



Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

March 2009

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. Full minutes are attached should you wish to read them.

Moz

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Achievements & Actions – in order of action required

Subject	Achieved in meeting	Action points	Who	When by
Information sharing	Various bits of useful information were shared, detailed below.	Everyone to share this information where relevant.	All	As soon as possible
Jamboree	Identified that Leaders from North Wales were required to make a North Wales Unit viable	Any Leaders interested to contact Simon Fairless	Interested Leaders	As soon as possible
My backpack	Promoted My Backpack as a useful tool for Leaders & Explorers alike	Everyone to visit www.scouts.org.uk and register	All	As soon as possible
Wales Forum & Teams	Agreed who would attend from Clwyd	Those selected to attend meetings	Forum & Team reps	28th March
	Went through agendas to get reps our thoughts and opinions	Those attending to voice these thoughts and opinions	Forum & Team reps	28th March
More Explorer badges	Agreed that recognition of Explorer Scouts' participation in a balanced Unit programme should be looked at	Forum & Team reps to take to Wales meetings. Moz to contact Gilwell	Forum & Team reps Moz	28th March
Yr Hafod	Discussed the weekend taking place 17-19th June, £40, 24 places, £20 deposit by mid April	Everyone to share info and get deposits in to Gerry Kellett	All	Mid April
Orienteering	Agreed that a Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Challenge Trophy should be initiated for the Orienteering and all future suitable Area Explorer events	Purchase trophy	Lyndsey	25th April
Night hike	Agreed what we wanted from the Night hike	Mark to take account of these	Mark	27/28 June
Explorer Leader training	Identified problem with bias against Explorer Scouting in some courses	Pat Royle to look at how courses may not suit Explorer Scout Leaders' needs and improve	Pat	Next CAESF – 3rd Nov
	Identified that weekend courses were problematic with Leaders working	Courses not to be on Saturday and Sunday, either or	Pat	When planning next dates
	Agreed that separate course for ESLs would be useful	Gordon to work with Pat and others to arrange course	Gordon, Pat, others?	Next CAESF
DofE	Discussed how to share aspects of Award – mainly expeditions	Spare places/bodies required on expeditions to be advertised on Clwyd website Explorer pages	All	When doing expeditions
	Identified need for Assessors course	Course to be arranged	DESCs/Eric Gardner	Next expedition season
Numbers	Identified a gap in publicizing Scouting in schools & colleges	Look at how we can better sell Scouting in schools & colleges	Moz	Next CAESF

Information Sharing

Things that were mentioned in the meeting that you may need to know about...

- Area Explorer Scout dates:
 - Orienteering – 25th April, poster attached
 - Night Hike – 27/28th June
 - Yr Hafod weekend – 19th-21st July
- External activity providers now at www.clwydscouts.org.uk/activities
- DofE skills available at Coxwood campsite and bellringing (contact Gordon R), and journalism based in Prestatyn (contact Moz)
- Information on Wales Explorer Scout website – www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers – including
 - World Scout Jamboree
 - Team X dates
 - AWESOME
- Welsh Scout Council have a sailing gig that was available to all Units. Please contact Roger if you are interested.
- The Snowdon Dragon is a gruelling expedition over the mountains of Snowdonia over the New Year period. Details are on the Yr Hafod website.

Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

*Minutes of a meeting held at the Gladstone Centre
on Wednesday 18th March 2009z*

Present

David Morris, AAC (Communications), Clwyd; **Mark Jones**, ASNC, Clwyd; **Adam Farquhar**, Explorer Scout, Hawarden; **Ian Kerrod**, ESL, Hawarden; **Andrew Barkley**, Explorer Scout, 2R ESU; **Gerry Kellett**, DESC, Llangollen; **Richard Rogers**, AESL, Penycae; **Jack Knight**, Explorer Scout, Penycae; **Eddie Curtis**, Explorer Scout, K2 ESU; **Danny Roberts**, Explorer Scout, K2 ESU; **Suzie Gregory**, Explorer Scout, Llangollen Dragons; **Gavin Scott**, Explorer Scout, Llangollen Dragons; **Paul Curtis**, ESL, Cross County ESU; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Jo Gregory**, ESL(YL), Llangollen; **Phil Hughes**, ESL, Mynydd Isa

Apologies

Atlas ESU; Saltney Ferry ESU; Lyndsey Hampson, 2R ESU

Explanation of abbreviations: AAC = Assistant Area Commissioner; ESU = Explorer Scout Unit; ESL = Explorer Scout Leader; DESC = District Explorer Scout Commissioner; DESA = District Explorer Scout Administrator; ASNC = Area Scout Network Commissioner

Last meeting

Moz said that rather than waste people's time reading out updates from the last meeting, these updates had been sent out to everyone with the notification of this meeting. Everyone was asked if they had anything to bring up, which wasn't to be covered in tonight's agenda. No-one did.

Wales Explorer Scout Forum & Team

It was agreed that Danny and Andrew would attend the Wales Explorer Scout Forum meeting on the 28th March. It was explained that the planned weekend had been postponed until the autumn, and that it'd just be a regular meeting.

We went through the agenda of the Wales Explorer Scout Forum meeting so that Danny and Andrew could properly represent Clwyd's views:

- Blackwell Court weekend – all present welcomed an activity weekend in autumn at which the Wales Forum members could get to know each other better before the actual meeting. It was suggested that team building activities and presentation skills would be useful activities
- Team X – several people said that dates for 2009 weekends weren't available, and called for more information on what was happening. At the previous Wales meeting it was asked that should funding dry up would Young Leaders be willing to pay towards the cost of weekends. It was thought that they would.
- Health Challenge Wales – hardly anyone knew about this despite it being publicized in Clwyd to every Leader in Hotliner and widely on the Clwyd website. It was asked why nothing was on the Scouts Wales website. Roger has an information sheet on the award and the Area Commissioner has the badges.

- AWESOME – most people knew about AWESOME, the All Wales Explorer Scout camp, and were interested. Asked what activities they'd like the Explorers said 'something different'.
- Children's University – it was felt that more information was needed on this, but some round the table were aware of it.
- AOB – Suzie asked for more information to be provided on what the Chief Scout does. It was pointed out that he has a regular page in Scouting magazine, but this just goes to adults. How do young people – the Scouts – find out. It was suggested that he should have a Chief Scouts blog.

Area Explorer Scout Night Hike*

Mark said that we had a date and venue for the Area Explorer Scout Night Hike. It would take place on the 27th/28th June and be centred on Rowallan Scout HQ in Hope. There were requests for an incident type hike and also a speed hike. It was thought that both could be offered using the same checkpoints. It was felt to be a good idea to have teams of four, made up of 2 pairs from the same Unit.

Yr Hafod mountain weekend*

Gerry Kellett had made a provisional booking for the 17-19 July. Places would be limited to 24 at a cost of £40 all in. Gerry thought it'd be a good idea for deposits to be with him by mid-April.

More Explorer Scout badges*

It was felt by some Leaders that Explorer Scouts got no recognition for taking part in a regular Unit night programme. The Awards in Explorers are the DofE and the Activity Badges. The former mostly takes place outside Unit nights with only expedition being covered in Explorers, and the later were mostly too difficult to complete on a Unit night.

Some felt that something like the Challenge Badges in the first three Sections would encourage Units to run, and Explorer Scouts to participate in, a balanced Unit night programme.

A discussion took place on the best ways in which to show recognition. The options were: 1) badges like the Challenge Badges, 2) certificates for participation in each Programme Zone, 3) making the Activity badges easier and more closely aligned with the Programme Zones. While agreement was not reached on what would be the best method, all were agreed that something should be done.

This would be taken to the Wales Forum & Team meetings, and Gilwell Park would be advised of our concern.

World Scout Jamboree*

Everyone knew about the upcoming Jamboree in Sweden in 2011. It was announced that there were fears that Leaders hadn't come forward from North Wales to provide leadership for a North Wales Jamboree Unit. A plea was made for anyone interested to come forwards.

Questions were asked about how to get involved in the IST (International Service Team). Gordon explained the procedure, and that there was sometimes an IST Tour after the Jamboree to neighbouring countries.

Explorer Scout Leader Training*

Pat Royle, Area Training Manager, had requested that this was placed on the agenda as she was concerned that not many Explorer Scout Leaders were taking part in training courses. It was felt that quite a few ESLs were taking part, but that there was concern that some of the courses were biased towards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Gordon suggested that a course was held for Explorer Scout Leaders, covering areas specific to Explorer Scouting. He said he'd be willing to run such a course. There was broad agreement that such a course would be a good idea.

It was pointed out that some Leaders can't do Saturday and Sunday courses, so flexibility is required. Weekend courses are definitely a problem.

Not all Leaders have Training Advisors.

My Backpack*

Gordon asked how many Leaders were aware of My Backpack, the online membership database at scouts.org.uk. He went on to explain the usefulness of the website and explained that Explorer Scouts can log in, not just Leaders. In the future he said that more and more useful features would be added, such as award record keeping for young people. In Wrexham he'd just started to add details of all Explorer Scouts.

DofE Award*

Ian Kerrod asked if it was possible to share aspects of the running of the DofE Award. It was felt that expeditions are the most 'shareable' parts of the Award as the other sections are individual efforts. There is a facility on the Explorer pages of the Clwyd website to share expeditions should any Unit not have enough Explorers to make up an expedition group, or have spaces in their group where others could join.

Following on from the DofE course, it was announced that assessor training was to be put on as soon as possible.

Area Explorer Scout Orienteering day*

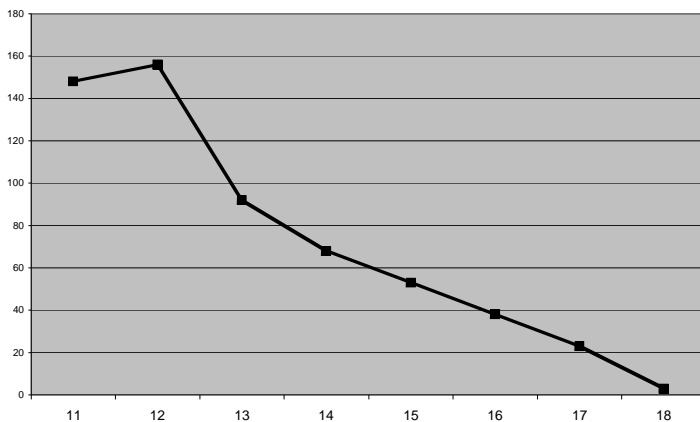
Details of the Area Orienteering had been sent out with the notification of this meeting. A poster will be attached to these minutes, and everyone is encouraged to bring as many Explorers and Leaders as possible.

Lyndsey Hampson, who was organising the event, had suggested introducing a trophy, but rather than having this just for the orienteering thought it would be a good idea to use the trophy for all suitable Area Explorer Scout events, and call it the Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Challenge Trophy. Everyone thought this was a great idea.

Numbers*

Moz distributed some graphs, and example of which is shown below – numbers of Scouts & Explorers in Clwyd in 2008.

He said it showed quite a drop off of numbers as members get older and asked what could be done to prevent this.



Many agreed that this was just a natural effect of people getting older, finding different things to do, parental influence lessening etc.

Everyone agreed the number one thing that kept people coming to Explorers and Scouts was a good programme, but it was asked if there was anything else we could do.

Eddie asked if we couldn't do more to publicise Scouting in schools & colleges, adding that during his entire time in school no-one had ever come in to talk about what was on offer in Scouting.

Most Explorers said that given support they'd be willing to help publicise Scouting in their schools and colleges. Moz said that as AAC Communications this is something he'd look into.

Next meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd November at 7.30 at Gladstone.

*agenda item suggested on night