



Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held at Kinnerton Scout HQ on Thursday 29th April 2007

Present

David Morris (Chair) ESL, K2 ESU, Wrexham; Glynn Barham, DESC, Flintshire; Russell Williams, GSL, 1st Carmel, Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire); Mark Pepper, SL, 1st Carmel, Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire); Anne Marie Roberts, Area Scout Network Commissioner; Gordon Richardson, DESC, Wrexham; Russell Wyn-Thomas, DESA, Wrexham; Roger Tookey, ESL, Johnstown, Llangollen; Derek Hayes, ADC Scouts, Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire); Sheila Dawson, ESL, Bwlchgwyn, Wrexham; Mike Dawson, GSL, 1st Bwlchgwyn, Wrexham; Roger Cragg, DC, Llangollen; Adam Gardner, AESL, K2 ESU, Wrexham; Gordon Goodwin, GSL/ESL, Kinnerton, Flintshire; Jerry Sommerton, DESL, Flintshire; Gerry Kellett, DESC, Llangollen

Apologies

Jill Lewis, ESL(YL), Wrexham; Phil Houghton, ESL, Hawarden, Flintshire; Lesley Bordoli, DC, Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire); Rob Benyon, GSL, Saltney Ferry; Geoff Brown, ESL, Saltney Ferry

Welcome

Moz (David Morris!) welcomed everyone and said he was very pleased to see such a fantastic turnout – someone from every District. It was explained that an agenda had not been set as what was discussed on the night was up to those that attended on that night. Therefore some sheets had been laid out for those present to suggest agenda items, and to show how much interest they had in each of the suggestions. 6 agenda items were suggested, and they were taken in order of interest.

Pooling of adventurous activities

It was felt that providing adventurous activities was key to the Explorer Scout Section and keeping young people interested.

There seemed to be a feeling that those without Activity Permits were keen to find out who had Permits, while those that had Permits were overstretched providing activities for those that they were currently provided for and couldn't cope with any more. They would, however, welcome adults without Permits going along with them to gain experience.

All agreed however that it would be useful to have a directory of who held which Activity Permit. It was also suggested that a list was made of adults who didn't have a Permit, but had an interest in gaining one, so they'd be able to work together with people who wanted to gain the same Permit as them.

One viewpoint was that Units with lowish numbers found it difficult to put on adventurous activities due to the expense. If Units worked together to attain large numbers it would be possible to offer more activities.

It was pointed out that few adults held Activity Permits in Clwyd and that more training was needed to get more adults more Permits.

There were, according to some present, many centres around that offered training, including Chester Canoe Club (Ian Mac), Sunday mornings at the Riverside Centre, where adults can gain experience and maybe a Permit for free. If young people who had skills in canoeing wanted to get a Permit, they could go along for a £1 fee. Those present were not sure how up to date this information was, but was worth a try. Other options were Llangollen Canoe Club and also Cheshire Scout County.

It was asked whether any Network Scouts had Activity Permits. A few names were suggested but people were not sure.

The issue of equipment was raised. Many thought that this was not so much a problem as instructors, but it was felt by others that for events such as the North Wales Water Weekend, and the Wye and Severn Cruises, all Groups used their boats at the same time and so there was a shortage. It was suggested that any directory of those with Activity Permits could also include a list of which Groups held equipment.

Sailing was discussed. Roger Cragg said that there was plenty of opportunity for sailing at 2 Welsh Scout Council events at Bala and Brenig. For £25 Explorer Scouts could have two full days sailing. There is a 10 man boat at Bala



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that can be used by Scouts. Quite a few people had climbing and mountain Permits, it was felt. It was unknown if anyone had caving permits, though several of those present were keen on this activity.

Finally it was felt that another way of helping Units was the offer of the loan on minibuses. Gordon Goodwin said that 1st Kinnerton's minibus was available, for a donation, to anyone who wished to borrow it should it not be in use. It was also suggested that venues be included in any directory as Derek Hayes knew of several venues such as cottages and campsites that were underused but ideal for Scouts.

ACTION POINTS:

- Creation of an 'Activities Directory' for Clwyd - Moz
- Districts to send list of those with Activity Permits to Moz – Gordon R, Gerry, Glynn, Derek
- Anyone with any other relevant information send to Moz – everyone
- To be done by next meeting

Young Leader Training

Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire) had no Young Leader Training. Wrexham runs Module A plus one other Module once a term. Wrexham are preparing a pack and training for BSLs, CSLs, and SLs to help them support YLs in their Missions. Flintshire have a District Explorer Scout meeting once a month at which Young Leader training is held for the first hour then they have other activities. Module A and a few other Modules are delivered but Young Leaders are reaching saturation point. Llangollen had no Young Leader Training.

Those Districts that were running YL training were willing to open up their courses to the Districts that weren't, but it was not sure whether Explorer Scouts would travel. Wrexham said their Module A courses had room but the other Modules were usually full. Gordon Richardson said he'd be willing to travel to other Districts to help run YL training if asked and if he has time.

Moz asked if everyone had heard of Team X, the Wales Young Leader Unit. Some had not, and so this information will be attached to these minutes.

ACTION POINTS:

- Wrexham and Flintshire will send the dates of their training and what Modules they are covering to Moz – Gordon, Glynn
- Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire) and Llangollen to invite Gordon Richardson to help deliver training if they wish – Gerry, Derek, Gordon R
- Moz to send info about YL training to all on CAESM mailing list – Moz
- To be done by next meeting

Area, Wales and UK Events

Moz outlined details about Gladstonbury and AWESOME. Details and booking forms will be attached to these minutes. Most had heard about Gladstonbury and their Explorers were talking about it.

It was felt that these events were very useful and popular with the Explorer Scouts. All said they would try and sell the events to their members.

Live 07 (the Festival of Scouting to be held at the O2 dome) was discussed. It was suggested that an Area coach just for Explorer Scouts could be organised.

It was decided that we'd talk about events for 2008 in the next meeting.

ACTION POINTS:

- Find out about Gladstonbury, AWESOME and Live 07 if not already aware – everyone
- Sell events to Explorer Scouts and get bookings in – everyone
- Find out numbers interested in Live 07 to see if coach is viable, let Moz have numbers – everyone



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Communication

While it was agreed that communication was important, it was felt that we needed to make concrete suggestions rather than have a vague discussion.

It was pointed out that this was the first time all three DESCs in the Area had sat around a table together, so this was an improvement.

Gerry Kellett said it was important that email was not relied on. Everyone agreed.

It was proposed and accepted that an Area Explorer Scout directory be written.

Moz pointed out how important it was that all Leaders made sure that their details were correctly entered on the Scouts Membership Database so that they received correct information relevant to their role. Just getting an AA form filled in and send it with an acting role would ensure that people were kept in the loop.

ACTION POINTS:

- Area Explorer Scout directory to be prepared – Moz, Gordon R, Glynn, Gerry, Derek
- Go to www.scouts.org.uk/membership to check your details are correct – Everyone

Intra District Working

It was felt that this had been covered in earlier agenda items, but the issue of an Area Explorer Scout Forum and District Explorer Scout Forums was discussed.

It was proposed and generally accepted that this should be deferred until the next meeting at which one Explorer Scout per District should be invited to the meeting to find their views.

Links between Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network

Anne Marie Roberts said she wanted to meet DESCs and ESLs from Vale of Clwyd (Denbighshire), Llangollen and Flintshire, having built up a good relationship with Wrexham. She was confident that Network would enhance its image to being more active in the future. She asked that details of Explorer Scouts aged 17 and above were send to her.

Gordon Richardson had received lots of support and help from Network and said they had done an excellent job. It was felt that it was in the interests of those involved in Explorer Scouting to ensure that their members continue into Network.

ACTION POINTS:

- Send details of Explorer Scouts aged 17 and above to Anne Marie (anne-marie_network@hotmail.co.uk)

Evaluation

The evaluation forms showed that all present thought the meeting was a success. It was felt that the idea of coming up with agenda items on the night was good, but more notice was required of this format and that it was important that issues discussed at the this meeting were followed up at the next meeting. One person thought the things discussed were predictable. It was felt be one person that the meetings should be held on a different night each time to ensure we didn't clash with the same Units' meetings each time.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in October 2007. Please contact Moz (moz4@mac.com or 07779 272340) to suggest a date and/or location. Information will be circulated about this meeting at the beginning of September.



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Briefing Sheet

Gladstonbury

13th-15th July 2007

Gladstonbury is the Area Explorer Scout activity weekend. It's now in its fourth year having had successful camps in 2002, 2003 and 2004. There was no camp in 2005 due to AWESOME (see below) and nothing happened in 2006. This year we're back with a vengeance! Friday night, Explorers (who enter in teams of between 4 and 7) will drop the majority of their kit off at Gladstone near Hawarden, and be taken by coach/minibus to Delamere Forest and the area surrounding it. There, after a few challenges at bases located around the place, they'll head to one of three bivvy sites to spend the night. On Saturday they'll be given a bus rover ticket that will allow them to make their way via Chester City centre (lunch) to Gladstone. Along the way they'll have a series of activity bases to complete. Once back at Gladstone there'll be evening entertainment and a big party. Sunday will round the weekend off with the usual messy Gladstonbury games.

Booking form attached to these minutes. More info at www.clwyd-scouts.org.uk/gladstonbury

AWESOME

28th-30th September 2007

AWESOME is the All Wales Explorer Scout weekend. This year will be the second AWESOME, this time taking place at Glanusk Park near Crickhowell, between Brecon and Abergavenny. We're expecting around 400 Explorers from all over Wales and beyond to attend this fantastic weekend. Plenty of entertainment on Friday and Saturday evening including a live band, then on Saturday there'll be four activity zones: earth, fire, air and water.

Booking will mainly be online, but forms can be requested. Keep an eye on www.awesome2007.com

Team X

Team X is an Explorer Scout Unit for Young Leaders that covers the whole of Wales. Any Young Leader from Wales can join the Unit. It's main aim is to provide training and support for Young Leaders whose Districts or Areas are unable to provide this on their own. This is usually because the District is rural and there aren't enough people on the ground to operate the training or enough Young Leaders to warrant courses. That said, Young Leaders from urban Districts who provide a full Young Leaders training scheme and support are still welcome to be involved as it's great to meet others from across Wales and share experiences - the more the merrier!

To get involved in Team X all Explorers need to do is to attend a Team X event. When they've attended this they'll become a member, and get a cool orange Team X polo shirt. Team X events are advertised via WES the SNAIL, the Wales Explorers newsletter. This is sent out, together with application forms, to every Explorer Scout in Wales that the Welsh Scout Council have the address for. ESLs should email their ESU membership list including the names of ES, their addresses, dates of birth and District to admin@scoutwales.org.uk or phone 01446 795277

Explorers send the application form in and places on the event will be offered on a first come first served basis if, as is usual, there are limited places. They ask for a £10 deposit for each event which will be returned on attendance. This is to make it less likely that people will book places and then not turn up.

Live 07

Saturday 24th November 2007

LIVE 07 is the Festival of Scouting, an extravaganza to celebrate the best of Scouting in 2007. It'll be the perfect opportunity to reflect on our Scouting history, remember the fun times in 2007 and look towards the next 100 years and beyond. Two epic shows will be held in The O2 arena in London, with a capacity of 15,000 per show, to bring together all the elements of Scouting in 2007 in one day, in one place.





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From the minute you arrive at The O2 arena it will be like stepping into a Scouting theme park, with circus activities, bands and other exciting performers mingling with the crowds. The event will bring together over 3,000 Scouts from all around the country to take part in LIVE 07's line-up. There will be performance items from all Sections to bring you a fast moving multimedia spectacle with elements from the World Scout Jamboree, Brownsea Island, local Scouting events, Scout bands and award presentations from famous ex-Scouts.

The event will appeal to everyone, no matter what your age, culture, faith or Scouting background. It's about involvement – not just something to watch, but something to be part of!

Booking is via www.scouts.org.uk/live07 - let Moz know when you've booked and if enough book we'll get a coach

World Jam Build

Any time between 2 - 27 July and 8 - 14 August 2007

Anyone aged over 14 can help build and take down the World Jamboree site – and it's free! All food and camp fees are paid for, just turn up with your tents and take part. If you help for more than two days you get a free day pass to the World Jamboree itself. Your chance to be part of the biggest Scouting event ever! An ideal cheap summer camp for Explorers?

More details at <http://eng.thejamboree.org/takePart/adult/build>

New ES resources

Just a bit of notice – new Explorer Scout resources will be available from Scout Shops from the beginning of January 2007. These will replace the unpopular Navigator file, and will have space for Explorer Scouts to record their progress in the Section. It will be a fabric wallet style resource similar to the D of E record book pack.

Energise YL

The Young Leader's Scheme has been one of Scouting's biggest success stories over the last few years, with over 7000 Explorer Scouts helping out in Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs and Scout Troops. Energise YL intends to make the Young Leader's scheme even more of a success – helping Section Leaders to get more support for running their programmes, while offering more Explorer Scouts exciting development opportunities.

Energise YL is a chance for all adults in Scouting to share ideas and learn more about the Young Leader's Scheme. We're offering participants the chance of attending one of two days – Energise YL South or Energise YL North. The day is quite literally anyone who has an interest in the Young Leader's Scheme, Section Leaders or Group Scout Leaders who want to know more about attracting Young Leader's to work with their Group, or District Commissioners who need more information on supporting the Scheme. They're also particularly keen to offer Explorer Scout Leaders and District Explorer Scout Commissioners the chance to come along and share ideas about how the scheme is best delivered.

The Energise YL days will take place over the weekend of June 16th and 17th 2007. For more info, check <http://www.scouts.org.uk/energise> in a couple of weeks or email energiseyl@scout.org.uk

Welsh Scout Council mountain and water activities

Please do make use of these activities which are open to all. See attached information flyers.

Explorer Scout eNews

This is a regular information sheet from HQ sent to AACs Explorer Scouts. Please see attached.