



# Nordic Baltic Sub-region News Letter

Volume 2 - Oct. 2008

## Current NBSR national presidents

### **The NSBSR President::**

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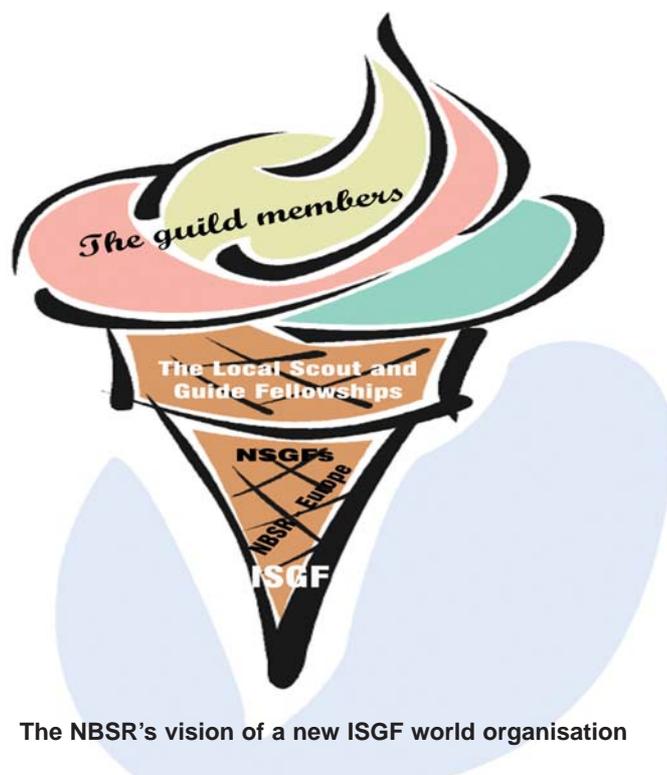
At the NBSR seminar in Oslo 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. '06 the NBSR Committee decided to publish a NBSR Newsletter twice a year in May and November. The Committee comprises the National Scout and Guide Presidents and corresponding International Secretaries. The language used will be English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

### **The NBSR News Letter's editor is:**

Einar Tjörvi Elíasson, Hjardarhaga 50, IS-107 Reykjavik, Iceland; tel: 00354 897 8677; email: ete@krete.is

### **The NBSR Workshop in Västerås-Summary**

Estonia decided to join Central Europe Sub-Region as per 1<sup>st</sup> June and is thus no longer included on our membership register.



The NBSR's vision of a new ISGF world organisation

**The Mission of NBSR** Is to strengthen networking and friendship between the guild members of the national Fellowships.

**The Vision of NBSR;** Through networking and friendship the guild members of the National Fellowships take an active part in spreading the understanding that the guild movement is an international movement working for peace and understanding across borders all over the world.

**The Strategy of NBSR;** To let the NBSR Committee meet twice in every three year period, i.e.

In due time before the ISGF Conference in order to discuss the Conference agenda and papers with a special view on the NBSR activities and

To let the NBSR Committee meet in connection with the NBSR Gathering to discuss the progress of the NBSR

Vision and any other matters of mutual interest.

**Membership Fee:** The fee is reduced from 3 DKK to 1 DKK per member, valid per 1st January 2008.

**Meetings and their financing arrangements;** the following was agreed:

In 2008 NBSR pays hotel (night between Saturday and Sunday), meeting facilities and food during the meeting for the committee members.

From 2009 and onwards NBSR pays only for meeting facilities and food during the committee meeting.

All member NSGFs pay the travel and hotel costs for their own committee members.

NBSR pays travel expenses up to 2.000 DKK annually for the sub-region's representative on the Europe Region committee.

#### **Other Issues:**

Iceland's proposal for a Joint NBSR Rejuvenation Action, financed by a special JRA Fund was rejected.

The proposal for a central meeting point was agreed, and decided that Copenhagen be the future meeting point for meetings except those held in connection with gatherings.

Hanne (NP/DK) was re-elected as NBSR Chairman for one year.

ISGF World Conference 2008; Recommendations, candidates for the committee, triennial report and workshops were discussed. It was agreed that NBSR should try to "speak with one tongue" at the conference.

European Challenge 2008-2010. It was agreed that better communication is needed; challenges should be started from the bottom and passed to the top; it was emphasised that our movement is basically intended for ordinary members, and minimal bureaucracy.

European Team; accepts that the Europe Committee (EC) needs a better communication link to WCOM, and time to find its role. A WCOM/European Team (ET) arrangement makes for duplication of tasks, and unresolved responsibility issues. NBSR resolved to have the new WCOM start a service check of IFGS'es organisational structure with the aim of minimizing bureaucracy and organisational expenditures, at the 2011 world conference.

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## **News from the National Fellowships**

### **News from Norway**

The Norwegian NSGF stood for an Inspiration Meeting under the name „The Spark (Gnisten)“ on Mastemyr 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The main theme of the meeting was the knotty issue of how to achieve the objective set by the last Assembly, i.e. to increase the number of guilds from the now 85 guilds to 95 guilds, whereof 3 are to be youth guilds, and correspondingly expand guild membership from 1500 to 1700 by the year 2010.

Arve Ulin told the meeting the tale of St. George and the dragon. St. George, who modelled his life after the Code of Chivalry of the ancient Order of Knighthood, namely bravery, loyalty to God and country, willingness to make sacrifices for the greater good; be merciful, humble, and courteous towards fellow Christians and countrymen.

St. George was thus the very paragon of goodness whereas the "dragon" was the symbol of the world's evil.

This ancient Code of Chivalry, he reminded the meeting, is the very core upon which Scouting and Guild ideals are built. Through various everyday examples Arve Ulin also pointed out how such dragons exist even today and require equally valiant measures to overcome.



At the meeting was presented divers introductory and educational material aimed at the expansion issue, drawing upon long experiences in scouting and working with youth. The importance of networking, the setting up of „Hoteltet“ (a hotel tent) in connection with National Scout Jamborees offering a visitors to the camp a facility for overnighing in a Scout manner to name only two of the ideas presented.

The outcome of the meeting may be summarised as follows:

- The tale of St. George and the dragon reminds us that we must meet the challenges of the future.
- In order to achieve this we must ask questions and LISTEN to the answers.
- We pledge to work actively on nejuvination of the guilds both by expanding membership in existing guilds and starting new ones. To achieve this the guild movement must be more visible in tha Sout/Guide movement and present a positive interesting image.
- We shall continue the themes agreed on at the Spark Meeting at the guild presidents' meeting in the autumn, group meetings and local ones.
- We shall establish and utilise networking.
- The national leadership and the information group will support those working locally.
- The required material shall be made easily accessible.

Extract from St. George, no. 2, 2008

## **News from Iceland**

The news from Iceland are that both the Scout and the Guild activities flourish. The Icelandic Scout Association held a very successful International Jamboree in Akureyri this summer. It was well attended, both by Icelandic and foreign Scout Groups.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of October this year the NSGF Committee held a meeting attended by all the LSGF presidents and secretaries . The main issues on the agenda were:

- Rejuvination and membership expansion measures – Use of ideas from the Norwegian "Spark" project.
- Critical review of the Guild activities – Group discussions (e.g. Fellowship and St. Georges day activities)
- Discussion group summaries
- The Peace Light
- The National Guild Assembly May 09 – preparations.
- NBSR Congress on the Åands May/June 09
- LSGF reports for the years 2007-2008.

Report on outcome in next issue.

Jón Bergsson, IS

## **News from Sweden**

The following was reported in the minutes from the Swedish LG meeting 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April 2008:

Per the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008 the membership of the Swedish guilds totalled 1175 in 38 LSGFs.

The new St Georges Scoutguild Carl Johan in Gothenburg, which was established by former scout leaders of the Carl Johans Scout Group in Gothenburg, is heartily welcomed.

As regards the over all economy of the Swedish guild movement, it must regrettably be reported that the income continues to fall because of the decline in membership. Guild

treasurers are therefore urged to show the utmost care in guild expenditures.

The Internet website of the Swedish NSGF has been updated. We plan to provide on our website a sales channel complete with an orderform. All regulatory reviews made by the NSGF committee will be reported on our website.

The Peace Light 2008: Laila Boxström and Gjermund Austvik have already in February met with guild representatives from Helsingborg and Denmark with respect to the Peace Light. Torgny Bernro will be responsible for the safe transportation of the Light with the HH-ferries. Ola Hansen will be responsible for arranging a police guard in Helsingborg. Gjermund Austvik will be responsible for the contact with the Danish St. Georges Guilds in Denmark. The Peace Light Ceremony in Knutpunkten in Helsingborg is to be held about 20:00 the day the Light arrives from Denmark.

The Project to Ensure the Future of the Swedish Guilds is ongoing: Various representatives of the Swedish NSGF Committee are actively contacting various district Guild Meetings in preparation for the National Guild Assembly 2009.

Extracts from „Gillescouten“, Vol.3, 2008

## News from Lithuania

No news have been received from Lithuania this time. They are urged to do better for the next issue.

News from them are of particular interest to us all.

We send you our wellwishes and Scoput greetings.

The editor

## News from Denmark



In June, The Danish Fellowship celebrated its 75 years anniversary with a picnic day in one of our most beautiful scout centres "Houens Odde". Approximately 200 members enjoyed a wonderful summer day with many funny games and tests. In the morning we tracked

the past and tested our old scout skills, and after lunch we tracked the future using modern equipment like GPS and also discussing the future of our movement. In the evening we had a marvellous barbecue party. No doubt that all participants refreshed their memory from the active scout-/guide period, but we also went home with new ideas for the future.



## Camp for "ghetto-children"

In most cities, quite many families can't afford to send their children on holiday. Especially children from ethnic minorities risk a boring summer in the ghetto. In a joint initiative with scout leaders, fellowship members and the local school, children and adolescents from a tough area in Horsens were invited on a 4 days camp in a forested area. From July 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 37 children had a great time in a camp school.

It was a good mix of both Danish and other ethnic origin, age from 6 to 16, and also a wide social span. They tried a lot of scout activities, including cooking their meal in open fire, woodcraft etc.

For one small boy, it was apparently his first time in the nature. At the beginning he seemed to be a little bit scared and uninterested. But suddenly he saw a lot of things on the ground: ants, insects, spruce cones eaten by woodpeckers and squirrels. From that moment, he talked and talked about the amazing forest. Probably the biggest event in his life so forth. Hopefully he can persuade his parents to join the local scout troop.



It was also a wonderful time for the 12 adults, educationists, scout leaders and fellowship members. We did not save the world, but we made it a little bit better for these 37 boys and girls - and we are prepared to repeat the camp next year.

Niels Rosenbom, IS

## News from Finland

The Finnish guilds are busy organising the NBSR Congress to be held next year. Here follow a summary of the letter of invitation to the event issued by the Organising Committee:

### NORDIC-BALTIC CONGRESS

*"Forwards under full sails".*

Held 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in Mariehamn, Åland

Åland consists of numerous islands between Sweden and Finland. The Nation has for a long time had autonomy from Finland, for instance with its own national flag, own postal stamps, and own representative in the Finnish Parliament, and is a fully demilitarised nation. Åland has a population of 27 000 and the national language is Swedish. Åland is a real summer paradise, located in the middle of the Baltic Sea. June is the month when Åland is the most beautiful with its flowering fields and shining sea. Mariehamn is Åland's capital city with some 11 000 inhabitants.

Those attending the Congress will be quartered in Mariehamn and most of the program takes place there. Following is a preliminary agenda:

- Festivities in "the spirit of the sea" held onboard the museum ship Pommern, the unique barque kept in western harbour of Mariehamn
- Visit to the Åland Museum, which is the holder of numerous prizes
- A verbal and pictorial presentation of participating countries
- Traditional camp bonfire with an ocean view
- Sightseeing on Åland
- Traditional Midsummer feast with a Maypole decorated with all the national colours of the NBSR nations and erected by the participating nations
- Scout manoeuvres in Mariehamn and many other events.

Additional information on registration and prices will be available later in the year.

The editor

## \*\*\*\*\* News from the European Region

The ISGF European Region held a Workshop entitled "The Future and Foundation for Growth" in Cyprus. 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

### Main Points:

Time was taken for socialising thus ensuring mutual under-

standing and bonding was achieved. This worked well and each country gave an informative presentation about their own National Organisation.

Similarities and common problems were shared and discussed. By a process of consultation, and negotiation the following mutual issues were identified for the Europe Region. These would form the basis of inter-European cooperation to the benefit of Scouting and Guiding, increase unity and promote modern communications:

- " Promote and support the ISGF Regional European Conference, Cyprus 2010, encouraging all to attend.
- " Collect and distribute lists of resources and contacts to enable Guilds to work together, and with Scouts and Guides, both at home and abroad.
- " Encourage all types of 'Links' between Guilds; including links encompassing both service projects and social events - not just formal, long term 'Twinning'.
- " Organise Gatherings / Camps, fun-events for all, with the emphasis on mixing and having time and opportunity to get to know one another, thus developing and expanding a network of friendship.
- " Publish a regularly updated '**News Page**' reporting on Guild activities and giving invitations to open events.
- " Produce and distribute ISGF Promotional goods and materials for members to use.
- " Lobby the European Union for support
- " Produce, and very regularly update, a European Website to publicise all of the above. Good advance notice with plenty of details should be given for all events.
- " A '**Useful Hints**' downloadable resource should be available on the Website, on such topics as:
  - o Starting a Guild.
  - o Programme Ideas.
  - o European grant sources, travel concessions in different countries etc.

Liz Aveston (Facilitator)

## News from other Sub-Regions

No news were received from the other Sub-Regions.

The editor

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## From the ISG

### The World Congress in Vienna 2008

The four new members on the World Committee elected at the World Congress in Vienna 2008 are:

- Mr. Mohamed Ajaj Muftah, Libya
- Mr. Bensaid Abdelaziz, Morocco
- Mr. Paul Lokossou, Benin
- Mr. Harald Kesselheim, Germany.

Also elected were:

- Chairman: Mr. Brett Grant, Australia
- Vice Chairman: Mme. Anne Dupont, Belgium

This is the first time that the ISGF President is NOT from Europe. Also, all ISGF regions are now represented in the ISGF World Committee. - We wish them well. -

### The new ISGF Home and Blog pages

A lot of work is being done to make the ISGF home page more attractive and easier to use. This work is supervised by the webmaster Ronald de Rosa Spierings, and he is to be heartily congratulated on the improvements already achieved. Guilds Fellowships as well as individual guild members are invited to send in

their views and comments to the World Bureau.

The greatest novelty is the new Blog page that Ales Cerin of the WCom has set up. It provides a flexible and interactive medium for the general ISGF membership to report news, put forward their views, and obtain news of what other LNGFs are doing around the world.

The editor

## Fellowship Day Message 2008

A Warm Hello,

Have people looked up the meaning of Fellowship lately? Do we understand what it means to be part of a Fellowship? Not just in our own local town but in the world we call home.

I have been to a dinner with over 500 people who come from various backgrounds, cultures, gender, personal beliefs and localities. All in one room for an evening of celebration and singing Ging Gang Gooly as if we had all grown up together in the same house. Yet we actually grew up in two separate houses and many locations. The houses of Scouting and Guiding.

Then something wonderful happened, we have seen the adults of these two youth fellowships combine to become the International Scout and Guide Fellowship. The vision of our forbears to create such a Fellowship and have differences and rivalries set aside for a harmonious Fellowship to assist young people in our world to develop has been a success.

Over time we have taken our Scout and Guide Fellowship and offered it to new people and spread the warmth and joy of our family to those who require some understanding and assistance.

On this day we call Fellowship Day, we can stand up, hold our heads high and repeat for all to hear, the promise we made many sunrises ago, as a young person or an adult and thank our creator for giving us the opportunity to be here today with the friends we have world wide and the friends we will have in our near future, just around the corner.

Yours in Fellowship,

Brett D Grant, Chairman  
ISGF World Committee



## From the Editor

For the next edition of the News Letter it would be highly interesting to receive from either the NSGFs or the LSGFs or both short news of ongoing and/or planned events. One or two illustrative photos would also be most welcome.

*Please send your inputs to me early - it takes much less time for me to put together the News Letter and it becomes much more readable.*