



Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

February 2011

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.

Moz
 AAC Communications
 07779 272340
communications@clwydscouts.org.uk
<http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk>

Achievements & Actions

Subject	Achieved in meeting	Action points	Who	When
Information sharing	Found out stuff	Pass on the information below this table to Explorers	All	ASAP
Area Directory	Checked information in draft Directory and obtained more info.	Produce and circulate	Moz	End of March
Triathlon	Discovered more ideas needed to put together this event	Find out from ES what sort of thing they want, let DESCs know.	ESLs	End of March
Scout Show	Decided that needed to recruit a producer before this would happen	Ask around if anyone interested. Promote in Hotliner/website	All	End of July
Nant BH	Agreed this looks like best value for externally provided activity weekend	Provisionally book a weekend, circulate information and coordinate bookings.	JJ/CJ	End of March
Dee Tour	Decided best to do in early July	Arrange and promote	RC	River Wye
Scout Network	Identified that Explorers still need to know more about Network	Promote Freedom Network	ESLs	Ongoing
		Attend launch of Wrexham/Llan QSA Network	ESLs	May 8th
Changes in UK/ Wales structures	Discussed the changes and agreed that there were concerns how new system would work and how view would be taken into account	Explain changes, how future events/projects will be planned and how opinions of Leaders and DESCs will be listened to.	David Jones	By DAS/ Team day
		Pass on views of meeting re Wales Youth Forum via David to Wales	Moz	By DAS/ Team day
Unit programmes	Got approval for Google Calendar	Put Unit programmes on Calendar	Units	Ongoing
DofE	Established there was concern about communication of role out of eDofE and a lack of training.	Attend Introduction to the Award course on 5th March	ESLs & AESLs	ASAP
International	Identified a need to provide more international opportunities for Explorers in Clwyd	DESCs and Moz to meet to discuss a possible Clwyd expedition or other ideas	DESCs/ Moz	End of July
		Put link on Clwyd website	Moz	ASAP
Media	Outlined work of Media Team	Recruit ES from Vale of Clwyd & Flints	ESLs	By March 10th
		Find out dates of next Scouts Speak Up course	Moz	By March 10th

Information Sharing

- Hafod weekend - Friday 14 to Sunday 16 October 2011, cost £45, bookings into Gerry Kellett by end of March - see booking form, Appendix 1
- YL training day at Cox Wood on 26th March covering Module K, and possibly Module J. This could cater for up to 40 Explorers - 10 per District. Cost £5 each. A Team X weekend run by Clwyd would be held later in the year in Gradbach.
- International Opportunities - see Appendix 3
- Wrexham Young Leaders' Module A Tuesday March 8th - open to all.

Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

Minutes of a meeting held at the Gladstone Centre on Thursday 24 February 2011

Present

David Morris ('Moz'), AAC (Communications), Clwyd and Chair; **Owen Quilter**, Explorer, 2R ESU; **Matthew Banhall**, Explorer, 2R ESU; **Max Thompson**, Explorer, 2R ESU; **Jonny Jenkins**, Explorer, 2R ESU; **Jan Jenkins**, ESL, 2R ESU; **Chas Jenkins**, ESL, 2R ESU; **Thomas Gregory**, Explorer, Llangollen Dragons; **Georgia Williams**, Explorer, Fusion ESU; **Suzie Gregory**, Explorer, Llangollen Dragons; **Andrew Nicholls**, Explorer, K2 ESU; **Sam Sawin**, Explorer, K2 ESU; **Jo Gregory**, ESL, Llangollen Dragons; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Russell Wyn-Thomas**, AESL, Atlas ESU; **Jonny Lister**, Explorer, Atlas ESU; **Liam Fletcher**, Explorer, Atlas ESU; **Mike Bowen**, DESC, Flintshire; **Beckah Card**, Explorer, Quay ESU; **Mark Jones**, DESC (as of 01/03/11), Wrexham; **Phill Rowlands**, Explorer, Kinnerton.

Apologies

Jill Lewis, Gareth Freeman-Jones, Gerry Kellett, Dan Campbell, Roger Cragg, Ian Ackroyd, Deb Blackburne, Matt Lewis

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:

Unit Liaison: Moz passed round a draft copy of an Area Explorer Scout Directory which those present checked and added to. As well as details of Units and Districts, relevant Area appointments, Network details and DofE Expedition Assessors would be included.

Hafod weekend: GK had produced information about this weekend which will be circulated with the minutes of this meeting (Appendix 1). Price £45, closing date 31st March.

Escape & Evasion/Triathlon: GR and MB said that the DESCs not had chance to meet since the last meeting, but had agreed that the E&E event would happen once every 2 years, alternating with a Triathlon event. The Triathlon was discussed later in the meeting.

Theme Park weekend: GR had heard nothing so this will be dropped.

Scout Show: MB said that this had been brought up at the Flintshire ES meeting and no-one had been interested. It was thought that a 'producer' needed to be found before this would go anywhere, but could be a valuable for Explorer Scouts who needed a skill for DofE. Moz would advertise for a producer.

Nant BH: Jan & Chas Jenkins had looked into Nant BH and several other options. It was thought Nant BH was better value (note price is £63 not £36 as advertised!) and details would be circulated.

Dee canoe tour: RC had been in contact with Ian Herbert Jones and had been discussing the possibility of a "gentle" overnight canoe trip on the Dee to Chester. Looking at late June/early July, open to Scouts and Explorers. Would be a good intro to canoe camping. The meeting thought early July would be better to avoid exams.

Scout Network: Those present were reminded about the opportunities via Freedom Network, and it was announced that a Network would shortly be launched in Wrexham to support those who were working on the Queen's Scout Award/DofE Gold. SG asked if this Network would provide training. It was not know, the launch would answer these questions.

Changes in the structure of UK and Wales

MB gave an update on the last Explorer Scout Team meeting. Clwyd unfortunately didn't send any Explorer Scouts to the Forum. Mike's update was as follows:

Three quarters of the last few meetings have been dedicated to drop off between Scouts and Explorers, and Explorers and Network.

It was thought that Scout Leaders hampered Scouts moving on to Explorers as they didn't want to lose their older Scouts, not understanding that they could have Young Leaders instead. It was also thought that peer pressure was

an issue. Partnership Agreements were also seen as being one-sided towards ESUs and it was thought that Units wearing the Group necker & nametape, and helping with fundraising would help.

It was also thought that Explorer Scouts were often pushed into Leadership roles too quickly at 18 to the detriment to Scout Network, and was thought that getting them to join Network at 17 would help this. Pressure should be put on Explorer Scout Units to link up with Scout Networks, and run an alternative programme for older members.

Children's University was developing with pilots taking place in Wrexham and Cardiff.

Numbers of Explorers were up from 900 to 1,100 in Wales, but it was thought there may be retention problems.

Development projects had received funding of £180,000 to pay for Development Officers. GR said Mark Winson had been asked to provide development support for recruiting Explorer Scout Leaders in Wrexham, but had said this was not a priority.

AWESOME had been moved from 2011 to September 2012 to allow people to concentrate on Jamboree.

All Wales Democracy Challenge had been launched. It was thought this needs more publicity.

Team X had not received funding, so needed local organisation.

The meeting was told about the changes being made in the structure of UK HQ and Wales.

Moz had received a letter from Wayne Bulpitt, UK Chief Commissioner which gave details of the UK structure (attached to these minutes - Appendix 2). Instead of having separate teams for each Section led by a UK Advisor, in future the UK Commissioner for Programme, the 2 Deputy UK Commissioners for Programme and several staff members would form the Programme Core Team which would form temporary project teams to look at issues as and when required. It was thought this was a more flexible approach. Many of the projects for the coming year were things this Forum had identified as areas of concern.

The Agenda for the upcoming Wales Explorer Scout Team meeting included "STATUS/DISBANDING OF TEAMS". Moz had contacted Simon Fairless, Commissioner Wales for Explorer Scouts, and had been told that there would be no further Wales Team meetings, and that his position would be wound up. Further details were to be given at the next, and last, Team Day, which would be combined with a UK HQ Development, Advice & Support (DAS) Day.

The meeting were concerned about the news. SG asked who was going to plan Wales events and projects, and coordinate the development of current events and projects. It was also unknown how this Forum, representing Explorer Scouting in Clwyd, would be able to give it's opinions. It was thought that in future this would be via the Area Commissioner.

The Wales Explorer Scout Forum would continue in a joint meeting with the Scout Forum on an activity weekend. Malcolm Latham, Wales Assistant Chief Commissioner - Programme, had sent out a request for opinions on this.

The Forum decided that any Wales Youth Forum weekend should avoid exam times, and be at a similar time of the year to the Wales DAS Day. The weekend should be fun, and include a balance of activities and meetings. It was felt that perhaps the meeting could be split into small working groups, each working on a certain project or event. It was thought that 2 Explorer Scouts per District should be invited to take part.

Most of the Explorer Scouts present said that they wouldn't mind paying a small amount towards the weekend - maybe £10-£15, and that they wouldn't mind camping if the weather was OK.

The Forum discussed how Wales could make sure that the views of the young people at the Wales Youth Forum could be taken into account. It was thought that this was very important, and that maybe some people from Wales and Gilwell should be there to listen to the young people present.

Unit Programmes

Moz told the Forum that he'd set up a Google Calendar for Units to add their programmes to. This, combined with the Area ES Directory, would help Units work together more and get ideas from each other.

Triathlon

JL from Atlas said that his Unit had enjoyed the E&E event. GR explained that the basic idea for the Triathlon was for three events to take place in three different locations with Explorers either walking or maybe using public transport to get between them. There didn't seem to be much decided so it was suggested that Units discuss this and any ideas to be fed back to DESCs.

Young Leader Training

GR and Moz had tried to organise a weekend in the spring but the venue we wanted, Gradbach, was booked up. Instead, a YL training day would be held on the 26th March covering Module K, and possibly Module J. This could cater for up to 40 Explorers - 10 per District. Cost £5 each.

A Team X weekend run by Clwyd would be held later in the year.

DofE

eDofE is now up and running. As Leaders sign Explorers up for next level of Award, both the Explorer and the Leader will be put on the system. If anyone has any issues they should contact Jane Churchill at ScoutsWales.

Eric had organised an Introduction to the Award course and an Expedition Assessor course.

2R ESU said they were looking for an expedition assessor for the 9th/10th April. Moz said he'd be able to help with this.

AWESOME

Explorer Scouts from 2R ESU wanted to know if there would be an AWESOME in 2011 as they'd really enjoyed the one in 2009. As discussed earlier in the meeting, this had been moved to 2012.

International

Moz asked if Units were getting abroad enough or offering international opportunities to their Explorers. Most Units said they didn't have the numbers to be able to organise a trip overseas on their own. It was suggested that either Clwyd should run a trip maybe every 4 years, or Units should team up and run a joint trip.

SG said more Explorer Belt expeditions should be put on.

JG said that the International Opportunities from HQ often did not list everything. It was asked if there could be a link from the Clwyd website. The latest International Opportunities will be attached to these Minutes (Appendix 3).

Media

Moz announced that the Clwyd Media Team was now fully operational and had met twice since the last meeting. Mainly consisting of Explorer Scouts it was there to get more coverage of Scouting in the media. Moz asked Units to make sure they send in details of things they were doing that could be covered in the press.

SG asked when the next Scouts Speak Up course was for Wales. Moz said he'd find out dates, but thought it was the start of July.

Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.20pm. As there isn't expected to be a Wales Team meeting in the autumn anymore, it was agreed to have the next meeting in about 6 months. The date will be circulated as soon as possible.

Updates from last meeting circulated at this meeting

Subject	Action point		Update
Unit Liaison	Produce an Area Explorer Scout Directory	Progress	Not done yet – will bring to meeting and see what people think
Hafod weekend	GK to send out information and handle booking	Progress	Gerry will bring booking info to meeting. Closing date will be 31st March.
Escape & Evasion	DESCs would discuss when they meet		Not heard anything
Theme park weekend	GR to arrange a meeting to discuss this and invite any interested Explorer Scouts from each District.		Not heard anything
Triathlon	GR to look into this and report back		Not heard anything
Scout Show	MB to look into suggested Scout Show in Flintshire and see if it could be opened up to Area		No interest in Flintshire – anyone else want to take this up?

Nant BH	JJ & CJ agreed to find out price from Nant BH and also look at alternatives.		Details circulated by email
Dee canoe tour	RC to contact canoeing permit holders to assess possibility		Not heard anything
Wales Teams & Forum	MB to attend Wales Team meeting and take our views, plus bring back feedback.		Mike attended – Mike, please bring feedback to meeting
Wales Teams & Forum	Moz to bring up Wales agendas with Simon Fairless and ask for more detailed agendas in future		Seems that there won't be any future Wales Team meetings anyway. Agenda circulated and includes 'disbanding of Teams'
DofE	Eric to discuss concerns re DofE with DESCs and Leaders in Vale of Clwyd		Has Eric spoke to DESCs? Big progress with eDofE – now running in Wales. Eric has advertised Intro to DofE course and Expedition Assessor course
DofE	Moz to include Expedition Assessors in Area ES Directory		Not done yet – will bring to meeting and see what people think
Unit websites	Units that don't have websites to invite their Explorer Scouts to create one and publish programme online. Bring web address to next meeting.		Not heard anything
Scout Network	Units to invite Freedom to visit their Unit so they can promote Network to ES		Has anyone done this? Wrexham launching a Queen's Scout Award group for 18-25s.