

# AFOL Weekend - Skaerbaek

*Text and images by Iluigib*

You know that I usually start my articles on events with an introduction about my journey from Barcelona to the destination. In this case, I can not give that information because I had to get up at 2:15 in the morning and I am not fully aware of everything that happened from that moment until my arrival at Billund Airport ...

There I met Maja, a Danish AFOL from the Byggepladen LUG, who led me to the town of Skærbæk, about 60 km from the airport. During this journey, Maja gave me a brief introduction about the event and we also talked about our respective LEGO® preferences. We arrived about 10:30 am at the Fritidscenter complex, a resort with 50 bungalows and many sporting venues. Among them there were two indoor sports centres the size of a basketball court, where the event was held.

On arrival, I met one of the organizers of the event, Peter Vingborg. He is a very organized man and he had prepared my arrival. He showed me the place where I had to put my little MOC, "the Castellars" that were present at the first Hispabrick (which is easily transportable in hand luggage). He also gave me my badge and some small souvenirs of the event. Apart from that, I could see a model they were building at that time. It was the creator house 4954 - Model Town House at 6:1 scale! The model has over 100,000 parts and was designed for the



DK LEGOWorld event held in February 2009 at Copenhagen. They had the help of The LEGO Group to obtain the parts and the result was spectacular, especially when you compare it to the original model. The house was mounted as if it was the original model, since the bricks were all built all at 6:1 scale.

Then I met another one of the organizers, Caspar Benders, with whom I chatted animatedly about many subjects, and also Svend Erik Saksun, the Danish LEGO Ambassador. I had been in contact with both of them by email, but I did not know them in person. During the afternoon, many AFOLs came and filled up the tables with their models and displays. While all these models took shape, some workers were assembling LEGO product shelves in a corner of one of the pavilions. It was an Official Store, which offered the large majority of sets of the catalogue and also some offers and discontinued models, for example the Castle Chess (the largest one) or the Market Street, which were selling the last units in stock. There were some boxes with spare parts and bagged parts, which were gone in no time...

The models on display were spectacular. Like most events I'm visiting, CITY displays predominate, and apart of one collaborative display of 30 square meters, there were several more individual displays. A fully functional amusement park and the home of "Uncle Scrooge" but with the symbol for Euro



instead of symbol of the dollar were the constructions that impressed me most. I must also highlight a huge collection of Technic tractors, which were copies of existing models in Denmark, each of the tractors with the photo of the original model. I have to admit that they were virtually identical. Among these models, there was also a replica of the train that goes around the park LEGOLAND: a fantastic reproduction. As an example of something that struck me, there was a MOC (it was about 1.5 x 1.5 m) which reflected the 4 seasons in 4 semicircles with a lot of detail.



On Saturday, Lisbeth Valtho Pallesen, Executive Vice President, Division of Community, Education and Direct, was present at the inauguration. She was commissioned to make a short speech and cut the ribbon. From that moment, it was all about talking to everyone about the MOCS that were present and possible new models for the coming years. If the decisions were in our hands ...

In the afternoon there was a big surprise at the event. We were visited by Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, present owner of The LEGO® Company. He spent over two hours watching what was exhibited there, talking and taking photographs with all the fans. I had the pleasure and honour to have a word with him.

We talked a bit about my MOC and about the history of



Castellers. At all times he seemed very friendly and interested. After the brief conversation we took a photo. It was one of the most special moments of my life as AFOL.

At 5 the show closed to the general public, but remained open to the AFOLs. We had a couple of hours to relax, to chat and walk throughout the event, without having to keep an eye on our models.

In the evening there was the official dinner, with contests and auctions. It was evident that we were in Denmark, since many of the things auctioned were real collector jewels.

The next day, before the event opened to the public, I took pictures of all the models, and made my last purchases before meeting again with Maja, who took me back to the airport in Billund.

Like with all events, one leaves very happy and with a bit of sadness. In this case, due to the events that I experienced there, I won't easily forget many of the moments I spent there. As always, I hope I will return to this event. I will wait with impatience.

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