



## ISGF Info – October 2008

ISGF Info is the new tool for information, inspiration and news from all levels in ISGF and particularly from the World Committee and the World Bureau. ISGF Info is sent directly to the National Presidents, International Secretaries, Regional Committees, Regional Network Teams, Sub-Regional Committees, World Committee and World Bureau. Members in these positions without an email address will receive the newsletter in printed version by normal mail direct from World Bureau. ISGF Info is also sent directly to WAGGGS and WOSM bureaus at world and regional level as well as to ISGF Central Branch (CB) contact persons.

Those without such a position may also register when they send an email to:

isgf-aisg@skynet.be or write a note to World Bureau, Avenue de la Porte du Hal 38, BE-1060 Brussels, Belgium for a subscription in English or in French.

Please take a subscription, free of charge, and you will be kept update what is happening at ISGF. Your feedback, addressed to World Bureau, is welcome

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#### 1. Chairman's talk

G'day, (=Hello in Australian) to all our Members from around the world.

We are entering an exciting new phase in the development of the ISGF and the World Committee (WCom) is ready for the challenge. For the first time the WCom truly represents our membership with at least one committee member from every region. Also for a first time we have a Chairman from the southern hemisphere. This, I believe, reflects the growing interest in not just talking about being a global organisation but in setting the example by being one. The wide experiences of profession and cultures also adds to a better insight of how we interpret what is meant when we make statements to members and the best way of communicating them.

Our first meeting after the World Conference was spent getting to know each other and dividing up the tasks of the WCom. The most exciting new team to be formed is the "Young Adults" team. You will be hearing a lot more from that team as they put their ideas to paper. Ales and Harald are the ones to watch on this. 3 years ago New Zealand had the foresight to make a grant specifically for the development of younger members and we shall finally be able to make use of it.

Another team created was that of Development. We shall have a central person who will interact with all of the WCom regional teams and CB to direct our efforts in a focused direction and to a sequenced strategy so as not to duplicate printing and postage costs as well as visits. If you see an opportunity for membership development in new countries or have contacts you believe can assist, please send them to the World Bureau (WB).

The rest of the teams are the same but new faces.

The Action Plan 2008-2011 was discussed and priorities given to the tasks given the new WCom. One of the tasks is to create an ISGF image to promote the ISGF in the world. After

some discussion we have formulated the concept that we will have a selection of items that ISGF members can wear to identify themselves at International Events. Be it a Gathering or a Service Project in another country. We have decided on a light blue Scarf with the ISGF Logo on it and the ISGF Badge to reinforce our flag. Samples of which are now being made to our colour specifications and sizes for approval by the WCom. Uniforms and dress wear will remain the country of origin of the member to show our diversity. Though we have a shirt, cap and jacket that could be worn as "camp" wear at Service Projects on the drawing board.

Some of our work on the WCom requires feedback from our members through their National Scout and Guide Fellowships (NSGFs), to help us increase our exposure internationally as well as in our own countries. The message has come loud and clear that WOSM and WAGGGS, mainly in our own countries don't know much about us, let alone that we are an International Organisation. Therefore as part of our Development Plan we require some information. The National President (NP) and International Secretaries (IS) will therefore, as part of the Annual Report be asked to forward to the WB information concerning

1. how many hours of labour would your NSGF contribute to Scouts and Guides in your country per year
2. how much money would your NSGF contribute to Scouts and Guides locally,
3. how much service would your NSGF give to other organisations.

What we hope to achieve out of this is promotional material that will go to every WOSM and WAGGGS Country as well as NSGFs, World Conferences and be used for us to give answers to people when they ask us those tricky questions of: Who is the ISGF and What do they do? In this day and age we know that money talks and we intend to show people that we contribute more money and labour to Scouting and Guiding than any other organisation in the world. That a single Guild in a large country can stand up and say. "We are not 10 members down the road, but 75.000 member's world wide.

Our Financial commitment to WOSM and WAGGGS requires money to be made available on a yearly basis and our main income raiser is the Stamp Bank. Money that NSGFs raise through the collection and sale of these stamps is our main income into the International Development Fund. Well done to those who participate. Rigmor will establish a network of ISGF members that have been working with Stamp Bank. The Stamp Bank Network will share their knowledge with all of us on how to establish a Stamp Bank and all that is involved in keeping it running in the aim of giving more people and NSGFs a chance to contribute. We need to double the current income.

One of the WCom tasks in the Action Plan is to - *Encourage younger members to stand as candidates*. WCom now asks our members to think about the future and the next WCom. Over the next two years when you attend Gatherings in your countries and regions, observe who is there and the contribution they are making. We would like you to then nominate at least two people from each region to stand as candidates for WCom at the next World Conference (WConf). People that should be selected would have the skills to fill the positions on the teams of the WCom. Workers who will represent everyone in our ISGF. Keep an open eye and mind. The WCom members will do the same. Let us keep our international representation by having a broad selection of candidates.

The new WAGGGS board has a meeting currently to shape their organisation for the next few years. We hopefully will receive before long a reply to our letter asking how the ISGF can participate in the Centenary of WAGGGS and who our new WCom member appointed by them will be.

The WCom welcomes your feedback on what is happening in the world. If you see a potential challenge arising, an opportunity or a contact you think would be good then send it off to the WB.

Some of our non legal documents are being translated into National languages for promotional purposes and posted on our website under a multilingual file. If there are people

who are prepared to translate even this letter and return it to the WB for posting then we shall have a truly international website as well.

Check our website at least monthly to keep in touch with what is happening in the world of the ISGF. Join Facebook and be part of our twinning network. Open discussions and varied topics.

But, PLEASE, hard copy new updates of information and pass it on to people who don't have email access,

There shall be lots more to discuss as the months roll by and we address each Action Plan task.

Together we will bring Peace and Fellowship on earth by setting the example.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Brett D Grant  
Chairman  
ISGF World Committee

"You are welcome to join our discussion group on: <http://www.facebook.com>. Please register first (+confirmation by e-mail), then type ISGF in "Search" field and then click "Join the group".

## **2. Minutes from World Committee meeting**

The Action Plan 2008-2011 is giving tasks for the National Scout and Guide Fellowships as well as for the World Committee.

A summary of ISGF World Committee meeting in Vienna 26 - 28 August 2008:

### Participants:

World Committee (WCom): Muftah Ajaj, Linda Bates, Anne Dupont, Brett Grant, Harald Kesselheim, Rigmor Lauridsen, Mario Sica.

World Bureau (WB): Faouzia Kchouk, Margaret Gossing

Excuses: Abdelaziz Ben Said, Ales Cerin, Paul Lokossou

### WCom way of working

Recognising that each member of the WCom can not be 100% updated about every single subject within ISGF at all times the WCom decided to establish teams that will give special attention to certain subjects.

### WCom positions and responsibilities

– first person mentioned is the leader of the team:

Chairman: Brett

Vice Chairman: Anne

WB supervision: Mario

Legal Team: Mario, Harald, *Carol Bowen and Jean – Francois Levy (not members of WCom)*

Finance Team: Brett, Muftah, Linda, Aziz

Stamp Bank: Rigmor,

Ambassadors Guild: Brett, Anne, Harald

WAGGGS and WOSM: Brett, Mario, Anne

External Relations: Anne

Communication & PR: Rigmor, Linda, Faouzia, *one more required*

Internet Coordinator: Ales

Africa Region: Paul, Rigmor

Arab Region: Muftah, Aziz, Anne

Asia Pacific (AsPac) Region: Brett, Mario

Europe Region: Rigmor, Anne

Western Hemisphere Region: Linda, Harald

Central Branch (CB) & Twinning coordinator: *Lery Doelman (ex-officio until further notice)*

Young Adults: Ales, Harald

As part of the ISGF web site there will, during November 2008, be published a photo presentation of all the WCom members and a task list of which teams each of the WCom members are paying certain attention to.

#### 26<sup>th</sup> World Conference 2011, Italy

- Date and venue: It will be around September. The host committee is looking for a low season period. A definite date will be given by the end of 2008. There is a conference hall in a Villa in Cernobbio on Como Lake. There are several and various locations for the accommodations as well as camping sites.
- The WCom requires that the two positions (Chair of the World Conference and the Chair of the Host Committee) are not assumed by the same person.
- It is suggested to separate the Conference fee from the accommodation. This may be an issue for those coming from developing countries (specific and tough currency regulations).
- The Guidelines for ISGF World Conference will be updated before March 2009 by Linda, Harald and Anne
- The WCom will have its 2010 meeting in Italy.

Stamp Bank – Rigmor presented the following action plan:

More activity in Stamp Bank = more money to the International Development Fund (IDF):

- Establish a network for Stamp Bank managers or their substitutes
  - Contact the countries that are contributing for the time being
- Write to all National Presidents (NP) and International Secretaries (IS) and tell about Stamp Bank Network with encouragement to work with this
- Have inspiring information on web
- Some countries keep the money for their own Local Scout and Guide Fellowships (LSGF) or National Scout and Guide Fellowship (NSGF) – Stamp Bank is an ISGF worldwide initiative not to be used at local or national level
- Re-do/improve the Stamp Bank CD
  - Provide the format/frame with content – nationally they can translate
- Visibility at the World Conference 2011
- Visibility at other gatherings, seminars and conferences incl. WAGGGS and WOSM
- “Advertising” in national magazines
- Story telling about where the money goes to
  - Good Turn for ISGF - YOUR Good Turn for ISGF
  - Making ISGF visible for WAGGGS and WOSM
  - Latest donations – what were they used for?

#### WAGGGS and WOSM partnership

Since 2002 there has been a signed Relationship Statement. It has to be updated every three years. A new draft with a new name “Memorandum of Partnership” with some new proposals is being examined by WOSM and WAGGGS.

Mario is going to Geneva to meet the World Scoutshop and he will get this opportunity to reactivate this new draft.

#### Next WCom meeting will be held in Brussels 16. – 21. March 2009

WCom would like to have comments, ideas and suggestions for the agenda for that meeting latest by the **1<sup>st</sup> of February 2009** to World Bureau.

### **3. Central Branch**

The members of Ivory Coast left Central Branch (CB) because they had been accepted at World Conference 2008 as an associate National Scout and Guide Fellowship.

As per October 1, 2008 we have now 15 different CB groups in 14 countries and 629 individuals in 18 countries.

We notice that some NSGFs use the expression "Central Branch" internally, usually to mean some link among "lone" Adult Scouts and Guides in their country. However, Central Branch is an expression used in our Constitution (art.V, section 8) to indicate individuals and smaller groups living in a country where there is no recognised NSFG. In order to avoid confusion and misunderstandings, it would preferable if NSGFs refrained from using that expression (or any other expression translating as "Central Branch" internally).

#### **4. ISGF shop**

World Committee is updating to an online shop and has committed our commercial relationship with WOSM. The Scoutstore was already responsible for the sales of the Scout & Guide Spirit Flame souvenirs and it has proven that the handling and payment was done very efficiently. Our web shop will come up with new official ISGF products as requested by the individual members and written in the Action Plan 2008-2011.

We still have a small stock of Flame souvenirs which may be ordered through the Scoutstore. We added a new item the official souvenir DVD with the coverage of the whole Scout & Guide Spirit Flame and all the highlights in the nine Flame countries. It also includes a full coverage of the ceremonies at the relay of the Flame. See <http://www.worldscoutshop.org>

#### **5. Twinning**

We now have 1206 registrations for Twinning worldwide. All Twinning registrations are placed on the website per country. When Twinning contacts are finalized, the International Secretaries (IS) are kindly requested to update the list and send it to the administrator of the website [l.doelman@isgf.org](mailto:l.doelman@isgf.org). Twinning will be promoted on the web by starting a demand list. In 2008 we had 62 new Twinning and issued the certificates. New CB members are encouraged to twin but however, we get seldom feed back from the IS when we are asking for Twinning contacts.

#### **6. ISGF website**

We hope that you find our website informative and useful. But we also need you to take part in the development of a better website. Announcements or reports of activities are always welcome. Please go to NEWS and click up ADD NEWS and send your contributions and share your news. For example: How did you celebrate Fellowship Day this year?

We are happy to announce that we reached more than 83.500 views with an average of 350 visits a day since we started the site on June 1, 2008. We are still working to complete the section which will be password restricted to World Bureau, World Committee, National Presidents, International Secretaries and Regional Committees/Network Teams. We will add many features and we also created a category "multilingual documents" under PUBLICATIONS for the ISGF official documents in other languages than English and French.

How to log in?

Those who received a username and password with the former Plone website should use the same combination in order to log in into this website. Those who did not have a log in before will receive an email from the webmaster in order to activate their log in. In order to log in you just click on the log in link on the left of the page. You are asked to enter your username and password. When you leave the website you need to log out.

All other visitors do not need to have a log in to look on the public part of the website