

International Commissioners Report 2008

International Commissioner: Ann Foley

Provincial Representatives

Northern: Michael Daly

Southern: Jennifer O Regan

South Eastern: Aidan Brennan

North Eastern: Alan Walsh

Western: Henry Doherty

Dublin Metropolitan: Jennifer Simpson

Team Members: Sue Thomas, Mark O'Callaghan, Chris Kearns, John Lawlor Jr, Cian Timmons

Report:

It is with great pleasure I give this, my third report to National Council. At the end of this term I am delighted with the amount of work the committee and I have got through and the many achievements we have had. I hope we have set the International Department on a strong and firm footing.

World Scout Committee Crisis January / February 2008

On the 12th of November the World Scout Committee met in Cairo. Their task was to consider the Management and Governance issues which had arisen over a period of time. This meeting was a very difficult one for the members of the committee and it culminated in the Secretary General leaving his post. All NSOs were requested to meet in Paris in January 2008 where all the issues were discussed. At the next meeting of the World Scout Committee, the Chairman of the committee resigned. The remaining members of the committee recognised that the methods which provoked events were not in the spirit of the movement and they pledged themselves to undertake an in-depth process of dialogue with the Chairman of the Board of the World Scout Foundation in order to find solutions to the challenges, where the WSF and WSC held different perceptions in relation to the area management of the World Scout Bureau.

Meeting: The Scout Association UK / Scouting Ireland April 2008

Nigel Hailey (Incoming TSA International Commissioner

David Bull (Outgoing TSA International Commissioner) & their Teams.

Ann Foley International Commissioner Scouting Ireland and SI Team.

Craig Turpie Chairman European Scout Committee

The following items were discussed and team members are working on the following projects.

1) Co-operation on International Development Education Projects

- Latest SI publications sighted and discussed, including 'Life' development education book.

- SI expedition to Malaysia discussed. Noted that Girl Guiding UK have recently purchased a cottage in Malacca.

- Possible SI partnership with Zambia NSO discussed.

- Dangers of inexperienced groups traveling overseas to undertake development projects discussed.

- Successful TSA partnerships with Uganda, Malawi and other NSOs discussed.

- TSA model of UK / Africa fellowship discussed.

- Potential for SI / TSA and ultimately French tripartite projects discussed.

2) TSA Contingent to Jamboree 2008

- SI expressed gratitude to TSA for the WSJ equipment which had been delivered for use at Jamboree 08 Punchastown. Official invites to UK personnel

3) Scouts of the World (SW)

4) Roverway 2009

5) Roverway 2012

6) Explorer Belt

TSA / SI Explorer Belt expeditions.- TSA to host a European round table on the Explorer Belt in late 2008 / early 2009 – timings will be based on advice from European region.

7) Leaders Challenge 2009

- At an early stage of development, but SI will keep TSA advised on possibility of UK applications.

- Briefing from Craig Turpie Chairman European Committee

8) European Scout Plan 2007 – 2010

. Renewed effort on joint WOSM / WAGGS targets.

- Café Style workshop – ‘The Academy’

9) World Scout Conference July 2008

- Brief discussion on WSC.

10) World Scout Jamboree 2011 – Sweden

- Brief discussion around preparations for WSJ 2011

11) Joint Citizenship projects

- Brief talk on possibility of joint / transnational citizenship projects, both at youth and adult member stages.

WORLD CONFERENCE KOREA

The following attended the World Scout Conference:

Chief Scout Martin Burbridge, Chief Commissioner Program Kiernan Gildea, National Treasure Niall Walsh, International Commissioner Ann Foley, U26 Board Members Ciara Higgins & Richard Scriven

- Ciara and Richard also attended the World Youth Forum which was held in Wongkwang University Iksan Korea one week before the main conference.

- John Lawlor attended the world Youth Forum, having been elected member of the Youth Advisor WSC 2005-2008.

- Maeliosa De Buitlear attended the WSC on behalf of the World Scout Adult Resources Committee.

- Therese Bermingham attended as the Vice Chairperson of the WSC Term 2005-2011

A full report was given to NMC at the September meeting and a copy of the report can be obtained from the International Secretary, Rose Doyle, Larch Hill, Dublin 16

International Jamboree in Punchestown

Over 1200 International Scouts attended the Jamboree in Punchestown, Co Kildare.

Sue Thomas International Liaison Officer for the jamboree was assisted by four Scouters, Mary Fricker (SI), Kiernan Cody (SI), Chris Murray (USA), Ben Mallon (UK).

Prior to the Jamboree there was a mountain of work with accreditation of Scouters, organising transport for the International Troops and the IST to and from the site. There were many International Day Visitors who attended the Jamboree site, including Nigel Halley (International Commissioner UK), David Bull (UK), David Mc Kee (CEO European Region) to name but a few.

The International Team ran an International Night which 475 Participants attended. The night consisted of Music, Dancing, Poetry and Singing. Sue and her team are a credit to Scouting Ireland and I applaud their professionalism and Scouting Spirit.

International Scout Development Project

SI has a number of groups which participate in Community and International Projects. These groups come from very strong leadership bases with much experience and many contacts in the field. The role of the International Commissioner is to widen the experience and contact base.

The International Commissioner has set about developing partnerships with the USA, UK, and France and through the National Youth Council of Ireland. SI is training Scouters and introducing Scouts to international community and development work as part of our aim to encourage young people in the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development so they have an opportunity to reach their full potential and to contribute to society as responsible citizens of the world.

MALAYSIA

In 2007, a Scouter from Ireland, under the direction of Scouting Ireland's International Commissioner, attended an exploration workshop in Malaysia in the company of Scouters from the United Kingdom. The purpose of this workshop was to explore the feasibility of a partnership between Scouting Ireland and the Scout Association of Malaysia on a community project. The Scouter identified a credible and mutually beneficial project which Scouting Ireland (SI) and the Scout Association of Malaysia (SAM) will undertake with the Yayasan Sultan Idris Shah Foundation (YSIS) in Bercham Ipoh, Malaysia.

YSIS is a foundation that caters for people and children with physical disabilities. YSIS seeks to reach out to those with physical disabilities and provide state of the art facilities and services so

that they may achieve a better quality of life. YSIS has a number of community homes in Bercham Ipoh. The community home which is the subject of this project is a CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) Centre catering for the early intervention for children with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, down syndrome, development delay and other neurological conditions.

Sensory rooms are environments in which stimulating activities and experiences are used to increase awareness and positive behaviours for individuals with severe sensory impairment or neurological challenges. Sensory rooms have been shown to enhance skills such as sensory development (hearing, sight, taste, smell, and touch), hand/eye coordination, cause and effect, language development, control over one's environment, and relaxation.

The SI Scout Group involved in this project is the 177th Ballymun Road, Dublin. There are 12 Ventures and 7 Scouters travelling to Malaysia on the 19th of December 2008. The participants have worked in St. Michaels House, Dublin (Ireland's main centre of service for people with disabilities) learning the skills they will need on this project. They have also worked with Rainbow Arch Club for young people with disabilities. The participants worked with the leaders of Rainbow Arch arranging weekly programs, weekend camps and helping members to achieve the President's Award (Ireland's most prestigious award for young people). The participants from 177th Ballymun Road have fundraised to travel to Malaysia. They have organized a race night, bag-packing at the local supermarket and worked part-time. The members of 177th Glasnevin have demonstrated much of the commitment necessary.

INDIA

The Rainbow Challenge

The Rainbow Challenge is a voluntary community service project in North-Eastern India by three Scout Groups from Dublin, Ireland:

- The 35th Dublin, Donore Avenue - The 127th Dublin, Drumcondra - The 5th Port Dublin, Dollymount

The project aims to support education for poor children in India. The Rainbow Troop of 18 male and female Scouts from Dublin will spend 3 weeks in India from December 20th to January 11th providing teaching assistance and introducing Scout Programme to the Loreto Sealdah School in Kolkata and building a school at Laitkor, Meghalaya. In addition, The Rainbow Fund aims to provide long-term financial support to this cause. The donations have come flooding in from everywhere and they didn't just hit their €20,000 target but managed to make €30,000

Peru South America

We have set up an Environment Project in 2009 more details in January 2009 this will be run by Sue Thomas and Cian Timmons.

World Scout Environment Programme

Sean O Sullivan is working on International Environment Projects The environment plays a fundamental role in Scouting and its values. 28 million young people are prepared to respect and value the environment. Environmental education and action

International Department

Image - Logo, Uniform and Display Kit; Neckerchief. The International neckerchief has been passed by the International team and will go to the Board for final approval

Drafting Policy on Development Education & Overseas Development Projects

This policy is presently been worked on by the International team, there are many elements and the association would also have to consider guidelines and implementation proposals, International Travel Forms.

International Handbook Life

We have printed copies of this publication and we also hope to put it online.

Volvo Yacht Race coming to Galway 23 May to 6th June 2009

I asked Steven Taylor National Commissioner Sea Scout to look after this project on behalf of Scouting Ireland Volvo Ocean Race Village in Galway Scouts will get to enjoy the world's most exciting sailing event, but also got to learn more about how to protect the environment. The Scouts will have an opportunity to learn about Volvo's contribution to reducing the CO2 emissions. They will also participate in a number of environmental activities that are part of World Scout Environmental Programme.

USA 2010 Jamboree

The Scouts of America are holding their centenary camp in 2010 and we are very hopeful that we will receive an invite to this Jamboree. With this in mind we will be looking at putting together a contingent from Ireland.

22nd World Scout Jamboree Sweden 2011

The 22nd World Scout Jamboree will take place from 27th July to 7th August 2011 in Kristianstad, Sweden, with around 40,000 Scouts expected to attend from around the world.

The theme of the event is 'Simply Scouting'. Within the idea of 'Simply Scouting', there are three key concepts for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden: meetings, nature and solidarity. The Jamboree programme encompasses everything at the event. The Scouts will experience the 22nd World Scout Jamboree through five areas: subcamp life, module activities, common areas, arena events and Camp in Camp.

Participants in the 22nd World Scout Jamboree are young people aged between 14 and 17 years old. They must have been born between 25 July 1993 and 27 July 1997. An estimated 8,000 staff are needed to run the Jamboree, and these will come from countries all around the world. The International Service Team (IST) will be open to active Scouts aged 18 or over at the start of the Jamboree (born on or before the 24 July 1993).

Venture City Experience

Michael Daly is putting together a package for Ventures / Rovers to participate in culture activities with venture /rover groups in European cities.

Scouts of the World

First Scouts of the World Discovery in Ireland

The first ever Scouts of the World Discovery in Ireland took place in October 2008, gathering 21 enthusiastic Venture Scouts and young leaders from across 11 Scout Counties and 4 Scout Provinces to the Scout Den & Museum of the 37th Cork (Togher) in Cork City.

Scouting Ireland's Venture Scout and International teams are carrying out this pilot to investigate how best to integrate the Scouts of the World Award Programme into national Programme. It also allows the association to put in place the necessary resources to facilitate young people from around the country in applying for the award. See the PC (Ventures) report, available online.

JOTA / Radio Activity

Scouting Ireland had four stations for the 51st JOTA, two of which had special event callsigns celebrating 100 years of Scouting in Ireland. EI100S and EI100SI were used by the 1st Kilkenny and 18/19th Cork Scout Groups. EI5MRC operated on voice and PSK from the Mount Mellray Scout Centre in the Knockmealdown Mounts of County Waterford. EI1SI operated from Tralee in County Kerry where Scouts built intruder alarms, water pressure detectors, Morse oscillators and Morse keys, Visitors at EI1SI included volunteers from local Coast Guard and Lifeboat Stations.

Punchestown Centenary Jamboree. EI100SI was QRV from the main Jamboree site at Punchestown in County Kildare where 12,000 Scouts gathered and EI100S was QRV from Blessington Lake, 30Km away in County Wicklow, which was the centre for the Jamboree's water activities. Despite record rainfall and flash flooding (twice) a full radio training programme was provided with Scouts operating on voice, PSK, APRS, Echolink and downloading live pictures from weather satellites. The Team at EI100SI in Punchestown were Fran (Station Administrator), Jochen DK8ZM, Ivor G4GET, David EI4DJ/GI4FUM, Mark EI4FNB, Dan EI9FHB and Sean EI3IP. Brian EI4GL operated EI100S from Blessington Lake.

Acknowledgements

Many Thanks to the Staff at National Office, the International Secretary Rose Doyle, CEO Eamonn Lynch and Collie Kavanagh,

To all the Scouters who worked with me over the last three years, I hope I have achieved enough to Quote Our Founder B-P;

'Try to leave this world a little Better then you found it'

Ann Foley.