

## **Diehards at JIM 1957 Sutton Park, BIRMINGHAM**

**To Celebrate 100 yrs. since BP's birth and 50Yrs of Scouting**

**Jamboree 25,000 Scouts**

**Indaba 5,000 Scouters**

**Moot 5,000 Rovers**

**35,000 involved in largest Scouting event ever**

UK contingents arrived 3 days before opening to set up and welcome visitors, lasted 17 days.

Near the Arena was a large shopping centre: 7 major banks, Large Post Office, Chemist, Stationer, Laundry and Scout Shop. Television and telephones were installed also Showers ..... COLD SHOWERS of course.

Our troop '2<sup>nd</sup> North London' met at St Pancras with pick up at Mill Hill took 6 ½ hours by lorry accompanied by our kit (Health and Safety was invented some years later)

### **Information and thoughts on the event.....**

Idea was to meet and share experiences with brother scouts from all over the world; to share meals, entertainment, sport and visits around the UK. (Norway beat our troop 4 – 3 .... a great start!).

The Fire Brigade were called out 3 times on the first night.

Our 2 closest neighbours were Uganda and Norway. The Uganda troop pioneered a tent frame, thatched it and some slept in it. The Norwegian troop included a comedian called Terrier... 'I only speak Oxford English, Old Boy' and another comedian was called Runar Berg, he broke his arm after a disagreement with his patrol leader. (no comment)

Runar has been to the Mansergh several times as well as to Scott Ellis and once to the Old Scouts Reunion. Pam and I went to his wedding in Honefoss.

In 1958 those on the foreign tour to Norway visited Runar and his Parents at their Summer House near Sandefjord.

Back to JIM ....Weather at JIM was very hot and sunny and dusty until the night before the official opening when there was a violent storm leaving much of the site under water for some hours.

Our patrol started the night with 7 in the Tent, increased to about 20 by the morning. (Our thick canvas groundsheet was turned up 6" all round and the water just flowed underneath)

The Opening Ceremony was by the Duke of Gloucester, Closing Ceremony by Lady Olive Baden-Powell; the Chief Scout Lord Rowallan much in evidence.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited JIM and toured the campsites.

The Diehards celebrated when the 4 members at JIM went on an outing together for a meal in Birmingham; Les Kirby - **Indaba**, Brian Burrell – **Moot** and Keith Price and Phil Peeling at the **Jamboree**.

.....then 50 years later 'The Centenary Jamboree 2007' was held at Hylands Park, CHELMSFORD from 29<sup>th</sup> July – 6<sup>th</sup> August.

Pam and I went along as visitors to sample the atmosphere and were shown around by our son Tim who was employed as a sound engineer on the main stage.

Phil Peeling

