



Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

November 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
Unit Liaison	It was agreed that it'd be helpful to circulate a list of Explorer Scout Units and a contact for each one so that Units can talk to each other, share programme ideas, DofE dates etc	Produce an Area Explorer Scout Directory	Moz	By next meeting
Area events	Feedback from GK that Hafod weekend booked	GK to send out information and handle booking	GK	Spring/ Summer 2011
	Agreed that Escape & Evasion event was success and that it'd be run again	DESCs would discuss when they meet	GK, GR, MB	By next meeting
	Decided Blackpool theme park weekend was out. Agreed that this could be arranged by Explorer Scouts. Meeting to be held.	GR to arrange a meeting to discuss this and invite any interested Explorer Scouts from each District.	GR	Nov 2010
	GR volunteered to look at arranging a Triathlon event	GR to look into this and report back	GR	By next meeting
	Discovered that a Scout Show had been suggested in Flintshire	MB to look into suggested Scout Show in Flintshire and see if it could be opened up to Area	MB	By next meeting
	Looked at repeating the successful Nant BH weekend.	JJ & CJ agreed to find out price from Nant BH and also look at alternatives.	JJ & CJ	By next meeting
	Roger Cragg suggested a Clwyd canoeing day - maybe a Dee Tour	RC to contact canoeing permit holders to assess possibility	RC	By next meeting
Wales Team & Forum	Agreed who'd represent Clwyd at next Team meeting. Failed to nominate ES to go to Forum.	MB to attend Wales Team meeting and take our views, plus bring back feedback.	MB	Nov 13 2010
	Identified that agenda from Wales Team and Forum are often confusing with just a header which made it difficult for us at Area to discuss	Moz to bring this up with Simon Fairless and ask for more detailed agendas in future	Moz	End of year
DofE Award	Eric Gardner brought up concerns about the operation of the Award in Clwyd.	Eric to discuss this with DESCs and Leaders in Vale of Clwyd	Eric/ DESCs	By next meeting

	It was agreed that a list of Accredited Expedition Assessors would be circulated.	Moz to include in Area ES Directory	Moz	By next meeting
Unit Programmes	Not a lot of progress, but we looked at ways the Forum could help Units put on better programmes.	Units that don't have websites to invite their Explorer Scouts to create one and publish programme online. Bring web address to next meeting.	ESLs	By next meeting
Network	Found out about Freedom Network	Units to invite Freedom to visit their Unit so they can promote Network to ES	ESLs	ASAP

Information Sharing

- There are a couple of spaces on a DofE Gold canoe expedition with Llangollen - contact Jo Gregory for details
- Freedom Network - <http://www.freedom-network.kk5.org>
- Jamboree supporters' badge available £2 and polo shirts £10 from Jo Gregory

Clwyd Area Explorer Scout Forum

Minutes of a meeting held at the Gladstone Centre on Wednesday 3 November 2010

Present

David Morris, AAC (Communications), Clwyd; **Jan Jenkins**, ESL, 2R ESU, Vale of Clwyd; **Chaz Jenkins**, ESL, 2R ESU, Vale of Clwyd; **Mike Bowen**, DESC, Flintshire; **Gordon Richardson**, DESC, Wrexham; **Kitty Jones**, Explorer, Kinnerton, Flintshire; **Caroline Simpson**, Explorer, Kinnerton, Flintshire; **Ash Jones**, Explorer, Kinnerton, Flintshire; **Mike Hinze**, Explorer, Kinnerton, Flintshire; **Philip Rowlands**, Explorer, Kinnerton, Flintshire; **Dean Edwards**, AESL, K2 ESU, Wrexham; **Daniel Roberts**, Explorer, K2 ESU, Wrexham; **Suzie Gregory**, Explorer, Llangollen Dragons ESU, Llangollen; **Jo Gregory**, ESL, Llangollen Dragons, Llangollen; **Phil Hughes**, ESL, Mynydd Isa, Flintshire; **Tom Morris**, Network Leader, Freedom Scout Network

Apologies

Jill Lewis, Atlas ESU, Roger Cragg.

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, Unit Programmes & DofE dates: Not wasting any more time constantly asking for this to be done. Up to DESCs to get ESLs to update backpack, if Units want to send programmes in, they can.

It was suggested that if a list of Units in the Area with a contact for each was produced then Units would be able to communicate with each other to share programme ideas, DofE dates etc.

Hafod weekend: GK has booked Yr Hafod for a Clwyd mountaineering weekend for 14-16 October 2011.

Escape & Evasion: Good weekend. It was thought it was difficult for younger members - especially the map reading. The Explorers wanted to do it again. Some said the maps were rubbish, it was explained that this was the point! It was suggested that it should be run over a weekend or start earlier on the Saturday so that it could be run in the daylight as well as the night, perhaps with ES bivvying out in field before returning to pick up point in the morning.

It was agreed that the DESCs would meet up to discuss another E&E event.

Blackpool: GR said he'd received no feedback from Districts. Blackpool is out of the question as the season is at the end. The Forum discussed other options, including Alton Towers with a possible camp over at Kibblestone. It was agreed that this was something that could be arranged by Explorer Scouts. GR agreed to arrange a meeting and invite interested Explorer Scouts from each District.

Wales Team & Forums

The Forum worked through the agenda for the Wales Explorer Scout Team so that we could provide feedback to the upcoming Team meeting. An agenda for the Wales Explorer Scout Forum meeting had not been received.

It should be noted that it was not clear what several of the agenda items meant and it was thought it'd be better if an agenda item was not obvious then more information should be sent out with the agenda so that Areas could properly discuss.

AAC's Projects - we weren't sure what this meant

Moving in/Moving Out - This Forum has discussed this several times before and all views sent to Wales

Possible new format for Team Day - This Forum wanted to know what the proposals were before giving comment. It was thought that the Team Days were good, but there was a lot of concern about what happened to the views and decisions that were made at the Teams and Forums.

AWESOME - This Forum had given feedback on this before, but had heard rumours that moving AWESOME out of Wales was being considered and were against this. AWESOME should stay in Wales.

ScoutsWales Strategic Objectives - we didn't know what these were

Team X - we continue to call for this to be restarted

World Jamboree - we were unsure why this was on the agenda and what we were expected to say about it as everything was now in hand.

This forum was concerned that from the 5 action points from the last Wales Explorer Scout Team meeting none had been actioned.

Mike Bowen would be attending the Wales Explorer Scout Team representing Clwyd and would take the above views to the meeting. No Explorer Scouts present were available to attend.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Eric Gardner, DofE Advisor for Flintshire, addressed the Forum. He said that several Leaders had approached him with concern about the way that the DofE was being operated through Scouts Wales. He said that no Introduction to the Award courses were being run, and that the eDofE still hadn't been launched across Wales (while other Operating Authorities had been using it for 2 years).

He said that some Leaders had asked why Clwyd Scouts wasn't an operating authority, and that he'd discussed this with the Area Commissioner.

Moz suggested that this was something Eric needed to discuss separately with DESCs.

It was suggested that we circulated a list of Accredited Expedition Assessors as these were the only people who could assess expeditions now.

SG said there was a canoeing Gold expedition being run on 17-22 April and they were looking for a couple more to join them.

Area Events

The Forum had suggested holding a **Triathlon** type event at the previous meeting and this was discussed. GR said he had some ideas and would arrange this.

Also suggested at previous meeting was some sort of **Scout Show** organised by and put on by Explorer Scouts. Again, this was discussed. MB said that there had been suggestions of doing something like this in Flintshire and that he'd be willing to open it up to Area. It was suggested that those taking part could use this towards DofE as a skill.

Moz had been approached by an Explorer Scout who'd been on the **Nant BH** weekend that was put on by 2R ESU several years ago requesting that the weekend be repeated. JJ & CJ said they'd ask Nant BH for a price. It was suggested that other alternatives for such a residential activity weekend were available - Pro-Adventure and maybe using a Scout Activity Centre such as Great Tower.

Explorer Scouts from Wrexham had asked for more opportunities to do **joint nights with other Units**. It was thought that the production of an Area Explorer Scout directory would facilitate this.

Explorer Scout Unit Programmes

Moz said that sometimes meetings like this were taken over by planning events, thus increasing the number of weekend events in an already busy calendar, and what we should be doing as well/instead was helping Units put on top quality Monday night programmes.

Units were asked whether they planned programmes over a long term, or 'winged it' each week. No Units present admitted to the latter.

Some suggested that we should publicise Unit websites - but this has been suggested lots of times before without much progress.

It was suggested that Explorer Scouts could build and maintain Unit websites for their DofE for those Units who didn't already have websites.

It was also thought that this is something that would be covered on the proposed ESL training weekend.

Network

At the last meeting we said it'd be a good idea from someone from Network to attend the meeting to discuss Moving On to their Section. TM attended the meeting and gave us details of the Network he was a member of. Freedom Network was based in Flintshire but was open to members from across Clwyd. They had an active programme meeting on the 1st Tuesday of every month plus weekend events.

Freedom Network had been visiting Units to talk about Network, and would welcome invitations from other Units to talk to them.

SG's Unit had been visited by Freedom and she was interested in joining.

It was thought that other Networks may start up in other Districts when past Explorer Scouts who went to university when 18 came back into area.

JJ & CJ asked who they told about members when they got to 18 as they had no DESC or DESA. They were told to pass on details to their DC.

Tom gave the website address for Freedom - <http://www.freedom-network.kk5.org>

Drop off at 17/18

Moz brought up information that there was a concern UK wide about a drop off in Explorer Scout numbers at 17. He asked how we can keep Explorer Scouting attractive for older members.

It was suggested that an active Scout Network would help - if members saw there was something next to do, they'd stay.

Those Explorer Scouts present who were 17 said they still enjoyed Explorers, and were given increased responsibility through things like Unit Forums.

Clwyd 'Team Day'

It had been suggested recently by Clwyd Area that a day similar to the Wales Team day happened in Clwyd. There would be Forums for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts - and this meeting would be included.

It was thought that the benefits would be that Sections could communicate with each other. Some said they weren't sure it was needed and that our current arrangement worked fine.

Any Other Business

Roger Cragg had suggested putting on some sort of Clwyd Explorer Scouts canoeing event - maybe a Dee Tour. He thought there was plenty of canoeing expertise and it'd provide more training.

JJ asked whether it was possible for someone to be a Young Leader without attending a 'regular' Explorer Scout Unit as there had been concerns in her District. She was told talk yes, this was fine.

Moz said that the meeting for Young Spokespeople would take place later in the week and he'd provide feedback at the next meeting.

JG announced that the Jamboree Unit were selling Jamboree badges at £2 and polo shirts at £10. Contact her if interested.

Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be 2 weeks before the next Wales Team meeting as usual. The actual date will be circulated when known.

Updates from last meeting circulated at this meeting

Subject	Action point	Update
My Backpack/ Membership Service	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.	Still very little progress on this. It'd be great if each Unit could get this done for the next meeting.
Unit programmes	Again, please, can Units send Moz their Unit programmes (even by post), or contact GR for details of how to upload.	Again, very little progress. Do Units have programmes, or are they going from week to week without a plan?
Wales Team & Forum	Views from Clwyd Area represented on Wales Explorer Scout Forum and Wales Explorer Scout Team.	Meetings attended by reps from Clwyd – feedback at 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	Simon Fairless advised at the last meeting that as we're a big Area then representation from each District is acceptable
DofE Award	Tell Moz dates to be put on Area website	Not happened – would people just prefer to have a list of contacts of other ESLs to contact if needed?
Area events	GK to book Hafod for mountain weekend for next year	GK booked for 14-16 October 2011
	Leaders to contact GK to say if they helping with Escape & Evasion or not	Escape & Evasion went ahead. Can Units provide feedback at meeting?
	GR to look at how best to Blackpool weekend, and if its viable	No feedback from Districts. Blackpool is out of the question as the season is at the end. Is a theme park outing wanted for later in 2011?
	Discuss some sort of Area sports challenge/triathlon at next meeting	Will put on agenda
	Discuss an Area Explorer show at next meeting	Will put on agenda
Young Leader weekend	GR to book venue – to be held in Autumn term	As I've only had one leader mention that they can help (thanks Moz) I will re-schedule this for Q1 2011.
Public relations	Moz to arrange meeting of YSPs	Aim to get done before meeting
Recognition of participation	GR to continue to develop modules and keep Area informed.	Modules developed – Gordon to feedback at meeting
ESL training	GR and any other Leaders who want to get involved to keep this on 'to do' list	Work in Progress! GR has a basic list of what is wanted by ESLs based on their job description, but does this meet reality? Do ESLs/AESLs know about DofE, the YL programme etc?
AWESOME	Let GR/MB/GK know suggestions	MB and GR presented the comments from the last Area ES Forum to the Wales Forum.
Network	Invite Hannah Dooley to next meeting to discuss further	Hannah invited – either her or a rep will attend
	Ask Area Commissioner about progress recruiting ASNC	No progress