



Nordic Baltic Sub-region News Letter

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The NBSR Meeting/Seminar

The next NBSR Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the Nordic Baltic Subregion Congress in Åland in June 2009.

The Nordic Baltic Subregion Congress

The NBSR Committee and the Åland organisers of the Congress urge all members of the NBSR member guilds to attend the Congress and at the same time enjoy the wonderful scenery, history and friendship of the people of Åland, and of course renew old friendships and make new ones with guildscouts of other nations.

News from the National Fellowships

News from Iceland

The year 2008 was characterised by efforts at close cooperation between the Scouting fraternity and the Guild Movement. A good example of this is the International Scout Jamboree held the 22nd-29th July 2008 at the Akureyri Scout Camp Hamrar in Northern Iceland. The theme of the Jamboree was „On the Viking Trail“.

Much preparatory effort is associated with such events as we all know. The experience residing with the adult scouts came in handy and the St. Georges Guilds of Akureyri took an active part in this work. A plan embracing more than 100 work packages was drawn up and some of these were so extensive that the town of Akureyri and people employed at Hamrar had to undertake them, whereas the local guilds partook in the less extensive ones.

Work evenings were arranged at Hamrar every Tuesday from 19:00 til 22:00 o'clock and voluntary workers from Scouts and Guilds worked every Saturday from 10:00 - 16:00 with a short lunch break. Viking shields were made and painted, trees were cut down to make place for a teaching arena, Fences, huts were painted inside and out, and the watch tower at entry to the camp site repaired and painted.



At the NBSR seminar in Oslo 25th to 26th Jan. '06 the NBSR Committee decided to publish a NBSR Newsletter twice a year in May and November. The Committee comprises the National Scout and Guide Presidents and corresponding International Secretaries. The language used will be English the official language of communication adopted for the NBSR.

During the Jamboree members of the local guilds took care of camp waste, cleaning and as a main function to assist the camp cook in looking after the staff canteen. They also manned shifts for providing breakfast, lunch and afternoon and evening meals to the scouts. The Northern guilds showed by example how essential it is for such an event to have access to a team of adult scouts with a wide experience, spanning everything from washing up to electric welding.

Once the Jamboree was over the local guilds helped disassembling all the installed equipment and buildings, pack them and store away. Being able to assist in such a manner is what guild scouting is all about, working with the scout groups during work and play.

Another example of close Scout/Guild cooperation is the „Peace Flame from Bethlehem“.

Jón Bergsson, IS

News from Sweden

The Säfsen-hike September 2008

Monday the 8th of September twelve guild scouts, stemming from Robertsfors in the north to Rönninge in the south, met together for a five day hike in Säfsen. We were allotted three new and practically fitted huts. Lotta and Calle Klärcke were in charge of provisions and meals, and undertook cooking in part, something they carried out most admirably. We had ample good food and the meals were served at promptly at the set time the whole week. Not to mention the wonderful cakes served with the evening coffee.



The hikers

Tuesday was the first day of the hike. The hikers were divided into two groups which was very good since some wanted to walk far and fast needing appropriate trekking gear. The others, who wanted a less strenuous hike, chose the Mellanfalls track. It was also steep but very picturesque, and after a few hours hike



A short rest

we found a fantastic camping place and stopped there for our sandwiches. Our ready made lunch we had at our campsite. In the evenings we assembled together in one of the huts and chatted well into the

evenings. A couple of evenings we sang accompanied by guitar played by Anna-Stina, who also led the singing.

On Wednesday we went to Fredriksberg, some by cars, whereas the fittest hiked the whole way. In Fredriksberg we had a historical walk about and thereafter we took us a long and peaceful meal break in Café Timjan. During our walk around Fredriksberg we came upon an exciting adventure playground. Thursday's hikes were selected on the bases



Lovely sandwiches

of the dryness of the paths. It turned out to be another hiking day without rain. One group decided on walking to Dan Andersson's Luossa hut instead of hiking around the tracks as before.

We had a fine hiking tour in mostly good and dry weather during our Säfsen hike. It had rained quite a lot earlier, so we encountered swampy conditions here and there. This only added extra spice to the fine meals we had during the hike. During Friday, which was the departure day we mostly stayed put in the camp, though a few of us used the opportunity for an additional wander around the fresh and lovely Dala-nature. Myself I used the day for a walk to the beautiful old Church to marvel at the lovely flowers and enjoy the peace.

Thus ended the annual Swedish Guild Hike in 2008.

Anna-Brita Lundahl

Norway - For contemplation in the New Year

Dear guild friends

A new year has arrived. Far too many people hurry intending to complete absolutely every possible thing. Perhaps we should earmark one year for slowing a little down, drawing a deep breath and ask ourselves if this is really how we want to live our lives always in a hurry? Let's sit down in our garden chairs with a cup of tea or coffee and contemplate the following poem of the Norwegian poet Ingrid Arctander:

If you haven't the time
to forget yourself at your window
seeing the glow of the sky over distant mountains,
you have lost life's purpose.

If you haven't the time
to bask in the sunlight;
stand in your garden and let the sun shine upon you
as long as it takes a small bird to feel safe to settle
on a tree by the garden gate,
and sing to you – then life has lost its purpose
at least for you.

If you haven't the time
for letting a free thought
take root in your heart
and wait to see it bloom
whilst the last tram has left
and every chance is lost.
You have lost your right to live
a life that has meaning for you.
In all tiny almost invisible things
a great significance lies hidden;
the secret that life is not what we do
but what grows - in and around us
and in our handiwork.

Every little thing that grows needs its time,
its peace and quiet.

Betten from the Norwegian National Guilds Office

Translated from Norwegian by Einar Tjörvi

News from Denmark

Peace light

One of the big and traditional events in the Danish Fellowship is the peace light. Late November we have a ceremony in Roskilde, a historical town with a famous cathedral, in which most Danish kings are buried. Many of



the neighboring local fellowships and scout/ guide troops are coming to participate, and they will of course bring the flame back to their places. The day after the peace light is sent by train to all parts of Denmark, and in most towns, fellowship mem-

bers and scouts/guides will have a local ceremony - and start spreading the peace light to schools, hospitals, old peoples homes, jails etc.

This winter, we had also prepared a sticker with the peace light logo, and it is nice to see that many scouts and guides have it on their uniform now.

National assembly

The national assembly will be held in September in Aalborg (some members around the world will remember this city from the General Assembly (World Conference) back in 1989).

The national board has been busy preparing a new action plan for discussion at the assembly. Our national plan is related to the ISGF plan, and the most important issue is capaciousness. Inspired of the Dutch Plus Scouts, we want to be more open-minded and better to welcome younger adults. Also we should give them the opportunity to create their own style and run activities suitable for them. At the same time we can still keep the existing fellowships with their traditions in a parallel track (and hopefully so close that members from both tracks will visit the other track).

In order to facilitate this capaciousness, more than 30 proposed changes to our constitution have been prepared (thus it will be a busy and demanding assembly).

The action plan will also contain a variety of proposed activities. One of them is a national outdoor day. It's the plan to invite all Danish people to participate in a lot of activities, games and fun in the nature (earth, water, air and fire) in September 2010. This national outdoor day has two main aims; PR for scouts/guides/fellowships and environmental awareness and protection. Another group of activities is focused on our ethnic minorities. We simply want to meet our fellow inhabitants and show them that despite some minor differences in language, creed and culture, we are very much alike and have the same dreams.

Hanne has decided to step down from the national board, so a new NP will be elected.

Cooperation with the Scout Movement

We have in Denmark over the latest 4-6 years further developed the good cooperation with the 5 Danish Scout Associations, and NP Hanne has in January together with our commissioner for training and development Lone Erkmann participated in the their joint chairmen's meeting and in March in the joint chairmen's/steering committee meeting.

At these meetings Hanne and Lone were informed about the Scout Associations thoughts for extended cooperation and of the coming national jamboree for the members of all the Scout Associations in 2012 - they expect approximately 30-40,000 participants.

The Scout Associations have agreed on a yearly Scout's Day on 23rd April - in 2009 the scouts will on this day wear special badges with different codes - once the codes have

been broken, information of scouting will be available by sending an SMS to a certain mobile number.

Hanne and Lone informed about the work with our new action plan and invited the members of the Scout Associations to participate in our national outdoor day mentioned above.

Blue Summer

One of the 5 Danish Scout Associations (the Danish Scout Association - or the blue scouts) will have their national jamboree this summer in July. Many fellowship members will participate in the service team in security, food supply etc.

This year, we will also help the scouts to build and air 1000 kites. For sure a challenge (especially if the wind calms down at the very moment!), but challenges are great for scouts - and also for older scouts.



Hanne Borgstrøm, NP

News from the European Region

Second European Region's Workshop entitled "The Future and Foundation for Growth"

Was held at Kutna Hora, Czech Republic, 14th - 17th November, 2008 and attended by representatives of 13 different countries from all of the European sub-regions. The main items under discussion were:

1. Ideas to help with recruitment of members
2. Ways in which ISGF Europe could help us all.

Recruitment of new members

1. Have task group which contacts Scout / Guide groups and identifies their needs and plans public relations
2. Each Guild to have a Public Relations person who is responsible for contacting local and district newspapers. Make a point of informing people of internet contact.



- Place relevant information in all Scouting / Guiding Media, magazines and web sites.
3. Encourage the formation of new groups of enthusiastic people with special interests. A good example was the Czech Adult Scouts Group who had been formed with a special interest in singing.
4. Identify potential new members through contact with Youth Organisations for list of leavers. Provide an information package for leavers. Invite leavers and parents of youth leaving to a meeting with a local Guild.
5. When a new Group forms provide informal mentoring and help with sources of information. Have a facilitator for the group. Provide information on drawing up a constitution, planning of own programme, and own activities.
6. Provide training for Guild Masters/ Guild Chairmen to encourage recruitment.
7. Several people, from different countries, identified

that the name Guild gave an impression of a group of elderly grey haired people and this did not encourage young people to join. It was identified that a change of name might encourage recruitment.

Ways in which ISGF Europe may help

- 1.To keep and make accessible an updated address list, both email and land addresses of all European Countries. Also a list of addresses of Guide/Scout accommodation where members might stay as individuals or Groups and encourage international fellowship. Draw up a comprehensive Organisation chart.
- 2.Developing publicity material for the Region including a map of Europe showing member countries and other countries having Scouting and Guiding. ISGF hopes during 2009 to develop leaflets and brochures, and make them available on the internet, with a layout including photographs which would allow for translation of the written word into the local language.
- 3.Collect and make accessible up to date information about member countries, forthcoming events, ideas for the programme, the rich heritage of Scouting and Guiding including songs. Also a list of useful hints, resources, notes on starting a Guild and travel concessions as/and if available.
- 4.It was felt that there was no role for a Europe level.

Olav Balle, Euro Region Secretary

News from Finland; 2009-2010 Theme

As I start my period as National President, I have been perusing the guild movement history, noting the many and important activities having been implemented during that time. The guild scouts have discovered worthwhile projects of their own and worked at them in the spirit of the motto: „Once a Scout – Always a Scout“.



Throughout the guild history, the Finnish guild movement has taken active part in the International one. In this effort it has been quite up-to-date; even in the forefront. Our international contacts function well, which will be borne out during the NSSR 2009 Congress on Åland, which the Finnish guilds host. It is our hope that it will be attended by a large number of guild scouts from all over.

It is within the ranks of the local guilds, however, that the real work takes place. Wherever we meet other adults on our own home ground, the scout spirit is ignited in our hearts and reflected in our words and actions.

Our Annual Reports bear witness to our collective work on miscellaneous themes and activities, and our cooperation with a variety of other associations. Whenever a group of guild scouts, wearing their blue shirts and yellow scarfs, take part in an activity, they create attention. In my own experience this makes a number of people wonder who we are and what we stand for.

Wearing our uniform, when taking part in an event or project, increases the visibility of the guild movement. This is a worthy aim, which may help expanding our membership. We can make use of Thinking Day celebration, which this year falls upon „Lent Sunday“, for instance by attend-

ing our local church service in force dressed in our blue guild shirts and yellow scarfs. We can meet in the sports hall taking with us all the stamps we have collected over the year to give to the the Guilds' Map Bank whilst having something warm to drink. Participate in a official aid collection dressed in our uniforms.

With guild scout greetings

Pirjo Rintamäki / Ingun Ingo

From Lithuania - St. George's Day Message 09

It would be easy to get discouraged about the world situation. We are constantly bombarded with news of war, famine and flooding, harsh autocratic regimes and of course, let us not forget the global recession. In the midst of all the doom and gloom it's hard to see the good things that are happening and it's even harder to believe that we, as individuals, can make a difference..... yes we can! The secret lies in the present. If we all pay attention to the slightest possibilities given to us, we will be able to improve the present. And if we improve the present whatever happens in our lives afterwards will be better too.

*In his or her life,
each person can adopt one of two attitudes:
to build or to plant.*

*Builders may take years over their tasks,
but one day they will finish what they are doing.
Then they will stop, hemmed in by their own walls.*

*Life becomes meaningless
Once the building is finished.
Those who plant suffer the storms
and the seasons and rarely rest.
Unlike a building, a garden never stops growing.
And by its constant demands
on the gardener's attentions
it makes the gardener's life a great adventure.*

Paulo Coelho 'Brida'

Lithuanian Scout and Guide Fellowship
Dalia Uršaitė

From the ISGF

Nothing new to report.

News from other Sub-Regions

South & Western Europe Sub-Region

Nothing new to report.

Central Europe Sub Region

Nothing new to report.

From the Editor

Dear friends and fellow's in Scouting.

I take this opportunity to inform you of my decision to resign my position as Editor of the NBSR News Letter.

At the same time I want to thank you for your very generous cooperation through the years and the numerous kind words and wishes that you have sent me. I wish you and the Nordic Baltic Fellowship a long and fruitful life in the years to come. Be always mindful of and endeavour to live by the Lord Baden-Powell's adage: **“Once a Scout always a Scout”**.