

**NETWORK RUSSIA SCOUT FELLOWSHIP**  
**BROWNSEA ISLAND MEETING**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

**MINUTES**

**1. FLAG BREAK AND WELCOME**

Kevin and Jessica welcomed from Brownsea Island and presented with a shield and badges

Opening prayer from Bill

**2. APOLOGIES**

Lesley, Fred, Claire and Malcolm Brackley

**3. MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING**

Treasurers report needs amending as it was not the winter project that received the full £30000, instead it was receipts / turnover for the year 2006 and should record £26000

Anne Chapman should now be referred to as the District Secretary and Rachel Strong should be referred to as the Minutes Secretary.

Bill proposed, Pete Seconded

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Had Fred enquired further in relation to the Red Cross. Fred was not at this meeting but Graham was able to report that he with Fred had written a letter but no response received. Fred is now planning to chase matters

**4. TREASURERS REPORT**

Dennis was unavailable so Don reported to the meeting

The receipts were down to £21372.80 for the year to March 2007

Monies were still to be paid out for the winter expedition

Slight loss on meetings

Sale of goods depends on whether stock is in hand or just been brought

An expedition starter Fund has been set up, as some monies are needed up front.

Holding just over £1000 for multi international aid

**5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

67 paid up members, 11 new (thanks to the TULA trip), 17 members pay their subscriptions through us. Graham is to have all the new email addresses

Anne has done a list of where the meetings have been (30 meetings to date !)

**6. NEWSLETTER**

Thank you to Graham for another fantastic production.

Barry referred to his picture at the Jamboree on page 2

Graham is sending out about 140 copies to interested parties. The only cost is post, the cost of production is covered by Grahams employers

Graham needs more copy from the members

**7. WEBSITE**

Chris has the website up to date, Graham liaises with him and sends the appropriate info for updates. As long as Chris has clear instructions he can do this. The links have been updated, the visa link now refers to the embassy

### **8. RUSSIAN CONTACTS MADE THIS YEAR**

Barry – went to the Jamboree on a day visit and went to the Russian international tent to meet Anatoly Emolon . He spoke with the children , they didn't seem to know much about the term scouts. Anatoly was having a rest and Barry was told they wouldn't wake him

Barry also met a guy called Chris who camped on one of the Russian Sub camps, he had noticed they did not have any Scout skills or know what scouting was about.

Barry met up with some of the St Petersburg Scouts and some Tula Scouts ( newly formed) Svetlana Sokolova is assisting this area and is organising the 2009 Centenary Jamboree, she would like to come and visit us

Pete went to the sub camp where the 36 Russian Scouts from Lake Baikal were, but was surprised to see that they were not out and about doing the activities.

Barry had also heard there were some Scouts from Kazakhstan , the rumour being that they had brought their tickets from some other scouts that were unable to attend Bill believed that was however not true as he had assisted some Kazakhstan Scouts to get visas who had received an official invite from the World Bureau.

Don had found a Scout group in Rubinsk where they (Sussex) originally had links, the guy running it was one of Ritas old scouts. They are looking for links here, but were advised to link up more with the scouts in Russia first.

Bill hosted Norwegian scouts in their district before the Jamboree, the challenge being to find places that didn't cost anything. At BP house we met Russian scouts, all the uniforms were exactly the same and all the badges too. The whole contingent came from Vladivostok . they had flown , they weren't scouts, hadn't been scouts at all, their parents paid money for the trip, they had been given the uniform (mustard yellow) and they just understood they were going to a camp.

Bill also had a chat with their leader, he asked if Anatoly Emolin was with them, they didn't know who he is. Bill is very concerned about this.

Janet hosted two scouts from Omsk, Max and his girlfriend Elena. This was Max's third visit. Did a boat trip on the Thames and he proposed getting married and she accepted !

Eric said we should be writing to the World Bureau to express our concerns about what we are hearing and finding. Through the World Bureau we could invite them (the Russian Scouts head) to come and talk to us.

Bill didn't disagree entirely with Eric but suggested we don't make such a big deal with it, rather than concentrate on the negatives support the positives, encouraging links to some of our contacts, encourage some of our people to visit their 2009 Jamboree.

Bill also met Dave Hollinshead in St Albans. He is planning to take a group to Saratov in 2008 where he has a link. One of the leaders from Saratov went to the Jamboree by linking in with David Hollinshead.

There was reference to the newsletter going out to the World Bureau.

Barry at Tula met with Svetlana Sokolova and suggested she come to one of our meetings to discuss the Jamboree 2009 - the Jamboree 2008 is described by her as the practice one.

Barry asked how the meeting would feel about us inviting Svetlana and another to come to the next meeting (for translating) agreed. They (Russian Scouts) would have to pay to get here but we would host them here.

Barry has discussed the dates for the Jamborees, which will be around the end of July

#### **9. NRSF NEWS**

Barry had a letter from Mr Glenn Walker - he wants to do a survey so that he can make recommendations to headquarters. He was particular about our remit, David Bull intervened and provided Glenn with our initial aims / remit.

Barry has looked at this, and raised two issues

1. the Quorum for the main meeting has to be one third of the total members (rather than committee members)

2. the voting is said to be on a majority basis of members at each meeting

Pete suggested you select a number e.g. 15 members to vote at the main meeting

Motion carried by majority with a quorum

Barry to report this back to Glenn Walker and to once again invite him to a meeting

#### **10. PUBLICITY MATERIALS**

We have sufficient postcards (approx 1000)

It has been suggested the banners could be updated. Graham reported it would cost about £100 to replace each. It was agreed that they are used in displays. No one objected to them being updated.

It was suggested that two new ones may assist, to save the logistics of getting those stored at Barry's house to members in other locations.

Bill suggested there were too many adults on the pictures on the banners and that therefore we should look at having more younger scouts in the pictures.

It was left to Graham to organise this

Barry thought we could update / refresh the craft ideas, games recipe disks

Pete said we sell about 100 each time we go to Gilwell Reunion.

It was suggested Svetlana may be able to come to the next meeting with some ideas

Pete will coordinate this if people can send their ideas to him.

It was noted there was some content from Don in this latest magazine.

Barry asked if we could persuade Graham to set us up a couple of Powerpoint presentations for displays of 10 minutes and 20 minutes, both on the same DVD.

Bill said because we will be promoting the new jamboree we need the info pack on how to get to Russia updated. Barry said it was updated on our website last week, and will be going on the link to the Scout Association site.

#### **11. RETIREMENT OF DAVID BULL AS INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONER**

Also our District Commissioner

He has been part of our life in Network Russia since 1991 and he formed the Network with three others. He has been useful, fought a few of our battles. He will be retired by our next meeting. Barry suggested we invite him to our next meeting, so that we

can make a presentation. It was suggested he could be made an Honorary member, or even a Vice President .

Proposed Dorothy Holdsworth

Seconded Anne Chapman

Prior to restarting the meeting after lunch

Bill and Eric will be organising the Scout's Own service tomorrow for 10am and asked for intersessions (notes, comments, prayers) from everyone.

## **12. KNEELERS**

Jessica from Brownsea Island said we could have our badge on a kneeler. There are already 40 kneelers in the church now, 21 have the badges from the previous world jamborees. Eric suggested we look to doing one in memory of Anne, (subject to Kevin's consent). It would have the English version of the badge. The kneeler would be funded by donations £2.00 each from each member. The kneeler could be specifically dedicated to Anne.

Proposed by Pete, seconded by Eric. All in favour

The question of where the kneeler will go will depend on Kevins input

## **13. REPORT: CAMP STAFF PROGRAMME**

Beccy reports 7 attended, 5 boys and 2 girls, plus 2 that went down to stay with Robin Loudon who were here under the guise of the camp staff programme. (Max and his girlfriend, Max had been on the programme previously and comes from Omsk. Bradley Wood, Phasels Wood, and Chalfont Heights hosted this year.

Difficult this year because many were tied up with the Jamboree.

The participants enjoyed a trip to the Jamboree. A few sticking points.

Everyone enjoyed it, forged good links with those that have attended.

Need someone close to each site to look after the participants. They like to do a visit to London. Beccy thanked everyone who was involved in helping, particularly Don and Pauline, Pete and Nicola, Fred, and Tim

We will be looking for some new contacts, home hospitality etc.

They seemed more interested in visiting the Country not just London.

The expense forms are still to be distributed, we did get a grant (slightly lower this year- possibly because the fund was being drawn on for the Jamboree).

Eric questioned if we should look after Georgia and Kazakhstan rather than concentrating on Russia. We are to clarify our remit, the general feeling that we should concentrate on Russia as it is now. But Don suggested we should look at who is supporting Georgia and Kazakstan.

Bill mentioned in the past we have had too many Camp sites wanting Russian scouts.

Bill knew Shorena Lomadze and that had generated interest in the scheme from Georgia. David Bull had asked if we would take some scouts from Kazakhstan.

Pete was concerned that those that attend are derserving, i.e. hadn't had the opportunity to travel extensively around Europe. The concern was that we would need to look at funding those that are not well off enough to travel here.

The Georgians paid \$225 to fly via Istanbul

If there is the need for change, we could discuss the selection process and the expectations of the scouts themselves. The invitation letters go out in January so it needs to be discussed before then.

Voted on whether there was a need for change, the majority vote favoured increasing our efforts (through our contacts) to get the Russians to take up the places, then if we have too many Russians we should limit the number from Georgia and Kasakhstan. (say 2 from each country) , We also need to make it clear what is expected and what they can and will be doing.

Paul also suggested that different campsites were dealing with them differently, some were fully integrated and other were kept separate. Some direction is needed to the wardens on a local level - Beccy does write to them initially.

If there is on the ground information about different sites then Becky would welcome hearing those comments.

#### **14. REPORT : ORPHANAGE TRIP / NEXT TRIP**

Paul referred to the reports in the magazine, all returned very tired after working 12 hour shifts. A feeling that it would have been better to have gone earlier in the year and that they took on a little too much. It rained for their St Petersburg experience. Need to tap into Denis' experience to get more funding.

In the past this has been done every two years, but 2009 looks very busy.

Thanks to everyone. The thanks were returned also to Paul

Barry commented that he was more than happy to work hard during this trip as that was what he thought was expected by this type of trip

The funding that was mentioned was explained by Barry. If donations were made to NRSF without ties, not only from members but outside institutions and individuals then on those donations gift aid could be claimed. The Network would then have to select (with a criteria ) those to attend, which should not necessarily be those that paid the donations.

Bill commented that his family walk across the country has raised approximately £1800 for charity

Bill presented shoe boxes to Margery Pryce-Jones (MIA) whilst the remainder of the them had been used for Africa and Chenoble.

#### **15. REPORT : GILWELL REUNION THIS YEAR / NEXT**

Logistics with the advance booking was interesting.

Pete thanked David Bull for organising the day visitors free passes and the reductions for those that camped ( the booking did have to be made very early in the year.)

Gilwell didn't have enough badges, 2500 people were there.

Peter suggested catering together like we did in the past. Pete asked for numbers / interest

Sold badges, DVD (donations received) and made £130 approx

Paul felt that if someone was doing something it attracted numbers, bilinis, craft, borsch etc

Pete thanked all those that helped. Bill thanked Pete

Also need to give something away even if it is a balloon.

#### **16. FORTHCOMING**

##### **I. FEB 2008 WINTER TRIP**

Tim has 12 interested

## **II. JAMBOREE SUMMER 2008**

Cheshire group with David Hollinshead attending

## **III FEB 2009 WINTER TRIP**

Tripped booked up by one unit (London ) interested as a result of picking up information a Gilwell a couple of years ago , but may look at running two trips

## **IV JAMBOREE 2009 JULY / AUGUST**

Paul got some feed back from Gilwell,

1 from USA , 1 from Austria several individuals and some leaders interested in sending troops

Svetlana has sent some information to Barry, but it needs translating. (Note: Now translated and in Newsletter and on Web site)

Costings are needed, as we get information we will feed it to those that are interested.

Need to look at the support for the groups, the package and the involvement that we would have, e.g. service crewservice crew ?

Will need contacts for groups in Russia

We need as a group to decide what we are prepared to offer as support.

We need to know if anyone is planning within the Network to take a group out.

Paul would consider taking a service team.

Pete has a good group of explorer scouts interested from his area.

6-8 from Bradley Wood are interested.

Someone from Peterbrough interested

Barry suggested the next meeting with Svetlana , and at Gilwell, further interest **will come to us**

**Paul suggested that those interested could have a meeting with Svetlana at the next meeting.**

## **Another Jamboree in 2008 is being run by Konstantin in Omsk**

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## **20.THE NEXT MEETINGS**

- **MARCH 2008** GLENBROOK campsite DERBYSHIRE (in Bamford)
- **OCTOBER 2008** Kent –Sue Humphrey to organise a venue
- **MARCH 2009** Paul will contact Leicestershire - suggested change of date i.e. end of half term holidays Eric will cater
- **OCTOBER 2009** Pete proposed Blackpool –illuminations young members to cater ?

## **21. Our anniversary cake -100 years of scouting cake –by Dorothy.**

## **22. Thanks to Janet and Bill for catering for this meeting**

## **23. FLAGDOWN**