



Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

February 2010

Hi everyone,

Please take a few moments to look through the Achievements & Actions from the recent CAESF meeting listed below, and take any required action by the 'when by' date. You need only read down to the line, but full minutes are below that should you wish to read them.

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Achievements & Actions

Subject	Achieved in meeting	Action points	Who	When by
My Backpack/ Membership Service	Identified that lots of Units still haven't added details of Explorer Scouts onto www.scouts.org.uk	Please, please, please can all ESLs add details of their Explorer Scouts onto the system. It's in a password protected area of the site and only those at District level can see the information.	ESLs/ DESAs	As soon as possible
Unit programmes	Identified that most Units hadn't circulated their programmes.	Again, please , can Units send Moz their Unit programmes (even by post), or contact GR for details of how to upload.	ESLs	As soon as possible
Wales Team & Forum	Agreed what views we wanted to feed into Wales Team & Forums	Either, some or all of GR, MB and GK to attend Wales Team meeting and represent our views, and TD & LT to attend Wales Forum meeting and represent our views	GR, MB, GK, TD, LT	6th March
	Identified that GK would be willing to attend meeting	GR, MB and GK to arrange attendance rota for meeting, or find out if all can attend and sort this out with David Jones and Scouts Wales	GR, MB, GK	6th March
DofE	Agreed that Units would share expedition dates	Tell Moz dates to be put on Area website	ESLs	When expeditions planned
Area events	Agreed Hafod weekend would go ahead next year	Book for next year	GK	By next meeting
	Updated on progress of Escape & Evasion	Leaders to contact GK to say if they helping or not	Leaders	As soon as possible
	Decided to look into Blackpool/theme park event	Look at how best to run this event, and if its viable	GR	By September
	Suggested some sort of Area sports challenge/triathlon	Discuss at next meeting	All	Next meeting

	Suggested an Area Explorer show	Discuss at next meeting	All	Next meeting
Young Leader weekend	Agreed that weekend to be held in Autumn term	Book venue	GR	Easter
Public relations	Agreed that Young Spokespeople (YSPs) to meet	Arrange meeting of YSPs	Moz	Easter
Recognition of participation	Found out about progress of Youth University and K2 Challenge	GR to continue to develop modules and keep Area informed.	GR	Ongoing
ESL training	Found out that no progress made	GR and any other Leaders who want to get involved to keep this on 'to do' list	GR etc	Ongoing
AWESOME	Identified that Wales want suggestions for the next AWESOME	Let GR/MB/GK know suggestions	All	6th March
Network	Identified problems with Network in Clwyd	Invite Hannah Dooley to next meeting to discuss further	Moz	Next meeting
		Ask Area Commissioner about progress in recruiting an ASNC	Moz	Next meeting

Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

Minutes of a meeting held at the Gladstone Centre on Thursday 25th February 2010

Present

David Morris, AAC (Communications), Clwyd; **Kev Morris**, AESL, Quay ESU, Flintshire; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Jill Lewis**, ESL(YL), Wrexham; **Daniel Roberts**, Unit Chairman, K2 ESU, Wrexham; **Phil Hughes**, ESL, Mynydd Isa, Flintshire; **Kieron Elwood**, Explorer Scout, Mynydd Isa, Flintshire; **Russell Wyn-Thomas**, AESL, Atlas ESU, Wrexham; **Lucy Thomas**, Explorer Scout, Atlas ESU, Wrexham; **Jonny Lister**, Explorer Scout, Atlas ESU, Wrexham; **Mike Bowen**, DESC, Flintshire; **Suzie Gregory**, Explorer Scout, Llangollen Dragons, Llangollen; **Jo Gregory**, ESL, Llangollen Dragons, Llangollen; **Gerry Kellett**, DESC, Llangollen; **Natalie Wright**, Explorer Scout, Pen-y-Cae ESU, Llangollen; **Sion Davies**, ESL, Pen-y-Cae ESU, Llangollen

Apologies

Gordon Goodwin, Kinnerton ESU, Flintshire; Gareth Freeman-Jones, Trinity Fammau ESU, Flintshire;

Last meeting

An update on actions from the last meeting had sent out before the meeting (attached at end for reference). Comments on this update not discussed later in the meeting were as follows:

My Backpack - (GR pointed out that it's no longer called 'My Backpack', it's either the Members' area of the website, or MMS!) MB said that only Connah's Quay Explorers' details had been entered for Flintshire. The other Units had been created but their Leaders hadn't entered the details. Some said that there may be data protection concerns, or just Leaders not being sure how to do it. GR said there was still problems when a data dump was done as it didn't show which Unit the Explorers were in. JL said that there should be an area for Explorers' progress with the Young Leaders' modules and missions to be recorded.

Unit Programme sharing - Moz said that only one Unit (his own!) had their programme listed on the Clwyd website despite it being agreed at the last meeting that it'd be a good idea to share these. It seemed to be the generally consensus that Units just hadn't got round to it. GR said that a website had been created for people to upload documents including programmes if this will help.

Wales Team/Forum feedback - Moz asked what was the best way for Units and Districts to get feedback *from* the Wales meetings. It was agreed that holding District meetings soon after the Wales meetings would be a good way of circulating information. A summary/action sheet could also be circulated.

DofE and Wales/eDofE - The Forum remained concerned that the Welsh Scout Council still hadn't sorted out issues re licensing itself as a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Operating Authority. There was a discussion about eDofE. SG

and JL thought that there may be issues with an electronic system replacing the current record books, such as not everyone having the internet, and the practicalities of getting things signed off. Some thought there were advantages however, such as it would be easier for Leaders to keep track on how the Explorers were getting on with the Award. It was thought that it was better having Scouts Wales as the Operating Authority than Gilwell as it's more local to us.

DofE Expedition coordination - Some Units had set the dates for their expeditions. It was suggested that these be put on the Area calendar so that assessors could sort out when and where they would be needed. So far the following were known to have undergone assessed assessments, but not all had had their paperwork through: Gerry Kellett, Mike Bowen, Phil Hughes, Russell Wyn-Thomas, Adam Gardner

Area Events - GK said that Hafod mountaineering weekend would definitely be booked for next year. The Explorers present said they'd like this. GK also said that the Escape & Evasion event had proved hugely popular with 18 teams totalling 122 Explorer Scouts entered. He said it'd be a challenge fitting everyone in to the HQ and car park and that a staggered start would be required. More details would be available after a planning meeting this week. GK asked for Leaders who'd said they may be able to help to confirm one way or another ASAP. Explorer Scouts thought it was popular as having a one night event was different to the usual camp, and didn't take so much time so that coursework etc could be done.

World Records - only 2 Units had contacted Moz. MB said he'd sent his entry in, Moz not received. RWT said that his Unit had taken part, but not sent results in. JG said their Unit had really enjoyed it, and it'd be good to know the results, and maybe make it an annual challenge.

Clwyd Young Leader weekend - GR said that he'd try and sort out a date, and let people know by Easter. It was felt October would be a good time of year for this.

PR/YSP - Moz said that Gilwell had poor records of who'd completed the training. Local investigations would be made, and they'd sort out a meeting.

ESL training - GR said this was an ongoing project.

Feedback from previous Wales Team & Forum

MB and GR went over what had been covered at the meetings, and the Forum discussed it:

Wales National Centre - suggested by Clwyd, this went down well with other Areas.

AWESOME - the Forum again discussed the previous AWESOME camp. GR said that Simon Fairless, Commissioner Wales (Explorer Scouts) had asked for everyone to send in 6 ideas for activities at any future AWESOME to be sent to him, as well as suggestions for venue. Two views that had not been heard before were: SG said that the whole point of a camp for all Explorer Scouts in Wales was to meet other Explorer Scouts in Wales, and not enough had been made of that before. Various people suggested that Kibblestone would be a good venue.

Team X - there was still no news of funding. Future weekends would be £30, this would be refunded should funding be found. Dates were to be out by Christmas, but still nothing. One weekend was planned for North Wales, the Forum agreed that Gladstone Centre would be a good venue.

YSP course - there had been suggestions of holding a Young Spokespersons course in North Wales or just over the border. The Forum was in favour of this.

Next Wales Team & Forum meetings

The Forum discussed the agendas of the upcoming Wales meetings so that those representing Clwyd would be properly briefed.

Team meeting:

GR and MB had been attending, but nobody had asked GK, who would like to attend.

Scouts/Explorer links - this was a HQ discussion point. GR said that in his experience link camps were the best way to ensure good links.

District model - this was a HQ discussion point. Those present thought that Group loyalties were still a problem with young people not feeling part of a District provision, but on the whole the system seemed to be working. Flexibility was the key thing - "do what works".

World Jamboree - JG said the North Wales Unit was going well. 24 from Clwyd, lots of support fundraising-wise, though she'd be grey by end of process! Units being geographical was working very well. JL said that he felt well informed and supported.

Children's University - discussed later in meeting

All Wales/Civic Award - GR explained that Scouts Wales were proposing to introduce an award to encourage young people to become more aware and involved in the political process. Examples are Beaver Scouts visiting a council chamber and holding a vote on which activity they wanted to do. Most were in favour of the proposal.

AWESOME - discussed earlier in meeting

Any other business - Explorer Scout Activity badge requirements are too difficult. There is no incentive to start an activity, the badges are more for 'experts' who've already been doing the activity for a while. They are not something that can be done on a Unit night. Several people thought that more staged badges were the answer.

Forum meeting:

It was agreed that Lucy Thomas and Tom Danbridge would represent Clwyd at the meeting.

Foreign camps - those Explorers present said they would be interested in going on a Wales international expedition, providing the costs were low enough. Some suggested an overseas Gold DofE expedition, others wanted an Explorer Belt. It was thought that Wales providing such a trip would open up opportunities to those who wouldn't otherwise get them.

Other agenda items - as Team meeting above

Area Events

The Forum discussed ideas for future events. The following were suggested:

Area Sports day/competition, maybe a triathlon, multi-event round the Area. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Blackpool/theme park trip. It was agreed that GR would look into this.

Some sort of Area Explorer Scout show, maybe with each Unit putting on an act. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Youth University

GR explained progress on the Explorer Scout modules for the Youth University, a scheme open to all young people in Wales run through universities including Glyndŵr University.

Young people accumulate credits by completing work outside the school and college curriculum. One credit roughly equates to one hour of work, with 150 credits required for the Bronze Award, 350 for Silver and 600 for Gold.

GR had developed a module for the DofE Bronze Award run via Scouting and worked out that this would earn Explorer Scouts between 70 and 80 credits. Other modules could be developed for things like the Scouts Participation Awards, work as Young Leaders etc.

GR said that the first modules will be available in the next few weeks for those in the Wrexham Local Education Authority, and within the next 3 months for those in Denbighshire & Flintshire.

At the moment its not thought that awards can be backdated.

The Forum was very interested in the work done by GR and welcomed the initiative.

K2 Challenge

Moz updated the Forum on the work done on the K2 challenge discussed at the last meeting. The Unit were now using the award developed based on the Scout Challenge badges, and Moz had gone back through the Unit records to backdate achievements of all current Unit members. 4 Explorer Scouts had achieved the Award based on the backdating. He said the award showed up holes in the Unit's balanced programme, for example more community service was needed, and also where certain Explorers shied away from certain types of activity.

The Unit had been given approval for a gold bordered version of their Unit badge to be awarded to those members who achieved the Challenge. The work had been passed on to Clwyd, Wales and Gilwell, who were all very interested.

Network

Concern had been raised that there was a lack of Network in Clwyd. No Area Scout Network Commissioner had been appointed since Mark Jones's resignation.

Moz said that he'd contacted Hannah Dooley who runs Freedom Network, a Network that meets in Flintshire, to find out about their Network, and ask if those from outside Flintshire were welcome.

Hannah had said that while there was no other Network in other parts of the Area those from outside Flintshire would be welcome to join Freedom Network, so long as they were willing to travel to Flintshire where most of their activities take place.

MB and GK spoke about the fact that not all Explorer Scouts reaching 18 wanted to join Network, with some just wanting to become adult Leaders. Some wanted to do a bit of both however.

Explorer Scouts present didn't know about Network and said they thought they were poor at promoting themselves.

It was thought that an ASNC should be appointed as this was key to coordinating Network and promoting the Section to Explorer Scouts. It was thought that an older person would be better at the job (not sure we can say that, but it was said at the meeting!)

It was agreed to invite Hannah to the next meeting to discuss the issue further.

Next meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.33pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd November.

Updates from last meeting circulated at this meeting

Subject	Action point	Update – <i>good progress some progress no progress</i>
Information Sharing	Everyone to share information where relevant.	Did you pass things on? Hope so!
My Backpack	Enter Explorer Scouts details at www.scouts.org.uk – need to log in	Wrexham has Units set up and details entered. Flintshire has Units set up and some details entered. Llangollen have Units set up but no Explorers details entered. Vale of Clwyd haven't addressed this yet.
Unit programmes	Units to advertise their programmes to whole Area via Clwyd website and document store	Area created on Clwyd website. Just K2ESU programme listed as no other Units have contacted Moz. Document store not created.
Wales Team & Forum	GR, MB and two Explorer Scouts to bring the points from the minutes below up at Team/Forum	GR and MB attended Wales Team, Danny from K2 and Tom from Connah's Quay attended Wales Forum. Do we need to look at a better way to provide feedback from this meeting to the Area?
DofE	Bring up at Wales Team that we are not happy with how DofE is being run in Wales.	Still waiting to hear from WSC on this.
	Districts to communicate with each other expedition dates	Not heard of any coordination in this?
Area events	Another Hafod weekend to be put on	DESCs looked closely at the calendar for this year and concluded that we couldn't fit it in. Shall definitely look at it for next year.
	Gladstonbury and night hike to be combined into single event on 12-14th March	Event planned by GR, MB and GK and going ahead – renamed Escape & Evasion
Explorer Scout Records Challenge	Units to have a go at Explorer Scout Records Challenge laid down by K2 ESU	Just heard from 2 Units who took part.
Team X	Arrange Clwyd Young Leader weekend	No progress known of
Public relations	YSPs to tour Units to talk about their role and PR in Units	Having problems identifying YSPs – HQ records suspect. Also had time issues with this one!
Recognition of participation	Develop Youth University modules	Ongoing project
	Put Challenge awards on Clwyd website for other Units to use	Added to Resources page. K2 ESU are using this and finding it useful. Have proposed to issue their Unit badge with a gold border to those who complete.
ESL training	Arrange skills training for ESLs	No progress known of