

WALES EXPLORER SCOUT TEAM

The Minutes of a meeting of the Wales Explorer Scout Team held on Saturday March 19th 2005
Llandrindod Wells High School commencing at 11.20am.

PRESENT:	DAVID MORRIS	Wales Commissioner for Explorer Scouts	
	STEVE HOLMES	AAC(ES)	CATVOG
	SUE LEE	DESC	CLWYD
	GORDON RICHARDSON	DESC	CLWYD
	ROB KEMP	AAC(ES)	GWENT
	WYN OWEN	DESL	CARMARTHENSHIRE
	CATH RANSON	DESC	GLAMORGAN WEST
	PETER JEFFREYS	AESL (YL)	GLAMORGAN WEST
	DEREK FRENCH	DESC	CEREDIGION
	EIRWEN MAYALL	DESA	RADNORSHIRE
	JAMES DENT	DESL	ERYRI A MÔN

APOLOGIES:	MAUDIE MILLER
	PETER CADWALLADER
	CRAIG MIDDLE
	MATT GARDNER (NCSST REP)

PART ONE – RECOMMENDATIONS

The Explorer Scout Team recommends that:

1. An international trip is made open to all Explorer Scouts in Wales in 2006
2. Wales makes a decision very soon about how contingents to the World Scout Jamboree in 2007 are to be arranged and a rough price advertised as soon as possible, even if it unconfirmed
3. Areas and Districts work together to provide Young Leader Training for those Districts struggling to run it.

PART TWO – MINUTES OF THE MEETING

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Apart from new members of the meeting, all had received copies of the minutes.

One of the recommendations of the last meeting was that calendars of Wales events would be circulated to all members. Most of the Team said that they had not received calendars.

Moz asked about progress on Area Explorer Scout Forums (covered in item 4 of the previous meeting). Some Areas were still finding it difficult to get Explorer Scouts to come to Area Forums and so it was difficult to select or elect Explorers to come to the Wales Explorer Scout Forum. Moz underlined the importance of getting this right if young people were to get a say and be properly represented at an Area and Wales level.

An update on progress on D of E training for Leaders was given. Moz said that the Brecon Office was running more training courses, three had now taken place and attendance had been excellent at all. He was waiting for resources from Brecon to complete production of a D of E Module pack to send out to ATMs so that they could run this training as part of the Modular Adult Training Scheme.

2. NATIONAL EXPLORER SCOUT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2005/6

As Matt Gardner, who was to be attending the meeting from the National Commissioner for Explorer Scouts Support Team, was unable to attend due to illness, Moz explained the National Explorer Scout Development Strategy 2005/6:

Explorer Scouting is basically divided into two categories currently. Districts that have an effective DESC are doing well, numbers are growing, there is an active programme and an active Young Leaders' Scheme. Districts that did not have a DESC were, on the whole, struggling, had a lack of Leadership, found it difficult to run an effective programme and weren't providing support for Young Leaders. This is, of course, a generalisation, but it is mainly correct.

Therefore, Headquarters have decided to target additional support at Districts that didn't have a DESC, or otherwise were having problems. This support would be in the form of 'Explorer Scout Consultants' – Leaders and Commissioners who had a proven record of success with the Section who could help Districts find a solution to their problems.

The Team agreed that Districts without DESCs were finding it more difficult to run Explorer Scouting and supported the Strategy. Moz said he didn't have many more details at the moment, but he and Rob Kemp had been asked to be Consultants and would be attending a training day at Gilwell soon. In the meantime, Moz asked if any Team members knew of Districts that were in need of additional support as described they could let him know.

The absence of Matt Gardner also meant that agenda item 5, other matters from Gilwell, was not covered

3. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF EXPLORER SCOUTING IN WALES

It had been a while since the Team last looked at Strategic Development, however the Team thought that we should be concentrating on the National Development Strategy for the next year.

Moz handed out Wales return data from the DESC questionnaire that had been sent out at the end of 2004. It was agreed that Moz would send out another questionnaire like the one sent out to Wales so that trends could be looked at.

4. ACROSS THE BORDERS/CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Moz proposed that some sort of initiative be started that challenged some of the insularity that exists in Explorer Scouting and Scouting in general. He said that this Team had thrown up lots of evidence that Groups not wanting to send older Scouts to other Groups' Explorer Units, Groups not co-operating with District and Districts not talking to other Districts etc. This practice was damaging to Explorer Scouting and needs to be changed.

It was suggested that some sort of 'challenge' be set up to encourage Explorer Scouts to forget about the boundaries between Groups, Districts, Areas and beyond. Perhaps something like the Dragon Award could be used – instead of getting Scouts to camp up a tree, we could get Explorer Scouts to hold a joint event with another District, camp with another youth group, or travel to visit Scouts in another country.

A discussion was held and the meeting came to the conclusion that it wasn't young people that were the problem, it was adults, and if these adults didn't want to get involved with any scheme, they would ignore it and prevent their Explorer Scouts getting involved.

Moz suggested that instead we could have a 'Commissioner for Explorer Scouts Wales's Challenge' to DESCs and AACs ES. He could list a set of challenges and we could as a Team see who was doing best! There was a general approval to this. Moz said he would be in touch about this!

During the discussions it came up that members of the Team thought that another problem in Explorer Scouting was that while D of E Award take up was not a problem, getting Explorers to complete the Scout Awards at the same time, was. Moz said he would look into this.

5. WALES EXPLORER SCOUT INTERNATIONAL TRIP 2006

Following on from the previous agenda item, it was suggested that it was time to look at a Wales Explorer Scout international trip. This had been put to the International Team before now, but nothing had come of it. Some thought it was too soon to arrange anything major, but agreed that Explorer Scouts were getting 'itchy feet'!

It was suggested that options to make a trip easier to organise would be to visit another country's jamboree so that activities would be laid on, piggy-back on a UK expedition that was already being organised, or to run a small scale trip.

It was thought that Andy Mitchell from CATVOG was organising something and he should be contacted. Derek French said he would be willing to lead a trip and Gordon Richardson and Cath Ranson said they would possibly support it. Moz would explore possibilities and report back to the Team.

6. WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE 2007

Moz recommended that we should be looking at Wales Explorer Scout involvement in the 2007 World Jamboree. The Team agreed and a discussion was held about awareness and any plans that Areas had already made.

Gordon said he was waiting on advice from Wales on how contingents were going to be organised. Steve said CATVOG was fully intending to send a separate contingent. Other Areas were unsure of their plans but thought that there should be Units to cover Areas that couldn't raise their own.

Generally awareness amongst young people was poor as everyone had been concentrating on EuroJam. Explorer Scouts needed to be told of a rough price so they could start fundraising. It was thought that the late announcement of prices is always a deterrent to young people attending World Jamborees. Some had heard that the price for 2007 would be about £700 - £800, but it was underlined that this had not been confirmed.

Moz told the Team that a search group was about to look for a Wales Contingent Leader for 2007. It was agreed that members needed to be made aware of the set up and price as soon as possible.

7. WALES SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LEADERS TRAINING

The Team discussed how the Welsh Scout Council could support Districts who were struggling to support Young Leaders.

It was suggested that Districts and Areas who were having success in delivering YL training could travel to struggling Districts to run training there. Perhaps these Districts and Areas could hold a weekend camp in a struggling District so that their Explorer Scouts would enjoy a camp in a different area and training could be provided for 'host' Explorer Scout Young Leaders.

While some members thought that the important thing was to deliver Module A, and this is certainly the case, others were concerned that they were unable to deliver the other modules, which the YLs enjoyed more. A weekend camp would certainly help here.

It was suggested that we would ask the Wales Scout Network Team if Network members could help deliver Young Leader training. This would be brought up in the plenary with the Network Team.

More coordination was needed generally between Districts and Areas. It was suggested that an Area of the Explorer Scout pages on ScoutBase Wales was set up for Young Leaders, where courses could be advertised. Moz would look into this.

A concern was that there were Young Leaders that Districts and Areas didn't know about. Scouts were being 'kept on' as YLs in their own Troop, or kept in their Group to help with the Cub Pack without District being informed and without the young people even knowing that they were Explorer Scouts and being given access to Explorer Scouting. These young people were possibly being entered onto the census as Colony, Pack or Troop Helpers.

The only way around this would be education for GSLs, and Section Leaders and regular visits by ADCs.

8. AWESOME UPDATE

Moz updated the Team on progress on the All Wales Explorer Scout weekend, AWESOME. He said that a sub-committee of the Team had been set up and had met once. The sub-committee was well advanced in its plans.

The competition from Sun Run was still a concern but it was still thought that Wales needed its own event for Explorer Scouts who don't get to go to Sun Run, or who don't want to.

Several questions were asked about the format and these were addressed.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Wales Explorer Scout Team will be at Llandrindod Wells High School on ??????

