



WFIS EUROLETTER

July 2001, number 1

Let's introduce you to WFIS - Europe and the new EUROLETTER!

In this number:

You will find:

- the history of the Wood Beads (first part);
- WFIS news about WFIS WW, the last chairmen's meeting and the visit at the jamboree place, some information about new members...and some more!

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The World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) is an international organisation composed by its recognised Scout member associations.

The WFIS was formed in 1996 in Laubach, Germany.

The main criteria to join WFIS is to keep alive The Law and Promise and Scouting scheme as devised by Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. The member associations should follow, and use, BP's original program, traditions, uniforms, morals, ethics and structure.

At present WFIS has member in the following European countries: Germany, Italy, England and Ireland,

Switzerland and Denmark.

In 2001 the WFIS North American Regional Council was formed and at present it has members in Canada and in the USA.

So the number of WFIS members is increasing. That's why we felt we needed a connection among our different scout groups, to give them the possibility to exchange their minds and their experiences. And also the Stirring committee needed a mean to communicate with all the associations involved in WFIS, to inform them about the activities proposed by the federation and the decisions taken during the general assembly of delegates.

That is the reason for this Euroletter, whose main purpose is to inform you all about what is going on with WFIS and its members.

In the newspaper you will find also some articles about Baden-Powell and the History of Scout Movement, so that you can improve your "scout culture"!

I hope you enjoy reading them!

Be prepared!



Together we are stronger!

During the last chairmen's meeting I was asked to produce a newspaper, the aim of which is to give the WFIS associations some information about the activities of our federation, to get in touch the different members and promote the contacts among the

different scout groups. However for doing that I **need Your help tod**

I would like you all to take part to the life of our euroletter. So please, if you have any suggestions, comments, requests etc..write to me! **I would ask you all to send me some information about your asso-**

ciation and its activities, to put in the newsletter (a small article, written in English and a photo). And please, don't forget that together we're stronger! I thank you all!

Elena Grisafi

ASSI SCOUT - Italy

WFIS 3. Chairman

8th "woodbeads" training course in Stainsby



From the 25th to the 29th of May the 8th "WOOD BEADS" training course was held in the B-P's Scouts training centre in Stainsby UK . It was an international training course because Italian, German and Danish scouts took part together with the British B-P's scouts. In this picture you can see

the whole group: the trainers and the trainees.

It was a very nice and interesting course and the trainees really had a lot of fun and we are all looking forward to the reunion in September .

If you are asking what is the "Wood Beads" training course and what are these famous wood beads, then, let's read together their history and why Baden-Powell chose them as the symbol of the training for leaders.



On the morning of September 8, 1919, a 61 year-old retired general of the British Army stepped out into the center of a clearing at Gilwell Park, in Epping Forest, outside London,

England. He raised to his lips the horn of a Greater Kudu, one of the largest of African antelopes. He blew a long sharp blast. Nineteen men dressed in short pants and knee socks, their shirt-sleeves rolled up, assembled by patrols for the first Scoutmasters' training camp held at Gilwell. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the World Scouting Movement.

When they had finished their training together, Baden-Powell gave **each man a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a Zulu chieftain's deserted hut when on campaign in South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continued to be held year-after-year. At the end of each course the wooden beads were used to recognize the completion of training. When the original beads ran out, new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge**

Course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as the advanced training course for leaders in Scouting

The Origins of the Wood Badge

When Gilwell Park was purchased for the Scout Movement in 1919 and formal Leader Training introduced, Baden-Powell felt that 'Scout Officers' (as they were then called) who completed a training course, should receive some form of recognition. Originally he envisaged that those who passed through Gilwell should wear an ornamental tassel on their Scout hats but instead the alternative of two small beads attached to lacing on the hat or to a coat button-hole was instituted and designated the Wood Badge. Very soon the wearing of beads on the hat was discontinued and instead they were strung on a leather thong or bootlace around the neck, a tradition that continues to this day. The first Wood Badges were made from beads taken from a necklace that had belonged to a Zulu chief named Dinizulu, which B-P had found during his time in the Zululand in 1888. On state occasions, Dinizulu would wear a necklace 12 feet long, containing, approximately 1,000 beads made from South African Acacia yellow wood. This wood has a soft central pith, which makes it easy for a rawhide lace to be threaded through from end to end and this is how the 1,000 beads were arranged. The beads themselves in size from tiny emblems to others 4 inches in length. The necklace was considered sacred, being the badge conferred on royalty and outstanding warriors. When B-P was looking for some token to award to people who went through the Gilwell training course he remembered the Dinizulu necklace and the leather thong given to him by an elderly African at Mafeking. He took two of the smaller beads, drilled them through the centre, threaded them onto the thong and called it the Wood Badge. The first sets of beads issued were all from the original necklace but the supply soon ran short. So one exercise on the early courses was to be given one original Acacia bead and be told to carve the other from hornbeam or beech.

Eventually beech wood beads became the norm and for many years were made by Gilwell staff in their spare time. Again in the early days Wood Badge participants received one bead on taking the practical course at Gilwell and received a second bead on completing the theoretical part (answers to questions) and a certain length of in-service training.

B-P had got the idea for wearing beads on the hat during the First World War after seeing officers of the U.S. Expeditionary Force wearing broad-brimmed B.P. Stetson hats (not named after Baden-Powell but a Stetson trade name: 'Boss of the Plains') with acorns attached to the two ends of a thong that kept the hat



Worn on the brim of Scout hat



Worn around neck

from blowing off the head in a strong wind. He thought originally of having two beads attached in the same way on the Scout hat but changed his mind when it was brought to his attention that Scout Leaders only wore their hats outdoors, so instead he decided that they should be worn on the thong around the neck. Certain variations soon came about. Two bead necklaces were worn by Scouters, three beads by Assistant Leader Trainers (formerly called Assistant Camp Chiefs) and four by Leader Trainers (formerly called Deputy Camp Chiefs). With a revision of the pattern of Trainer Training in recent years the practice of awarding three and four bead necklaces has ceased. For a brief period of time Wolf Cub Leaders (Cub Scout Leaders) had their own system. From 1922 until 1925, Wolf Cub Leaders were awarded a Wolf's Fang or an Akela Badge, comprising a single fang on a leather thong.

Wolf Cub Leader Trainers, known also as Akela Leaders, wore two fangs. These fangs were bone tooth fangs or wooden replicas and very few of them survive today. The use of the Akela Badge was short-lived for on 13th November 1925 the Committee of the Council decided that there should only be one type of badge for Leader Training, the Wood Badge but that it should be worn '... with a distinctive mark...' to denote the section of the Movement with which the Leader was working. This mark took the form of a small coloured abacus-type bead, placed immediately above the knot on the leather bootlace. The beads were yellow for Cubs, green for Scouts and red for Rovers but this did not last long and were phased out by a decision of the Committee of the Council on 14th October 1927. Again few of these beads survive today. When foreign countries established Wood Badge training after the pattern set by Gilwell, the person in charge of originating the course was designated a



An Akela Badge

Gilwell Deputy Camp Chief, representing Gilwell Park in his own country. According to a tradition supposedly established by Baden-Powell, that person could wear five beads. Most of these fifth beads were presented in the 1920s and 1930s but what happened to them and who wore them is not known. Baden-Powell himself wore six beads. But B-P did also award a set of six beads to Sir Percy Everett. Sir Percy had been a friend of B-P since the original camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 and he became the Commissioner

for Training and eventually the Deputy Chief Scout. B-P wish to acknowledge the tremendous debt that he owed to Sir Percy and so presented him with a six bead necklace. In 1949 Sir Percy presented his six bead necklace back to Gilwell to be worn as the badge of office of the Camp Chief, i.e. the person on the Gilwell staff responsible for Leader Training. John Thurman, then the Camp Chief, wore the necklace until his retirement in 1969 when the necklace passed to Brya Dodgson, the Director of Leader Training. Following his retirement in 1983 and a re-organisation of staff titles and responsibilities, the six bead necklace is was worn by Derek Twine, then the Executive Commissioner (Programme and Training). Today after further changes in titles it is worn by Stephen Peck, Director of Programme and Development. The conferring of wooden beads as a sign of recognition is an old Zulu tradition. We read of them first in the story of Charles Rawden Maclean, also known as John Ross, who was shipwrecked off the Zululand coast in 1825. He was one of the first white people to meet the great Zulu king Shaka. In his description of the Festival of the First Fruits he wrote: 'They now commence ornamenting and decorating their persons with beads and brass ornaments. The most curious part of these decorations consisted of several rows of small pieces of wood ... strung together and made into necklaces and bracelets... On inquiry we found that the Zulu warriors set great value on these apparently useless trifles, and that they were orders of merit conferred by Shaka. Each row was the distinguishing mark of some heroic deed and the wearer had received them from Shaka's own hand.' Later when Maclean met the royal party he observed that Dingane, Shaka's half brother, was 'dressed in the same manner as the king but without so large a display of beads.' There is little doubt that the beads of Dinizulu were identical to those which Maclean saw Shaka wearing and it is quite extraordinary that B-P should have chosen these beads as an award, to be conferred by his own hand, without knowing that Shaka had used them in the same way.

Today thousands of Zulu boys are Scouts and in 1987 the Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi of KwaZulu was the guest of honour at a large Scout rally. Chief Buthelezi's mother, Princess Magogo, was a daughter of Dinizulu. At the rally the Chief Scout of South Africa took from his neck a thong on which four Wood Badge beads were strung and handed it to Chief Buthelezi in a symbolic act of returning the beads to their rightful heir.

GILWELL'S DIPLOMA COURSE

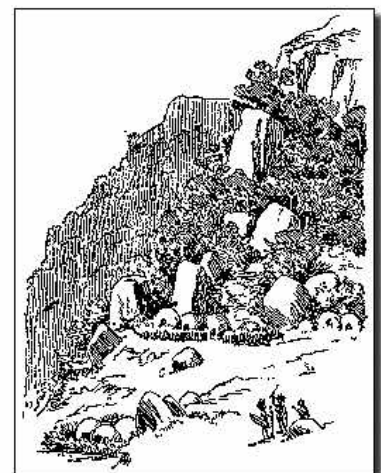
The scheme of training used at Gilwell evolved from a series of articles by B-P published in the *Headquarters Gazette* early in 1914-1918 war. These were issued in book form in 1919 under the title *Aids to Scoutmastership*. The framework of training was set down by B-P in the following notes.

DINIZULU - THE ZULU CHIEF



At the conclusion of the first Zulu war in 1879, the control of Zululand was broken up into 13 provinces, each with a Zulu chieftain in charge. Dinizulu, son of the former Zulu Chief Cetuywayo, was one of these chieftains. The more belligerent of these chieftains were soon invading the others' territories, burning villages and raiding their cattle herds. Dinizulu requested help from local Boer (Dutch) forces, and received about 800 mounted Boer troops. With this help he quickly rose to power over the neighbouring tribes and in return for their assistance, Dinizulu promised to give the Boers land. However, now confronted with losing a major part of his country to the Boers, he then turned to Britain for help. The British Government succeeded in contesting part of the Boer land request based on previous treaties. To prevent further Boer encroachment on Zululand, Great

Britain annexed what remained of the country. Although the Boers had thus been thwarted, annexation by Britain had not been in Dinizulu's plans. Early in 1888 Dinizulu gathered about 4,000 warriors and broke into open defiance of the British authorities. The situation soon became critical and in June 1888 an army of 2,000 British soldiers, plus a levy of loyal Zulus was despatched from Cape Town to settle the uprising. Baden-Powell was a member of this force and when the commanding officer instructed B-P to establish an intelligence department to obtain information about Dinizulu's whereabouts, B-P



organised a small group of Zulu spies and gathered complete information about Dinizulu's movements. Dinizulu and his forces were hidden in the fastnesses of the Ceza, a mountainous spread with a jumbled mass of broken rock, boulders and caves with a number of thickly wooded ravines running up into a jungle near the summit. B-P moved into the Ceza bush in command of a column of soldiers, mounted troops and part of the levy of friendly Zulus. When B-P and his forces reached the summit, Dinizulu and his warriors were gone, but numerous small forts and huts were found. In one of these huts, which because of its size and design appeared to be that of Dinizulu, B-P found a number of weapons and a long string of wooden beads. Several days later Dinizulu gave himself up. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and transported to the island of St Helena, about 1,100 miles off the west coast of Africa. It is reported that during his stay (more exile than real imprisonment) he took to wearing western style clothing, accepted Christianity and even sang in the Church choir. In 1898 Dinizulu was allowed to return to Africa but was involved in another revolt and after a subsequent trial for murder, treason and other offences, was sentenced in 1908 to four years imprisonment. He was released after two years and died in the Transvaal in 1913. There is some debate as to how B-P acquired the necklace - whether he found it, was given it or whether he stole it.

A manuscript in The Scout Association's Archives gives what must be the definitive answer...

To be continued.....

NEWS FROM THE WFIS WORLD WIDE

The latest news from WFIS WW has arrived from **the North American Regional Council** that has been officially formed and it has also adopted its own bylaws.

The North America Regional Council is comprised of the following member associations:

- BPSAC –Ontario
- BPSAC – British Columbia
- The Canadian Independent Scout Association
- The B-P Rovers of Arizona

If you want to know more about them, take a look at this website:

www.geocities.com/wfis_na

CHAIRMEN MEETING IN DENMARK AND VISIT TO THE JAMBOREE CAMP SITE

During the week end from 15th to 17th of June the Stirring Committee met in Denmark for the chairmen's meeting.

The Danish hospitality was very nice and that's was good as the committee had to work hard until late at night discussing all the points on the agenda.

It was also possible to go and take a look to **the Jamboree camp site in Skørping**, in the northern part of Jutland.

The site is really very beautiful and wild, with a big grass area surrounded by small woods. In the centre of the grass, on a little hill, there is a huge chestnut: a magic place for Akela and his cubs! There is also a small chalet in which there will be The Baden Powell service centre.

In the camp site the Cubs, the Junior scouts, the Senior scouts and the Rovers will show each other their scout skills and the scout traditions of their country.

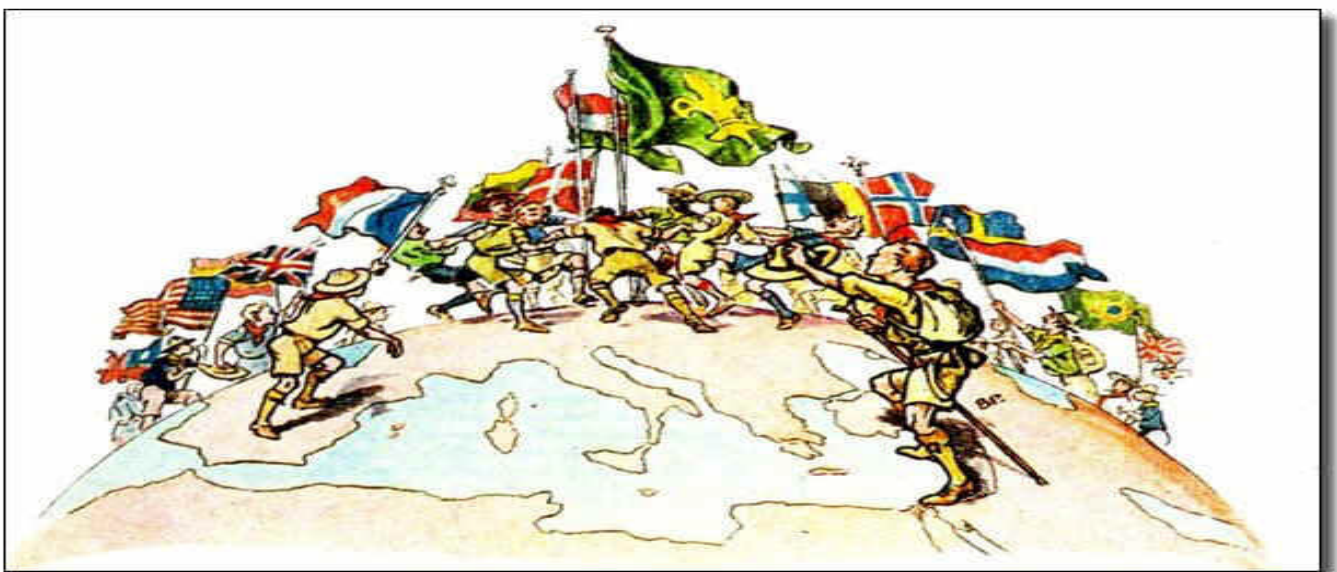
The place is not that big, but there will be enough space for every group and for the activities scheduled in the camp program.

The participation to the activities proposed by the camp staff is a free choice, but for the Flag break, each morning we would like all those on the camp to be there.

You can also choose to cook on gas or on a woodfire.

It is also possible to find all the information about the Jamboree 2002 on our web site:

www.wfis-europe.org



WE CONNECT SCOUTS & GUIDES...THROUGH INTERNET SERVICES!



Scoutlink is a global organisation with the AIM of being a safe place on the Internet for Scouts and Guides, 'younger' scouts/guides, and fostering the ideas and friendships within the Scouting and Guiding movements

We try to meet these AIMS

- Providing a safe, supervised environment for all Scouting and Guiding, to participate in Internet Relay
- Encouraging the participation of the wider membership of and Guiding in both IRC and the
- Planning, Coordination, and Running national events both and away from the Internet eg.
- Encouraging the participation of all the Youth of the Scouting and

The main differences between the Scoutlink IRC other IRC network

- The servers are dedicated to scouting only, so the chat lag (delay) is
- In general the channels are moderated by scouting leaders to ensure that the remains within scouting law and
- All newcomers are welcomed by helpful -scouts/guide

The network is completely setup by Scouters/Guiders and some

To connect to IRC (or Relay Chat) you need an irc client. This program takes you to the experience (if it is installed)

There are many irc clients, but these are the programs that most **Scoutlink** use:

Mirc for windows; Ircle acOs and Xchat for

Scoutlink is working in many countries: United Kingdom, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Mexico, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Denmark, Norway, Sweden others

The main activity of Scoutlink is **JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet)**. The next one will be **20-21 th October**

at the same time **JOTA (Jamboree on the Air)**

For any further www.scoutlink.net

Davide

IrcOp and Country Coordinator for Italy
Secretary of Scoutlink Global

A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

When I was in Italy last time, I met a scout group interested in making a camp in Germany, in the region of the Black Forest, in the next year.

Please, could anybody from the German associations help our scout fellows?

I am sure you will do it!

Please contact:

Eugenio Astore (ASSORAIDER - Campobasso, Italy)

e-mail: acesvo@aliseo.it

Thank you!

Elena Grisafi
elena.grisafi@inwir

NEW MEMBERS:

THE ZEMAITIJA SCOUT ORGANISATION from Lithuania

The Zemaitija Scout Organisation (ZSO) was founded in April 1989 by Arturas Visnviskis and it was officially registered in March 1991. After Lithuania regained its independence, the ZSO grew slowly and developed its program which has grown from 10 members in 1989 to 150 today.

The ZSO was established to create a better world through the precepts of the Scouting program as advocated by BP. It also aims to provide youth with a better understanding of the ethno-cultural system.

The youth-oriented program builds character, assists in physical development and promotes good citizenship.

The ZSO serves the youth of the Zemaitija area (in northern Lithuania) through interesting, well-structured activities. It also develops international partnerships through camp programs and a newly-acquired Scout House which will not only provide better service to the youth of Zemaitija, but also to Scouts from other countries.



For any contacts: Raimonda e-mail: premasaule@mail.ru



NEW MEMBERS:

A.S.C.I. (The Italian Catholic Scout Association)

The first and the oldest of the Italian Scout Associations of the Catholic based associations.

A.S.C.I. was founded in 1916 by the Count Mario of CARPEGNA and Mario Mazza and it was the first association that fully adopted the Law and the guide lines of the Boy Scouts of England and of America; it brought to the Italian Catholics the true application of the inspired educational method of Baden-Powell.

In 1974 A.S.C.I. and A.G.I. (Italian Association of Girl Guides) merged in one association called AGESCI (Italian Catholic Scout and Guide Association).

On the 5th of August 1977, some "historical" leaders of Italian Scouting took the initiative to rebuild A.S.C.I., to re-establish the historical values of Italian Scouting.

The main feature of re-born A.S.C.I. is the full adherence to Baden-Powell's method and the aim of the educational action are, according to BP, to make good Christians and good citizens.

A.S.C.I. is then Italian, Catholic, and educational according to the scout method, unpolitical.

It is possible to find A.S.C.I. all over the Italian territory.

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