

WACS NORTHERN Europe Continental Director's Report for the Congress in New Zealand March 12th to 17th of 2006



Azerbaijan



Belorussia



Estonia



Denmark



Finland



England



Iceland



Ireland



Latvia



Lithuanian



Norway



Russia



Scotland



Sweden



Ukraine



Welsh

Prepared February 2006

By Gissur Gudmundsson



Dear WACS members

Friday, February 10th, 2006

Dear President Metz, members of the WACS Executive Board and members of WACS.

I am pleased to give my report of activities and relevant information of the past two years from the WACS member countries in the Northern Europe region.

First, I would like to thank every chef in the world that has helped me along these past two years. It's amazing to be a chef; it can bring you anywhere in the world, in any house, in any kitchen or place you like; the only thing you have to have is passion for good food and friends. All this I have had the pleasure to take part in and share with others.

As the WACS board member responsible for Northern Europe, I have had a few tasks and goals in the last years. One of them was to try to get most countries in this area to join in as WACS members. I wanted also to take part in the By-law changes, share most of the information I've acquired in my travels around the world with everyone and build friendships, one of the most important issues for each country, and also just to be available if anyone needed help or advice.

Did I achieve these goals? It's hard to say, but I feel good over what has been done. I am extremely happy to see Belarus, Estonia and Lithuania join WACS. I have traveled to all these countries, met with the boards, taken part in food competitions and made friendships for life. My friends in WACS, I can assure you that you are getting countries in as friends and that they will help make WACS stronger as all these countries have BIG hearts and great friendship to offer. Please welcome them with open arms as new members of WACS and part of our family.

I believe I was lucky when I was asked, in 2002 at the European meeting in London, to be a part of the By-laws committee on behalf of all of Europe together with Ken Frazer. The meeting was held in Singapore and there I met, Ferdinand Metz, Peter Knipp, Eric Theo, Petriea Gardiner Hirabayashi. Murray Dick and Graham Hawkes. I truly believe that this meeting was the beginning of new changes for WACS, changes that have been in progress for the past four years and are now up for vote at the Congress. Dear colleagues, I can tell you that every one of these By-laws Committee members was dedicated to do what was best for WACS and I knew at that moment that I was taking part in something that would change my world. It has taken many years and hard work to fulfill this with help from the rest of the Board and colleagues around the world and I am proud to present this now. Please read carefully my report from the By-laws committee.



Like I said, friendship within WACS is maybe the most important of all issues we have on the table. Friendship can bring you where you want and without support or friends you won't get anywhere or at least, not very far. I urge you all to take this as the most important task for your future and even if you disagree or you don't like the way others do things, then the best way to change this is with friendship. I believe friendship is the beginning of understanding and understanding is the knowledge that will bring you forward.

I am not going to make this any longer but I would like to thank you all for the support in the past two years. If there is any other information you would like to have from me, please don't hesitate to contact me personally and I will be happy share with you what I know.

Dear colleges in Northern Europe and rest of the World it has been a pleasure for me to serve one the board for the last two year, I hope I have made some different for you and I will be happy to keep one behalf of you in the board with open heart and friendship.

Have a great Congress and explore this great island.

Chefs regard,

Gissur Gudmundsson

IMPORTANT DAITES

- **European Continental meeting will be hold in Helsinki / Finland – Tallinn / Estonia 19th to 22nd of October 2006.**
- **Semi final in Northern Europe for GLOBAL CHEFS COMPETITION will be held in Tallinn / Estonia from 31st of September to 4th of November 2007.**



News from European Continental NORTH



The Azerbaijan National Culinary Association

I haven't been in Azerbaijan but what I know from friends around that country is that they are active in competitions in their area. I always get an email from them and the communication is working well. I know that Azerbaijan has a different culture and way of doing things but I have been reading on the internet about Tahir Amiraslanov's work and know that he is doing a great job for the profession in his country.

President's name is Tahir Amiraslanov



Belarussian Culinary Association

I am happy to say that Belarus is coming in as a member of WACS. It has been a great pleasure for me to be in contact with them. I met Mr. Viktor Radevich for the first time at the meeting in Hungary and he gave me a great impression of Belarus, I will be visiting them on the 16th of February for a meeting with the association.

Vice-president's name is Viktor Radevich



Estonian Chefs Association / Eesti Peakokkade Ühendus

website www.chef.ee

The Estonian Chefs, do just what they say they are going to do. I have been in their country twice in the past two years and have taken part in a great event called the "Chefs without Border Festival" where different countries cook different food to promote themselves. At this time we have made a cookbook with all the Nordic Countries together with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This event will take place again this year from the 18th to the 21st of August in Narva, Estonia and more and more countries will be invited to participate.

I just came from Estonia at the end of January this year where we signed an agreement for the first semi-finals of the World Chefs Competition to be held in Tallinn on the 31st of October to the 4th of November, 2007. Before this, all of you in Europe will have the possibility to see the town as they are working with our friends from Finland, preparing for the European meeting that will be held in Helsinki -Tallinn from the 19th to the 22nd of October this year.

To tell you the truth, I truly believe that this association is going to be very strong in the future. Give them all your support and friendship and you will have friends for life.

President's name is Andrus Laaniste




Danish Chefs Association / Kokkencheffernes Forening

website www.kfdk.dk

Our Danish friends have made great efforts in the past years to make a new culinary team. They have done it and you will see a young and strong team at the competition in Luxembourg. I had the pleasure to sit for dinner with Prince Joachim, a mentor for the Danish Culinary Team, and I can promise you that you will see a lot of Denmark in the next years.

President's name is Gert Sørensen




 Finnish Chef Association / Suomen Keittiömestarit
website www.chefs.fi

The Finnish Chef Association has been one of the most active associations in my region for the past two years. Many exciting things have been happening and, without the help of my colleagues over there, it would have taken a longer time to get the Baltic countries in to WACS as members. For this, I would like to thank Martti Lethinen personally for all this help. I have had the pleasure to go to Finland many times for past years and it is always a pleasure to go into the original Finnish Sauna with good friends.

Finland is a host to the next European Congress that will be held in Helsinki – Tallinn from the 19th to the 22nd of October. Make a note of it in your calendar because it will give you the opportunity to explore a great city that has much to offer.

President's name is Martti Lehtinen.


 Chefs and Cooks Circle
website www.chefsandcookscircle.co.uk

Many exciting developments have taken place in the UK in the past eighteen months. The Midlands Association of Chefs joined the Chefs and Cooks Circle and renamed the enlarged association the 'British Culinary Federation'. It was hoped that this would make the chefs in the UK more united and have a stronger voice.

There has been much discussion about the name change within WACS and, after considerable debate, it has been decided that the name 'Chefs and Cooks Circle' will remain registered as the representative for Great Britain in WACS.

I had the great pleasure of taking part in the inaugural dinner for the British Culinary Federation in May 2005 and met all the board members. It was a great night with great food and entertainment. I think you will see much more of the British Team in competitions around the world with such a strong association making good efforts to unite the chefs in the UK.

President's name is Brian Cotterill

 Icelandic Chefs Association / Klúbbur Matreiðslumeistara
website www.chef.is

In my home country many things have been happening in the past years. We have been growing and growing and the interest of chefs in our profession has never been like it is now. It feels good to know that the work our Chefs are doing is making a difference in our country and governments, companies and others are also showing interest in what we do.

This year we are holding our biggest show ever, from the 30th of March to the 2nd of April. We will be holding many competitions; The Nordic Chef of the Year competition and a brand new chef competition in cooperation with the South African Chefs Association which will be called the "One Culinary World". We are having competitors from all continents and will have a lot of fun.

I am extremely proud of my colleagues in Iceland. We are only just over 100 members but we compete in all major competitions in the world, take part in different meetings and events and yes, it definitely costs a lot of money, but we look at it as a great investment for our country.

President's name is Gissur Gudmundsson



Panel of Chefs of Ireland

The Panel of Chefs of Ireland; everyone knows these guys. They sing “O Danny Boy” on stage and made a great Congress in Dublin in 2004. My friends in Ireland have been quiet for the past two years and I believe it is due to the fact that it has taken lot of energy to make the Congress as great it was. We will see them coming back strong.

President’s name is Brendan O’Neill



Latvian Cooks Association LPKA website www.latviancooks.lv

I haven’t seen much of the Latvian, but I have made good contact with other chef associations in Latvia. I am not worried about this but I always believed that when you have two associations in the country, it is important to work together.

President’s name is Aldis Mūrnieks



Association of Lithuanian Restaurant Chefs and Confectioners website www.lrvvk.lt

Lithuania is one of the new countries coming in to WACS and it will probably surprise you to know that this young and small chef association has its own office and is very active. I just had the possibility in November of last year to go to Vilnius and take part in the first Young Lithuanian Chefs competition, and to tell you the truth, it was great. The competition went very well, the food was good and the young people showed us great potential for the future of Lithuanian cuisine.

President’s name is Valius Cepanonis



Norwegian Chefs Association/ Norges Kokkemesteres Landsforening website www.nkl.no

I have been in Norway many times in the last years as a guest and a judge in different competitions. I don’t have to tell you anything about the hospitality in Norway, many of you took part in the WACS congress in Stavanger in 1994 where Norway showed the World that Nordic countries exist and what they stand for. Norwegian Chefs are active both in Norway and internationally. They have 22 regions and all of them are doing things to promote the profession and make the Chef’s job into something that is fun to do.

President’s name is Haakon Reigstad



Russian Interregional Culinary Association website www.culina.ru

I know Russia is a big country and they have a lot of things to take care of, and I have only heard a few word for the past years but I know that more than one Chefs Association is doing good things over there. One of the events that are coming up is the Kreaml Cup and from what I have heard, they are doing professional things. I was in Russia a few years ago, invited to take part in an event in Kasan. What I learned from this trip is that Russia has great things to offer the world and many exciting things in their food. The chefs over there are good friends and they like what they are doing and I urge anyone that can support them in some way to do so. I look forward to meet colleagues from Russia at the Congress because I have to say my Russian is not perfect so sometimes it’s best to talk face to face.

President’s name is. Natalia Nomofilovoj



Federation of Chefs of Scotland.
website www.scottishchefs.com

My friends in Scotland have worked hard for the ScotHot Competition last year. It was a great event and as a guest over there, I have to say that they have a style with hospitality. One of the things I will never forget is having the sugar glazed apple fillet with sorbet. Perfect.

ScotHot went very well and many countries came to compete. At the same time the Federation of Chefs of Scotland promoted the Dine Aid and collected money for the WACS fund. I was proud to see what they were doing and it showed me the great solidarity within the Chef society.

I have had the pleasure to meet the secretary, Neil Thomsen, several times in the past two years and I just have to say that it is always a pleasure to sit down with Neil and discuss chefs. I like the passion he has for Scotland.

President's name is Joe Queen

Federation of Chefs Scotland
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Scottish Culinary Team

The new Scottish Culinary Team was officially launched at a Press Reception in Stirling on Monday 30th January, the venue was Falcon/Williams Foodservice Head Office which is located under the monument for William Wallace one of Scotland's greatest kings and warriors as portrayed by Mel Gibson in the film Brave heart. We wish the team well in their first competition, which will be in Expogast Luxembourg in November and hope that they display the same winning mentality as William Wallace. The new management team of Kevin MacGillivray, Executive Chef at Ballathie House Hotel and Ian Macdonald Executive Chef of Balbirnie House Hotel were also announced on the evening.

Scottish Hospitality Show March 29 – 30 the 2006

The Federation Of Chefs Scotland will be hosting the Final Cook off for the Scottish Trainee Chef of the Year at the Scottish Hospitality Show, also providing demonstrations will be members of the Scottish Junior Culinary Team.

Excellence Awards

Nominations for the 2006 Excellence Awards will be invited from Monday February, 12 categories are being awarded including Chef of the Year, Culinary Excellence Restaurant of the Year, Contract Catering Chef of the Year, and Innovation in Training, The Board of Advisors who include Michelin Star Chef Andrew Fairlie will be visiting the nominees over the next 2 months before the winners are announced at a Gala Dinner on Thursday 18 the May 2006. The Excellence Awards are one of the most prestigious honours to achieve in Scotland.

Report send by Neil Thomsen 7th of February 2006



Swedish Cook Association / Sveriges Kokers Forening
website www.swedishchefs.se

Sweden has, for the past years, been quiet internationally. You can meet them at Olympics but otherwise they don't make a lot of noise. I know that their focus is the National Team. A few years ago they changed their name from Swedish Chefs Association to Swedish Cooks; the idea was to bring in more young cooks. Sweden has just decided to step out of their association with the Nordic Chefs Association where they have been members for almost 70 years.

President's name is Peter Wilbose



Association of Culinary Workers of Ukraine

I haven't heard much from our colleagues in Ukraine, but we are working on this. I hope I will make better contact in the future through friends in Azerbaijan and Russia.

President's name is Mikhailo Peresichnyi



The Welsh Culinary Association
website www.welshculinaryassociation.com

Wales came in with style a few years ago and I can tell you that this team has been active. They are doing very well in competition, have taken part in meetings, are very active on the WACS website and now, in February of this year, they are holding a competition called the "Battle for the Dragon" where France will be competing with a team for the first time in a long time. Great work Peter.

Peter has invited me to the competition this February but I do not have the time this year, but I am definitely going to follow this Association and support them in all ways. They have dreams and goals and they do what they say they are going to do. I like that.

President's name is Peter Jackson.



Nordic Chefs Association

I know that the Nordic Chefs Association is not a member of WACS but it is an important partner in many ways. All the members of the Nordic Chefs Association are members of WACS. One of the issues we have is that to work close and well with WACS, we know it is important to stay together and work together, so for us it is important that WACS is a strong international organization that every chef in the world can count on.

As the president of NCA, I get the opportunity to follow what is happening in the northern countries and, for the past four years, NCA has been working close to the Baltic countries. I believe that this had a great influence on their becoming members of WACS.

We are an Association that likes to work in unison to promote our Culinary Countries as one area and we know our strength when we stay together. I think we are a good example of how many of the regions in the World should be built-up to make bonds stronger and give each region a stronger voice internationally.

I will promise you all, that at the WACS European meeting in Helsinki in October this year, you will get to know more about us and I will be more than happy to present our Association to you all.

The Nordic Chefs Association has been a strong association with its own Secretary office for almost 70 years. We have a history of working together and without saying too much, I think we will be bigger within a few years.

President of the NCA is Gissur Gudmundsson from Iceland
Vice-president is Einar Överå from Norway

Gissur Gudmundsson

President of the Nordic and Icelandic Chefs Association

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