



EURO LETTER

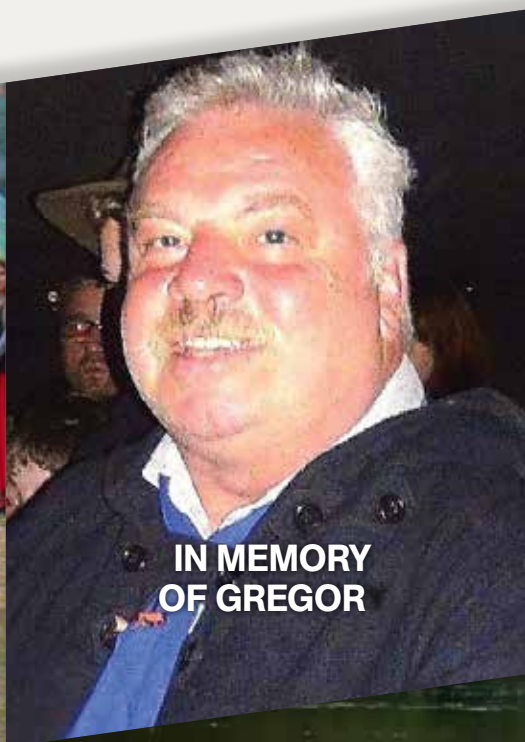
Internal memo of the
WFIS Europe



**SUMMER CAMP
IN IRELAND**



**ADVENTURE
IN RUSSIA**



**IN MEMORY
OF GREGOR**



**SUMMER CAMP
IN SWEDEN**

EURO LETTER

#02-2019



WORLD FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT SCOUTS - EUROPE

WFIS-Europe is a Scout organization for independent scouts. We meet in camps, leadertraining and jamborees. WFIS-Europe was created in 1999 and is an organisation under WFIS World-Wide. Every scout organisation can join WFIS-Europe if they are not member of another world organisation. If you want to know more about WFIS-Europe, please contact one of the members of the committee.

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- Latvijas Kristigie Skauti

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- Baden Powell Scouts of Malta

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- Asociația Cercetasilor Traditionali din Romania
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- Russian Union of Scouts

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- Grupo Scout Alpha
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- Scout Independientes del Principado de Asturias
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EUROLETTER #2 2019



The Steering Committee are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the WFIS workshop in Rome at the beginning of September.

We will have to spend some time in meetings, preparing for the General Assembly but we will make time to see the workshops, which look varied and interesting.

Special thanks to Giorgio for his work in setting out this newsletter, we think you'll agree it's a huge improvement on the previous layout.

We'd like to have another edition of the newsletter sent around at the end of this year but we can only do this if we get articles from Groups and Associations, so let us know what your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers have been up to, send in any invitations you may have.

We try to leave articles as they are, rather than re writing them, so you may find the grammar isn't perfect in some but in a way, this is part of the charm of the Euroletter, it is yours, it belongs to you and it speaks as you do.

Enjoy this edition but don't delay, send articles our way – today!

WORKSHOP 2019

Dear WFIS members,

We are happy to inform you that the next WFIS workshop will be organized by our member association Assoraider and it will take place in **Rome from November 1st to November 3rd, 2019.**

We are looking forward to welcome all of you and spend a great weekend together. Many interesting activities have been planned to be reproduce at home with your Cubs, Scouts and Rovers!





A TRUE WFIS SCOUTER FROM DAY 1 – GREGOR – PASSED AWAY TO THE CAMPFIRES IN HEAVEN

▼ Rüdiger Funk – Funko

The year 2016 marked two jubilees for the first Treasurer of our European Steering Committee: - It's been exactly 50 years since he joined scouting with the scout group of Laubach – at that time belonging to the 'Christliche Pfadfinderschaft Deutschlands' (CPD).

- It's been exactly 20 years, that Gregor belonged to the founders of WFIS where he was part of the Steering Committee (German, later European Region) from the very beginning.

Besides, he was the leader of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft for almost 40 years., when he handed over his position of 'Bundesfeldmeister' due to increasing health problems earlier that year.

Gregor gave his scout promise on May 24th, 1969, during a Pentecostal-Camp of the (that time) small group 'Hagen von Tronje' in Laubach. In 1972 and 1973 he was promoted to higher scout ranks and became leader of the first Rover group, named 'Gallier'. On July 8th 1972, he was co-founder of the 'Solmser Pfadfinderschaft' – at that time with only nine members probably the smallest of the many newly created independent scout associations in Germany. In 1974, Gregor founded a new group in a neighbouring village, which became the first group with male and female members in it. The good experiences made with that group set a new trend, as until today, all groups of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft are mixed groups. In May 1977 he reached the highest scout rank 'Feldmeister' and accepted the leadership of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft. Even the history of WFIS started with that great scouter, when he went to UK in summer of 1972 to start a partnership with the Baden Powell scouts group in Stainsby. 24 years later, it was this partnership that led to the foundation of WFIS – and it was clear, that Gregor was among those association representatives present at the foundation meeting on October 5th, 1996 in Laubach.

When a few months later the German Region was



founded in Berlin, Gregor was elected treasurer in the Steering Committee, which became two years later the Steering Committee of the new European Region. Gregor therefor is the only scout in a WFIS leading position from day one onward until his death.

For his continued work as a SC member, Gregor received the 'Thank You' medal of WFIS and was awarded during the 20th General Assembly of European Region in Hamburg with the 'Silver Cross', the highest WFIS award in Europe. As this GA unfortunately was the first he missed (due to a severe sickness), the Cross was handed over to him in hospital by the World President a few days later.

For his long leadership of his own association, Gregor was awarded with the 'Landesehrenbrief' – the highest decoration of his home state Hesse in Germany – in 2002 and he was named 'Association Leader of Honour' of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft in February 2016.

In 2011, Gregor belonged to a Rover and Adult-Scouter team that reached the WFIS Pathfinderbelt in Mexico. He took part in all Eurocamps and the world jamborees in Denmark and Mexico. Besides, he helped establish and deepen partnerships with scout groups from all over the world.

Unfortunately, he learned in 2015 that he suffered from severe cancer and had not long to live. But even this didn't stop his scouting activities until he was finally hospitalized.

Gregor went up to the campfires in heaven on November 16th, 2016 – only a few weeks after WFIS' 20th anniversary. We'll never forget him!

UNITED KINGDOM



SUMMER CAMP IN IRELAND

1st Wigton B-P Scouts enjoyed a cracking 8 day camp in Ireland. The 22 Scouts were based at Lough Dan, not far from Dublin and camped in Patrols, doing all cooking and building of the camp themselves.

Two Cubs were invested into the Troop by the side of the Lough, Henry Armstrong and Kyle Lattimer both solemnly made their Scout Promise and were awarded their investiture badges at the start of the camp.

Two of the older Scouts were invested into Seniors, William Brown and Scott Cooper-Holmes have been in the Group for many years and are now proudly wearing the maroon beret to show they are members of the Senior Scout Troop.



THE BADEN-POWELL SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION
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Baden- Powell Scout Association, UK.

Activities during the week included raft building and sailing, with the first Patrol to successfully sail out and round part of the Lough led by Robbie Anson, with Harvey Harrison, Jacob Broomfield and Henry Armstrong in the team.

One day was spent hiking, with one of the youngest teams doing incredibly well, although Ben Barnes, Skye, Trinity and Kyle Lattimer, were all nursing sore feet that night.

The Scouts spent a day sightseeing around Dublin and visiting the Natural History Museum, with time to buy souvenirs and postcards. Group leader Julie Bryceson said "We thought it would be quite nice for parents to receive a postcard, however, quite what they made of "Dear mum, I am writing this card because I have been told I have to" I don't know."



Throughout the week the Scouts had challenges and badge work to complete, Arran de Mello and Robbie Anson excelled in their Patrols, working constantly and urging others on in order to gain maximum points. One of the youngest Scouts, Sam Lee, tackled everything that was set before him and managed to pass several sections of badge work, including knots and lashings, map reading, tent pitching and cooking over fire. Meanwhile, Harvey Harrison completed his Second Class award and was delighted to have it presented on camp.

Lucy Anson and Skye Lattimer took a half day out from the camp to travel up to Cavan, to meet Scouts and leaders from an Association hoping to apply for membership of WFIS Scouts, Lucy and Skye were given neckers and badges from the new Association and enjoyed a meal with the Irish leaders and Scouts.

On the last day, the Scouts were awake soon after 5am for a very early start to head up to Belfast and the Titanic Museum. The museum was better than anyone had envisaged, the Scouts had a full tour, with time

then allotted for them to go off in small groups to look at things that particularly interested them.

From the Titanic, the Scouts headed to SS Nomadic, the tender ship to Titanic and the last remaining White Star vessel in the world. Scouts had a talk about the history of the ship, then had time to explore it thoroughly themselves, before heading for the ferry back to Cairnryan in Scotland.



GERMANY



Rüdiger Funk – Funko

ADVENTURE
IN RUSSIA

Our partners – the Russian Union of Scouts – celebrated their 25th birthday last year and this Summer, there was another anniversary to be celebrated: the 25th Camp at the Vetluga river – far away from civilization in the taiga forests.

Since 1996, the Solmscher Pfadfinderschaft had already visited the camp four times, and it's always been a great adventure and scouting experience. So it was clear, that we would send another team to Russia to help our friends celebrating.....

25 scouts, from wolf-cub to very old scouters like Funko soon registered for the trip. What followed, was a preparation phase, which required more than 150 hours from our side, and another 50 hours (estimated) from our partners in Russia until everything was pre-booked, all financial issues were solved, flights were booked and all the visas were obtained.

However – what followed proved, that each of those hours was well invested. Problems started at the Frankfurt Airport in early morning hours: the check-in sent us to a group check-in counter, where we met flight agents trying to send us back to the regular check-in. To avoid an ongoing ping-pong tour between the counters, we eventually won the discussion with the guys at the counter and off we went.....

In Moscow we met our old friend Dmitry, who had done all arrangements for us in Russia and his wife Maria. With Dmitry we had taken part in several Eurocamps, visits in Russia and Germany and a joint German-Russian



contingent attending the World Jamboree in Mexico.

There was a long journey by train to the hostel, we had booked in the centre of the Russian capital, from which we started the sightseeing tour through the city, beginning with a boat-tour on the river Moskwa. A guided tour through the Kremlin and Red Square followed the next day, including a visit of the treasury of the Russian Czars, a shopping tour through the biggest shop in Russia – the GUM (bigger than the centre of our hometown Laubach....) and a walk through the Arbat street followed.

Much too soon it was time to say goodbye to Moscow and to board the modern train eastbound to Nizhny Novgorod. Back in the 90th – on our first visits – it used to be an 8-10hrs trip in a regional train, nowadays it took us only four hours.

Traditionally, we stayed in the scout house of our partners on the ground of a big school, where Igor (our good friend since 23 years) is the director. For many in our team, who went here already six years ago, it was like „coming home“.

As our partners established such a good image with their scout-work during their 25 years of existence, the regional government provided us a bus with driver – free of charge – for our sight-seeing tour through Nizhny. Traditionally a boat trip on the Volga river, a journey in a cable car crossing the river (approx 2km long), a walk through the old city and a guided tour through the Kremlin of Nizhny Novgorod were on the agenda. A highlight was the visit of an open-air museum with buildings of the Volga region.



SOLMSCHER PFADFINDERSCHAFT
<http://www.solmscher-pfadfinderschaft.de/>
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Again, time went by too fast, and we hopped on the regional train leading further to the East. Far away in the taiga there was only a concrete platform – no railway station – with a two-minute stop to get out all the group (which now included some Russian scouts) with all our luggage. Igor was awaiting us – all dressed in uniform clothes of the Solmsers Pfadfinderschaft, which he got as presents upon our previous trips. He came with a truck, so our luggage was transported while we decided to walk the two kilometres to the camp – through an extraordinary forest, accompanied by hundreds of those lovely mosquitos..... At the camp entrance, approx 300 scouts lined up to welcome us. For most of them, it had been the first encounter with foreign scouts – we felt like coming from Mars..... But besides, we found so many of our old friends, scouts we knew from previous visits at Vetluga and in Nishny Novgorod, some we knew from their visits to Germany and some of us really had tears in their eyes after a never-ending round of hugs and kisses.....

Next on the agenda was the built-up of our camp. Our friends had brought tents and kitchen equipment for our contingent. Only the old man Funko was privileged. For him – like for Igor who was in similar age, our friends had built-up a big tent – with a real bed in it!!!! Funko never felt that old at any of his hundreds of earlier camps before, but he highly appreciated it.

Opening ceremony started with a flagparade where the national flags were raised singing the national anthems. We especially learned the Russian anthem for this event during our preparation meetings in Germany. Only the Belgium anthem (we had one scout with Belgium nationality in our team) came from a laptop.

Next day, our friends had organized a great tour, leading us to a factory, where the famous puppet-in-a-puppet was produced, and where we could produce our own puppet in a workshop, An open air museum and a visit to the



training centre of the Russian Union of Scouts in a small village followed and there was a chance for a horseback-riding through the village. The evening brought a traditional Russian dinner in an old farmhouse and in the night all jumped on a truck, which carried us back to the – for many hours over sand-roads and through the mud, which the ongoing rain had caused the days before. A wolf crossed our way in the forest.

Next day, two groups from Denmark arrived, greeted as we were by all scouts of the camp. And there was a surprise: the leader of one of those contingents came from Nishny Novgorod, had got married to a Danish and subsequently emigrated to Denmark, where she founded that group. And we realized, that we already met during our first visit back in 1996. The following day was the traditional „International

Day“, where all the contingents displayed examples of their culture (like national dresses and scout activities) and there was a lot of fun for all. For us, it was a good opportunity for our ceremony with hand-over of neckerchiefs and promotions. Igor, his wife Natalia and Dmitry were named honorable members of the Solmsers Pfadfinderschaft in the same ceremony to honour their great work in organizing our – now five – visits to Russia and their great hospitality.

A final walk through the taiga forest to the shores of the Vetluga river ended the stay in the camp, and – again much too soon – we had to take the trains back to Nishny and after a last night in the scout house back to Moscow. When we arrived back one thing was clear: RUSSIA, WE'LL COME BACK FOR SURE.

ITALY



▼ Marcello Sticchi, Erica Ettore

THE PORTUGUESE ADVENTURE OF THE PHOENIX



Erica Ettore and I (Marcello Sticchi) were to pass in our fourth Section, Raiders in a Raid and we were assigned a task, find something to do with our group, Rover Crew Phoenix.

After long conversations with our Leader we decided to organize a trip in a country where WFIS was present, so thanks to Claudia Farigu (Assoraider International Commissioner) we got in contact with Paulo Valido, Leader of a Portuguese group of scouts that would host us for one night.

We obviously confirmed our destination: Portugal, Lisbona to be exact and we immediately bought the tickets.



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Once in Portugal we lived one of the best adventures of our lives, we stayed there for 10 days:

10 days of happiness

10 days of discovery

10 days of pain (because we had to leave!)

But 10 days together, helping each other in the worst moments and living this trip always smiling.

Would the whole group repeat the experience?

Yes, with the same spirit but with the experience of a group who has learned how to stay together.



GERMANY


 Rüdiger Funk – Funko


MUCH MORE THAN A WORKSHOP THE 20-YRS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LAUBACH

SEPT 30TH – OCT 2ND 2016

As it is a good tradition within the European Region, every year a workshop for leaders is organised in one of the countries. As it usually is in September, it was obvious, that the workshop of 2016 should be held in Laubach and should include a celebration of the 20th birthday of WFIS. A weekend, close to the actual 20th birthday was fixed, and the workshop 2015 in Belgium marked the starting point for the preparations. Ideas were collected and during many meetings of the group leaders and the adult group 'Graue Panther' a road-map was set-up for the various things that needed to be prepared. As it was assigned to be a combination of the traditional workshop and the anniversary-celebration, the organisation was set-up for around 100 guests and 30 Solmsner Pfadfinder as staff members – more participants than usually present at a workshop. However, it ended up with almost 200 participants (a clear indication of the attractiveness and growth of WFIS), so many additional organisational challenges came up. There could have been even 50 more participants, but unfortunately scouts from Ghana, Algeria, Comoros, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo and Kosovo all were denied of visa...

First challenge to cope with was the question of accommodation. In 2015, more than one million refugees and asylum-seekers flooded Germany, so

the government had to take gymnasiums, hotels and guesthouses – all they could get – to provide accommodation for those people. The city-government of Laubach was ready to help and reserved the local sporthall for the event, however, there still was a risk (almost certainty) that this hall would be taken away for housing more refugees to come. If such an action would have been taken short before our scheduled event, it would have brought the whole organisation to end as a disaster.... This was the reason to contact the families of the scouts from Laubach and ask them if, and how many, guests they could host. Besides, this way of accommodation would have been in a good tradition, as already at the time of foundation meeting back in 1996, many guests stayed in scout-families and thereafter, many WFIS visitors coming to Laubach were able to stay in the houses of the scout-families. About 40 places could be secured this way – still not enough to host the expected 100 guests. Next approach was the school – as it was quite sure, that the government would never close a school for using the premises as accommodation for refugees. Much to our astonishment, the school was ready to clear classrooms for the weekend, allow us to use the kitchen and meeting-rooms, etc. Besides, the townhall secured their meeting rooms for WFIS to use. So at



the end there were around 100 places available for the guests, but the next problem came up with the cots. During the celebration of the 10th anniversary many cots were provided by the Johanniters and again they promised to help us with those cots – provided that they would not be needed for refugees (and again, this could happen on a very short notice...). A ‘Crystal ball- Planning’ seemed to be necessary – for an expected minimum of 100 guests...

Search continued until the news came, that the ‘Youth Guesthouse’, where some young and unattended refugees were placed, would finish this service and – due to a relief in numbers of new arrivals, would return back to its ordinary purpose. Negotiations started, and we were lucky enough that at the scheduled weekend the whole building was available – 88 beds. A contract was signed on the spot, but still there was a risk – this times a financial one: if there would have been less than 88 guests coming to the workshop, the cost-calculation would have become difficult... However, the (would-be host) families were informed that we found sufficient number of beds in the guesthouse but there would be a (small) possibility for need of more beds...

But as scouts we were always optimistic and send out the invitation earlier than it's been done usually. The first registrations that arrived came from Kosovo and Africa, but here we knew, that there was a risk with the visa (due to the given refugee problems in Europe). Other registrations dropped in very slowly, but we knew, that usually the majority of registrations come in quite late, or even after the deadline. With only a few registrations arriving by our deadline (end of July), we sent out a reminder and prolonged registration time until August

31st. This time, we knew, that the guesthouse would be well filled, but no one expected what happened after this second deadline. Almost every day mails arrived like ‘sorry, we’ve missed the deadline, but we are very interested to come’ or ‘there have been more scouts asking to participate, could we come with more?’ Of course, nobody should be rejected just for organisational problems and not be able to participate in such a historical event.

So- the number of registrations from external guests rose in a short time from approx. 80 to over 140! And still approx. 50 African and guests from Kosovo had to be expected on top...This meant, that the families were put again on alert and at the end of the day, all private accommodations offered were needed (one of those even 10 kilometres away from Laubach...).

Another challenge – unfortunately with negative result, was the visa issue. Many scouts from Africa and the Kosovo wanted to join the event – a special visitor-program with one week before and another week after the meeting was set-up, but a lot of administrative requirements had to be fulfilled to apply for the visa. Health insurances had to be contracted in Germany, invitation letters had to be written with cost declarations etc. All those documents were sent via DHL to the countries, but they got lost on their way. Second efforts showed similar results so eventually everything was sent by E-Mail and subsequently submitted to the Embassies. In addition, mails had to be sent to the embassies, permanent contacts with the scouts applying for visa etc., etc. Over 100 hours were spent alone in these visa projects, so disappointment was huge as we finally found out, that all applications

were rejected – even for those scouts, who had visited Europe in earlier years. To obtain a ‘Schengen-Visa’, all ‘Schengen-States’ had to agree, but, due to the refugee problems, some countries expressed security concerns...

For the kitchen it was quite easy to find sufficient staff – even though they all knew, that there would be almost no sleep for three days... Flanders and his team worked hard, but as a result everyone arriving (the last group after midnight) had their dinner waiting and no one had to leave without sufficient food on Sunday. The management of the guesthouse offered the whole team a job in their kitchen and even during the official anniversary celebration the cook and his staff were praised by the WFIS president.

Some interesting kitchen facts: € 2.400.- were spent for catering, 1,5 tons of foodstuff was prepared and served, every member of the kitchen staff walked more than 12 kilometres per day (measured by a certain fitness-tracker on the cooks wrist....)! 75 kilos of goulash, 15 kilos of noodles, 100 kilos of pork meat, 400 dumplings, 500 litres of drinks and 40 litres of different kinds of sauces were consumed..... Yes, there was as well the pig. The hunter from Holland, who has the hunt in the forest around Laubach, promised us a wild boar. During the past years, there was a big problem with those animals, as they lived in big numbers in the forest, so it did not look like being too difficult to hunt one. A special guy for the preparation was found and put on alert, but all efforts – for weeks – were in vain. So, with only a few days to go – a butcher had to be contracted, who was able to prepare an ‘ordinary’ pig for us. For weeks, cookies



were produced; the fleur-de-lys filled with a syringe manually with chocolate – all together 500 cookies with almost one minute productiontime a piece! For the cake a bakery had to be employed as no private oven was big enough. The fondant with WFIS logo had been tested on another event some months before. Everything should be fine for such a historical event. Shuttle services had to be set-up (and were to be changed twice a day during the last two weeks). More than 1.000 kilometres were driven in four minibuses by the shuttle service!

Wara organised with four rovers the reception desk – and sometimes even those four scouts were not enough to cope with the welcome, registration, accommodation and thousands of questions to be answered or help required. Reception desk was almost manned throughout the meeting day and night.

Christian prepared – in over 140 working hours – a film, showing the 20 years of WFIS history with the foundation meeting, major camps worldwide and a lot of greetings from our member associations.

Some rovers had prepared a quarry nearby for the celebration, technical devices had to be installed and a campfire to be put up – but, unfortunately, the rain made all these efforts being in vain...

On all roads road signs were put up, only to find a few hours later, that some ‘official’ people had removed all those signs, which were put on traffic signs... However, everyone coming by car found the way to the guesthouse.

The program showed for Friday the arrival of the participants – at flag-break in the evening only the first 100 participants were already present. But Saturday morning, Funko, Klaus and the European Steering





Committee could welcome 200 scouts – 6 years old the youngest, years old the oldest – to this historical workshop.

The workshops had to be set up indoors because of the heavy rain that started that very morning. They included: Astronomy (run by a guest), blacksmith (run by Margon in a tent), traditional Turkish tea (run by FPG in another tent), geocaching in Laubach (run by Wara and Hannes), bread baking in a private bakery in a near-by village, Crazy Spanish Ideas (run by Silvana), creative ideas and games for group meetings (run by Nati, Jecky, Weiße Wolke and Milena), Red Indians (run by Hati) as an idea for winter-activities with cub-scouts, first aid for camps and the production of camp-chairs (run by Puck). In parallel, the chance to visit the founding room – where it all begun – was used by many guests and frequent shuttles went up and down between the guesthouse and the town hall, where the famous room belongs to. Many leaders had taken long times to prepare these workshops. A special nightmare was provided for the organisers of the 'bakery' workshop, as 8 bakeries in all surrounding villages had to be contacted, in some cases Christian – the workshop leader – went for test-baking but all of these ended up with a 'sorry, but by surprise we cannot use our bakery on Oct 1st, as we have to attend other obligations.....'. After two months finally a small private bakery was found, so we could eat our own bread in the evening!

After the workshops, everybody assembled in the (much too small) meeting room for coffee break with the film and often You could hear 'Ah... do You remember that camp?..'

With heavy rain continuing, 200 scouts walked to the campground of the Solmser Pfadfinderschaft in a near-by forest, where first the big picture was taken (with some damages on the constructions, as they

were outweighed by too many scouts standing upon them), followed by plantation of the new 'WFIS 20 Tree' – a sequoia. Scouts from all participating countries brought soil from their hometowns which was now given into the planting pit so our tree will now grow in international soil – just like WFIS. A sign, indicating the event was revealed before everyone walked back to the guesthouse, where the kitchen staff had prepared an extraordinary dinner and the pig was served by the butcher.

The evening brought the 'official' part of the anniversary celebration, starting with the Blueschor of Laubach singing popular songs, speeches of Margon and Klaus, who brought a unique picture of BP, signed in a limited edition of copies for each association as a remembrance of the event. Performances of various associations in front of a 'campfire', which a beamer produced on the wall, rounded up the celebration. But this wasn't the end of the day – many groups gathered together in the meeting room and singing was to be heard until early morning.

Much too soon it was time to say good-bye. Closing ceremony with an impressive picture of a large circle, hand-shake around the circle, picking up lunch-bags and calling for the shuttle service (which had to change again their schedule for several times this very morning....) and the big promise: 'See You in Barcelona in January at the GA' or 'See You next year at the workshop'.

A great and memorable event – worth for this historical moment – had come to its end! (Not for the organisers, who were still busy with the clear-up for another two weeks....) The organising Solmser Pfadfinderschaft had put more than 1.000 hours of hard work to make this event a successful one – the result showed, that every such hour was well invested!

Big thanks to all who helped in the organisation!



GERMANY



▼ Karsten Römig



SUMMER CAMP IN SWEDEN

Last July, the Boy Scouts from Seligenstadt and Mainhausen made a two-day trip to Värmland, Sweden, where they set up this year's summer camp.

Thanks to good international contacts, the Scouts were able to break their journey and spend a night in a beautiful scout home free of charge.

The Swedish campsite "Ransbergs Herrgård" is specially designed for Scouts, surrounded by woods, meadows and a small lake. The operators offer a variety of activities such as climbing in their own climbing barn, a survival trail, canoe trips and various workshops. There is also a grill and a kiosk serving Swedish delicacies.



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Pfadfinder Stamm Drachen Seligenstadt - Mainhausen

The Scouts had a lot of fun in the climbing barn. There were four different courses on a large climbing wall as well as a small bouldering wall.

On the Survival Trail, everyone was able to show what was in him. After explaining, demonstrating and completing the individual obstacles, such as rope bridges, mud holes, nets and walls to climb, or wading through a river, everyone could have a go on their own and try to get on the leader board, which even two of the young Scouts managed.

Another highlight was the day trip to the Norwegian capital Oslo. Here the Scouts visited the "Vikingskipshuset" and then explored the city in small groups. Everyone was enthusiastic



about the Norwegian landscape, culture and way of life and would have liked to have stayed longer.

During the last 2 days the Scouts did a canoe hike on the river Klarälven. After initial uncertainties, they paddled 20 km on the first day to a beautiful, accidentally discovered resting place in Edeby, where after a delicious dinner the locomotives (especially small, flat tents) were pitched.

After the mosquito-plagued night we returned to the canoes. Since everyone felt a little safer, the first water battle was not long in coming. Even younger Scouts capsized one or the other canoe. After another 10 km the destination Deje was reached.

There was also a trip to the next larger city Karlstad, a colourful evening with surprising performances, a small beach volleyball tournament and a legendary football match against a Swedish scout group on the program. Of course there was much swimming in the lake, followed by cooking and singing together.

However, like all camps, this one passed by way too fast and the long journey home began. After another break with the Danish friends, the tribe of dragon Scouts arrived tired but happy at home in the Drachenland.

To follow our adventures, visit our website (www.pfadfinder-seligenstadt.de) and follow us on Instagram (@stammdrachen).

MESSAGES FROM THE FOUNDER

(BP'S OUTLOOK) NO.2

THE NEED FOR A REFRESHER

THERE is one point to which I specially want to draw the attention of Scoutmasters and Commissioners. It is this:

I find that unless one occasionally looks up one's book of instructions, whether it be the Gospel, or the King's (*Own Country*) Regulations, or the rules for one's guidance in any time of life, one is apt to get into a groove of one's own original reading of them, and to act rather on the memory than on the actual spirit of them. **One needs an occasional "refresher" course of reading.** I notice that it is very often the case among Scoutmasters as regards Scouting / or Boys; they carry out their training on lines of their own, which were originally founded on the book, and are in many cases an improvement on what they found there; but sometimes essentials have gradually dropped out, and it is this that we want to avoid. May I ask Scoutmasters

to re-read their book occasionally? Say once a year? I suggest that St. George's Day is an easy one to remember, since he is held to be the patron saint of Scouts. I believe it would be helpful to Scoutmasters and helpful to the cause if on this occasion annually they would read through our handbook, especially the Scout Law and its application, so as to ensure the right spirit being impressed upon the boys.

April, 1913.



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER ON PATROL SPIRIT (BP'S OUTLOOK) NO.2



THE PATROL SPIRIT

THE more I see of Troops which are successful, the more I realise the value of the system of making the Patrol the responsible unit of the Troop, and the treatment of the Patrol Leader as a responsible being, just as if he were grown up. As a further step in this direction, and one which I think will be helpful to Scoutmasters, we are getting out a Patrol Report

Form which the Patrol Leader can fill in weekly and hand to his Scoutmaster. It gives the attendance and performance of each Scout during the week at Scout exercises, rallies, games, church, etc.

The percentage of such attendances can then go to the Patrol score for deciding the order of merit of the several Patrols in the Troop.

Such competition cannot but be useful to the boys, and puts life into their everyday work.

In some Troops each Patrol has its motto, which is an excellent device in the same direction for developing the Patrol spirit. The motto is, as a rule, selected or composed by the Patrol itself, and usually applies in some way to the Patrol animal. Thus, for instance, the Lions Patrol might have as their guiding phrase, "Brave as the Lions"; the Frogs, "We are not croakers though we croak"; the Hounds, "Alert as watch dogs"; or "Faithful Friends," and so on.

December, 1913.

SCOUT SYMBOLS

SCOUT SIGN AND HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY.

THE SCOUT SIGN AND WHAT IT MEANS



The Scout Sign was originated by The Founder Robert Baden Powell. Amongst other signs and symbols which over the years nearly vanished, the Scout Sign survived, and it is still a universal Symbol with which Scouts all over the world greet each other. The meaning of this Scout Sign symbol is as follows: the tallest upright finger in the middle, means Duty (Honour) to God, the upright finger on the

right means Duty (Honour) to Country and the upright finger on the left means Duty (Help) Towards Others. The small finger and the thumb crossed on each other means, observance of the Scout Law.

The correct way to do the Scout Sign during the Scout Promise and during Scout Ceremonies.



The correct way to do the Scout Sign during the Scout Promise and during Scout Ceremonies is as follows:

- 1.** Raise your right arm and form the Scout Sign.
- 2.** Make sure that the horizontal part of your right arm between your shoulder and your elbow are at right angles with rest of your chest.
- 3.** Now you are in perfect order.

"No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys his laws. So every Scout should have a religion."

Robert Baden-Powell,
Scouting for Boys, 1908