



Newsletter

European IFYE Alumni Association

September 2011



IFYELand 2011: Swamp Soccer – new challenges and great sportsmanship



Read more about:

European Conference IFYELand (Finland)

Annual General Meeting 2011

IFYE life in Austria



European Rally 2011, Slovenia

Silver Pins / Golden Certificate

Mission Impossible !

Greetings from the President

First of all, may I say what a pleasure it was to have been with so many of you at the 53rd European International Farm Youth Exchange Alumni Association Conference, held in Metsakartano, Finland. We all enjoyed a week of renewing friendships or making new ones, wonderful weather, a 'taste of Finnish traditional cuisine', and a wide ranging, packed programme which allowed us all to enjoy some of Finland's magnificent countryside, relaxing by the lake in unspoilt countryside, and the heritage and history of Finland. A conference report is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter and on behalf of you all, I express sincere appreciation to the Chair, Sirkku Laurila, and the Finnish team that hosted the conference for their outstanding hard work in hosting us in Finland. I'm sure we are all still in awe as to how Sirkku and the team managed to organise a wonderful conference as well as coinciding her own wedding celebrations entwined with the opening ceremony which was so memorable. Our congratulations and best wishes to the newly weds for the future. The opening ceremony gave us a chance to show our solidarity with our Norwegian IFYEs and the people of Norway, to share in their loss in relation to the appalling number of deaths due to the atrocities committed shortly before our conference commenced.



At the Annual General Meeting, there were a number of changes to the Executive Committee and we expressed appreciation to Danielle Naser (Luxembourg), who retired as Convenor. I was most grateful for your support to continue as President for a final 2 year term, and Sally Young was reappointed as Secretary for a 2 year term. We welcomed back to the Executive Committee, Anette Nilsson (Sweden) as 2nd Vice President and Gerhard Steinberger (Austria) continues as 1st Vice President, Norbert Winkler (Austria) continues as Treasurer and Hilde Riser (Norway) continues as Newsletter Editor. I believe it's a great team to take IFYE forward into the future.

Since returning to the Isle of Man from Finland, I have had a frenetic period of activity, preparing for the Isle of Man General Election due to be held on Thursday 29th September, 2011. If you're at a loose end and have nothing better to do, please visit www.martynquayle.im for more details and to see my Manifesto. The weather here in the Isle of Man has been very good this summer and I trust that you have enjoyed some good weather and relaxation too!

Martyn Quayle (Isle of Man)



ON OUR WEB SITE YOU WILL FIND MINUTES FROM AGM (JULY 2011 AND EARLIER YEARS) AND CONTACT MEMBERS MEETING, COUNTRY REPORTS AND NEWSLETTERS 10 YEARS BACK.



European IFYE Alumni Association

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Deadline next issue:

1. December 2011

Greetings from the Editor



Here is another issue of our Newsletter. As it includes pictures from the conference this year I hope you enjoy it both if you were one of the 150 members who met in IFYEland in July, or if you didn't have time to participate this year. You will get a touch here in the Newsletter, also from the meetings. Did you see the picture on the front page; the swamp soccer? Unforgettable IFYE moment!

Some of the other news is about the IFYE activity in Austria, a country with lot of new activity and the largest number of participants from Austria on a IFYE conference for many years. We have started to search for information on next year's conference in Kungälv, just north of Gothenburg in Sweden. Read more about this 'Mission Impossible' until more information are available.

We also have had a representative from our board at the European Rally. You can also find some happy news on members; new or enlarged families. For the future: please help me (and by that us all) in supplying and sharing news and information.

As you might have recognised we now try to issue 4 rather than 2 issues of the Newsletter a year. We hope you enjoy the improvement! But we depend on you to have something to write about, articles are welcome! My mailbox is always open ☺

Have a wonderful and enjoyable autumn!

Hilde W. Riser (N)



TO ALL LIFETIME MEMBERS!!!

**HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY AND REMEMBERED TO UPDATE US WITH YOUR NEW ADDRESS?
PLEASE UPDATE US ON E-MAIL**

Executive committee: 2011-2012

President: Martyn Quayle, Isle of Man
First Vice President Gerhard Steinberger, Austria
Second Vice President Anette Nilsson, Sweden

Treasurer: Norbert Winkler, Austria
Secretary: Sally Young, Scotland
Newsletter editor: Hilde W. Riser, Norway

Annual General meeting 2011

Annual general meeting was held the Thursday morning on the IFYE conference in Finland. The minutes are soon out on the web site but here is some news from the meeting:

At the 2010 AGM the Executive Committee was requested to consider the future of the tradition of presenting a silver pin to 25th anniversary members. The report had been circulated to the members, and discussed at the country meetings. The AGM agreed that from 2012: Every member will receive a certificate on the 25th anniversary of their exchange trip and be given the option to also receive a silver pin. And a Baby IFYE is not eligible to receive a silver pin'

Since the AGM in Norway in 2007 the Baby IFYE's attending their first IFYE conference within the first 3 years following their exchange trip, have had the option to receive a conference fee subsidy on 160 CHF. The AGM agreed to continue this funding for another 5-year period.

As Sweden are hosting next year's conference they are holding the position as the second vice president and Anette Nilsson (1st Vice president until 2010) is back in the executive committee.



Board 2011-12: Norbert, Hilde, Martyn, Sally, Gerhard, Anette

European Rally August 2011 Slovenia



The executive committee have over the last years had focus on information exchange with Rural Youth Europe. A representative from RYE is invited to our AGM and a representative from European IFYE Alumni Association is invited to the AGM at RYE's European Rally every summer.

This year First Vice President Gerhard Steinberger made the trip to Slovenia. He got the opportunity to speak at the General Assembly and promote the IFYE programme.

Picture: Chairperson Rural Youth Europe Michael Schwab, Germany and Vice chairperson Kadri Toomingas, Estonia together with Gerhard Steinberger





IFYEland headquarter



53rd European IFYE Conference

Finland/IFYEland

23rd – 30th July 2011



Circus school

The welcome to IFYEland was most genuine. We were met by border control! Obviously necessary as there were IFYE's with false visas trying to enter one week with traditional elements but also with a lot of new and memorable things.

For the first time we know in IFYE history the opening ceremony included a wedding. As a surprise to all of us the Empress of IFYEland, Sirkku Laurila was married to Juha Orava.

The first day we had the chance to see local acrobats, take lessons on a circus school and to enjoy our selves at a fancy dress circus party.

We were formed in teams from the first day and through out the week the teams took part in various events in the "Summer and Winter Olympics" which included "sort of"-formula 1, beach games, archery, swamp soccer, cross country skiing, kick sledge relay.



... what did I learn in school....



Pictures by: Katharina Steinrück, Anita Eckerstorfer, Linda



Steele, Mari Kindsbekken, Anna Moxnes and Hilde W. Riser



Summer Olympics

After the games it's was time for "After ski" and chance to dance the whole evening on our new woollen socks. Home made gift to everyone attending the conference!!

The conference site included a lake and fantastic beach and sauna and we had plenty of time to enjoy the facilities.

We were taken on trips to towns like Kuopio and Nurmes and the national park of Koli. On some of the trips we had the chance to visit the Yara factory and Tulikivi soapstone factory. We could visit a huskie kennel, and the Peuraniemen Taimitarha owned by former IFYE; Kari Komulainen and his family.

During the week we all took part in designing and making small patchwork blankets for the newborn baby's intensive unit in the local hospital. We made, high above expectations, a number of more than 40 blankets.

It was long days and short nights of fun and rumours says the warmest week in Finland for 23 years. It was another fantastic conference! Thanks to all the crew in IFYELand that made it a special week for the rest of us.



Peuraniemen Taimitarha (nursery garden)



Woollen socks – conference gift and fantastic for dancing



Winter Olympics



Doping tests...



Ski tunnel – ski all year through -6°C



Like they did in the old days...



"Sleeping beauty tour" (?)



Koli national park



Koli



"Midsummer Beach party"



"Midsummer Beach party"



IFYE life in Austria

by Norbert Winkler, contact member



IFYE in Austria is no independent club; it is linked to and organized by rural youth, the "Landjugend" in Austria. The Landjugend office for the international agendas like IFYE and international practical training is located in the chamber of agriculture in St. Pölten in lower Austria. Gerlinde Kraus takes care of the matters for the incoming and outgoing IFYE's. On the one hand the incomings program when they arrive in Vienna, organizing the host families and the travelling between them, on the other hand the outgoing weekend with lots of information for our "youngsters" and the correspondence with the other countries. She was a great help with the office work prior to the conference 2010 and at the registration, unfortunately Gerlinde was not able to join us all week.

Due to the fact, that IFYE is a part of Landjugend, you have to be a member of the rural youth to go abroad on exchange. Austria offers exchanges with England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Estonia, 4 States in the US and Canada.

Most of the outgoing IFYE's prefer English speaking countries for their exchange, especially the US. The number of outgoings is increasing. This success is based on the fact, that the 6 weeks ambassador program is very interesting for people before starting university or jumping into the working life. Now the major focus is to find more host families for the incoming IFYE's.

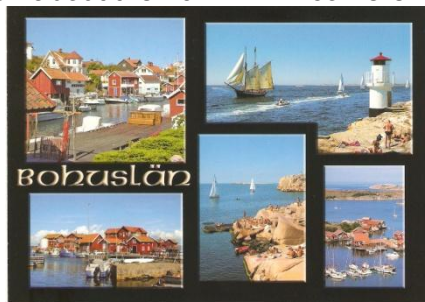


The outgoing IFYE's meet around Easter for a weekend to get prepared for their exchange. At this event, the alumni's are also invited to pass on the IFYE spirit to the "fresh" ones.

Advices are given, pictures shown and memories exchanged. This outgoing weekend with former IFYE's started in 2001, which was also when the alumni's agreed to form a group together. Alois was elected as president at this time, because he had the experience, what was going on at IFYE Alumni Europe. Since then, the group grew bigger and more and more joined a European Conference. Now, nobody can imagine a conference without Austrians anymore ☺. This encouraging development gives us hope to keep the IFYE program going successfully for the next oncoming decades.

Mission Impossible ?

The Swedes have invited the European IFYE Association to the annual conference in 2012. It will be held in the former border district between Norway and Sweden' and that was about all I knew when I undertook the mission - 'A road trip in search of more information about the 2012 IFYE conference'.



After crossing the border to the EU or Sweden as we normally call our neighbouring country I followed the "high-way-to-be" to the south. The route followed the beautiful coast of Bohuslän before approaching Kungälv and the Bohus fortress, (which dates back to early 1300's and to a Norwegian an important place, as it was the site of battles in earlier days).

The 'official' aim of the trip was to visit members of the organising committee (Ann-Margreth on her farm in the forest and Anette close to the town of Varberg). Unknown to them my real purpose was to hunt for information about the conference during our conversations about everything and nothing and report back to you. They were tight lipped - I was not very successful, not even a bottle or two of wine was any help!



Then when I had almost given up, through a window I saw three golden crowns and the well known letters IFYE, was it an invitation? This was the first sign that I was on the correct trail.

Next, one very early morning I saw something else - Anette (who must have thought she was the only one awake) was in the kitchen not in her nightdress but wearing king's robes. When I went into the room she said she was practicing for a local pantomime (yeah right...). This was as far as I got without being too obvious in my search for information; I left her house with more questions than answers.

On my drive back north I realized that Peter, the third member of the committee, lives in the neighbourhood of the conference site so I stopped at his house and had a coffee, but sadly gleaned no additional information. I drove back home despondent. **Mission Failed.**

But, the Swedish organising committee has promised to provide us with further details in the next newsletter which will be out before Christmas and on their web site at www.ifye.nu

My curiosity about the Swedes and their conference remains: I believe it will be innovative, just see the way they have started to park their Volvos! (Make sure you get a train or a plane to the conference. Don't bring your car!).



by Edlih – the rotide rettelswen (not a successful detective)



Congratulations!

Carole Schumacher (IFYE to USA 1996), Luxembourg and Geir Sandvik Hjelen, (IFYE to Costa Rica 1998) Norway with a daughter, born 4 June

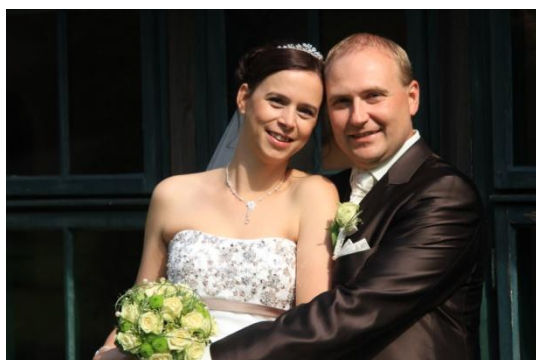
Eirin Kristiansen Ramstad (IFYE to Australia 2002) Norway and Gaute Ramstad with a son, born 17 September

Inger Christine Groseth (IFYE to Switzerland 1992), Norway and Birka Schmidt-Bäumler on their wedding 18. June

Sirkku Laurila (IFYE to Northern Ireland 1982), Finland and Juha Orava on their wedding on the opening day of the IFYE conference 24. July



Petra Fuchs (IFYE to USA 2002), Austria and Rainer Kaupil on their wedding 25. June



Silver Pins 2011



Ragnhild Grøndahl, Norway, Leena Hirvonen and Juha Kylämäki, Finland, Eva Öster, Sweden

Golden Certificate 2011



Inga-Lill Eriksson, Åke Örsmark, Ingrid Johansson, Sweden, Tjitte Talsma, The Netherlands, Bertil Carlsson, Sweden



Pictures: Minna Törmäkangas