

**CARDIFF and the VALE of GLAMORGAN
AREA SCOUT COUNCIL**



Area Scout Leader Forum

Present:	Alan Davies	13 th Cardiff
	Martin Booy	ADC Scouts Vale District
	Alan Davies	1 st Llantwit Major, Commissioner Wales (Scouts)
	Paul Deere	1 st Llantwit Major
	Gary Ware	2 nd /4 th Barry
	Ian Robinson	1 st Dinas Powys
	Nick Phillips	1 st Dinas Powys
	Stephen Howarth	1 st Rhiwbina
	Alun Pincombe	1 st Llandaff
	Colin Morley	3 rd Rhiwbina
	Rex Hendricksen	29 th Cardiff
	Chris Parsons	5 th Barry
	Richard Feehan	5 th Barry
	Simon Miskin	District Commissioner (Vale)
	Martin Evans	AAC Scouts

Apologies

19th Cardiff Scout Troop

Recommendations

- 1 Scout/Explorer Health Check to be circulated to all troops for completion and return to Martin
- 2 Area Scout Forums and Scout Leader meetings should take place before and feed into All Wales Team Days

Actions Agreed

- Scout/ Explorer Health Check Forms to be circulated
- Who is who pro forma to be circulated
- Chief Scout's Gold Award estimate for reception (numbers) circulated for July

Notes of Meeting

1. Meeting opened with Martin introducing himself and purpose of this evening's meeting. He thanked those in attendance but acknowledged finding a good night for such meetings was never easy.

Area Scout Office : The Hub, Maitland Street, Gabalfa, Cardiff. CF14 3JU

Tel/Fax: 0845 094 8987 / 029 20210 119 **E-mail**: office@catvog.org **Website**: www.catvog.org

President: Dr Peter Beck MA, MD, FRCP, O.St.J **Area Commissioner**: Richard Edwards

Patron: HM The Queen **President**: HRH The Duke of Kent **Founder**: Robert Baden-Powell OM **Chief Scout**: Bear Grylls

Charity No: 512034

2. All Wales Team Day: Paul and Martin gave feedback from the last All Wales Team Day they had attended on 6 March. Paul gave an overview of what and how Wales Team Day operated and how

it linked in with scouting at grass roots. The main themes from the Headquarters' presentations to this meeting were links between Scouts and Explorers and take up of the Expedition Challenge. There was an open discussion on both these elements and it was agreed that a HQ Health check for links between Scouts and Explorers should be sent out for Troops to complete (that health check form is an appendix to these notes). The take up of the Expedition Challenge sparked a good debate that was to flow through into the breakout session. Take up of the Expedition Challenge, nationally, appeared to be low and it was suggested that a possible cause may be we are setting the bar too high. Perhaps we need to look again at the requirements and how we operate this challenge. This led on to further discussion on the Dragon Camping Award and again considered the possibility that we may be setting too high a standard as opposed to the award's intent and purpose? All Wales Scout Camp would be looking to promote this award. All Wales Scout Camp was to be covered as a separate agenda head.

3. Breakout Session: Two breakout sessions were facilitated by Paul Deere and Simon Miskin in which the following questions were posed:
 - a. What would you, the leaders, like to see from Area?
 - b. What do you think your Scouts would like to see from Area?
 - c. What support or other matters would you expect from the AAC role?
 - d. How many troops run the Dragon Award and Expedition Challenge?
 - e. It is suggested, nationally, that the take up of the expedition challenge is low, is this true for CATVOG?

The responses to these questions are summarised as appendix 2. In relation to questions a and b both breakout groups felt the answers would be similar; so the responses found under question b are the same in many cases.

4. Communication, Martin circulated a "who is who" pro forma to those at the meeting and asked if each attendee could complete. It was hoped that eventually every scout leader in the area would complete a pro forma capturing a "who is who" for Martin in terms of ongoing communication within the section.
5. Future Events:
 - a. The Gang Show auditions would take place in April and it was highlighted that we needed a few more applications from scouts. Application forms were made available at the meeting.
 - b. Area Scout Forum would take place on Saturday April 17 at Scout Base, Pontcanna. Application forms for this event could now be found on the web site and once again hard copy forms were made available at the meeting. It was pointed out that this clashed with the canoe taster events being run at Fitzallan High School. Martin apologised for the clash and would ensure that it didn't happen in future.
 - c. Chief's Scout's Gold Award reception would take place on 14 September 2010 and as this was slightly earlier than in previous years Dave Gerrard had asked for an estimate of likely numbers from the Scout Section at the beginning of August. Martin would send out a note to all troops around the beginning of July for return by the close of that month so that Dave may be informed of likely numbers of Chief Scout Gold Awards this year.

- d. A review of the swimming fact sheet had taken place in December last year and had been highlighted at the recent Area Team meeting. Martin pointed out some of the changes that have taken place as part of this review and this sparked a lively debate, on what was being seen, as yet more barriers to undertaking normal activities. It was pointed out from the floor that as the review had generated such concerns it was itself subject to review and being looked at again in view of representations received. Martin acknowledged this was the case but as things stood leaders should be aware of this standing advice.
6. Paul gave an update on the plans for this year's All Wales Scout Camp along with a video presentation that was well received. Paul had some key messages:
 - a. Booking online was now open at www.scoutswales.org/booking/awsc2010
 - b. Expression of interest did not guarantee a booking
 - c. Places at this year's camp were 850, on a first come first served basis
 - d. Once camp places had been filled booking would close
 - e. All bookings would be provisional until payment was received
 - f. Troops intending to camp together must book in as a single unit as opposed two
 - g. Activity Zones would be run on the same basis that had proved so successful in 2008
 - h. Troops booking in with more than one leader will be expected to provide leaders to assist with activities- one leader in each Troop would be exempt
 - i. Camp will open on the Friday evening and troops should arrive in their time slot, arrivals before the allotted time would be discouraged.

A show of hands after the presentation indicated that most troops represented at the meeting would be attending this year's camp.

7. Meeting closed with Martin asking if such meetings would be helpful in the future and how often should they take place? It was felt that twice a year would be sufficient and further it was suggested that the timing of these meetings should coincide with Area Scout Forum and feeding into the All Wales Team Day. All agreed that this would make a great deal of sense. The next All Wales Team Day is scheduled for the 13/14 November and therefore dates for both the Area Scout and Area Scout Leaders Forum would be published for October. Martin would like to visit some troops and would welcome invitations to any Troops – he asked for a little notice and that when visiting he be asked to take part in your programme rather than simply come along to observe. Martin thanked all present for their attendance and promised at future events to finish on time. As this was his first meeting he hoped that all present would not mind this once and wished everyone a safe journey home.

Appendices

- 1 Scout/Explorer Health Check
- 2 Breakout Session Responses