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Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

**Annual General Meeting
4th October 2006**

Annual Report 2005 - 2006



Promoting and Supporting Scouting in the County Borough of
Neath & Port Talbot and the City and County of Swansea



Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

Annual General Meeting 2006

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Dear Friends

Annual Report time is once again with us. Last year has been an unusual one. As you all know Mrs Ann Harries, although she officially retired as Area Commissioner at the end of the year in 2004, generously agreed to carry on in that position for a while whilst we sought a replacement. At that time we all thought that this would not be too onerous a task. The group seeking to appoint a successor to Ann was chaired by our President, The Lord Lieutenant, Commodore Robert Hastie. Initially there were fifteen or so names suggested. In time this was whittled down to five persons. However when it came to an interview for the position each person withdrew. This is the position we found ourselves in at the beginning of this year and with Ann definitely leaving.

After a meeting with a member of the Management Committee of the Welsh Scout Council it was agreed that we should continue by splitting the responsibilities of the Area Commissioner. This we have done and Ann Gratrix, Allen Aldred and Rob Lloyd have taken on these responsibilities whilst I join them as the link to the Executive Committee and the Trustees. I stress that this a temporary solution to our problem.

On a lighter note I am pleased to advise you that Mrs Ann Harries has accepted our invitation to become a Life President of the Glamorgan West Area Scout Council.

Finally I commend the enclosed Reports to you and I thank you for all the work you have all put in to make the Scout Association a success.

Dr. Brian Davison
Chairman, Glamorgan West Area Scout Council



Dr. Brian Davison, Mrs Ann Harries and The Lord Lieutenant, Commodore Robert Hastie, at Ann's Farewell Party, Bryn Road HQ 20 January 2006

AREA COMMISSIONER'S REPORT 2005 - 06

It is very appropriate to begin this Area Commissioner's Report by offering thanks and appreciation for the excellent work and commitment of Ann Harries who stepped down as Area Commissioner this year. Thanks also to everyone who helped make Ann's retirement party in January such a great success, a very emotional and enjoyable evening for which Ann was extremely grateful.

It is unfortunate that a replacement Area Commissioner is yet to be found despite the efforts of a 'search committee' set up to undertake this task. Until the appointment of a new Area Commissioner the role is being managed as well as possible by three Deputy Area Commissioners; Allen Aldred, Ann Gratrix and Rob Lloyd.

Whatever the difficulties in finding a replacement and the interim management arrangements, we must all look forward, along with the rest of the Scouts throughout the World, to the beginning of the next century of Scouting. Nobody can argue that Scouting has not stood the test of time and whilst there have been changes to the Sections, uniform, adult training, programme, etc. the fundamental principle remains of encouraging the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. We do this by providing interesting, adventurous and challenging activities with the emphasis on FUN for young people aged between 6 and 25. We, as Leaders, are also lucky enough to be part of this Movement and can continue to achieve satisfaction and reward and also have fun from our involvement which, from time to time, can be difficult, frustrating, tiring

At the turn of the first century of Scouting it must be recognised that are millions of young people throughout the World who have had and are still having extraordinary experiences because of the commitment and hard work of volunteer Leaders.

All we have to do is grit our teeth through any difficult times by recognising the impact we are making and by looking forward to the fun times just around the corner.

Let's pull together and make 2007 the best year yet for the Scouts of West Glamorgan.



Mrs Ann Harries, The Lord Lieutenant, Commodore Robert Hastie, Dr Brian Davison and Mrs Ann Gratrix



AREA BEAVER SCOUT REPORT 2005 – 06

The Beaver Section has had another busy year with all the group, district and Area events. It is encouraging to see more and more Colonies having successful sleepovers. The Area sandcastle competition was held on a very, very windy day. The leaders could hardly stand up but the Beavers had a wonderful time. Brian Jones, SL from Clydach, kept us all supplied with hot drinks and believe me, we were very grateful for them!

There was a very successful Beavers Leaders Conference in Llandrindod Wells High School, which was attended by leaders from all four Districts

Unfortunately we still do not have an AAC for the section but we must mention the two ADCs who have regular Area meetings throughout the year, co-opting leaders from the other two Districts. Heather Culliford kept the minutes, Chris Dyer, as did Zoe Rees-Evans, attended the All Wales meetings and Kay Mort and Jayne Morton were the co-opted members. A big “Thank You” and well done to them all.

The Census numbers were fairly stable but there seems to have been a big increase in the first few months of this year. We hope this is reflected in next year’s figures.

The Section is looking forward to their birthday party in June. Plans to celebrate are well in hand and we look forward to all the celebrations next year.

Thank you to everyone who has helped the Beaver Scout section during the past year.

Ann Gratrix
Deputy Area Commissioner



AREA CUB SCOUT REPORT 2005 - 06

Well another year has come and gone. During the year I hope you all celebrated 90 years of Cub Scouting in style with many different events. The bad news is that our numbers are declining once again. What can we do to increase our numbers? Maybe to get ourselves noticed more in the coming year, especially as we will be celebrating 100 years of Scouting. Please do your best to advertise yourselves more.

If you have not had your pack for 2007 from your Group Scout Leader by the end of October, find out WHY??

How are you getting on with the Programme? We have been promised a review (2008). I have had very little feedback; don't be afraid to let me know either by letter or e-mail (tonymorgan60@yahoo.co.uk).

The Cub Scout Award for Wales has been out for some time now. At the time of writing this, I have presented 58 badges and certificates to Cubs in Swansea, Afan Nedd and Cwm Newydd Districts. There are more boys and girls out there who I know would love to obtain this badge. Tell them about it! Do you know about it? Have you heard about it? Have you seen it? You can either obtain a copy from the Welsh Scout Council at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RZ at a cost of £3.00, or by downloading it from the Welsh Scout Council website:

www.scoutbase.org.uk/wales.

Have a look at it, it runs alongside the present day programme and children like badges!

Many of you will have gone on Pack Holidays and Cub Camps during the year. I do hope that everything went well and that the Cubs enjoyed themselves (which I know they would have). Why not do a joint Pack Holiday with a Cub Pack from another District, and then enter yourselves for the Area Commissioner's Friendship Trophy – it has not been presented for a few years. Please remember the rule regarding the ratio of adults to Cubs has changed now from 1 : 6 to 1 : 8.

2007 carries another milestone in Scouting that is from 1st January the introduction of girls into every section. If you have not heard this news then contact your District Commissioner.

Area competitions were held as in previous years,

Chess

Winner: Samuel Wyatt 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) Swansea District

Runner-up: Philippe Rogers 44th Swansea (St Paul's) Gower District

Draughts

Winner: Thomas James Afan Nedd District

Runner-up: Ryan Miller 7th Swansea (St. Michaels) Swansea District

John Hanlin Trophy

Winners: 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) Swansea District

Runners-up: 20th Swansea Swansea District

Road safety

Winners: 8th Port Talbot (St Catherine's) Afan Nedd

Football

Winners: 7th Lliw Valley (Penclawdd) Cwm Newydd District

Runners-up: 3rd Lliw Valley (Gorseinon) Cwm Newydd District

Sand Sculpture

Winners: 8th Port Talbot (St Catherine's) Afan Nedd District

Runners-up: 1st Neath Afan Nedd District

It was nice to see some publicity for the Cub Section during the year. The 44th Sketty having a Cub invested on the stage in the Grand Theatre during a performance of the Jungle Book. Well done Viv.

Two Cub leaders being awarded the High Sheriff's Award namely Annette Rice from 5th Neath (Bryncoch) and Jill Morgan from 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) – Well done to you both!!

Again without my small team events would not take place. I am very grateful to them for the time they spend in their Groups, Districts and with me. Thank you Marina, Barbara, Sue and Christian for your support and also to all those other leaders and parents for their support during the events that have taken place.

Tony Morgan

AAC Cubs



AREA SCOUT REPORT 2005 - 06

Well in April 2005 I sat down thinking that I had written my last report. I was beginning to look forward to EuroJam in July and August. I should have known things were not going to be that simple, our Area Commissioner Ann Harries, also intending to go to EuroJam decided to dislocate her shoulder just weeks before the

event, making us one down on the camp. However with her there to see us off at midnight the Area Contingent duly departed from Clydach to Hylands Park. To cut a long story short an excellent time was had by all, my only regret being that so many leaders flatly refused to encourage their Scouts to participate purely on the grounds of cost, instead of trying to find ways around it. No doubt the same will be said for 2007 though I am happy to say that all those Scouts who went would like to go again, and at the time of writing some 7 or 8 had signed up for the World Jamboree as participants or staff, and although the closing date has gone I understand there are still some vacancies. The Area AGM in County Hall saw the Scouts who went to EuroJam give an excellent report to those present, but again it would have been nice to see more leaders from all Sections attend this meeting, and give the young people some support.

Unfortunately Scout Section numbers are down again this year but more disappointing is the fact that troops are being closed and although we are assured that this is going to be a temporary measure, it's more a problem of leader shortage rather than a shortage of Scouts. Maybe we should be looking at how we use our resources again.

The two Scout Forums held at Silver Cross saw increasing numbers attending in April however a substantial drop in September. Maybe the not so good weather on the first one put others off for the second, however those who were there could go on most activities several times. My thanks must go out to the leaders who help out at these events, in particular those from Cwm Newydd and Gower, also the staff at Silver Cross who man several of the activities.

Congratulations to the Scouts who attained their Chief Scout's Gold Award this year, namely Martin Davies, Paul Gammon, Scott Pickard, Alex Swain, Daniel Phillips and Ciaran Troke of Gower District. I apologise if there are any more but these are the only names that have been passed to me. The Welsh 24 hour pedal car race was held again at Margam and again an increased entry from all over the Country, with 11 Scout and Guide cars entered from Glamorgan West with every District in the Area again being represented either in racing or carrying out one of the many tasks required to run an event of this kind.

Again I must report a poor response to the Glamorgan West Go for 2007, however it has been redistributed to every Troop and District maybe the uptake will improve. As this is an annual competition with a September finish possibly we will be in for a pleasant surprise. I hope so!

Finally my thanks to all the Scouts, Patrol Leaders, Section Leaders and Commissioners for the support that they have given to the Scout Section during the past year, I hope that you will all continue to give this support next year and that 2007 will be a year for all members of the Movement to remember.

Bill Gratrix
AAC Scouts

AREA YOUNG LEADER'S UNIT REPORT 2005 - 06

2006 has seen the Young Leaders' scheme building upon existing strengths in the Area. The numbers attending training events has now levelled off and I believe that we are aware of most Young Leaders throughout the Area. This has been somewhat of a slow uphill struggle due to the reluctance of some groups.

Glamorgan West has been at the forefront of pushing the Young Leaders' scheme throughout Wales, with us hosting the first ever Wales-wide Young Leaders' Unit training weekend at Silver Cross in Easter. Known as Team X, the Unit is designed to relieve the pressures of delivering training from those smaller Areas and we were delighted to be supporting and coordinating such an exciting first step.

Many Young Leaders attended the fifth All-Wales Scout Camp during June, both as assistance to their own troops but also as integral members of the Team X contingent. Once again, Young Leaders from across Wales proved their importance in assisting with just about everything throughout the weekend! Building on the strengths of a similar team in 2004, through this year's event, and looking towards 2008, Team X and Young Leaders are setting themselves yet higher standards and their value is being recognised widely.

Once again, I'd like to thank all those who have supported the scheme throughout the year including the Young Leaders, parents, fellow trainers, and leaders who work with Young Leaders each week. For those who have anyone under 18 helping out in a colony, pack or troop, please get in touch with me to discuss the options that we provide.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the unit, the training scheme or anything else then please do not hesitate in contacting me. Over the coming year I will be establishing a support team to visit Young Leaders in their evening meetings, which I hope will be better support the leaders with whom they are working.

Throughout 2007, we will continue to deliver quality training and by this point next year I will hope to have recommended my successor. My personal circumstances will be changing over the year, making my appointment slightly more difficult. As a farewell, I hope that in the last few years I have been able to establish the scheme to best serve everyone in the Area; that this was the main focus of my role. I now feel that a fresh pair of hands would be appropriate to take the next leap.

Pete Jeffreys
Area Explorer Scout Leader (Young Leaders)

AAC GENERAL: 2007 UPDATE

Regular meetings are being held with representatives from the Districts, the next one being in October.

At least two of the districts have got their own 2007 working party where they meet to discuss things at a district level. Activity list has been drawn up and will be finalised towards end of October when venues and dates have been checked.

First activity of 2007 (Disneyland Paris) is proving to be very popular and is almost fully booked. Area camp will definitely be held at Silvercross where arrangements for the field as an overflow site have been put in place.

A unit (40 strong) from Austria will be staying with us in Swansea after the Jamboree for a few nights. Definite dates and times will be sent to us after flights etc have been booked. An itinerary is being drawn up along with possible sources of funding so that they can enjoy their stay in Wales.
Help will be greatly received.

Join-in-centenary packs for 2007 are being sent out in September to all GSL's and each section should nag them for their copy.

Jonathan Gratrix
AAC General

AAC INTERNATIONAL REPORT 2005-06

Just a short report on the International scene for the year 2005/06. I had a few enquiries regarding camping abroad but no one took up the challenge. Since April I have had two enquiries that should prove to be fruitful and I am looking forward for a good report. As you are aware in the year 2007 we will be welcoming a number of Scouts from abroad to stay in the area before the World Jamboree and I hope that this will put some interest in the future. Nothing else to report at the moment.

Hywel Weaver
AAC International

AREA TRAINING MANAGER'S REPORT 2005 – 06

Courses are being run in the Area and the information is being circulated as best we can, including leaflets being handed out at last year's AGM. Assessments are being made to those attendees who request them after attending courses. Module 25 courses have been run at Bryn Road and at Neath.

Bob Jones
Area Training Manager

AREA CENSUS

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

2006 Census Totals as at 31
January 2006

	Swansea	Swansea Gower	Cwm Newydd	Afan Nedd	Area	Total
Active Groups	7	9	10	13		39
Beaver Scouts	14	102	89	133		338
Cub Scouts	63	158	117	181		519
Scouts	44	110	67	78		299
Venture Scouts						0
Explorer Scouts	5	24	23	15		67
Scout Network						0
Leaders	31	62	50	61		204
Section Assistants	10	10	7	19		46
Others	4	24	11	12	20	71
Totals	171	490	364	499	20	1544

Note: The 42nd Swansea Group is now reopened and operational with a total of 10 Cub Scouts and 2 Leaders. These are included in this table.

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

Membership Changes in 2006
from 2005

2005+/-	-43	-86	-21	10	-2	-142
% Change +/-	-20%	-15%	-5%	2%	-9%	-8%

**Glamorgan West Area Scout Council
(Wales)**

**2005 Census Totals as at 31
January 2005**

	Swansea	Swansea Gower	Cwm Newydd	Afan Nedd	Area	Total
Active Groups	7	10	10	13		40
Beaver Scouts	35	96	87	127		345
Cub Scouts	65	196	124	171		556
Scouts	48	154	83	76		361
Venture Scouts						0
Explorer Scouts	10	16	22	20		68
Scout Network						0
Leaders	39	62	57	61		219
Section Assistants	11	20	3	20		54
Others	6	32	9	14	22	83
Totals	214	576	385	489	22	1686



Our generous drinks pourers at Ann's Farewell!!!