

Annual Get Together of The Kiribati Tungaru Association of the UK, at Woodhouse Park in South Gloucestershire

This year's KTA annual Get-Together took place at Woodhouse Park Scout Activity Centre in South Gloucestershire, just outside of the city of Bristol, in fact, during the first week-end of August. It was a joint venture with the Pacific Islands Society of UK and Ireland (PISUKI) as part of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations

The Saturday morning programme commenced with the KTA annual general meeting. A lot happened during the meeting: the KTA said thank you and goodbye to Samoala Jackson, who was stepping down from the Chair after seven eventful years; and hullo and best of luck to Agnes Henson-Derby the new Chairperson. There were no nominations for the secretary position, and so Simon Seligman agreed to look after the tasks entailed until we find one.

Afterwards we were joined by our PISUKI friends: it was great to see representatives from Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomons, Tonga, Europe, the Isle of Man and Ethiopia in Africa. However, the KTA was saddened to hear the message relayed through Agnes Henson-Derby that the 20 or so Cook Islanders had had a minor accident earlier in the morning on their way to the event and so would not be coming: we hope they are alright. Also looked forward to were the arrival of the 40 or so Fijians, but again they let Agnes know that they had had to cancel their trip the night before.

The bar was opened bang on 12 pm and a happy hour was declared by the temporary barperson. Members were quick to quench their thirst and relax after the meeting. Half an hour later, everyone was summoned by the master of ceremonies of the day, Patrick Sommerville, and he took us through the formalities and the dancing parts of the day. Speeches were made by the chairpersons of both the KTA and PISUKI, Samoala Jackson and Michael Walsh. These were followed by the customary toast to the Independence of our island nations and cutting of the cakes, and the traditional Pacific Islands Feast. As ever the dance display was superb from the KTA, Rootin Kiribati from Brixham, Devon and from Samoa. After the usual afternoon tea, served at about 4pm, an inter-island sports competition took place. The 5-a-side football was popular, as well as the volley ball. Some of us were waiting for the tug of war but the rope was never pulled: maybe next time. It was great to see most participants and competitors sweat it all out that afternoon but lucky that there was plenty of drinks and foods to consume to gain their energy back again.

It was a quiet Saturday night at the campsite, not surprisingly after many people had partied upon arrival on Friday afternoon until 3am; and then played all those physical games earlier that afternoon. Well, that is what it is all about: catching up with friends through games, dancing, eating, drinking, etc

Sunday got going bright and early with breakfast and a campsite clean up, the church service, and then the hall clean up, before everyone broke camp and idled their way home through the Somerset, Gloucestershire and Welsh countrysides.

Newsletter and Web Editor
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