



## EXPLORER SCOUT TEAM FOR WALES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Explorer Scout Team for Wales held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Bwlth Wells High School.

**PRESENT:**

Simon Fairless	Commissioner (Wales) Explorer Scouts
Dai Hazelden	Brecon
Gordon Richardson	Desc Wrexham, Clwyd
Julian Jordan	CATVOG
Jeremy White	Gwent
Cath Jones	Glamorgan West
Mike Bowen	Desc, Flintshire, Clwyd
Tonia Knight	Ceredigion
Jeremy Howells	Mid Glamorgan
Monica Loat	Radnorshire
Rob Davies	Carmarthenshire

**APOLOGIES:**

Arthur Colerick	Montgomeryshire
Andrew Davidson	Eryri a Mon
Eirwen Mayall	Radnorshire

### PART ONE – RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no recommendations from the meeting.

### PART TWO – MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Headquarters staff from Gilwell ran the morning information session covering Scouts-Explorer Links, The District Model and Youth Involvement.

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and the meeting started at 3pm.

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were noted as shown above.

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

These were read and agreed upon

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (i) **Duke of Edinburgh Award.** Simon mentioned that there were new record packs for any youngster and this replaces the old familiar record books. A quick description was given for those who hadn't heard of it. This will probably be an interim situation until eDofE gets implemented in 12-18 months time. Any delays experienced in the last few weeks were probably due to the DofE scheme shipping these new packs to Scouts Wales.
- (ii) **National Centre.** This point was raised again because this Team would like to know what plans ScoutsWales have to work with HQ to ensure that Wales finally get a National Centre.  
**ACTION POINT:** Do Scouts Wales have any plans to implement a National Centre?

#### 5. SCOUTS WALES STRUCTURE

Following the changes last year throughout ScoutsWales, the structure of the organisation (especially the new financial system) together with the new appointees (Head of Programme etc) was discussed.

#### 6. BLUE BOOK

A copy of the Blue Book together with the summary flyer was given out to all. All agreed that it was good to get such guidance and especially useful for any new attendees to Team Days.

#### 7. WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE UPDATE

Simon briefly updated the team on the WSJ to date. All 4 participant units are now formed and are starting to meet regularly. All IST applicants will hear if they have been successful by 8<sup>th</sup> March. All IST participants will be invited to participate in preparation events with the young people.

Rob asked that all Jamboree units publish their prep dates and fundraising plans with their AC's/Desc's etc in order to allow local units to assist with the fundraising. All young people need to be reminded that they have to remain active as Scouts/Explorer Scouts in order to keep their Jamboree place. A reserve list is being held in case any young people drop out.

**ACTION POINT:** SF to contact Jamboree Leaders and ask that they publish all relevant information.

#### 8. TEAM X UPDATE

Unfortunately our grant bid was not successful. ScoutsWales are in the process of applying for funds from other sources. In the meantime, two weekend training courses are being planned for later this year together with assisting the Scout Team in June with the All Wales Scout Camp. All of these weekends will incur a cost. Any adult wishing to get involved with assisting on any of the weekends should contact Simon.

**ACTION POINT:** SF to publish dates/booking information by early April.

#### 9. CHILDRENS UNIVERSITY UPDATE – Report by Gordon

*On the 23rd November last year I had a very useful meeting with Christine Willis who is the Children's University Development Officer, based in Glyndwr University. The outcome of the meeting is as follows:*

- The Children's University is only running properly in Wales. In England, and due to the way it is being funded, it is only available to the disadvantaged. Scotland are still toying with the idea.*
- The Children's University is run in most LEAs across Wales. There are three exceptions, Powys, Merthyr and Bridgend. Until these LEAs buy in to the Children's University then we will be unable to offer it to the young people in these areas.*

- *To register as an activity centre we need to complete a straight forward form, although we will need to register with each with Children's University. I propose that all activity centres are registered as Scouts Wales. This will demonstrate to an employer that a young person is part of a bigger organisation rather than being a member of a small group that meets in the village hall. I have the contact details of each of the development officers so will register on behalf of Scout Wales if you are happy with this.*
- *The awards for each age group are based on **participation** hours and made up of modules. We are able to create our own modules that run from 5 credits (5 hrs of participation) to a maximum of 30 credits (30 hours of participation). This links in well with our participation awards.*
- *Once a module is created it belongs to the Children's University. This means that once approved **all** modules are available to **all** Universities and **all** scouts in Wales can use the same modules. I suggest that we have one person who submits modules to ensure there is no duplication of efforts. Again, I'm happy to do this if need be.*
- *Completed modules are submitted on a term basis to the University. They update the young person's details on their database and issue the Module Completion certificates. They also issue the Award Completion Certificate when the correct number of points have been reached.*
- *From a financial perspective, there are no registration costs for us to running this scheme.*

*The only overheads for leaders are identifying that there will be a module to match a Scouting activity, then informing their respective university that a young person has completed a module.*

*I have been speaking to Deborah Cooze, who is Swansea's Development Officer and an ESL (YL). Swansea have already created D of E Modules, which I have attached as an example.*

*As discussed, the initial plan is to roll this out to Wrexham Explorer Scouts, then when it works, to actively encourage other parts of Wales to actively get involved. In parallel, I'm looking to involve the Beaver, Cub and Scout sections in Wrexham to adopt the Children's University scheme. Once we have this in place it can be actively rolled out across Wales, providing the other Sections want to play. Realistically, it's going to be summer before the first D of E awards go through but in the mean time I'll look at creating the modules for the rest of the Explorer Section programme.*

Additional information was circulated by Gordon containing the first outline modules.

## 10. AWESOME UPDATE

Debrief meetings are still being carried out with the 2009 Core Team and should be finished by end of March. Locations for the 2011 event are underway with venues outside Wales being considered in order to offer a "quality" event that compares with Sun Run, Gilwell 24 etc.

## 11. ALL WALES / CIVIC AWARD

Copies of the final draft version of this award were circulated (Democracy Challenge Badge no logo.doc). Thank you to all that participated in suggestions. The Team was looking forward to this award being implemented.

## 12. NEXT MEETING VENUE

The Explorer Youth Forum has asked for the next venue to be in Blackwell Court. The Explorer Team agreed providing that costs were reasonable and a part of the weekend could be set aside for the normal Team Day meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** SF to sort costs/dates.

## 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gordon outlined a "new Explorer Scout Challenge badge". See below. This was wholly endorsed by the Team.

### Explorer Scout Challenge

#### **Values & Relationships Zone**

Complete five activities in total, taken from at least two areas. Examples are provided below but other similar activities can also be undertaken.

#### **Area 1: Beliefs & Attitudes**

- a. Take an active part in a project examining either your own or another faith
- b. Plan and carry out an act of worship for your Unit
- c. Debate a current issue with your Unit

#### **Area 2 - The life of the Unit**

- a. Help with the planning and delivery of part of the Unit programme
- b. Demonstrate that you can be trusted by taking on a special responsibility on behalf of the Unit. This might involve the management of money, or the Unit's reputation
- c. Attend a meeting of the Unit Forum

#### **Area 3 - Taking the Lead**

- a. Understand the importance of working in a team
- b. Develop personal skills such as presenting skills, listening skills etc
- c. Take a leadership role during a task or project
- d. Show how what has been learned in Scouting can be transferred to the outside world

#### **Community Zone**

Complete both Areas

#### **Area 1: Interacting with your local community**

Find out about and have some involvement with an aspect of the local community, for example invite local politicians along for a debate, challenge your council over an aspect of their service, or work with a local group to improve an aspect of the local community

#### **Area 2: Community service**

Take an active part in community service for a period of not less than 8 hours

#### **Fitness Zone**

Complete both Areas

#### **Area 1: Physical activity**

Take part in not less than 6 hours of a sport or physical recreation as part of the Unit programme

#### **Area 2: Healthy lifestyle**

Find out about two different aspects of living a healthy lifestyle, such as importance of a healthy diet, and the effects of smoking and drinking

#### **Skills Zone**

Complete activities from four of these six areas:

Area 1 - Performing

Area 2 - Crafts

Area 3 - Public Relations

Area 4 - Problem solving

Area 5 - Construction

Area 6 - Cooking

## Global Zone

Investigate TWO international issues such as

1. Trade
2. Health
3. Water & sanitation
4. Environment
5. Conflict
6. Refugees
7. Peace
8. Tourism
9. Homelessness
10. Poverty
11. Animal welfare
12. Conservation

Make contact with Scouts or others from a country outside the UK

## Outdoor & Adventure Zone

Complete both Areas

### Area 1: Outdoor skills

- i) Camp for at least 20 nights
- ii) Take part in at least 5 of the following:
  - iii) Sleep in a bivouac
  - iv) Light a fire using just natural materials and cook at least 2 meals on it
  - v) Take part in an expedition where you carry all your own kit
  - vi) Build a large scale pioneering project such as a bridge
  - vii) Take part in a wide game
  - viii) Take part in a campfire
  - ix) Provide service to a campsite
  - x) Demonstrate safe use of saw and axe
  - xi) Demonstrate safe use of at least 3 types of cooker and one type of lamp
  - xii) Show understanding of importance of hygiene on camp

### Area 2: Adventurous activities

- a. Take part in 4 adventurous activities
- b. Explain the safety aspects of the activities and understand how you could get involved further

## 14. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for Sun Run (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July); Gilwell 24 (10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> July)

Date of Next Meeting - This was tentatively set at 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – although this may change depending on Blackwell Court availability.

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

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DATE

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