

# B7 FACILITATOR'S NEWSLETTER

B7 GOTLAND 2005

## WHAT KIND OF CHAIRMANSHIP YEAR?

### B7 Chairmanship & Secretariat

The B7 started with a rotating Chairmanship combined with the B7 Secretariat in 2000 with Bornholm followed by Saaremaa (2001), Öland (2002), Hiiumaa (2003), Rügen (2004). In 2005, its Gotland's turn and in 2006 Åland.

- What are your thoughts about a rotating Chairmanship and Secretariat?
- What are the advantages and what are the disadvantages?

One of my jobs has been to assist the incoming Chairmanship to put together their chairmanship programme. There's a big difference between participating and implementing an annual programme of events. The work needs to begin in about May the year before and needs broad support from the island administration, departments etc.

Getting the right person to run the secretariat is quite tough and getting broad support is not always easy. The effort required to get up to speed is huge and has been consistently underestimated. The real work is from September to July. The last part of the year is often winding down and preparing for the next year.

### New Charter for the B7

This year the B7 has revised its Charter, which has several annexes explaining the job of the



Chairmanship and Secretariat and others. The first thing you will notice is that the official name of the B7 is changed to "B7 Baltic Islands Network". Have a look thru the Charter and Annexes, they are on the website.

### Gotland Chairmanship Programme

The themes for this year are:

- Developing strengths thru education
- Regional Development in the BSR
- Promoting youth and culture
- Benefiting from political strengths and partnerships

WG Environment will follow up on Maritime Safety and Coastal Zone Management.

The question is:

- Is the B7 focusing on the right themes?
- What one thing can B7 do for your island?

We look forward to your comments.

## LOOKING OUTSIDE THE B7?

B7 members have attended conferences and meetings, representing their islands and the B7: BSC, BSSSC, CPMR Islands Commission, CBSS, UBC plus conferences on Maritime safety, regional development and more.

Rügen have found during their Chairmanship that being a member of B7 opens the door to events they would not normally attend.

The B7 is planning two major meetings in Brussels in March 2005 firstly with MEPs of the Baltic Europe Inter-Group and secondly with the Islands Group of the Committee of Regions.

Are there any questions you think should be raised at these meetings?



Claes Kullberg with Christopher Beazley MEP and Chris Terry at the "Baltic Perspectives Conference" in Brussels.



## TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

### Transport –a tale of two islands

Transport is the alpha and omega for island development. How many times have we seen in other regions that regular, reliable, reasonably priced transport with good access times has lead to quantum leaps in development and economic growth.

Viking transport  
- about 1000 years ago!

### A fast ferry service

Gotland is benefiting from its long-term strategic approach to development combined with national policies that actively support regional development.

Gotland has increasing ferry capacity giving a faster, better quality service. In contrast Bornholm has a transport agreement that will be a direct barrier to growth in the foreseeable future.

If Villum Clausen, the fast ferry, breaks down, there is no backup capacity! A student of logistics would not get thru his first week of a transport course with the solution that now exists for Bornholm.

Here we are only talking about getting to the capital of Denmark. To get to Poland and Germany..... Well no wonder the number of German tourists visiting Bornholm is falling. The straight line journey is less than 100km. In terms of time, its quicker to get to Hiiumaa!

### The era of cheap flights

Cheap airlines are being used by larger regions and major cities to generate growth. New routes are opening to Riga and Tallinn.

Contrast that with the situation where air flights to and from Bornholm are being priced

out of reach for the majority. Passenger numbers per month are now two thirds of what they were at their peak a few years ago. Gotland now has competing airlines giving almost an hourly service and despite the best efforts of Arlanda Aiport, Gotland (try flying into Arlanda and getting across to the Visby flight) has the transport pre-conditions for an effective development policy.

### National Governments and the EU

The EU has made much of its policies and programmes to strengthen the regions of Europe, and it seemed for some years that regions such as Bornholm were getting stronger and had a certain amount of independence. However two things are quite clear now:

1. Regions the size of Bornholm and Gotland need strong supportive measures from national governments that have active regional development policies to make EU support more meaningful.
2. Without regular, reliable, reasonably priced transport connections, then the rest is really uphill at best.

### The conclusion.

Business people, tourists, students, hospital patients, residents all need to get to and from their base.

An attractive place to live, an innovative region - all these visions for development are predicated on effective transport.....

.....Just ask a Viking. They have known this for over a 1000 years!



Jørgen Jespersen  
WG Environment—Bornholm

## B7 NEEDS WG ENVIRONMENTS - THE BALTIC NEEDS MARITIME SECURITY

Jørgen Jespersen, has been working on behalf of the B7 and together with BSSSC, CPMR-BSC and UBC (see below) to lobby national governments and the EU Commission for better safety and security at sea—particularly the Baltic Sea..

On Bornholm we know that whoever controls the four winds must be Danish—how else can

we explain that when the Fu Shang Hai sank off the coast of Bornholm, the oil was blown onto the Swedish coast?

We cannot, however continue to rely on good luck to ensure the risk of environmental catastrophe is as low as possible and that we are equipped to react when a disaster happens.

The B7 needs WG Environment to work with Maritime Safety, Coastal Zone Management, water resource management and much more.....

**B7 Politicians, B7 Board give your active support to get this WG going again!**

**B7:**  
B7 Baltic Islands Network  
**BSSSC:**  
Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation  
**CPMR-BSC:**  
Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe- Baltic Sea Commission  
**UBC:**  
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)



## CARIN HOLMQVIST

Carin met her husband Bertil (lucky guy) in Sweden and when he moved back home to Åland Carin began searching around for job opportunities. She has a qualification in agriculture and pedagogy. Her appointment as a teacher at the Agricultural College, which comes under the authority of the "Landskapsstyrelsen", appeared in newspapers before she had even attended an interview or, in fact, before she had put in her application. Once there, she quickly rose to the position of Rector.

In September 94, she was offered a job in the Business Development Department of the "Landskapsstyrelsen" under the sector dealing with agricultural issues. Membership of the EU was then the hot topic and the "cat" was not easy to handle (or rather it was very complex as Carin herself described the situation). In 97 she became "Acting-Acting Head of Department" (because she was standing in for someone who was standing in for someone else)

Carin and Bertil have a son Johan. Her number one hobby is riding - there's always at least one horse in the removal van when they move. At the moment she has three horses and a tractor

(maybe even two) on their farm.

"It has been very exciting work with everything from pigs to fish and from ministers to commissioners". The job covered a wide variety of tasks, required a willingness to learn and communicate".

Carin is regarded by her colleagues as very competent, ambitious with excellent management and communication skills. She is always well prepared, always has time for the staff, and always has time for Johan - even in the middle of a meeting.

At the end of 2003, she was resigned. However, it was not long before she moved to a new challenge in the private sector.

As Jörgen Samuelsson once remarked, "She is one of the very few I would trust with the keys of my Jeep!"

High praise indeed for a B7 colleague who is the ultimate professional and was a trusted and reliable colleague.

We wish Carin all the best in the future.



Carin Holmqvist  
Getting ready to go to work

## TIME TO RE-INVIGORATE THE WEBSITE?

Did you know that someone has written their Masters Thesis - an excellent one at that - on the B7 using information from the B7 website! [www.B7.org](http://www.B7.org) is linked to many websites and has an increasingly more international readership - including the CIA, for whom it appears to be compulsory reading.

In 2003, the Öland Chairmanship completely revised the website into the format it has now. Lead by Seppo and Patrik, B7 is looking to, again update the site bringing in new technologies and features. Ambitions, at the moment, are high but limited by resources.

The Gotland Chairmanship plans to use the site

more extensively, ensuring that all documentation is put on the site. Members, in future, will be sent e-mails with links to download information, briefing files, agendas etc from the B7 website.

Many areas of the site, including information on island representative is way out of date and much of the basic information about B7 needs refreshing. (Some of the pictures must have been taken using stunt doubles, or taken soon after an extensive Hollywood make-over!)

On 17 December, there is a meeting on Öland to put talk into action!

Any offers of help? ....

## SHOULD THE B7 PRODUCE AN ANNUAL REPORT?

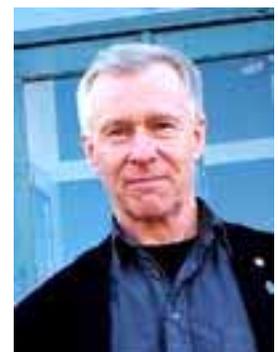
The B7 has always reported at the Annual Conference in December, on its activities for the year and its plans for the future. Often this has been put on the website in the form of a power point presentation.

Claes Kullberg and David Hunt, have, during 2004, discussed producing a printed Annual Report that could also be distributed in pdf format. At a meeting in Brussels on 23 November they unanimously and unilaterally decided between imbibing Leffe Blond that we will produce

an Annual Report for 2004 to be presented at the Board meeting in Tallinn.

The reports contents will be discussed at the B7 Steering Committee in Sellin and will draw on material presented at the AC.

The report will be presented to our co-operation partners, including CBSS, CPMR, BSSSC and will be used in on our visit to Brussels in March to present to the MEPs and member of the Committee of the Regions that we will meet.

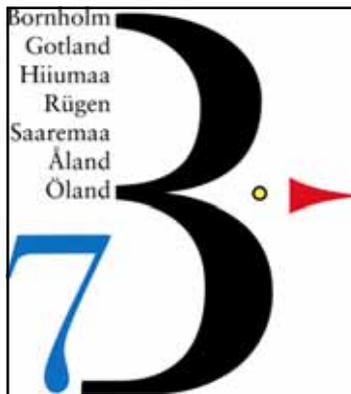


Claes Kullberg  
Celebrating his birthday in style while listening to Tom Lehrer



Jörgen Kvist  
Spread birthday celebrations over three months to ensure he would get full enjoyment!

# B7 Baltic Islands Network



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## Gotland Chairmanship Programme 2005

- January** 20-21
- **Estonia-Member of the EU. Board meeting - Tallinn.**  
How is Estonia progressing as a member of the EU?  
B7 Board looks forward to meeting with some of the key actors.
- March** 15-16
- **B7 Politicians meeting MEPs & CoR in Brussels**  
B7 Islands' political leaders plan to meet newly elected members of the EU Parliament and members of the Committee of the Regions to promote the islands and island issues.
- June** 9-11
- **Education Conference on Gotland**  
How can a peripheral region use education to develop clusters of competence and be a driving force in job development?
- August** week 32
- **Youth Camp on Gotland**  
Bringing together the youth of the islands. It is planned to take place during the medieval week.
- September** 8-9
- **Board meeting in Gdansk**  
How can the B7 gain a better perspective of the whole Baltic Sea Region? We look forward to meeting in other regions.
- December** 1- 2
- **B7 Annual Conference on Development - Gotland**  
What kind of development do we need for our islands and how will it be delivered? During this year there will be many questions relating to the development of peripheral regions. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss with key EU and national experts.  
B7 intends to invite Baltic Leaders to debate their ideas.

