

Hope in our Hearts

Martin Doherty from Lincolnshire Branch reports on his recent trip to Norway, and discovers how helpful IPA contacts can be. It's just a shame that even the IPA cannot effect the outcome of a football match.

Dear BSAC, I just thought it was time to update you on my recent trip to Norway....I say recent, but apparently it has been a while! I have changed posts within the Police, and with all that has been happening, time just appears to have slipped away. Oh, yes, that, and sky diving down the North Face of the Eiger helps to waste some organising time too...but that's another story!!

Anyway, after all your fab help, myself and my better half, Claire (also a member...you see, no one gets away!), set out for Norway with hope in our hearts that Scotland would be victorious in the World Cup Qualifier, and that we might have to seek out further contacts in South Africa. Well, I thought this, but as Claire is English, she just hopes that the wind doesn't blow too strongly whilst I'm in the kilt...she is fairly long suffering that way!

We had needed a Norwegian address to get tickets to the game, and without saying too much that might incriminate anyone, this was able to be sorted through the IPA contacts, and whilst in Oslo, we met up with Jan Eirik, and his better half too, who could not have been nicer to us.

They initially came to our hotel when we arrived after our flight with tickets in hand, not only for us, but for my sister and her hubby too, turning it into a great family affair. And they arranged a few things for us to do whilst we were there, albeit for a short while.

The next day was the day of the game in the evening, and Oslo town centre sounded far more like a Scottish city than anywhere else, and the colourful sight of all that Tartan was a great feeling. We seem to be incredibly lucky when we travel with the Scottish football supporters, and there were no problems throughout the city, and some great fun was had between the locals and the Scots all enjoying the occasion. A lot of the Norwegians

came to the game in Viking style helmets, whilst the Scots had their usual variation of 'Jimmy' hats and various tartan and military headgear....somehow, this all seemed to get all mixed up, and before you knew it, men in kilts had Jimmy hats with horns sticking out of them, and not always in the right angles, whilst there also seemed to be a large number of Viking horns covered in ginger wig hair. I won't elaborate more!

On the IPA side of things, many many thanks to all who helped and volunteered their help throughout. Without you all it would not have been possible.

On a Policing side of things, what a difference. In the entire day before the game we saw no Police at all, except those who were giving directions. At the ground we saw a total of 4 Police Officers at each end of the ground, and in town afterwards, we saw 2 Police Officers in the main streets. We didn't see any problems or trouble at all. (I hope others don't know different.)

On a friendship side of things, it could not have worked out better, with joint offers of further visits made on both sides. Jan Eirik said that his only disappointment of the trip was that we didn't have longer so that he could have taken us to his station and around the area some more.

Yours in friendship, Martin, Lincs Branch

If you'd like help with an overseas trip contact BSAC for advice and relevant forms.

Tel: 01159813638 or Email: mail@ipa-uk.org



Diamond Stories!

Are you celebrating your own Diamond Jubilee or have you an interesting story about diamonds to tell. In edition 4 we are looking to publish stories that we can relate to the Jubilee celebrations. If you have something you wish to share then email to me at: lee.hemmings@ipa-uk.org by 25th October 2010.

Why not enter you stories on the website forum! Infact if you have anything you wish to share with other members then visit the forum: www.ipa-uk.org/forums

Burns Night Edinburgh

Lothian and Borders Branch of the IPA held their second Burns Supper celebrating the work and life of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns, on Saturday 23rd January 2010 at 28 York Place (The Police Club) in Edinburgh.

The event was once more a sell out and those that were lucky enough to secure tickets enjoyed a fantastic night with great food, great entertainment and a dram or six. The haggis was piped in by Grant Rolland, who also entertained the guests with a set of pipe tunes

after the wonderful meal of traditional haggis, neeps and tatties. The Address to the Haggis was expertly recited by Peter McCulloch.

And once again the evening's entertainment was provided by the superb "Soopna" (Peter McCulloch, Norman Gore and Kenny McDonald), with some witty repartee and a wonderful rendition of Holy Willie's Prayer. And after the meal some rousing Scottish Folk Songs finished a wonderful, if all too quick, evening.



Holy Willie, saying his prayer

Thanks to Alister McDermott for once again arranging the event and here's hoping for the same success next year.