make new friends. It can be most rewarding for the individual member, and for the time being we have 5 different groups. All guild members are welcome to join the different events which all take place outside. An invitation is sent out with a short description of the locality in question and the meeting time is often on Sunday at 10 o'clock. The box lunch is brought along as well.

A short introduction to the area is given – sometimes by a local guide, and the length of the hikes varies to a great extent, usually 7-8

kilometers, with the longest one being about 15 kilometers.

A coffee break is held on the way often along with an aquavit/bitter. The bitter is a special story, as many members make their own bitter and swap recipes.

Some hikes are made for the sheer purpose of collecting plants for making a good bitter. If the hikes are placed in a difficult walking area, usually two routes are planned, so members can join according to their abilities. The lunch break is enjoyed jointly – often outside – and we talk and sing a lot. Our district is rather large and every member can suggest hiking goals. Many exiting places are visited; it could be a deer park at winter time or even underground visiting an old lime mine to see how the bats survive. During two summer months no hiking is arranged. Then travels may be arranged abroad or to some of our many islands, places you would normally not go on your own.

In January the yearly status meeting takes place, ending with a three course menu. It is prepared by a team and this is a very special day, often gathering about 100 people. Some members also arrange tours abroad, focusing on extreme walking to places such as Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Iceland. Lately more Southern places like Ireland and Corsica have been visited. It is such a good way of being together, which brings along good exercise, at the same time making new friends.

### Scout Jamboree 2012

A major event is over – with about 35,000 participants who all experienced a variety of adventures. I visited for one day and I met many happy scouts, saw spectacular pioneering constructions



one group had decided to have their meals on the first floor of a tower. I ate my meals in a Tunisian cafeteria and even used flushing toilets.

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[www.2012.spejderne.dk](http://www.2012.spejderne.dk)

The below note was received after the Scout jamboree from the Lithuanian Girl Guides: Jamboree Denmark 2012 – experience of Girl Guides of Lithuania 10 people from Lithuania got back from the Jamboree Denmark 2012. Eight members from the troop Nemunas of age 13 and two leaders had their most amazing experience being at an international camp in Denmark. “We learned a lot. I believe that we are ready to grow not only as a troop but also as a stronger scout society. It is very important to share the knowledge that we got at camp within our organization. This camp is an important event to us, because there we realized that we are one huge scout family in the world. I have never believed that it is possible to gather 35 000 scouts in one camp. It is something unbelievable...”



– said troop leader Virginija.

Scouting in Denmark is really huge and people are very creative. So I hope that we got enough of creative energy from the Danish scouts and we will use it here in Lithuania.“ – said leader Rasa. All the scouts that have participated in the Jamboree Denmark 2012 are sharing their knowledge at the national camp in Giruliai at the end of August. Since they participated in so many activities they have decided to show what they have learned in the camp for the younger scout brothers and sisters. When they have been asked about their experience in the Jamboree camp most of them said, that it was the most amazing experience in their life. They have learned new practical skills about how to live in a sub camp. They were satisfied that scouts in Denmark have been taking care of them, and they felt that they established very warm friendship with them. “I was digging the campfire for the first time in my life and the scouts from Denmark have helped me a lot. They have showed me so many tricks, how to build different constructions only with rope and rafts. In our camps we build only very basic ones.” – said scout Lukas. “We miss Finn Jessen, who is an example of a real scout to us. We hope that we will have an opportunity to participate in

such a huge camp again, because we learned so much, and we want to share with everyone what we learned. We feel that we have become an example to our younger members in our camp.” – said Kotryna and Saule.

The girls told that they know for sure, that they will keep being active members in scouting, because now they see the importance of being scout. The most touching experience that troop from Lithuania brought back was the feeling that Lithuanian flag was one among the many world’s flags. “Lithuania is a small country of young democracy. That is why we feel so touched when we can participate in events abroad with so many scouts and guides from all over the world, and to be happy that we are making friendships, gaining new camping experience and having lots of fun. Of course, we could not come to the Jamboree without help of the Sct. Georgs Gilderne in Roskilde and Vestvold Gildet in Rødovre and Danish scouts. So thank you all for the most amazing opportunity.” – said Virginija. etary Anne Haastrup-Nielsen,

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## NEWS from FINLAND

We have finally got our new constitution approved by the Finnish authorities and consequently at our next annual meeting we will elect a few more members to our board than before (8 instead of 6). This will hopefully enable us to work more effectively for the best of our guild members.

Earlier this year Finland’s NSGF joined a project called “Pro Kenia”. This project was started in 2007 by an association also called Pro Kenia, supported by the Finnish Foreign Ministry.



The association is collecting used laptops to be sent to schools in Kenia. The laptops are checked and the hard discs emptied before they are shipped to Africa. The association has already sent more than 1300 working laptops to 80 different schools in Kenia. Even if a lot of our members are elderly and not all are even using laptops, not to speak of having discarded ones, we still hope that many of them have connections to firms and organizations which regularly change their data equipment and this

way will be able to collect used laptops. You can read more about it on the net: [www.prokenia.org/english](http://www.prokenia.org/english)

Towards the end of September the largest guild in Finland, Franciscus-kilta in Rauma on the western coast, invited all the guild members in Finland to take part in an outing with a sea-theme. Rauma is a relatively small town, but with a very good cooperation between the different scout and guild groups. They even have a common Scout house and two cabins in the islands. This outing turned out to be a boat trip to one of the cabins, about 2 nautical miles from the coast. Lunch was served at the cabin. Later there was dinner and more program at the Scout house. The participants represented more than 10 guilds from different parts of the country.

We celebrated the Fellowship Day on October 20th with a lecture and a dinner at a restaurant in Helsinki. The interesting lecture was given by the writer of the scout and guide history of Finland, Marko Paavilainen and was titled “Scouting and Mannerheim”. The arrangement was a success with a lot of guild members enjoying a pleasant evening together and feeling the strong bonds of fellowship throughout the world.

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## NEWS from NORWAY

Next year National Scout Camp:



[www.stavanger2013.no](http://www.stavanger2013.no)

You may have the pages it in English if you like A little down the page, on the right side: PLAY Especially the Danes should have a look on one of the short films: “Bange for højder..” (Turn on the sound!)

The Guilds are going to have their own (blue)troop, taking care of ”Hotelt”, ”Stamp Bank” and ”Just be there and promote the Guilds”



In the spring of 2012 the National Board invited all committees to a working weekend. The theme was: “How can we contribute together to realise the vision of an active and visible movement that expands and finds pleasure in its fellowship”

A committee has been working on the guilds’ profile in the scout movement. This has been successful, and the committee discovered that the guilds are known for their blue jumpers and are regarded as a resource for the scouts and guides.

The guilds wanted ideas for activities for their meetings. Would a study of Baden-Powell’s ideas and wise sayings be an idea? That was the beginning of the project “*in the Footsteps of the Founder*”, a study of Baden-Powell’s quotations in the collection made by Mario Sica with the same title.

The result was the booklet “Old thoughts – new visions”. Here is the foreword that explains its contents, intention and use:

### **Old thoughts – new visions**

The idea behind this booklet is to give a glimpse into Baden-Powell’s life, thoughts and methodical attempts to put words into action. Baden-Powell was not only interested in the Scout Movement; he was also very concerned about current affairs.

Baden-Powell has left us a treasury of wise sayings. Many of them are collected in the book “Footsteps of the Founder”, edited by Mario Sica. We asked ourselves: Can these sayings from a bygone age inspire us? Did BP have ideas about adults and scouting that are relevant today? Can the guilds benefit from samples of this material? For us the answer was yes.

We have concentrated on five themes:

1. Scouting and adult life – BP’s “Blue Patrol”.
2. Man of Peace
3. Working together – working for others

4. An open mind – being aware of nature and people around us and learning from them.

5. Playing the game.

Why only five themes? For us, these five issues are crucial. People ask what “the spirit of the guilds” is. We believe that the essence of these five themes is the main ingredient of that spirit.

Nutritional experts have a slogan. Not just “An apple a day...”, but “Five (fruits) every day” are important for a balanced, healthy diet. We hope that the five themes we have chosen will contribute to a healthy and fruitful life in the guilds.

We have included some of his speeches.

The booklet is intended as a source for camp-fire conversations or as inspiration for a “Five minute reflection”.

### ***Go well in the footsteps of the founder!***

The booklet was launched round an improvised campfire on a starry night at our guild masters’ meeting at Sanner Hotel in Hadeland in September.

We felt the warmth from the campfire and from the fellowship, a fine experience to take home and share with our own guilds.

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10 Guildmembers, 3 kids and 2 dogs from the new guild, 1.Tjernsbråten, on a canoe tour



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# NEWS from ICELAND

A total of 10 Icelandic guildscouts, attended the Nordic-Baltic meeting in Birstonas in Lithuania in June 2012. We found it very interesting to get to know the country and the people there and to see beautiful old towns.

The highlight was to see the young scouts from Lithuania singing and dancing national dances from their homeland and allow us, the visitors, to join in. We thank you very much for that.



Ten guilds scouts

The oldest guild in Iceland, the St. Georges guild in Akureyri, has recently republished a book with Icelandic scout songs by Tryggvi Þorsteinsson (1911-1975). Tryggvi was very active in the scout movement in Iceland and among his many accomplishments was the writing of about 200 songs. In the book there are notes with the texts in the size A-5 but it has also been published in the size A-4. The book should be quite useful for Icelandic scouts since singing has always been an important part of scouting in the country.

Recently a group of scouts, Braedrabandid also published a CD-disc with many popular Icelandic scout songs. You can ask for more information by sending an e-mail to [aevar@mosverjar.is](mailto:aevar@mosverjar.is)



Many guild scouts assisted at the National Jamboree at Útlíjótswatn last summer. They helped with many camp activities, cooking, exhibition, knitting and tried to inspire grown up people to join scouting again. At least one guild supported the scouts and guides in their region financially, so they could participate in the Jamboree.



Our last board meeting was in Akureyri (in the north) the 22nd of September 2012. Usually these meetings are in Reykjavik, the capital, but this time we wanted to be out in the country and then have a sightseeing tour around the town. Many of the representatives took their spouses along with so this became a very interesting and pleasant tour.

The 24th of October the Friendship Day will be celebrated in the town Hafnarfjörður. There will be a visit to two galleries, one with the Icelandic national dress and ornaments and the gallery Mukki, which will be a surprise.

After that there will be a program and refreshments in the Scout Center.

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## NEWS from LITHUANIA

No news = good news?



## NEWS from SWEDEN

It now seems a long time ago now when 38 Guild scouts from Sweden and Denmark met in Halland in August and had a nice week together. They made walking tours, shorter or longer, prepared with help from a lovely cook their food, stayed in a youth hostel and had nice evenings together.



Photo: Bergsten

Sometimes they were in larger groups, sometimes just two together. Great success!



Photo: A. Haastrup-Nielsen

Sweden has now had walking tours in different parts of the country and they are getting more and more popular. So, we are now looking for where to meet in 2014.

The preparations for the biannual assembly in Luleå 25-26 May 2013 have really started. We invite you all to take part! The place, Gammelstad, is on the UNICEF World Heritage List.



About 400 cottages are located around the old stone church and the place was used during Sundays, markets and things. What an opportunity to experience this together with us from all over Sweden!



For sure we are preparing next year's big project, the Europe Conference together with our friends from Denmark, Norway and Finland. Take a look at the ISGF website

[www.isgf.org](http://www.isgf.org) and alert all your guilds to register. We will put in all the documents on the ISGF website so that all countries in Europe and outside can read and use the documents. Iceland and Lithuania have their responsibilities within the preparations too.

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## The very latest news!



Have a look at [www.isgf.org](http://www.isgf.org) for news (on upcoming events)