



## NBSR Gathering Horsens, Denmark 2015 "5 Minutes"

### FRIENDSHIP WITHOUT BORDERS

1912	We are in the year of 1912 and we are in England, where clubs were being opened for former scout leaders and later on in 1920, where similar groups were formed within the Girl Guides associations,- today known as the Trefoil Guilds, which are one of the World's largest unions with more than 18,000 members (2010).
1925	In 1925 a Headquarter Commissioner, Colonel J.S. Wilson was nominated in Great Britain and a worldwide union of former scouts might seem the most natural, but it was not easy to come to terms. Wilson summarized it in this manner: "to the greatest extent possible, we will take care that the former scout members should keep on with following scout law and promise in their lives. We want them to still feel as part of the scout movement, and we want them to promote the scouting ideals through their daily life in their local and national unions".
1933	It may be noted that also in other countries there was great interest for the value of a union of former scouts, for instance in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. But an international organization has been discussed both within WOSM and WAGGGS until 1953 and it was not easy to come to an agreement.
1946	We are now in Denmark. At that point our own Erik Sjøkvist (SJØ) had visions about a worldwide guild movement, but in order to found such a one, a the starting point would be to get accept from the international scout movement. Therefore, Sjøkvist got in touch with Wilson in order to further discuss his visions, and Wilson was enthusiastic and especially in favour of the way Denmark had organized the union of former scouts, and he gave his full support.
1947	And in 1947 "Old Scouts and the Sct. Georgs Guilds" was on the Agenda. It was then decided that each country should consider the model and in
1949	"Old Scouts Advisory Committee" was formed. This committee worked out the "Constitution", which was then to be approved at a meeting at Krogerup Højskole.
1951	A preparatory conference was called for at Krogerup Højskole, in Humlebæk, a little South of Elsinore. In this conference 12 interested nations participated (Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Netherlands, Italy, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and Austria). Representatives from WOSM, WAGGGS and Trefoil Guilds were observers, all in all 60 participants. A festive opening was planned in banqueting Hall of the Kronborg castle in Elsinore, and it was held as a Guild Hall with admission of 4 delegates, among others Lord Peter B-P.
1951	However, at the 13. WOSM conference in Salzburg the Constitution already agreed upon, was rejected - 18 countries voted against, 11 abstained and only 8 countries voted for. Subsequently, an intense amount of work was taken up, giving a final touch and altering words and finally
1953	In 1953 at the 14th WOSM conference in Liechtenstein, the start of the international union of former scouts was voted for.
1953	The formal founding of IFOFSAG took place 24-25 October.



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1953	A council was formed, consisting of 10 persons (corresponding to what we today know as WCom)
1955	<p>The first General Assembly (WConf) took place at Bygholm Park hotel, Denmark – just here where we are now... 12 countries participated with 50 participants (more than today)..</p> <p>From the program could be seen: Open-Air Guild Hall with admission of foreign delegates. There was a speech at the campfire about "The influence of the Vikings in England" and group discussions took place in two groups –English speaking as well as French speaking – with the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. " Man and Wife"</li> <li>2. "Parents and Children"</li> <li>3. "The Guilds and the Community"</li> </ol> <p>The 18 member countries included 38,866 members, but then again not all of them had handed in their numbers.</p> <p>From Denmark it was a strong wish to have a common guild law and promise, but this was not agreed about.</p> <p>The outings were: visit to a Jamborette near the Silkeborg area, visiting children's institutions run by the Guilds and also a visit to a camp in Virklund for Girl Guides – and then in the evening a Ball at Bygholm.</p> <p>The assembly was concluded with a Festive dinner and campfire in the park.</p> <p>That was a very special event to be part in. A fellowship and comradeship between former scouts from many different countries was experienced and many friendships started here – today known as Twinning – and are still in existence.</p>
	The advisor of Council, Colonel Wilson, was elected general secretary and cashier. In addition he also became the editor of the common magazine "Bulletin".
	<p>It is worth noting that SGG in Denmark – as opposed to other fellowships of former scouts – have more purposes than just supporting scouts and making parties. The main object is the work on the ethical aspect (guild hall, 5 minutes SG, Guild law and guild promise).</p> <p>You may also say that not all member countries of IFOFSAG have guilds as we know them in DK – many of them are merely support groups for former scouts and they do not use the word "guild". You may also say that the guild movement was born in Denmark and from there has spread to a number of countries. But support groups are of a much older date.</p> <p>Former NP of Sweden, Mr. Sten Thiel, expressed it like this: Denmark got the chance to be a pioneer country for former scouts" and we may add "and the international fellowship was a Danish initiative".</p>
	BUT, my dear friends, it is no easy to be 60 years of age!
	<p>It is a splendid idea to travel around the world and meet other people and cultures, but my invitation to you will be:</p> <p>We must cherish our movement by participating in the gatherings and conferences offered – they are for all of us!</p> <p>Being a participant brings joy and unity – and do not forget what ISGF stands for: <b>It's Still Good Fun!</b></p>



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### Invitation for Reflection

If you are, you breathe  
If you breathe, you talk  
If you talk, you ask  
If you ask, you think  
If you think, you search  
If you search, you experience  
If you experience, you learn  
If you learn, you grow  
If you grow, you wish  
If you wish, you find  
If you find, you doubt  
If you doubt, you question  
If you question, you understand  
If you understand, you know  
If you know, you want to know more  
And if you want to know more,  
**You are alive!**