



ACTIVITY TEAM FOR WALES

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Activity Team for Wales held on Saturday 6th March 2010 at the High School, Builth Wells, commencing at 11.00a.m.

PRESENT	John Muston	Chairman
	Ron Cox	Water Activities Adviser, Wales
	J David LI Jones	Mountain Activities Adviser, Wales
	Mark Glendinning	AAC Activities CATVOG
	Dyfrig Harries	Sea Scouts, Wales
	Michael Smith	Montgomeryshire
	Harry Dixon	DAC (Programme Support) Pembrokeshire
	Terry Smith	Radnorshire
	Steve Rayner	Brecknock(For part of meeting)
	Gwyn Williams	Secretary
	Linda Thelwell	UK Adviser Activities

APOLOGIES	Ralph Stevens	Air Activities Adviser, Wales
	Bruce Denley Jones	Caving Adviser, Wales
	Alison Owen-Yeates	Carmarthenshire
	Barry Herring	Canoeing Adviser, Wales

PART ONE – RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That ScoutsWales pursue with HQ the matter of Greenfield and Mountain camping as a safety issue (para 5(a))
- (b) That ScoutsWales pursue with HQ an early change to the swimming rules to allow informal swimming to take place without the need for a NGB qualified person to be on duty (para 5(b))
- (c) That ScoutsWales pursue with HQ the introduction of a method whereby commissioners and advisers (at least) are able to discuss technical matters direct (telephone or email) with the relevant HQ adviser (Para5 (c))
- (d) It is recommended that ScoutsWales accept the offer of Terry Smith, Radnorshire, to be Orienteering Adviser, Wales.

PART TWO – MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman (John Muston) welcomed all present and introduced Linda Thelwell UK Adviser (Activities) from Gilwell.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as listed above.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th November 2009 were accepted as correct.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Nights Away Permits – see Section 5 below.
- (b) Open Gold D of E Expedition
The proposed 2009 event was cancelled, but the event will take place during August 2010 at Hafod. Cost approximately £150.
- (c) Shobden and North Wales Airports.
No report received.
- (d) Hafod Staff Funding Report Back
Chairman will submit a case to ScoutsWales.
- (e) Combining of ScoutsWales AGM and Team day Suggestion
ScoutsWales did not accept this suggestion.
- (f) D of E Assessor Course Funding
ScoutsWales not prepared to make funds available..

5. HEADQUARTERS INPUT – Linda Thelwell

A Power Point presentation guided the Team through the format now being used to disseminate information facilitating activities programmes.

Particular emphasis was placed on the requirement to comply with POR rules regarding Adventurous Activities, and the need to be aware of any subsequent changes that might take place.

A presentation pack was distributed after Linda's talk.

This was followed by a lively discussion, from which three main points of concern were raised: -

- (a) Activity Team Wales was concerned that HQ Gilwell has still not responded to their request for clearer definitions of Greenfield and Lightweight Expedition Permits and their usage in upland areas. The Team felt that allowing a Greenfield Permit holder to lead mountain camping provided he/she had a walking permit for Terrains 1 and/or 2 was dangerous. They had put this forward as a safety matter *to HQ* but were told it would be considered at the next rolling review of Nights Away permits. Specific skills were required for high hill/mountain camping, with an appropriate authorisation for Terrain 1 and 2. The Team felt that Greenfield and Lightweight Expedition Permits should be valid only in Terrain Zero.

- (b) Swimming Fact Sheet 120620 December 2009, POR 9.52 – 9.54
Riverside campsites chosen for their fun value and the chance to get wet occasionally are severely compromised by the new requirement for a Lifesaver/Lifeguard to be in attendance. These sites use the water area as an extension of the campsite area and are not used as sites for specific water activities. Fun activities fully approved via risk assessment etc. will not be able to function unless this new requirement is accommodated – a sad development.
- (c) The new format at HQ Gilwell, whereby technical questions from activity providers are 'processed' before being delivered to the appropriate expert, is a retrograde step. The Team felt that advisers for specific activities should be able to consult direct with the appropriate expert. Time could be at a premium in some cases.
The Chairman pointed out that when he was the National Mountaineering Adviser he was far from overwhelmed with enquiries.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Commissioners (Wales) Meeting – John Muston
The Commissioners were keen for the Activities Team to have a presence at appropriate Wales events e.g. All Wales scout Camp, Awesome, etc.
- (b) The Blue File – John Muston
This file has now been distributed to members.
Attention was directed to the Project Proposal forms for small and large projects at the back of the file.

7. AIR ACTIVITIES – Ralph Stevens (via Chairman)

A special camp celebrating 70 years of Air Scouting will be held during 2011 at a site near Leicester.

8. LAND ACTIVITIES

- (a) Mountaineering – David LI Jones
Near maximum use is being made of the facilities at Hafod. Some mid-week vacancies during mid-late summer are still available.
Explorer Scouts are frequent visitors to Hafod.
Finances are in good order, but upgrading the heating system cost £5000.
- (b) Caving – Bruce Denley Jones
No Report

9. WATER ACTIVITIES

- (a) General – Ron Cox
Llyn Tegid, Bala, is no longer available for sailing activities. The Sailing Gig and sailing courses will now be centred at Llyn Brenig (Denbighshire), where the local sailing club is providing facilities to support Scouting events.
Sailing courses – May - course full / October – some vacancies.
Some land clearing work near the sailing club at Llyn Brenig will provide a much needed camping area.
- (b) Canoeing
Due to a late change in the date of the frostbite canoe cruise, Barry was unable to attend the meeting.
- (c) Sea Scouting – Dyfrig Harries
Grant funding is now available for all groups with land fronting the sea shore (not just Sea Scouts), to carry out repair work e.g. slipways. For further information contact Shirley Myall at ScoutsWales.

10. DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Alison will be providing dates for an Assessor course later this year.
A request for £200 was submitted to WSC to run two Assessor Training courses. Request refused.

11. REPORTS FROM AREAS

Radnorshire – Terry Smith

Terry is a qualified Orienteering Coach. He will be running orienteering courses for Radnor Scouts during April. He thinks this can be expanded into an All Wales activity sometime in the future. The Activity Team Wales nominated him Orienteering Advisor, Wales.

CATVOG – Mark Glendinning

The Area will be running an Archery course during the first weekend in April.
For full details of the National Course for Authorisation to Promote Archery contact archery@catvog.org.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None reported

13. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ScoutsWales AGM – 30 October 2010.
Activities Team Meeting - Saturday 13th November 2010.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE

Welsh Scout Council
Hafod Management Sub-committee
6 Month Report 31/03/2010.

General Overview

The centre has operated successfully over the last six months; with no major issues.

Centre Usage

The centre has been well used during the six month period, with 788 bed-nights recorded, and we are now fully booked until September 2010; although we still have spare capacity midweek.

Training courses are well attended, with increased interest being shown by the Explorer Scout section, course bookings are still being received for the current season.

Finance

Our finances are healthy with reserves being up on last year. We have just spent £5000 on planned refurbishments. We expect to have to replace one of our heating boilers in the next financial year as the current one is now 18 years old.

Maintenance

A work weekend planned for January 2010 was cancelled due to heavy snowfall. However some minor repairs and decorating were done at a later date.

J. David Ll. Jones
Chairman.
March 2010.

Course Type	2009			2010			March						
	April	May	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jul-01	Jul-02		September	October	November	December	January	February
First Aid	13										16		
MLA training	10												13
SPA training													
Hillwalking training	2		3	5									
Rock climbing			6										
MLA refresher			1										3
MLA assessment				7		7							
SPA assessment													
Hillwalking Permit													
Single Pitch Permit													
Explorer Scouts					16	14				48	18		3
Explorer Leaders													
Hostel Bednights													
Course Bednights	38		20	24	32	35		96	36	32			1832
													38