

WALES EXPLORER SCOUT TEAM

The Minutes of a meeting of the Wales Explorer Scout Team held on November 12th 2005 at the Llandrindod Wells High School commencing at 10.30am.

PRESENT:	DAVID MORRIS	COMMISSIONER FOR EXPLORER SCOUTS (WALES)
	PETER CADWALLADER	MONTGOMERYSHIRE
	DEREK FRENCH	CEREDIGION
	MIKE HAINGE	SNOWDONIA & ANGLESEY
	STEVE HOLMES	CATVOG
	ROB KEMP	GWENT
	EIRWEN MAYALL	RADNOR
	PENNY MCMULLEN*	MID GLAMORGAN
	WYN OWEN	CARMARTHENSHIRE
	GORDON RICHARDSON	CLWYD
	PAT THOMAS	GLAMORGAN WEST
	KEITH BURFOOT	DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER (PROGRAMME) (PART OF MEETING)

*MORNING ONLY

PART ONE – RECOMMENDATIONS

The Wales Explorer Scout Team recommends that:

- (a) The UK Contingent of the 2007 World Scout Jamboree look at how the part of the fee covering the cost of kit & equipment could be reduced as much as possible so that the overall Jamboree Fee is kept as low as possible.
- (b) The next AWESOME camp should be held in October 2007, preferably at The Biblins.
- (c) A newsletter that is produced by Explorer Scouts is sent out twice a year, half way between Team & Forum meetings, direct to as many Explorer Scouts as we can get addresses for.
- (d) 'Team X' – a permanent system of Wales training courses for Young Leaders and reciprocal service at Wales & Area events is set up. Funding should be found if necessary.

PART TWO – MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1) PLENARY WITH EXPLORER SCOUT FORUM

Moz & Adam Gardner welcomed everyone to the meeting and covered several items of information valid to both Team & Forum, including:

- a) **Position of Chairman & Secretary of the Wales Explorer Scout Forum.** It was announced to both Team & Forum that the length of terms, age limits and any other requirements of these positions had never been minuted and so the Forum needed to make a decision on this today. Adam and Vikki Booth, the Secretary, would be standing down after today's meeting and so the positions needed voting in today after the requirements had been agreed.
- b) **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Module.** Moz announced that a new adult training had been produced for use in Wales so that Leaders, Advisors & Commissioners delivering the Award Scheme could be trained properly. The Module would be handed over to the Adult Support Team during their meeting today. The Module would be available online via the Explorer Scout pages of ScoutBase Wales.
- c) **Taking the Lead resource.** This new resource from Gilwell was promoted.
- d) **Explorer Scout Development Strategy.** Moz explained what this was all about and told Team & Forum members that if they felt their Districts were struggling with Explorer Scouting that they should contact Gilwell for additional support. He pointed out that there were three 'consultants' in Wales – himself, Rob Kemp and Steve Holmes.
- e) **World Scout Jamboree & 2007.** Adam explained that we were still unsure about how many Units would be going to the Jamboree from Wales. Moz emphasised that Explorer Scouts across Wales that wanted to attend should make themselves known to Leaders and start fundraising now. The cost was still unknown, but he had heard rumours of a figure between £800 and £1000. Keith Burfoot joined the meeting later in the morning to announce that Wales had made a bid for 5 Units, i.e. 180 Explorer Scouts, 15 Assistant Leaders and 5 Leaders. This had yet to be agreed by Gilwell, but was a useful indicator for what we were going for.
- f) **International Trips in 2006.** Everyone was told of the two expeditions to Serbia open to Wales next summer. Some had heard of them, others had not. Moz said that details would be attached to the minutes.
- g) **Explorer Scouts Wales bulletin board.** Moz handed out details of the new online bulletin board and encouraged members to visit and use the facility.

2) WELCOME & AREA REPORTS

After the Explorer Scout Forum had left for their own meeting, everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief round-up of how things were going in their Areas.

Things seemed to be going well in most Areas. The problem of Leader shortages were the main area of difficulties. Some Areas had been making some progress to establishing more of a District Explorer Scout structure. Lots of good, active Explorer Scouting had been taking place, including EuroJam, AWESOME, Area Camps and international trips.

3) APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Maudie Miller, Pete Jeffreys (sunning himself in Egypt!) and Craig Middle.

4) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

All existing members had received minutes. New members of the Team had not as they had been last minute cover. Moz explained that all past minutes were available on the website.

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

5) MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The recommendations from the last minutes were discussed. The first recommendation that an overseas expedition be made available to all Explorer Scouts in Wales had been successfully implemented and was covered by the two expeditions to Serbia.

A price for the World Scout Jamboree had yet to be announced but progress had been made on Unit numbers. It was thought that a disproportionate part of the Jamboree fee went on equipment such as uniforms and other such Jamboree paraphernalia. This should be cut down as much as possible to enable the Jamboree to be within the financial reach of more young people.

RECOMMENDATION: The UK Contingent look at how the part of the fee covering the cost of kit & equipment could be reduced as much as possible so that the overall Jamboree Fee is kept as low as possible.

Polo shirts for Units from Wales were thought to be a good idea.

The recommendation that Areas & Districts worked together to provide Young Leader Training would be overtaken by events covered under 'Team X' below.

6) AWESOME

Some of the views expressed about AWESOME were, "Excellent! Can we have one every year!?", "Tremendous, there has been a real buzz following the event". It was thought that one of the key factors leading to this success was the fact that the organising team had almost entirely been made up of Network Scouts. It was felt that this was the right age group and that the Explorer Scouts related to them well. Some thought that it would be difficult to live up to the expectations leading from the success of the first AWESOME next time.

It was felt that the casino had been an excellent idea – something different that the Explorer Scouts really enjoyed. The camp fire songs had been too 'blue' and it was felt that a few too many SSAGO songs had crept in. Had the camp fire been better organised with a song list this would not have happened. The Team seemed not to 'disapprove' of the nature of the songs, but seemed disappointed that the quality wasn't better. The Saturday bases were thought to be good on the whole but too widely spread out and Explorer Scouts who had poor navigational skills didn't get as much out of the day.

It was unanimously agreed that another AWESOME should be held.

A discussion was held over the venue for the next AWESOME. Originally the plan had been to alternate between North & South Wales, but as we had had Units travelling from Leeds it seemed that travelling distance was no longer an issue, so long as the venue was good and the camp was worth it. It was agreed that the favourite location for the next AWESOME would again be The Biblins as it was a great place for activities and that the problem over lack of electricity was overcome last time.

A 'frustrating' discussion was held about the date of the next event! The following months were suggested:

Month	Pros	Cons
May	Reasonable weather	Clashes with exams
		Clashes with national 2007 camping weekend
June	Good weather	Middle of exams: out of the question for most
July	Good weather	Clashes with Sun Run
		Too close to World Jamboree
September	Reasonable weather	Very busy month
		Clashes with Gilwell Reunion
		Clashes with Canoeing weekend
October	Few clashes	Weather
	Not good for Network	Less daylight
		Flooding at Biblins?

It was agreed to find out what the Explorer Scout Forum had agreed and make a decision then. After consulting with them – they suggested October – it was agreed that AWESOME 2007 would be held in October. If the Biblins was closed, or likely to be flooded, in October, an alternative venue would need to be found. It would be important to avoid a clash with the Severn Cruise.

RECOMMENDATION: The next AWESOME camp should be held in October 2007, preferably at The Biblins.

7) LINKS WITH THE SCOUT SECTION

Moz told the Team that, because of concerns from the Wales Scout Team about linking with Explorer Scouts, he had visited their meeting last weekend and explained about Explorer Scouts. They had thought of some ideas to help Scouts find out more about Explorer Scouts. They were mainly centred around Explorer Scouts joining in with Scout activities, visiting Troops and running activities and camps for Scouts.

The Team agreed this was a good way of getting over this problem. Some Areas ran activities with Scouts including a linking evening which Scout parents were invited to. It was suggested that the Young Leaders Scheme could be of use if Troops had Young Leaders and the Scouts could see what they got out of Scouting. It was also pointed out that Explorer Scouts could be given a Nights Away Passport by Permit holders that would enable them to take Scouts on camp without Leaders being present. This was thought to be a good way for Scouts to find out about Explorer Scouts.

However, it was thought that there was little that could be done at a Wales level save underlining good practice.

8) WALES EXPLORER SCOUT NEWSLETTER

A discussion was held on the value of a newsletter edited by an Explorer Scout that could be posted direct to every Explorer Scout in Wales. It was felt that Explorer Scouts in rural areas would feel more valued and 'in touch' by receiving news & information from and about other Explorers in Wales. Email was rejected as not all Explorers check their inboxes often enough and a posted newsletter would feel more personal. Twice a year was thought to be an ideal frequency for the mailing, half way between Team & Forum meetings. Moz said he wasn't sure how this could be funded but would look into it.

RECOMMENDATION: A newsletter that is produced by Explorer Scouts is sent out twice a year, half way between Team & Forum meetings, direct to as many Explorer Scouts as we can get addresses for.

9) MEETINGS VIA MSN MESSENGER

After speaking with the Explorer Scout Commissioner for Scotland, Moz had heard about the use of MSN Messenger in Explorer Scouting in rural areas of Scotland. A discussion was held about whether this could be used in Wales and it was agreed that this would be a good idea. It was suggested that a trail be held by members of the Explorer Scout Forum.

10) 'TEAM X' AND YOUNG LEADER TRAINING

Moz explained about a possible expansion of the existing 'Team X' Explorer Scout service team which was created for the last All Wales Scout Camp. It was proposed that this team became a permanent entity centred around Wales training courses (including Young Leader Training, Taking the Lead training, adventurous activity training and social activities) and service at Wales & Area events.

It was explained that a grant had been applied for that would make it possible to set this up in 2006, but the Team was asked whether it thought that, should the application be unsuccessful, it was worth finding an alternate source of funding.

There was some initial confusion about what 'Team X' was for, but the Team eventually agreed that the proposals would be of great benefit to Explorer Scouting, particularly in rural areas where Young Leaders felt unsupported and isolated.

RECOMMENDATION: 'Team X' – a permanent system of Wales training courses for Young Leaders and reciprocal service at Wales & Area events is set up. Funding should be found if necessary.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wyn Owen announced that a specialist Explorer Scout Unit at Yr Hafod was being looked at. Moz told the Team about Roverway, the Mencap training day and a possible Swansea Cork Ferry trip for 2007.

12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25th March 2005 at Llandrindod Wells High School at 10.30am.