

NETWORK RUSSIA SCOUT FELLOWSHIP
NETWORK MEETING
8TH MARCH 2003

LOCATION; HILLSIDE CAMPSITE, SUSSEX

1. WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS

- A Plaque was awarded to Clare for hosting the network at Hillside Campsite.
- Thanks were given to Don and Pauline Collishaw for the organisation and administration of this meeting.
- The District Commission Vicky welcomed everyone.

2. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- Prior to the Meeting at Flag break a prayer was given for Lynn Wordingham and Robin Smith who both passed away in the last year, thanks were given for the support they gave to the Network and Russian Scouting
- **Chairman's Report** A report was presented and distributed by Bill Turnbull
- **Treasurers Report** Accounts were provided to the meeting by Eric Chapman. There is £2,353.81 in the bank account, of which £925.00 relates to the 2003 study visit. Lesley Forster proposed that the accounts be adopted seconded by Steph Roberts. The accounts were approved unanimously.
- **Membership Secretary's Report** 80 members registered. Those that haven't paid are removed from the active list to reduce the mail list.
- **Election of Officers & Committee** Barry proposed that the existing members and Committee continued in the existing posts, a unanimous decision was made. The Officers are therefore;
 1. Chairman- Bill Turnbull
 2. Treasurer- Eric Chapman
 3. Membership Secretary- Fred Russell
 4. Minutes Secretary- Rachel StrongThe Committee members include;
 5. Promotional Materials –Eric Chapman
 6. Design /signs – Graham
 7. Guide Liaison Officer- Anne Angel
 8. Explorer Scouts & Winter trips- Paul Findlay & Tim Axe
 9. information booklets – Barry Dale
- **Other Matters** It was agreed that Eric was to hire a van for Gilwell Reunion – the cost being incurred by the Network.
- **Presentations** Awards were made to Gary Beasley (Leicester) and Ernie Johnson (Leicester) for the commitment to Network Russia, and a plaque and momentos presented to Konstantin Isaenko, our guest speaker for this Network meeting.

3. REPORT ON STUDY VISIT TO MOSCOW & NIZHNI NOVGOROD

Eric Chapman and Barry Dale reported that initially when they got to Moscow the weather was good, they booked into the hotel (some hours later- a check in

was time consuming). Sergey Sirotkin, President of ARNSO, visited the study group. A trophy was presented to Sergey by Don Collishaw to be used in memory of Lynn Wordingham.

In Moscow the study group were invited to the home of a Russian Family who provided fresh salmon, vodka, and more vodka. Later that evening they were treated to a punch up in the bar in the hotel.

The following day the group split up and went in many directions to visit various groups, Rostov, Dubna, Kaluga . The next day they visited a church, Red October chocolate factory before getting a train overnight to Nizhni Novgorod (second Class).

In Nizhni Novgorod there was a foot of snow, they were met and taken to their hotel before the Scouts took us on another bus for six hours to an old and very large Pioneer camp.

From the Pioneer camp at -10C they were taken to a Banya (owned by a Hunter) , after the Banya the group was encouraged to roll in the snow.

The hunter also had a zoo, which included bears, wolves, and ducks in a cage in the middle of the wolves' compound.

At the zoo they were introduced to the horses that they were to ride that day, through the woods in the snow, it should have been a long ride to a campsite but this took about 45 minutes.

They were then taken by mini bus to a training site and a campsite, before returning to their Scout Headquarters to join in their training programme and made Permini.

The following day they were paraded before the mayor, and held a press conference before getting on a train (third class) back to Moscow.

4. PLANS FOR STUDY VISIT TO WESTERN SIBERIA

The programme involves a very brief stop in Moscow before going straight on to Omsk. There will be one night in a hotel before excursions around Omsk, Schools, museums, local government youth ministry, evening boat trip, seminar with the Siberian scouts before the group split up to go to Tomsk, Kemerova, Kazakhstan. The purpose was to make contacts with groups in Western Siberia. On the way back there is to be two nights in Moscow for excursions.

5. KONSTANTIN ISEANKO 'SCOUTING IN WESTERN SIBERIA'

He thanked everyone for the invitation and opportunity to come to this meeting.

He had just met Sergey Serotkin who sent his good wishes.

He has been in contact with the president of Kazakhstan Scouts (Victor Deymund). Kazakhstan is not recognised by WOSM yet, but they are neighbours and there are good contacts between Omsk scouts and Kazakh scouts. (it is only 6 hours away on the train). Last year they went to the Kazakhstan National Jamboree. There was a presentation made of a book from Victor which included the first published hard back scouts handbook.(recommended by the Russian Academy).

Konstantin presented a book on the history of Omsk, to encourage others to visit, and provided the official invitation for the study group members.

The first Scout Group created in Western Siberia was in Omsk and is still run by Arkedy Nikachenko (but not affiliated to ARNSO), the second is

Konstatin's Group called 'Discovery'. Boy Scouts from America were there initially to assist, but not everyone has been touched by them. There are presently 10 scouting centres in Siberia, the largest is Irkusk, followed by Omsk, the others are a lot smaller. There were three major scout camping projects, the first was 1991 held in Tomsk, in 1995 there was a camp for scout patrol leaders, last year was the first Far East Siberian Jamboree held on the banks of Lake Biakal (560 attended).

The next Siberian Jamboree is likely to be held in Omsk in 2008.

The Scout movement in Siberia, the largest organisation (600 scouts) in Irkusk, they are strong organisation and attended the Saratov jamboree. The Omsk organisation has had some difficulties, there are two organisations, one he represents (the Union of Omsk Scouts) with 5 groups. The organisation in Tomsk is quite large (100 members) but are not currently members of ARNSO. In Novesibirsk there was one group but they have lost contact recently.

This year they are planning to have a traditional regional camp in the Tomsk region, they are likely to invite disabled and disadvantaged children, there is a special needs scout group there.

Discovery Group publish their own newspaper.

Every year they hold camps with themes and 200 to 300 attend.

International contacts are not very developed, they are very happy that English scouts will be visiting

In Siberia there is enough room for everyone, there is a link between Europe and Asia, a diverse cross of cultures.

6. VISITING PLANS

- **Omsk Scouts and Much Hadham Scouts (Hertfordshire)**

A grant has been sourced from the Youth Exchange Council to fund the Omsk Scouts who will be coming this summer - camping at Tolmers Activity Centre, visiting London and Home Hospitality are on the Itinerary.

- **St Petersburg 300th Anniversary**

Only Vladimir V camp fits in with the Scouts school holiday dates. Paul Findlay has a group of 4 leaders interested with some Scouts. An application form is to be circulated.

- **Crewe Scouts and Saratov Scouts**

They will camp 200km north of Saratov at a national park (50 likely to attend) – *subsequently cancelled*.

- **Torbay Scouts and Perm Scouts**

In July 2003 flying to St Petersburg (10 presently attended), Exeter may join in . They are hoping for 2 Perm representatives to attend a camp. They are getting the train to Perm, and being hosted, the programme is still being organised, they will return to Moscow for 3 days.

- **The Michael Durnan Expedition**

An annual event for Scouts and Explorer Scouts from Russia who are coming in August - based at Phasels Wood, they visit Cambridge, St Albans, Coetmoor Mill in Snowdonia for activities in the hills (4 nights), before going to the Docklands Scout Project for (4 days). They are here for 2 weeks.

- **Uk Camp Staff Programme for Russian Young Leaders**

18 invitations have been offered to young Russian leaders. 4 more opportunities are still available, 2 have been offered to Omsk, Perm may also be an opportunity.

7. **DISCUSSION BASES**

- **Promotional Material for UK international camps (Chris – Torbay)**

The Banner was discussed and only minor changes were proposed.

A video kit would be useful.

Promotional pictures of Russian Scouts could be useful.

Need a kit to send to County Commissioners (postcards, stickers,)

Programme ideas for the international award on the website

The promotional Banner will be going to international Jamborees in the UK

- **Winter expedition/Explorer Belt expeditions (Tim Axe)**

Looking into doing cross-country skiing for 2004, the cost will be around £495.00, likely to stay in YMCA in St Petersburg so to give the Scouts more time Skiing. Going to send fliers out as soon as possible, although it has been advertised on the website already.

- **Country support pack (Barry Dale)**

Barry has designed a booklet with helpful tips on travel to and around Russia. The Booklet has been typed in Scout font by headquarters, but it is not reader friendly so it will need to be set out more clearly and information on security needs to be added.

Some forms could be added (visa application form/currency form)

Tick lists could be added

The front should be redesigned, with the fancy knot from the new publicity, Russian writing on the front.

- **Gilwell Reunion (Anne Chapman)**

The Lapida dance (same as done with the Chief Scout last year) with Vera and her Accordion

Badges with Names in Russian (Charles & wife)

Painting wooden spoons

Making Russian Head dresses

Woggles

Lollystick boxes

Russian games

Dumplings, Blinis

Model pioneering

Decorating chocolate eggs

Fact sheets for all

8. **OTHER MATTERS**

Eric recommended the Scout Association insurance having recently having had to claim for a Camera stolen in Moscow, he received a full refund, less the £15.00 excess within 6 days straight in to his bank account.

One of our members a Mr Lawrence Clark used to work for a company that swapped seeds, he can give you packets of seeds from the botanical gardens to take and swap for Russian Seeds

National Jamboree 2004 has moved to Samara and news will be imparted to all when it becomes available

European Jamboree 2005

We hope to encourage as many Russians as possible to visit although it could be very expensive.

World Jamboree 2007

ARNSO will be invited to send a delegation.

Next meeting ; Huish Woods Campsite Taunton - 11th October 2003

Rachael Strong / March 2003