



## Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum November 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. 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
<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>My Backpack</b>	Promoted use of My Backpack to record Explorer Scouts' details	Enter Explorer Scouts details at <a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk">www.scouts.org.uk</a> – need to log in	All	As soon as possible
<b>Unit programmes</b>	Agreed that it'd be useful for Units to share programmes to get ideas from them	Units to advertise their programmes to whole Area	All	As soon as possible
		Area for Unit programmes to be set up on Clwyd website	Moz	Done
		Set up online document store and circulate details	GR	As soon as possible
<b>Wales Team &amp; Forum</b>	Agreed what views we wanted to feed into Wales Team & Forum	GR, MB and two Explorer Scouts to bring the points from the minutes below up at Team/Forum	GR, MB, ES reps	14th November
<b>DofE</b>	Agreed that ScoutsWales has been lacking in running DofE in Wales.	Bring this up at Wales Team & Forum meetings	GR, MB, ES reps	14th November
	Agreed that Clwyd should better coordinate expedition weekends to help assessment	Districts to communicate with each other expedition dates	GK, GR, MB, LH	Exped season 2010
<b>Area events</b>	Agreed Yr Hafod weekend should become annual event	Book Yr Hafod and send out information	GK	December 31st
	Agreed that GIAdStOnBuRy should return combined with challenge night hike	Need to identify a planning team	GK, GR, MB, LH	November 30th
		Information out to Units	GK, GR, MB, LH	December 31st
<b>Explorer Scout Records Challenge</b>	Explorer Scout Records Challenge laid down to Units in Clwyd!	Have a go at records	All	December 31st
<b>Team X</b>	Agreed that a Young Leader training weekend should be run for Clwyd	Arrange weekend	GR, RWT, JG	Next meeting
<b>Public relations</b>	Identified lack of knowledge about Young Spokespeople and lack of Units promoting themselves	YSPs to tour Units to talk about their role and PR in Units	DM & YSPs	Next meeting
<b>Recognition</b>	Identified two methods to recognise participation in Unit	Develop Youth University modules	GR	Ongoing

<b>of participation</b>	programmes – Youth University by Glyndŵr University, and K2's Explorer Scout Challenge awards			
		Put Challenge awards on Clwyd website for other Units to use	Moz	As soon as possible
<b>ESL training</b>	Agreed to put on skills training for Explorer Scout Leaders	Arrange training	GR	Autumn meeting

## Information Sharing

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

- Area Explorer Scout dates:
  - GIAdStOnBuRy – 12th-14th March (provisional – will email as soon as is certain)
  - Yr Hafod weekend – 25-27 June (provisional – will email as soon as is certain)
- Not mentioned at the meeting (sorry, forgot) – Mark Jones has stepped down as Area Scout Network Commissioner, and this position is currently vacant. For enquiries about the Scout Network contact the Area Commissioner, or if you're in Flintshire contact Hannah Dooley who is operating an active Network there.
- Cambrian Railway looking for volunteers - suitable for DofE volunteering section. It will be in the Oswestry area. Contact Gordon Richardson for more info.
- Wrexham were running YL Module A on Tuesday 10th November, and Module K on January 9th. Wrexham first, but if there were spaces it'll be opened up to the rest of the Area. Contact Jill Lewis.

## Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

### Minutes of a meeting held at the Gladstone Centre on Tuesday 3rd November 2009

#### Present

**David Morris**, AAC (Communications), Clwyd; **Gerry Kellett**, DESC, Llangollen; **Leslie Morris**, ES, Penycae ESU; **Sion Davies**, ESL, Penycae ESU; **Jo Gregory**, ESL, Llangollen Dragons ESU; **Roger Cragg**, DC, Llangollen; **Suzie Gregory**, ES, Llangollen Dragons ESU; **Mike Bowen**, DESC, Flintshire; **Gordon Goodwin**, ESL, Kinnerton ESU; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Jill Lewis**, ESL(YL), Wrexham; **Russell Wyn-Thomas**, AESL, Atlas ESU; **Dean Edwards**, AESL, K2 ESU; **Sam Sawin**, ES, K2 ESU; **Gavin Scott**, ES, Llangollen Dragons.

#### Apologies

Lyndsey Hampson, ESL, 2R ESU; Graham Bishop, DESA, Flintshire

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

An update on actions from the last meeting had sent out before the meeting (attached at end for reference)

Comments on the this update not discussed later in the meeting were as follows:

**Yr Hafod** – GK said that he was disappointed that the Yr Hafod weekend was poorly supported, just 13 attendees when there was a capacity of 24, however still felt that the event was a success for those that attended and suggested making it an annual event. It was felt that this could be a successful event and agreed that another weekend would be planned by GK for the 25-27 June (depending on availability).

GK said that Penycae Scout Group had incurred a £40 loss over the last event. Moz said that Area had promised to underwrite the event and so they should be reimbursed.

**My backpack** – MB said that the new DESA for Flintshire would be inputting all Explorer Scouts' details onto My Backpack before the next Census. Moz encouraged all Districts and Units to do likewise.

**ESL training** – GR said that he'd been too busy to look at this, but was looking at putting on a course, even if it was just to give skills training for ESLs.

**Blackpool trip** – GR said that the 2009 trip that had been planned by Wrexham District had been cancelled due to lack of numbers, but asked if a repeat in 2010 would be attractive to the rest of the Area. There was a lukewarm response to this.

## Wales Explorer Scout Forum & Team

GR would be attending the Wales Scout Team on November 14th, MB was still waiting to find out if he was able to go. None of the Explorer Scouts present were able to attend the Wales Explorer Scout Forum, two would need to be found.

We went through the agenda of the Wales Explorer Scout Team and Forum meetings so that those attending could properly represent Clwyd's views:

- AWESOME 2009 – covered later in this meeting
- All Wales Award – covered later in this meeting
- World Jamboree – JG said that the deadline for applications *may* be extended due to the postal strike, but hadn't heard for certain, in fact she'd heard very little information. 40 young people attended the three information evenings held in North Wales and she was confident that the 27 places would be filled. GR said that Pete Hughes had been appointed IST coordinator for Wales. GS said that he thought that even though the Units were geographically located this time, it'd still be a good idea for Wales participants to meet before the Jamboree. JG said this would happen at the last training weekend.
- Project proposals for 2010 and beyond – a discussion on AWESOME later in the meeting brought up the idea of a National Centre, similar to Gilwell Park, Yowlbury and Hawkhurst, should be developed in Wales, either by ScoutsWales or by the Scout Association. This would help events such as AWESOME as the infrastructure and activities would already be in place.
- Communication between ScoutsWales and Districts – (Forum agenda) the Explorer Scouts around the table said they received no information at all from Wales. The never visited the ScoutsWales website due to the lack of updates, and felt that the use of something like Facebook may help improve communications. GS suggested that Districts or Area may be able to help by passing on information direct to Explorer Scouts together with other local information – this was due to information from Wales being so rare.

## AWESOME\*

Comments from the Forum were as follows:

- There should have been more time spent on subcamps and better subcamp activities
- Each subcamp should have had a central area where Explorers could have gone to mix
- The subcamps were too spread out making the camp feel empty
- Not enough activities
- Poor signposting of activities – didn't know what was on offer
- Clashed with the North Wales Water Weekend
- Sports games were a one off – better as a tournament to introduce competition and excitement
- Was a *good* camp – but we expect camps at Wales level to be *great* camps
- With all the fantastic countryside surrounding the site, why didn't we get out and utilise it?
- Concern about the effect on reputation of future AWESOMES

## Team X\*

The view of the Forum was "what Team X" – there was concern that it was no longer operating. We'd been told that courses would return depending on funding being found, but the meeting had said a while ago that Explorer Scouts would be willing to pay. It was felt that Simon Fairless was too busy to run Team X due to World Jamboree etc and should appoint someone else to run it.

It was felt that a Team X style weekend should be put on in Clwyd. SG said that she enjoyed the one she'd attended that had a James Bond theme and thought that a theme makes the weekend better. Venues proposed were Gladstone, Ty Clwyd and Broneirion. GR, RWT and JG said they'd help run it.

## Clwyd events\*

After discussion it was decided that the proposed Area night hike could be merged with the return of GIAdStOnBuRy. Explorers could camp over on the Friday night, perhaps do some activities on the Saturday day time, then do the night hike on the Saturday night.

It was thought that the hike should have a theme, and be a challenge event with incidents, and 'police' who if they caught teams would arrest them and take them off route. A blind drop was also suggested.

No agreement was reached on who would arrange this, but a date of 12-14th March was suggested.

LH had sent a message saying she'd be willing to organise an Area wide game. It was thought this was similar to what we were trying to achieve through GIAdStOnBuRy, but her offer of help would be welcome for that event.

## **DofE\***

GR updated the meeting on the progress of eDofE – on online system that allows participants to update their progress through the Award and Leaders to keep in touch with how they're doing. Apparently eDofE has to be sponsored by the Operating Authority, in our case ScoutsWales, and they are currently renewing their licence due to oversights over the last few years.

The meeting were very concerned that ScoutsWales had let the situation get to this stage, and it was asked what the DofE Advisor for Wales actually does. Those who had contact with Local Authorities operating the Award had access to development officers, people who actually go out and promote the Award. It was felt that in Wales all we get is distribution of the books by the Office in Llantwit. The DofE Advisor had recently run a course, but only after being requested. It was felt that they should be more proactive. It was felt that the recent Expedition Assessor Accreditation courses were put on by people other than ScoutWales, and if it had been left to them nothing would have happened.

JG asked if ScoutsWales could provide an up to date list of Accredited Expedition Assessors in Wales for use by Explorer Scout Units running expeditions.

It was thought that Districts should be operating a joined up approach to expeditions so that Assessors could assess several expeditions at the same time, and to avoid overstretching them.

GK said that the role of Area DofE Advisor seemed redundant due to books being supplied by the Office, but that a more pro-active Wales Advisor could make use of Area Advisors to help promote the award, organise training etc.

## **Public Relations\***

Moz said that three Explorer Scouts from Clwyd had recently attended a Young Spokespeople course in Cardiff, and that several others had attended previous courses. He asked how we could better use these YSPs and what Units were doing to promote themselves to an external audience.

After discussion it was agreed that the existing YSPs would visit all the Units in Clwyd to talk about their role, and help Units promote themselves.

## **Unit Programmes\***

It was asked whether Units plan their programmes ahead, or just think of something each week. All present said that they plan ahead, usually termly. It was asked if they advertise their programme to those outside their Units, and most said they didn't. Moz asked if it'd be an advantage if Units shared their programmes with each other which would help with idea generation. It was agreed that this would be useful. Moz said he'd set up an area on the Clwyd website, and GR said he'd set up an online document storage area and send out details.

## **Recognition for Unit night participation\***

Following on from previous discussions regarding current Explorer Scout badges not recognising participation in a normal Unit night programme, the meeting discussed the Youth University and a proposed award scheme from K2 ESU.

GR said that Glyndŵr University in Wrexham run a scheme that may recognise participation in an Explorer Scout programme, which would go towards formal qualifications. He is in discussion with Glyndŵr about writing suitable modules. It was thought that this scheme could be open to any Explorer Scouts in Wales. Watch this space!

RWT also pointed out that Young Leaders can be recognised by the Millennium Volunteers scheme.

Moz said that K2 had come up with a list of challenges based on the Scout Section Challenge badges that other Units are free to use to recognise Unit night participation.

## **Explorer Scout Records Challenge\***

K2 ESU laid down a challenge to all other Units in Clwyd to take part in a list of record attempts. A handout was given out and most Units said that they'd have a go. It was agreed that they winning Unit would become holders of the Clwyd Explorer Scout Challenge Trophy, currently held by Cross County ESU for the Orienteering.

## **Any other business**

GR said that he'd been approached by the Cambrian Railway who were looking for volunteers. It was thought this would be suitable for DofE volunteering section. It will be in the Oswestry area. Contact Gordon for more info.

JL said that Wrexham were running YL Module A on Tuesday 10th November, and Module K on January 9th. It was Wrexham first, but if there were spaces it'd be opened up to the rest of the Area.

GK announced that Llangollen Explorers are running an Explorer Belt to Russia next year. Moz said that Clwyd were running one to Poland in 2011.

## Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting is on Thursday 25th February at 7.30 at Gladstone.

\*agenda item suggested on night

## Updates from last meeting

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Action point</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>Information Sharing</b>	Everyone to share information where relevant.	Did you pass things on? Hope so!
<b>Jamboree</b>	Any Leaders interested to contact Simon Fairless	Jo Gregory, Mark Jones, Helen Smith and Sue Lloyd successfully applied to be Jamboree Leaders.
		North Wales Unit formed for 27 Explorer Scouts. 3 parents info evenings held, lots of interest. Application forms handed out and due in soon.
<b>My backpack</b>	Everyone to visit <a href="http://www.scouts.org.uk">www.scouts.org.uk</a> and register both as adults and to add details of their Explorers online	Not noticed any Explorers being added on other than some in Wrexham District. Facility now for recording badges, and also activity permits of adults.
<b>Wales Forum &amp; Teams</b>	Those selected to attend meetings and voice thoughts and opinions of CAESF	Feedback from last Wales meetings at <a href="http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk/temp/teamforumfb.pdf">http://www.clwydscouts.org.uk/temp/teamforumfb.pdf</a>
<b>More Explorer badges</b>	Forum & Team reps to take to Wales meetings.	All Wales Award is on Wales Explorer Scout Team & Forum agendas – not sure what this is about though.
	Moz to contact Gilwell.	Moz contacted Gilwell and they have noted the request which will be looked at when they next review things.
		K2 ESU in Wrexham have come up with a suggested Explorer Scout Challenge badge – details attached.
<b>Yr Hafod</b>	Everyone to share info and get deposits in to Gerry Kellett	Event went ahead and was successful – thanks to Gerry Kellett
<b>Orienteering</b>	Purchase trophy for use in all Clwyd Explorer Scout challenge events	Trophy purchased – our Oscar! – and the orienteering went ahead successfully. Thanks to Lyndsey.
<b>Night hike</b>	Network to organise	Network came back and said they were unable to organise the event, which was cancelled.
<b>Explorer Leader training</b>	Pat Royle to look at how courses may not suit Explorer Scout Leaders' needs and improve	Pat's response: "During Module 16 Explorer leaders were pulled out of the general course and given specific section information. A module is a module and contains the underpinning knowledge for all leaders. This is getting to be quite an old chestnut now and I could do with some specific information – which modules, when did they attend and which leaders."
	Courses not to be on Saturday and Sunday, either or	Pat's response: "Most of the courses recently have been on evenings because leaders can't attend weekends, so again can we have some specifics please."
	Gordon to work with Pat and others to arrange separate course for Explorers	
<b>DofE</b>	Spare places/bodies required on expeditions to be advertised on Clwyd website Explorer pages	Nobody has contacted us about this.
	Expedition Assessor course to be arranged	Two courses run and attended by Leaders from Clwyd
<b>Numbers</b>	Look at how we can better sell Scouting in schools & colleges	Nothing done on this yet.