

Federation Focus

International Naturist Federation Newsletter

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Summer went by too fast again, the well deserved vacation has nearly fallen into oblivion again, the first autumn leaves adorn meadows and roads, as to us we can now think about what has to be done during wintertime so to be able to start properly again next year. Well, this is not quite true for all of us, for some of our federations now are in the nice position to enjoy the beginning of summertime.

All those who attended the Congress in Koversada (Croatia) already received the information about our new website and I am quite sure it will be released online during October this year. You will receive the actual date of release through email, as then it will be up to you to make your contributions for the attractiveness of the website. We really want to give you the possibility to publish small articles from your federations in this new website, as it is precisely this variety which makes our website that peculiar.

In addition I want to inform you that this year, too, we will produce a photo album of the Congress. You may send your preorder to our office as of now, Stephane Deschenes will transmit his impressions of this Congress to you.

Sieglinde Tro
President INF-FNI

THE FOCUS

Focus is published by the INF for its member federations. You are welcome to redistribute it to your members or use any of the content in your local country's publications. If you need any of the texts or images in another format, please contact the INF General Secretariat at: naturism@inf-fni.org.

We also welcome contributions from member federations. Please send us news about what is happening in your country and we will share it with the rest of the world.

CONGRESS 2014

While we still have the Congress meeting in mind we now have a proposed date and location for the 2014 Congress to be held, as agreed, in Ireland. The location is to be the Lough Allen Hotel and Congress itself is booked from 11th to 14th September. The Congress will be hosted by the Irish Naturist Association (INA) and more details will be made available at a future date but please note this date for your federation and prospective delegates to plan around.

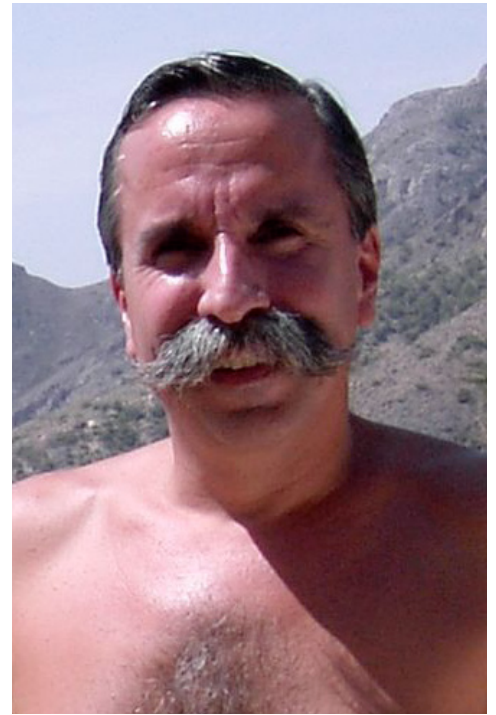


STÉPHANE DESCHÊNES

I am honoured to have been elected as a member of the INF-FNI Central Committee. I look forward to serving the international naturist community. I am married and the father of two teenaged boys. My wife and I own Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park north of Toronto. I spent about 15 years as a director in the Federation of Canadian Naturists which includes 10 years as its president. For the last 4 years, I have produced a monthly podcast called the Naturist Living Show.

www.NaturistLiving.BareOaks.ca

I am also involved in a number of other community organizations. My mother tongue is French but I have spent most of my 46 years living in an Anglophone world. As such, I can communicate very well in either language but my French writing ability is a bit weak. The INF Central Council has given me responsibility for relations with the non-European countries. So if you want to get in contact with me, my email address is: prww@inf-fni.org



SUCCESS FOR NATURIST RAMBLER!

An item of major discussion at the recent Congress was about the legal problems in various countries where naturism is threatened. This recent report comes from the United Kingdom concerning a naturist rambler who was charged with a public order offence last year. It confirms that not every case is lost by naturists.

Mick Ayers

A report from the Yorkshire Evening Post By Stuart Robinson, published on Tuesday 9 October 2012

A rambler who strolled naked across a Leeds beauty spot has won a year-long battle against his conviction for a public order offence.

Naturist Nigel Keer, 42, has been appealing against the charges since magistrates found him guilty of causing distress to a woman who was walking her dog on Otley Chevin last October.

And yesterday a judge at Leeds Crown Court told him that the charges would be dismissed because it was unlikely that Mr Keer's naked walk had caused anyone any distress.

The court had heard that Mr Keer was arrested by off-duty police officer PC Mark Buxton, who said he saw a woman appear "distressed" when she had noticed Mr Keer rambling on the Chevin on October 11 last year. But Mr Keer had denied the claims, and said naturism "is about body freedom and in a way it is a mild protest against the expected social norms of wearing clothes every day."

Sitting with two justices, judge Guy Kearn said PC Buxton, who said he had been shocked by the incident, would not have been able to determine if the woman was distressed. He said that the police officer's reaction to seeing Mr Keer could also be considered "extreme given his experience."

Dismissing the charges, he added: "This behaviour was not carried out in front of a school or in the street in a town centre. It took place on moorland in broad daylight.

"In view of the location of this incident, the time of day and the reaction of others as we have found it to be, we do not consider that anyone was likely to be harassed by this behaviour or intimidated or distressed."

The judge said there were no sexual motives behind incident, adding: "He was not deliberately flaunting himself or seeking attention or jumping out and doing what is colloquially called flashing."

As reported in the YEP, Mr Keer has taken part in three naked world bike rides alongside other naturists. Speaking after the case, Mr Keer said that he was delighted to have finally fought off the charges. He said the allegations had led to him being out of work for a number of months.

Mr Keer added: "I've kept up the naturism, but I've been a bit more careful now. "It's a bit cold to be doing anything at the moment, but once the weather warms up, I'll be back out there."

HOW DOES THE INF WORK?



Next year, the INF will be 60 years old. But the people who work and volunteer in federations around the world are generally much newer to the world of organized naturism. Since most of them likely haven't reviewed the INF Statutes in great detail, we thought it might be helpful to provide an overview of the INF organizational structure.

General Assembly (GA)

It is comprised of the member country's Federations and meets once every two years at the INF Congress. Each Federation is allowed one delegate. The delegate's number of votes is based on the number of members reported to the INF (and paid for) during the last two years preceding the Congress.

The location of each congress is determined at the previous congress and confirmed by the Executive Council. By tradition, every 5th congress (every 10 years) is held outside of Europe.

While suggestions and questions can be submitted at any time to the INF Executive Council, Central Council or General Secretariat, matters that have a significant impact on the running of the INF (e.g. motions, budget, or amendments to statutes) can only happen at the Congress where it is approved by the General Assembly.

Central Committee (CC)

The Central Committee takes care of the business of the INF. (more commonly known in other organizations as the board of directors) The CC is composed of the President, two Vice-Presidents, and two committee members who are elected for a 4-year period. One of the vice-presidents is responsible for finance (and therefore often referred to as Treasurer) while the other is responsible for the General Secretariat (Administration).

While the Central Committee is officially running the INF, the realities of distance means that it normally only meets twice per year. As such, most of the business is handled by the Executive Committee and approved by the CC.

Executive Committee (EC)

The Executive Committee consists of the President and the Two Vice-President. They meet regularly and provide the management for the INF. They are the ones who set the agendas and make proposals for projects and then execute those same projects when approved by the CC. The EC is also responsible for the General Secretariat.

General Secretariat (GS)

The General Secretariat handles the daily operations of the INF. It is the office of the INF and includes the only non-volunteers positions. Staff that is hired by the CC works full-time to ensure communications within the INF and to execute the projects created by the EC and approved by the CC.

Legal Commission (LC)

The Legal Commission is an appeals body that rules on complaints made by INF members regarding exclusion from the INF, transfer into another member group, number of contribution voting rights at the GA, violation of statutory rights, or violation by the CC of the statutes/rules made by the GA.

The LC is composed of the President, the Vice-President, one ordinary member, as well as two substitute members.

The LC can also brought in to decide on disputes between member Federations.

Auditors

The Auditors review the INF finances to ensure that finances were well managed and that funds were spent appropriately.

