



Bryn gets hot & cold in Poland



The group gathers in the town square

When Northumbrian Officer, Bryn Jones, attended celebrations of the Polish Police near Warsaw and Nowy Sacz, his hosts gave him some warm and frosty treatment. In return, he responded by wielding an axe and terrorising locals!

Bryn was asked to represent Section UK of the International Police Association at the Polish National Police Day celebrations in July. Attendees are hosted in the police training centre, Centrum Szkolenia Policji or CSP, in Legionowo, a suburb of Warsaw. One of the senior commanders (recently retired) at the CSP is the Polish IPA President Arkadiusz (Arek) Skrzypczak who is very keen to have delegations from as many countries as possible attend. This year saw the UK, Ireland, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Moldavia, Russia, Austria, Estonia and Hungary in attendance.

The social programme included a day trip into Warsaw for a guided tour of the old town which, although mostly destroyed during the war, retains a lot of its old features and monuments. Food on that evening was followed by a playful round of competitions with the winning side/country having the chance to down a little vodka. The games had been arranged by a PT instructor and featured tests of strength and perseverance such as holding a 20kg weight, throwing cabbages and knocking 12" nails into a log in the least number of attempts. Bryn was last to go in this event and with a good chance of winning when, as he brought down the axe, the head flew off into the startled crowd missing onlookers by a whisker! Another game involved Bryn competing against two others to see who could change the quickest into a soaked and frozen t-shirt. Bryn was beaten by a whisker but as the temperatures that day were in the 30's, he didn't much mind.

During the formal celebrations, all attendees wore their uniforms for a visit to, and parade

through, the town of Plonsk (pronounced Pwonsk) where they were also met by local dignitaries including the Mayor, Chief of Police and a very eccentric singing priest. Although the parade has taken place for a number of years, it still stops people in their tracks who enjoy seeing the array of uniforms. After a quick break to take snaps and pose with the locals the visitors enjoyed a farewell dinner where volunteers were able to take the wheel of the Beast (armoured car) to drive it around the small park opposite the restaurant. Stray ramblers and wildlife were only given the noise from its ferocious engine to warn them of their imminent destruction!

Following the visit to Legionowo Bryn travelled to Nowy Sacz (Novvy Sonch) to meet with Ela Gargula the IPA Polish Secretary General and officers from Serbia to take part in the Police Day celebrations. Bryn also met up with officers who had visited Northumbria in 2009 as part of the annual exchange of IPA members which have been popular since 2005.

Visiting the area of Zakopane, the visitors took to the thermal waters in a superb leisure facility at the Terma Bukowina complex. As well as breathtaking views, the massage spas are



Arek cutting the IPA cake



Bryn in the strength challenge

superb and it's no surprise the Zakopane area is one of Poland's famous tourist regions.