

News from Europe



Newsletter

Issue 2/ Sept 2023



Conference Special

The new Europe Committee:
(left to right)

Thalia Xiromeritou (SESR)

Liliana Sotelo (CESR)

Soren Silving (NBSR)

Sue Page (WESR)

Attached to this Newsletter you will find a comprehensive report on the Europe Region Conference, 2023. Hopefully it will give you a flavour of the Conference and perhaps encourage you to have your own Conference or Gathering experience.

The next Newsletter will be issued at the end of October, so please when you are enjoying your Fellowship Day (25th October) events, pause and take some photos and send them in for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Send your photos and any News to: sue.page3@btinternet.com



REPORT

11th Europe Conference 11e Conférence Européenne Ranum, Denmark 30th July to 2 August 2023

The 11th Europe Region Conference was a great success and very well organised by our Danish hosts, in an excellent venue, with very good facilities. It was a good Conference programme and a very friendly event, with plenty of activities and social time in addition to the Conference Day.

The Host committee had issued lots of information in advance in their Newsletters.



They were on hand at Aalborg Airport and Train Station to welcome members and provide transport to the venue.



Over 100 members were present from 22 countries and the Central Branch.

On Sunday 30th July, we were welcomed at Ranum Efterskole College, and at registration we were issued with a small backpack containing our lanyard, with name badge and room fobs. A water bottle, conference booklet, songbook, sweets and tissues were also included. It took a while to find our way to our rooms and around the rest of the college, but an early visit was made to the Canteen for drinks and cake. There were activities provided for early arrivals, but most took the time to unpack and prepare for dinner and the Opening Ceremony.



The food was a 'serve yourself buffet' and excellent, with lots of choice. We were urged to come outside quickly after dinner that first night and assembled on the sports field, we all gazed in wonderment as 3 parachutes floated down from the sky, bringing the ISGF Flag and Danish Flag, what a spectacular opening!

There was an early start each morning, with an excellent breakfast. Each morning assembly in the conference hall was at 8.30am for that days notices and reflection. There was a good variety of activities to choose from and Educational workshops covered the selection of edible plants in the grass, preparation and cooking of bread on the fire, bans ,jokes and songs of the various groups, camp fires, preparation of paper from fibres, and many other workshops. The atmosphere was very friendly and according to Danish scout tradition, enriched before and after each session, by songs both Danish and scout.



On Monday. 31st July in the afternoon the ‘keynote’ speech was from Connie Hedegaard, Former Minister for the Environment of Denmark, was on Climate and Sustainability. There was a chance to ask questions and then some group discussions, with a concluding session back in the conference hall. Sub-Region meetings were held after dinner and the evening concluded with an outdoor camp fire in the camp fire circle.

Tuesday, 1st August (also Scout Scarf Day) was ‘outings day’, with a choice of 4 different excursions, 2 half day and 2 full day, all very interesting and enjoyable. In the evening, entertainment was provided by members present, what a jolly friendly evening it was.

Wednesday, 2nd August, was Conference Day with business starting at 9am. Delegates were seated in the main hall with Observers on the balcony. There were delegations from 22 european countries with one proxy held by the Czech Republic for Slovakia and 1 Central Branch member present. The Conference was very ably Chaired by Rigmor Lauridsen with assistance from Soren Silving. For more information the Minutes of the Conference will be published in due course. With breaks for drinks and lunch the Conference concluded at 2.43pm, the final item being the introduction of the new Europe Region Committee:



- Sue Page, (WESR) – Chair – also sharing secretarial duties
- Soren Silving – (NBSR) – Vice Chair – sharing secretarial duties
- Liliana Sotelo – (CESR) – Treasurer and Public Relations
- Thalia Xiromeritou – (SESR) – Projects

The ISGF Flag was also handed over from Denmark to Germany who won the vote to host the next Europe Region Conference in 2026.

There was also a presentation by Spain who are hosting the **30th ISGF World Conference** in Granada, from **17 – 22 September 2024**.



The day finished with a Gala Banquet with entertainment.

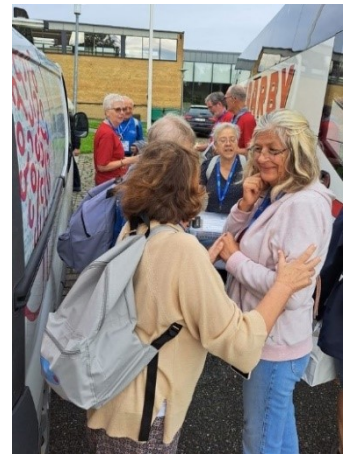


Then it was Thursday 3rd August, with a final Morning Assembly and departures. Some for a 3 day post conference tour and some for home.

Goodbye



Ranum Efterskole College.



The **Post Tour**, following the Conference, from **3rd to 6th August**, moving from the north tip (Skagen) down to the east side (Copenhagen). The 30 participants enjoyed the tour, and it was a real pleasure to have dinner inside the local Guild Halls in the different cities. Where Guild members prepared wonderful Danish menus for the participants.