

WALES EXPLORER SCOUT FORUM

The Minutes of a meeting of the Wales Explorer Scout Forum held on Saturday March 25th 2006 Llandrindod Wells High School commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:	CHRIS COOKE	Chairman
	ANGHARAD NEWLANDS	Secretary
	DAVID WILSON	PEMBROKESHIRE
	DANIEL PEARN	PEMBROKESHIRE
	TOMOS DAVID	SNOWDONIA AND ANGLESEY
	HUW KINSMAN	SNOWDONIA AND ANGLESEY
	KEIRA THOMAS	RADNOR
	SARA MAYALL	RADNOR
	GARETH HUGHES	CLWYD
	DEAN EDWARDS	CLWYD
	TED PRICE	MONTGOMERY
	JOHN RASQUINHA	MONTGOMERY
	ADAM CLAYTON	CARMARTHENSHIRE
	GRAHAM REES-EVANS	GLAMORGAN WEST
	SAM	GLAMORGAN WEST
	DANIEL MELBOURNE	GLAMORGAN WEST
	LUKE JAMES	CATVOG
	IOEL BRIGHT	CATVOG

APOLOGIES: TANYA HILLIER

PART ONE – RECOMMENDATIONS

The Explorer Scout Forum had no recommendations

PART TWO – MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Children's Commissioner of Wales Questionnaire

Before the meeting started, Ken, from the South Wales office came in briefly to ask all members to fill out a short questionnaire

1. WELCOME

Chris (Cookie) opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked if there were any matters arising and there were not, the minutes were discussed and verified of the last meeting (12th November 2005).

Moz briefly came in to talk about the new Chairperson and Secretary, Cookie and Angharad Newlands, respectively and welcomed them to their new posts.

2. WES the SNAIL

A) Cookie asked if everyone on the forum had received the Explorer newsletter, not everyone had and so he asked if he could have their email addresses so that he could forward them on to Vikki.

B) All commented on how the newsletter was good and that it was directed at Explorers only unlike Sgowtiaid.

3. AWESOME

A) The date was discussed and all were asked as to whether or not there would be any major clashes with the date, i.e. exams, the Sun Run, and there were no qualms.

B) Friday night entertainment was one of the issues brought up, as to whether the games, or not, were appropriate and if they made anyone feel uncomfortable. All that went approved of the games but were wondering whether next years AWESOME would have the same or similar games? An issue about photos being taken was brought up as to whether some people might have felt awkward.

C) Speed dating- should it change so that the girls have to move from boy to boy? It was discussed that they should almost be forced to talk and not just look aimlessly at each other.

D) Saturday bases- all were enjoyed but asked if Biblins could still do the same if the weather was bad. Would marquees be an option, and also the issue of water activities being done in October, for the water levels are higher and currents are stronger.

E) Saturday Night Entertainment all enjoyed the Casino evening and thought that it was a good idea but wondered if next year they should change the it? Some then asked why change it if it already works?

The suggestion of live music was brought up; could they get a bigger marquee to accommodate it? Open microphone, audition bands etc were ideas that were put forward. Although one of the issues were other users of Biblins and the loud music.

The campfire was thoroughly enjoyed by all especially Buster's choice in songs, so that is to be kept along with Buster for next year.

F) Sunday Games- it was thought that the games we had were good but could have done with including more people from each of the sub-camps, and it was expected by some that the games would be held within the sub-camp rather than each sub-camp against the other.

G) Sub-camps- it was thought that they were needed and that they themselves were good, it was suggested that maybe there should have been a sub-camp challenge. There should have been more involvement by the sub-camp leaders so that the sub-camp got to know each other and also the participation would be higher. For next year the numbers have been estimated as higher and so it was brought up as to whether or not there should be more than the three sub-camps to cater for more people. And it was also brought up that there should have been more sub-camp games too.

4. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

A) We were each handed out the results of the questionnaire that was sent out to us with the last minutes, we went through the results and checked to see if they were coloured suitably. (green=good, orange=mediocre, red=bad)

It was widely thought that the fourth question- What do you think of the variety of activities you do? - should not have been in the red but in orange for it was averaged out to be 6/10.

5. YL WOODBEADS

A) Glamorgan West and CATVOG have clear red beads to show that they have undergone Young Leader training and not adult training, there are some similarities but they are still different.

B) An idea that has been forwarded is a four piece badge that will go around the original YL badge, on achieving all of the badges a belt will be awarded. One will not have to wear the belt if they wish not to it will be optional.

6. RULES

A) Cookie introduced the topic and asked everyone's opinions on the rules and if they knew what they were and how to get hold of them and also as to whether or not they were understandable. The general consensus was that they were not very Explorer/Scout friendly and that they are aimed towards leaders. What we need is one set of rules not leaders, etc, making new ones instead that are only relevant to our area or district. It was decided that they should;

Be bulleted so that they are more understandable

Be put on the internet for all to access

Be a clear, unchangeable set of rules for all to follow

B) Let the AC's and DC's etc, know what the rules are and what they can do to help us in our knowledge of the rules too.

7. AUTUMN MEETING

A) It was decided that it should be a weekend meeting and that it should be held in Glasbury on the same weekend as the next forum meeting. It was not decided as to whether or not we would attend the Welsh Scout Council meeting or not, or as to whether we would have a speakeasy course or just to have activities on the Saturday. It was decided though that the takeaway would be kept on the Saturday night.

B) Full uniform will be needed so that the forum can adjoin Glasbury Scouts/Cubs and Explorers on their remembrance service.

Break for lunch at 12:15

8. WORLD JAMBOREE

A) It was said that all areas should already have activities/events planned for the centenary, and the only restrictions should be the different sections and not the number of people taking part. Also, that everybody should be involved in organizing the events and it should not be down to the leaders to do all of the work.

B) Hospitality- Cookie suggested that maybe the home hospitality should be before the jamboree and not after it as intended. The arguments for having it after are so that you vaguely know who will be hosting you. Yet if it was held before then you would be able to meet their troop and others from the country having already met one of the hosts.

C) It was said that there should be more clarification as to what the home hospitality involves as many are still unclear as to its meaning.

D) The cost- it was said that the cost seemed too much as £1000, and maybe it would look better if it was put at £500 and then each participant must raise at least another £400 so that they can pay for someone of a less fortunate background can come.

9. WALES MEDIA TEAM/YOUNG SPOKESPERSON

A) Because of the centenary it was thought that we should have a young spokesperson due to more media coverage of our activities. Cookie suggested that one of us should be able to fill this place if the speakeasy course were to take place on the November weekend. Although the idea is yet to be put to Moz.

Our argument would be; we are currently representing our areas/districts and so why not further that representation and represent our country as well as our areas/districts?

B) There should also be a PR team; the idea is yet to be developed further before details can be written, focusing on the skills of young people.

10. TEAM X

A) The forum has been asked their ideas as to what item of clothing there should be for Team X.

Vest & tank top	3 votes
Polo shirt	3 votes
Luminous jacket	5 votes
T-shirt	4 votes
Hoodie	2 votes
Short Sleeve Hoodie	1 votes

It was decided that we should have luminous jackets; these jackets should be orange with a big green X on the front. There should be our name and a number on the back, in green outlined in black. (if numbers are not available then another X) We should also have green neckers which double to be bandanas, so there should be a big logo on it too.

11. A.O.B

Sitting through the presentations, Cookie suggested that Explorers should not have to sit through these presentations unless they are relevant.

Cookie thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 15:00.

Next meeting to be held on the 25th March 2006 at Llandrindod Wells