

## Norsk Grotteblad nr 42, Mai 2004

### Åpning av nytt bygg for HRS-sør

New building for HRS-Sør

The main rescue centre for southern Norway (HRS-Sør) officially opened a new building in Stavanger on November 27. H.M. The King was scheduled to officiate and HRS-Sør wanted to present the collaborating rescue service partners to the King and Queen and invited guests. Accordingly, the Norwegian Cave Rescue Service was invited to send a representative.

Unfortunately, the King was admitted to hospital on the preceding day, and the Fylkesmann (County governor) had to take his place. The representatives of the various collaborating organizations were introduced one by one to the Fylkesmann. They were requested to appear in the uniform/outfit appropriate to their organization. So, the author was dressed in slops, with helmet, light and other caving equipment. Unfortunately, he was not selected for TV-appearance. In an official speech the voluntary organizations were praised as the backbone of the rescue services. The leader of the forum for the voluntary organizations (FORF) presented a gift to the new building in the form of a picture showing each of the nine member organizations in action. It appeared to make an impression when the leader said that the volunteers annually donate about 4 million hours to rescue work.

One should not underestimate the advertising impact of being introduced in this manner to the Justice Committee and the Rescue Division of the Department of Justice.

April 15 H.M. The King was scheduled to officiate a second time. The program for the collaborating organizations was the same. H.M. The Queen was invited to a new visit to Norwegian caves.

The Chief Constable of Rogaland said that the collaboration with the voluntary organizations was very good and that Norway is a pioneer nation in such collaboration.