



In memoriam

Ron Brown

Our dear friend, Ron Brown, “went home” on Friday, February 15th. Ron had recently moved to a hospice called “Diakonissehuset” (Deaconess House) at the Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen in Hellerup, Denmark as his condition worsened.

Ron’s final projects included organizing the 2012 Eurosea Conference and erecting a monument for Warington Baden Powell at Gilwell Park, England. In true Scout fashion, Ron camped at Gilwell in a tiny tent.

We will remember Ron as a true Sea Scout and a devoted friend of Danish and European Sea Scouting. He always gave his best for his fellow scouts.

We would like to publish some Ron Brown anecdotes in the next issue of *Euronaut*, but we need your help. Please send your “Ron” stories to [insert a name and email address here] so that all can enjoy your memories of him.

Our condolences go to Ron’s family and his many Scouting friends all over the world.

The Odysseus group



For my rebellious brother, Ron

When I attended my first Eurosea Conference, I immediately clicked with Ron. Although we saw one another mostly at Euroseas, our relationship grew in between the conferences. When and where was really unimportant. We developed a very close, working relationship. We knew what we were trying to accomplish and how to get there. We related well to one other.

Ron orchestrated his own farewell. Unfortunately, it wasn't the farewell he really wanted. It came much too fast and too soon.

It's a hopeless task to develop a chronological overview of Ron's life. It was varied and full of accomplishments. He knew exactly what he wanted. Ron felt free to live the life he wanted, with the people he loved, and who shared his vision. Ron was a dynamic little man for whom no river was too deep, no adventure impossible. Fear was not a part of Ron, at least that's how it seemed to others.

Ron was something of an English-Danish Till Eulenspiegel, sometimes arriving at unusual conclusions at inconvenient moments. Contrary to what some thought though, he was always rooted in realism while nevertheless pursuing his vision.

Ron had a rebellious nature that was partly responsible for making the Odysseus Group much more transparent after 25 years of operation. He was not alone in wanting a more democratic Odysseus. He could count on several "partners in crime." We worked together to make Odysseus much more dynamic, transforming it into a small working group that met regularly. This little group changed more and faster, but maintained a high level of service to European Sea Scouting.

His rebellious nature was always on display with his rather disheveled uniform, topped by a pirate's hairstyle. That said, Ron never tolerated conflicts, invariably avoiding them. This was a defining character trait along with his sometimes troubled outlook on life. Ron had no impossible challenges once he set his sights on an objective. Whenever you needed a determined, focused spirit, Ron was sure to be there. The inevitable result was that Ron led from out front and everyone else followed.

Odysseus Group members and Eurosea Conference participants trusted Ron to do the best for Sea Scouting. If he was sometimes a little obstinant, it was simply Ron's answer to inertia and indecision. The business had to move forward to keep on track.

Ron was a very wise man who gladly shared his knowledge and experience. He was very chatty but would never be called a babbler. He was a great entertainer who motivated and focused his colleagues. He threw himself into challenging projects like the Jamboree Armada, the Sea Scout Centennial celebration, and the Warrington BP monument. All were very difficult, but Ron pulled them off with great success.

Luc Van Nevel
honorary anchorman

The last moment, I missed you

The last trip to Copenhagen,
I did not realize it,
But then I lost you, my friend.

Because that part within you,
Where you have always been yourself,
Could not win the battle
Against the slow decline caused by the lung's unthinking, creeping deterioration.

The decay that was completely unlivable.
Driven, intelligent, determined, and with humor,
You said "goodbye" to life and to us.

At the last moment, I missed you.
Ron, now you're no longer here.
You are the words you spoke.
You are you the things you did.
The love you gave scouting.
And those words, those things.
And that love I will take with me.
And in my turn I pass them
Until my final breath.
Promised Brother!

Luc Van Nevel
honorary anchorman Odysseusgroup