



## Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum November 2008

### Improvements

After the meeting I thought of a few things that could be improved for next time:

- Agenda item ideas – while I still think it's a good idea (tell me if you disagree) to write the agenda on the night, the use of lots of sheets of A4 isn't really a good way of doing this, and next time I think a flip chart would be better with people writing all the things they want to discuss on one sheet of A1 as they come in.
- Attendance sign in – while using a laptop is a lot more legible than a sign-in sheet, it took far too long, so I'll abandon this for next time and return to a normal sheet of paper.
- Updates – I feel it's really important to use meetings for discussing things rather than someone just reading information out, this can be done via email/website/letters. At the last meeting however, I spent quite a bit of time just reading out the action point updates from last time. Next time I'll just send these updates out with the joining instructions for people to read before. If anyone has anything to bring up from these, fine, but I think it's a waste of your time listening to me read stuff out!
- Getting things done – there were a few topics that we just talked around but never agreed anything or thought of something that could be done. I feel this is a waste of time and something that needs tighter control of next time. The Forum should be about getting things done, not somewhere for a nice chat!
- Importance of Action Points over minutes – while full minutes are good for those that didn't attend the meeting, a list of concrete action points decided at the meeting are better for most others, hence their place at the start of this letter, with minutes following on.

Let me know if you disagree with any of the above, or have any other ideas on how we can improve things.

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### Achievements & Actions

Subject	Achieved in meeting	Action points	Who	When
<b>Information sharing</b>	Various bits of useful information were shared, detailed below.	Everyone to share this information where relevant.	All	As soon as possible
<b>DofE Award</b>	Discussed how to use DofE training day to best advantage of all	All Leaders to attend day on 15th February in Llangollen. Let Roger Cragg know you're coming.	Leaders	Before 15th February
	Agreed to hold follow up to training day	Arrange DofE meeting for Leaders to discuss running the Award in Clwyd after training day	Leaders that attend training day	15th February
	Identified options for those struggling to find a skill	Contact Gordon R about Coxwood or bell ringing, or Moz about journalism in Prestatyn	ESLs or Explorers	Ongoing
	Identified issue of Explorers who feel pressured to do DofE which may put them off Explorers	Ensure Explorers are made aware that DofE is optional, that not all Sections need to be done, and that there is no rush to complete the Award.	ESLs running DofE	Ongoing
<b>Area events</b>	Agreed that Gladstonbury would from now on be held in September and alternate with AWESOME, so the next would be in September 2010.	Chair to make sure brought up at future meetings	Chair	Next meeting

<b>Area events cont/d</b>	Agreed that Area Explorer Scout Night hike would be arranged by Clwyd Network	Network to arrange Area Explorer Night hike	Mark Jones	February 2009
	Agreed that we'd like an Explorer weekend at Yr Hafod	Gerry Kellett to book and let Moz know details. Moz to send information out.	Gerry K Moz	February 2009
	Agreed that we'd like an Area orienteering day	Lyndsey to organize and let people know if she needs help	Lyndsey H	April 2009
	Agreed that we'd like some sort of disco for Explorers	Form a small group of Explorers to look into organising this. Those interested to contact Moz.	Interested Explorers	March 2009
	Agreed that we'd like a camp/expedition swap section on the Clwyd website	Create page	Moz	January 2009
<b>Scout Network links</b>	Identified that Mark doesn't have information about older Explorer Scouts.	Mark to contact DESAs, Districts to make sure databases up to date and cooperate with Mark	Mark Jones DESAs DESCs	March 2009
	Identified that Explorer Scouts want to do Explorer Belt and this would be best done together with Network	Look into how this could be done best	Mark Jones	Next meeting
<b>Young Leaders</b>	Identified that still didn't have answer about funding from Wales for local Young Leader training	Contact Simon Fairless	Moz	March 2009
	Identified concern about Young Leaders without Module A being put off Team X	Ask Simon Fairless if this can be addressed	Moz	March 2009
<b>Explorer Forums</b>	Agreed that future Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forums would take place before Wales Explorer Scout Forum and Team meetings.			
	Identified representatives to attend Wales Forum weekend.	Ensure Welsh Scout Council knows who these are	Moz	January 2009
<b>Skills database</b>	Identified some companies that provide activities suitable for Explorers	Put in Hotliner & on Clwyd website	Moz	Completed
		Let Moz know if anyone knows of others	Everyone	Ongoing

## Information Sharing

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

- **WORLD JAMBOREE – details of how to get involved attached** also on Scouts Wales website
- External activity providers now at [www.clwydscouts.org.uk/activities](http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk/activities)
- DofE training day for those running Award on 15th February in Llangollen Scout HQ
- DofE skills available at Coxwood campsite and bell ringing (contact Gordon R), and journalism based in Prestatyn (contact Moz)
- Information on Wales Explorer Scout website – [www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers](http://www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers) – including
  - World Scout Jamboree
  - Team X dates
  - AWESOME
- Welsh Scout Council has 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 Tuesday 11th November 2008

### Present

**David Morris**, AAC (Communications), Clwyd; **Mark Jones**, ASNC, Clwyd; **Ollie Morris**, Explorer Scout, K2 ESU; **Danny Roberts**, Explorer Scout, K2 ESU (attended Wales Explorer Scout Forum meeting representing Clwyd); **Rebecca Alger**, Explorer Scout, K2 ESU (attended Wales Explorer Scout Forum meeting representing Clwyd); **Jo Gregory**, AESL, Llangollen Dragons ESU; **Suzie Gregory**, Explorer Scout, Llangollen Dragons ESU; **Gavin Scott**, Explorer Scout, Llangollen Dragons ESU; **Richard Harris**, Explorer Scout, Cross County ESU; **Adam Gardner**, ESL, K2 ESU; **Roger Tookey**, ESL, Johnstown ESU; **Jack Knight**, Explorer Scout, Penrycae ESU; **Gavin Manuel**, Explorer Scout, Penrycae ESU; **Sion Davies**, ESL, Penrycae ESU; **Richard Rogers**, ESL, Penrycae ESU; **Jill Lewis**, ESL(YL), Wrexham; **Russell Wyn-Thomas**, AESL, Atlas ESU; **Jonny Lister**, Explorer Scout, Atlas ESU; **Sam Taylor**, Explorer Scout, 2r-ESU; **Andrew Barley**, Explorer Scout, 2r-ESU; **Phil Hughes**, ESL, Mynydd Isa ESU; **Daniel Spencer**, Explorer Scout, Mynydd Isa ESU; **Tomos Griffiths**, Explorer Scout, Mynydd Isa ESU; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Rob Benyon**, GSL, Saltney Ferry; **Jonathan Bellis**, Explorer Scout, Saltney Ferry; **Gerry Kellett**, DESC, Llangollen; **Roger Cragg**, DC, Llangollen

### Apologies

Mike & Sheila Dawson, Bwlchgwyn ESU; Phil Houghton, Hawarden ESU; Gordon Goodwin, Kinnerton ESU; Lyndsey Hampson, 2r-ESU; Anne-Marie Roberts, DESA, Wrexham; Neil Blackman, Bishop's Own 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 went through the Action Points from the last meeting and reported progress made:

**Links between Explorer Scouts and Scout Network** – Mark was new in post and did not have any details of older Explorer Scouts. It was agreed that he'd contact DESAs for the relevant details.

**Skills database** – Not had much success identifying 'buy-in activities'. Roger C mentioned a company called Pro-Adventure who offer 9% off for Scouts, and Moz told everyone about Plas Power Adventure. Moz would put information on website and in *Hotliner*. Area Management Team had been asked about approaching companies to offer discounts and it had turned out that the Local Development Officer, Mark Winson, had made an approach to Plas Power Adventure, but as a partnership where they promote Scouting to their members, if we promote their company to our members. Gerry K had made inroads with a Clwyd Explorer weekend at Yr Hafod and would follow this up for spring 2009.

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award** – A module is being put on for Explorer Leaders etc to know how to run and assess DofE. It's at Llangollen Scout HQ on Sunday, 15 February 2009, 09:30 – 15:00. Please indicate to Roger Cragg if you wish to attend. Moz said that several newspaper articles have been placed requesting individuals or clubs who could run skills training for Explorer Scouts doing the Skills section of their DofE, but had not received many offers, just one in fact from a journalist in Prestatyn. Gordon R said that Coxwood Campsite in Wrexham offered a variety of Skills training suitable for DofE. Gerry K said that the new Volunteering section could be a problem for some as things like the Fire Service are no longer eligible.

**Nant BH weekend and Denbigh & Flint Show** – it was noted that both of these events had gone ahead and been very successful. Thanks to those that put them on.

**Young Leader Training** – Jill L had run a session at Motiv8 which was successful

**Area Events** – Explorer Scouts had been asked if they wanted a Gladstonbury in 2009 and they said yes. Wrexham's Theme Park weekend was now just a day to Blackpool on 31st October and is initially just for Wrexham, but may be opened up. Nobody had come forward to run the Area Explorer Night Hike so Mark said that Network would run it.

**Funding** – Moz had contacted Simon Fairless (Wales Commissioner for Explorer Scouts) about funding for YL training but hadn't heard anything yet. He would follow this up

### Report back from Wales Explorer Scout Forum

Danny and Rebecca reported back on the Wales Forum:

- Team X dates are out for 2009 (available at [scoutswales.org.uk/explorers](http://scoutswales.org.uk/explorers))

- The Explorers Wales website is up and running - take a look! ([scoutswales.org.uk/explorers](http://scoutswales.org.uk/explorers))
- AWESOME, the all Wales Explorer camp is happening September 11th-13th
- World Scout Jamboree information is out (attached to these minutes)
- All Wales Forum weekend on 28th March, 4 places are available. It was agreed that Danny and Rebecca should attend this, plus Suzie and Andrew who'd initially volunteered to go to last Forum
- Communication was going to go direct to Units
- WES the Snail was to be resurrected on the website

## Report back from Wales Explorer Scout Team

Gordon reported back on the Wales Forum:

- Team X dates are not yet set in stone. Four weekends, one in each 'corner' of Wales.
- Two activity weekends being put on, one for Team X members, one for Explorer Scout Leaders
- May have to pay for future Team X weekends, no more than £20
- Team X business cards were given out
- Team X branded clothing now available to all via website
- AWESOME taking place at Glanusk park
- There was going to be an attempt to get more media involvement in Explorer Scouting in Wales
- Guidelines are available for those wishing to start an Explorer Scout Unit

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award\*

There was discussion about how Units operated the Award in Clwyd.

Most were running the Award successfully. Some had had issues with Explorers feeling pressured into doing Award so it was thought that it's a good idea to make it clear that it's optional, that they don't have to do all sections, and that they have until they are 25 to do it.

Gordon R said that essentially Explorer Scouts should concentrate on Bronze. If they get Silver it's a bonus, and they should forget about Gold until in Network.

Some Explorer Scouts still struggling to find Skills to do.

The DofE training day was discussed and welcomed. Some suggested a meeting to follow up after the training for Leaders to talk about the Award. It was also suggested that if anyone has any specific questions they should get these to Roger before the training day so they can be addressed.

It was thought that the new resources were good and value for money.

## Team X\*

The issue of getting application forms signed to say that Young Leaders had done Module A was discussed. Some thought this may put off Explorer Scouts who didn't have access to Young Leader training at all, and that they whole point of Team X was to deliver training to those who's Districts didn't provide it. Moz would contact Simon Fairless.

The reason for the signature was that Team X had been getting people on courses who weren't Young Leaders. It was thought perhaps just a signature from the Section Leader that the YL works with would be enough.

## Gladstonbury 2009\*

Initially it was thought that they date of early July was about right, but there was concern that this clashed with Sun Run or Gilwell 24 and that several Units wished to attend these. Finally it was agreed that Gladstonbury should be held in September every other year alternating with AWESOME, and therefore the next Gladstonbury would be September 2010 (avoiding clashes with canoeing and sailing if possible).

## Scout Network links\*

Mark said he hoped to get more Explorer Scouting and Network working together. The new Network programme was online now. Network could help Explorers turning 18 settle in to university. Mark said he saw Network doing lots of activities abroad and adventurous activities and get away from their image of just going to lots of parties. He also said Network was an ideal opportunity for Explorers to continue their DofE work, and also Network members who had their Queen's Scout Award/DofE Gold could mentor Explorer Scouts working on Bronze or Silver.

Suzie said that Explorer Scouts were interested in doing their Explorer Belt and asked if Network could help. Mark said this is something that could be looked into.

It was asked how Explorer Scouts join Network. Mark said that the membership form was available on the Clwyd Network website ([clwydscouts.org.uk/network](http://clwydscouts.org.uk/network)), or they could contact him. Membership fees for Network members who were also Leaders were free this year and hopefully for the future.

## **Area events\***

**Night Hike** – Network to sort this out

**Yr Hafod** – Gerry K to sort out

**Orienteering** – Lyndsey Hampson had volunteered to arrange an event for Clwyd Explorers. It was felt this would be best in Saturday daytime

**Expedition/Camp Swap** – this was available on the Wales website. Could we do it in Clwyd? Moz will look at putting this on the Explorers page of the Clwyd website

**Themed Disco** – it was suggested that there be some sort of disco for all Explorers in Clwyd, maybe hiring a floor of a nightclub. It was agreed that a small group of Explorers should be identified to sort this.

## **Explorer Scout Forums\***

Districts were asked who held Forums. Llangollen, Flintshire and Wrexham all did, Vale of Clwyd didn't. Everyone thought it was a good idea to get feedback and information.

One issue that was identified was those who attended the Wales Forum didn't properly represent the Area as they hadn't met with Area Forum before Wales Forum. A discussion was held about whether it was better to hold Area Forum before or after Wales Forum. The benefits of holding it afterwards were to feedback to Area what had been discussed at Wales, but the problem was Area wasn't able to feed up to Wales.

It was finally agreed that the next Area Forum meeting would be held before the Wales Forum, but that we needed to have the agendas for the Wales Team and Forums before the Area Forum so we knew what to discuss.

## **The Register\***

Wrexham District said they were considering starting a thing called 'The Register' – a list of Scouts in the District that would be offered activities and events. The idea was that the Scouts would want to sign up to get what was on offer, and at the same time the District would get their details so they'd know who to contact when they reached 14.

The other Districts didn't feel that 'knowing who their Scouts were' was an issue so this was left for Wrexham to get on with, and was a matter for individual Districts.

## **Any other business**

Roger mentioned that the Welsh Scout Council have a sailing gig that was available to all Units. Please contact Roger if you are interested. Information would go out via Hotliner.

The Snowdon Dragon was mentioned. This is a gruelling expedition over the mountains of Snowdonia over the New Year period. Details are on the Yr Hafod website.

Gordon mentioned that he was available to help Explorers who wanted to do bell ringing as a DofE Skill.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30 at Gladstone.

\*agenda item suggested on night