

## Minutes of the Joint Meeting Sunday, 14 January 2001 Pax Lodge, London

### Present:

Garnet de la Hunt	Chairman of the World Scout Committee (In the Chair)
Margot Bogert	Vice Chairman World Scout Committee
Patrick Lyon d'Andrimont	Vice Chairman World Scout Committee
Walter Hofstetter	Member World Scout Committee
Garth Morrison	Member World Scout Committee
Jacques Moreillon	Secretary General WOSM
Malek Gabr	Deputy Secretary-General WOSM
Ginny Radford	Chairman of the WAGGGS World Board
LaRae Orullian	Vice Chairman WAGGGS World Board
Lilyclaire Bellamy	Vice Chairman WAGGGS World Board
Heather Brandon	Member WAGGGS World Board
Charlotte Christ-Weber	Member WAGGGS World Board
Joséphine Diallo	Member WAGGGS World Board
Maria Paula Romano	Member WAGGGS World Board
Lesley Bulman	Director World Bureau
Allan Stitt	(present as WAGGGS' coach)

### 1. INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1. The Chairman began the meeting with some initial remarks.
- 1.2. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage a sharing of perceptions, a chance to clear up misunderstandings and hopefully encourage a realisation that there are fewer differences in the fundamental principles and educational methods of WAGGGS and WOSM.
- 1.3. He commented that both world Organizations, comprised Member Associations with widely varying needs and aspirations. Both WAGGGS and WOSM jointly face the dilemma of SAGNOs/SAGAs who are in a difficult position, as well as national Organizations who enthusiastically promote the idea of one world Organization on the one hand and other national Organizations who vehemently oppose the whole idea of a new world Organization.
- 1.4. On the question of the structure of a possible, future World Organization, uniting what is presently WAGGGS and WOSM, everyone agreed with the Chairman that a "World SAGNO" is not an option, as by definition, such an option is meaningless.
- 1.5. It was agreed that it was important to emphasise, at the outset, that no decisions concerning the future would be taken at this meeting.

## 2. WORLD CONFERENCE DECISIONS

2.1. These were read out to remind all of the Conference mandates.

### 30<sup>th</sup> WAGGGS World Conference Decision

Recognizing the urgent need for a common Long Term Vision within WAGGGS, and accepting that there are three types of organizations supporting the WAGGGS Mission, but with a differing Long Term Vision, viable for WAGGGS:

- ◆ Girls only
- ◆ Girls and boys within WAGGGS
- ◆ Scout and Guide National Organizations

The World Board recommends that:

- ◆ WAGGGS carry out an internal study of our strengths and weaknesses through wide consultation which will include Component Associations, Member Organizations, Regions and the World;
- ◆ There should be a joint study that would analyze the present situation of WAGGGS and WOSM and examine joint options for the future;
- ◆ The World Board will review the findings and will propose an appropriate motion for the 31<sup>st</sup> World Conference in 2002.

### WOSM World Committee Decision announced to the 35<sup>th</sup> World Scout Conference

Consequently, at its meeting here in Durban two days ago, the World Scout Committee has decided to undertake, in consultation with the WAGGGS World Board, a fact-finding study bearing upon a number of key factors involved in the relationship between the two World Organizations. These factors comprise:

- Fundamental values, our principles and practices
- Mission
- Educational methods
- Membership policies
- Organizational and financial questions
- Structural implications at all levels, including national.

The fact-finding study will aim at identifying the relevant issues if a long-term vision of one new world organization were to be considered, noting in particular the implications for WOSM at all levels.

The study should be completed and reported to the World Scout Committee in September 2000.

### Beresford Report and WAGGGS' Commentary

2.1.1. It was noted that there had been no significant response to either Organization from their respective national Members since placing these documents on their respective web sites.

2.1.2. It was made clear that in its comments to the Beresford Report, WAGGGS had responded to what it felt were the most important issues raised in the report but had not commented on a line by line basis.

### WAGGGS' update

2.1.3. An extensive Internal Study had been carried out in all Member Organizations, which had provided much useful information on strengths and weaknesses.

2.1.4. WAGGGS World Board continues to develop a common Long Term Vision through the exploration of the three visions outlined at its 30th World Conference.

- 2.1.5. Loss of membership in both Organizations was raised and reasons for this discussed. There are millions of girls and boys who are in neither Organization. It would be wrong to consider that girls in Scouting would necessarily be Guides if they were not Scouts. However, there can be real conflict over the recruitment of girls in certain situations especially in those countries where Guiding/Scouting takes place in schools.
- 2.1.6. It was noted that, in some regions, the concept of a new World Guide and Scout Organization, mooted in 1991 had led some Scout leaders to state that they were taking over Guide Associations and recruiting their girls.

### **WOSM Update**

- 2.1.7. There were differing views within the World Scout Committee as to whether or not to devote time and energy to discussing a joint future with WAGGGS. It had therefore been decided to send a questionnaire to all WOSM Member Organizations to establish their view and decide on the next steps of the World Scout Committee at its meeting in April 2001.
- 2.1.8. There was some discussion of the questionnaire, especially on Question 3. This question was felt by WAGGGS to imply a certain structure at national level that would in many cases not be acceptable to WAGGGS' Members.

## **3. MISSION**

- 3.1. A paper had been prepared by Garth and Heather, with the input of others, as a basis for discussion.
- 3.2. There was discussion on the ways in which girls and young women may achieve their fullest potential and it was pointed out that GSUSA, for example, believes there are many ways for girls to achieve their fullest potential, however they have found that the best way for them in the USA is through a single-sex programme. It was further explained that some women within WAGGGS feel that those women who join Scouts are "traitors" but there are also women within WAGGGS who do not feel that way and would applaud them for their support of young people.
- 3.3. It was clarified that it is integral to the thinking of WOSM that if there was to be one new world Organization there would be single sex groups as well as co-educational groups.
- 3.4. The consensus of the meeting was that there was generally no incompatibility between the two Missions, but that any future new world Organization would have to develop a new Mission.
- 3.5. Clarity about the core values and behaviours of the new Organization would be vital, and particular recognition must be given to meeting the needs of girls and young women in the light of the reality of today's world.
- 3.6. It was felt that structures could only be developed once values and behaviours are clearly identified. There would need to be an acceptance of diverse structures at national and local level to accommodate cultures and traditions.

## **4. EDUCATIONAL METHODS**

- 4.1. There was agreement that the educational methods used in both Organizations were substantially the same, albeit with some different emphases, variations and practices.

- 4.2. Any new world Organization would need to establish its own standards so that potential and current Member Associations/Organizations could be assessed to ensure that such standards were maintained.

## 5. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

- 5.1. A paper setting out in tabular form the approach of WAGGGS and WOSM to the Fundamental Principles was considered by participants.
- 5.2. There was considerable discussion of the WAGGGS' duty to God element of the Promise. After a full explanation of the 'essence' and the requirement of an 'acknowledgement of a Force higher than man' required by WAGGGS of its Members' Promises it was accepted that, except in those Associations that had acquired a historical right to an Alternative Promise, an atheist or non-theist could not be a member in either World Organization.
- 5.3. There was also a discussion about the application of the Promise ~ particularly how to secure adherence to the standards held by both world Organizations.
- 5.4. It was noted with interest that some of those Member Organizations with Alternative Promises agreed by the Founder and Lady Baden-Powell were not the same in WAGGGS and WOSM.
- 5.5. After an exchange of explanations, there was general agreement that there was alignment between the fundamental principles of both world Organizations. However if there were to be one new world Organization there would have to be more clarity and detail at both world and national level particularly with regard to the characteristics that one would expect in an organization with core values based on the fundamental principles and in terms of ensuring that they are observed within national Organizations.
- 5.6. Further work was needed on the useful documents that had been prepared.

## 6. THE FUTURE

- 6.1. The meeting had provided a valuable discussion of the current situation. It was agreed that the papers prepared for the meeting were most useful, that they broadly represented the positions very well and formed a sound basis on which to take forward further work.
- 6.2. A decision on whether to progress further towards a Joint Study will be taken by the World Scout Committee in April in the light of responses to their questionnaire. WAGGGS will continue to work on the development of a common Long Term Vision for the future as mandated by its 30<sup>th</sup> World Conference.
- 6.3. It was agreed to reinstate the Consultative Committee and the next meeting will be on 6 July 2001 in Prague.
- 6.4. It was agreed that the confirmed Minutes of the meeting will be the only external communication, with no additional commentary. The Minutes will be placed on both web sites as well as communicated in the usual way.
- 6.5. Heather and Garth will work together on refining the papers on Mission, Educational Methods and Fundamental Principles. They will also work together on completing the joint Historical Summary of Events 1987~2000.

- 6.6. It was also agreed that the work noted above should include the development of some models of structures that might meet the needs of one Organization and that Garth and Heather could start to develop some options as part of their continued joint work. It was agreed that anyone interested in contributing to the various papers should do so through Garth and Heather.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 7.1. A paper had been submitted to the Committee by Lars Kolind and Vibeke Reimer. This was referred to the WAGGGS World Board and World Scout Committee for further discussion.
- 7.2. Thanks were given to the Chairman, to Garth Morrison, Heather Brandon and Bureaux staff for their work on preparing the papers.
- 7.3. Although communication between the two Organizations can be difficult and subject to misinterpretation, it was agreed that this had been a positive meeting and one that had been an important step in the development of trust and understanding between the two world bodies.
- 7.4. The similarities between the two Organizations on some very fundamental issues were found to be much more than many realise and, whatever the future may hold, that must minimise the acrimony that follows misunderstanding and enhance the opportunities for working together on behalf of young people.

**GINNY RADFORD**  
Chairman, World Board  
WAGGGS

**GARNET DE LA HUNT**  
Chairman, World Scout Committee  
WOSM