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Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

**Annual General Meeting
4th October 2007**

Annual Report 2006 - 2007



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



Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

Annual General Meeting 2007

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Chairman's Foreword

Dear Friends,

For most of the year just passed the responsibilities of the Area Commissioner have been split between Ann Gratrix, Allen Aldred and Rob Lloyd, with myself in the background. Although we worked harmoniously clearly this state could not be continued indefinitely. In late 2006 Rob intimated that he would be willing to become Area Commissioner. Our President, The Lord Lieutenant, Commodore Robert Hastie, who chaired the group seeking a successor to Mrs Ann Harries, after an interview reviewing his proposals for the Area, recommended his appointment to the Chief Commissioner for Wales. The Chief Commissioner subsequently accepted our recommendation and appointed Rob Lloyd as Glamorgan West Area Commissioner on December 1st 2006.

The appointment of a new Chief Scout for the UK has brought change to the overall organisation of Scouting in order to bring it into line with present day requirements and likewise, there will be changes in the way the Area is administered. A new Constitution will be needed to accommodate the resultant organisation.

Despite the lack of an Area Commissioner scouting activities in our Area have continued apace and I commend the attached reports to you. On a lighter note I am pleased to advise you that three members of our Area have been recognised for their work for the community through scouting. Mrs Ann Harries was awarded a MBE in the Queens Honours list whilst Mrs Ann Gratrix and Mr Anthony (Tony) Johnson were given the High Sheriff's Award.

Finally may I thank you all for the work you have put in to make the Scout Association locally a success.

Dr Brian Davison.
Chairman, Glamorgan West Area Scout Council.

Area Commissioner's Report

Although this report relates to the period April 2006 to March 2007 I must take this opportunity to wish everyone connected with Scouting a very, very happy birthday for August 1st when we collectively became 100 years old. I am sure that everyone in Glamorgan West has participated in and enjoyed their involvement in centenary celebrations and will continue to do so until the end of the year.

As we enjoy and celebrate this year we must be conscious that this milestone we have reached is also the beginning of the second century of Scouting and we must ensure that our Movement does not stand still but 'moves' forward to cater for the interests of the young people of today and the future.

If we are to progress there sometimes is a need to make changes and many of us would agree with Mark Twain's comment "I'm all for progress, it's change I object to." At the beginning of the year I proposed a restructuring of the way in which Scouting is to be supported and managed with the aim of creating robust systems which I believe will bring about the development of Scouting in Glamorgan West. There have certainly been objections to the proposals but it is my belief that the difficulties that changes will bring can be overcome and that the successful growth of Scouting will follow.

There is an ongoing need to build on the strengths within our Area and to recognise our weaknesses so that we can make progress. To achieve this we must construct a forward plan so that everyone involved in Scouting in Glamorgan West can work towards the common goals of developing a focussed, sound, relevant, diverse and growing youth movement. It is my intention that a strategic plan will be produced in 2008 which will look to how Scouting in Glamorgan West can be developed during the following ten years.

Scouting, and Glamorgan West in particular, is full of fantastic people who give of their time for the benefit of others and I ask everyone involved in our wonderful Movement to pull together to ensure that we continue to promote the development of young people to achieve their full potential, physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

I hope you continue to enjoy our centenary and I am convinced that there are more exciting times ahead.

Rob Lloyd
Area Commissioner



AREA CUB SCOUT REPORT

The milestone in the history of the Scout Movement is almost over. How did your pack celebrate it? I have heard of quite a lot of the good times that were had during the year. I hope you are all using your join-in centenary books, I think it is one of the better publications that the Scout Association has produced in many years. The bad news is that our numbers are declining once again. What can we do to increase our numbers? Please do your best to advertise yourselves more.

Last year I asked how were you getting on with the Programme? As yet I have had no feedback don't be afraid to let me know either by letter or email (anthony.morgan90 @ntlworld.com).

The Cub Scout Award for Wales has been out for some time now. During 2007 I only presented 10 badges & certificates to Cubs in the Area. 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.

I know many of you will have gone on Pack Holidays and Cub Camps during the year, despite the weather. I attended two on consecutive weekends in June and what different weather we had. 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 part of the Area, then enter yourselves for the Area Commissioners' Friendship Trophy it has not been presented for a few years.

How many girls have joined your Pack since January? It would be nice to know.

Area competitions were held as in previous years,

Chess: Winner - Phillippe Rogers - 44th Swansea (St. Paul's) - Gower District
Runner-up - Samuel Wyatt - 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) - Swansea District

Draughts: Winner - Thomas James - 9th Neath (Skewen) - Afan Nedd District
Runner-up - Callum Hodgson - 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) - Swansea District

Road Safety: 7th Lliw Valley (Penclawdd) - Cwm Newydd District.
Runners-up - 20th Swansea - Swansea District

Football: Winners - 6th Mumbles - Gower District
Runners-up - 5th Port Talbot (St. Theodore's) - Afan Nedd District

Sand Sculpture: Cancelled in July due to bad weather

John Hanlin Trophy: Winners - 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park) - Swansea District
Runners-up - 6th Mumbles - Gower District

Cub Leaders were awarded the High Sheriff's Award namely Philip Walker from 8th Port Talbot (St. Catharine's) and Jeff Loyns from 5th Neath (Bryncoch) – 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 & Viv for your support and also to all those other leaders and parents for their support during the events that have taken place.

Due to the forthcoming reorganisation of the area, things in the cub section will not change, and to these ends I have appointed Barbara Cotton (babs_cotton@hotmail.com) & Viv Lewis(ken.l@ntlworld.com) as my assistants to ensure that Cub Scouting goes from strength to strength

Tony Morgan
A.A.C. Cub Scouts



AREA SCOUT REPORT

The worst part of writing an annual report is how to begin it, particularly if over the years you have written several. One must try to think of something new and original and perhaps the most difficult in the present climate is not to be too negative. So on the positive side, the Scout numbers are up, even if it is only by 2, there is an encouraging response for the jamboree, though those going will be Explorers by the time of the event, Scouts being too young. The Scout forums are still proving to be popular with many, and this year the one held at Cadoxton was particularly well attended. The pleasing thing with these events is the increase in leader participation, which also improves the quality and variety of activities that can be put on.

In spite of the fact that only 6 Troops took part in the draw for the Brownsea Camp, after every Troop in the Area except one agreed, we have 6 young people from 3 Troops going to the Island, the Troops themselves arranging the payment for 4 of the Scouts.

Moving onto the Centenary activities there has been a somewhat mixed response to the programme of events. We started off with 2 buses to Disneyland Paris in January, with a good proportion from the Scout Section on them. However the Scout turnout at the St. Georges day service was disappointing, as was the Scout presence at the Camp at Silver Cross, both excellent events. It is small wonder that the proposed Gower hike was called off due to lack of response, as apparently only two parties had confirmed for the Camp a week after the closing date. This is something that Glamorgan West leaders must improve on for the sake of the young people; we do appear to be letting them down.

I cannot really comment on the Jamboree, as all those going will be Explorers, with several leaders going on the staff and contingent teams. I hope they come back full of enthusiasm and pass it onto their friends and colleagues. Also hopefully we will be able to report more Chief Scout Awards and Dragon Awards being presented next year, none having been reported to me last year.

Finally may I thank all the leaders (particularly those from Cwm Newydd District) and Scouts who have supported the Area and myself over the past 9 years, and I hope you all will support Rob, Brian and the Area in the future.

Bill Gratrix
AAC Scouts



AREA EXPLORER SCOUTS REPORT

As 2007, our centenary year, this is a special year for Scouting and believe it or not, Explorer Scouting is 5 years old!

Many Explorer Scouts from the Area were lucky enough to attend the 21st World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park and had a wonderful, once-in-a-lifetime experience and the Explorer Scouts and leaders who were fortunate to attend are grateful to all those who helped to make their World Jamboree trip a reality.

Again in the Glamorgan West area we are proud to highlight the achievements of young people within the Explorer Scout section, who have achieved the highest honour in Scouting, The Queen's Scout Award. This entails completing a range of challenges - including service to their community, an expedition in wild country, a five-day residential project and learning a new skill or developing an existing talent. In April this year, many of those Explorer Scouts (and Network members) took part in the annual St. George's Day parade at Windsor castle and they were especially privileged to be reviewed on the day by The Queen.

I attended one of the Area Sunrise Promise Ceremonies that was held at Sketty and was pleased to see a number of Explorer Scout Units represented there, with all Explorer Scouts renewing their promise along with other Scouts and leaders from the Area.

In the Area, Explorer Scout Units are active and involved in the wide variety of activities that you would expect from this age group. There are also Explorer Scouts active as Young Leaders in the Area and they have undertaken Young Leader Training, which was at the time under the leadership of Pete Jeffreys. Thanks to him for his time and dedication to that section. There is a need to develop links and joint activities between units in the Area as at present the majority of Explorer scouting remains within units. Hopefully we can develop this over the next few years and see the continued success of the section.

In looking forward for the section in the Area, most Explorer Scout Units will be represented at AWESOME, the All Wales Explorer Scout Weekend which is being held at Glanusk Park on the last weekend of September. This is the second of these camps and it is hoped it will be an excellent opportunity for Explorer Scouts to meet and undertake challenges and activities with others from Wales and around the UK. There are also plans for an Explorer Scout activity day in the autumn, incorporating the opportunity for an Explorer Scout forum to provide Explorer Scouts with the opportunity to make decisions about the section within the area.

I hope to be able to devote more time to my role as Assistant Area Commissioner for Explorer Scouts in the future, as I have had very little available time this year due to a change in work commitments and I apologise for the lack of visible work that I have done.

Thanks to all leaders, volunteers and Explorer Scouts who continue to work hard to make sure they all have an excellent experience within their Units and further afield! Here's to a new century of Scouting and a bright future for Explorer Scouts!

Cath Jones
AAC for Explorer Scouts

AAC GENERAL: 2007

This year started well with a large turnout for our trip to Euro Disney. Two activities have had to be cancelled this year that were planned. The first one was out of our hands when the Swansea to Cork Ferry was not started up again. The second one was the Gower hike, which did not have enough support. Although the other activities have been successful, I feel that the turnouts have been pretty poor considering the numbers that we have in our area (this may be down to poor communications). A small group went up to Westminster for Founders Day in February and a good day was had by all. St George's day parade at Christ Church went without any problems and the hot dogs after it went down well. The Area Camp was a success even though the weather wasn't brilliant with around 200

participants. Sunrise activities were held at Cadoxton and Sketty with good turnouts at both considering it was during the holidays.

The 2 contingents from Holland enjoyed their stay in Swansea and the activities that we put on for them. All the hard work paid off. They had a trip around Gower and visited the Mayor's Parlour.

As we bring this year to a close we are left with the Leaders Cheese & Wine at Bryn Road in September and The Dragon Award (Nov/ Dec)

Publicity this year has been very good with some excellent coverage in the Evening Post of certain activities as well as the Scouting supplement, which has been on sale throughout the summer.

Can I just say a big **'THANK YOU'** to those who have helped this year? Those who have helped with the running of bases at Area Camp, the planning and organisation of activities along with those who helped with the home hospitality for the Dutch. Without your support, none of this could have happened.

Jonathan Gratrix
AAC General

AAC INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Yet another year has passed and after a few enquiries regarding the adventure of going abroad only one Group took up the challenge and they were the Explorers from Neath, who in turn invited the Explorers from the 2nd Swansea Valley Clydach Group to accompany them to Belgium. It was nice to see that the two Units could work together on such an adventure. The report I had back from Pat Thomas, the organiser, indicated that they had a marvellous time.

His is a very short report as only one Unit took part but looking to the future it is hoped that the international scene will be busy in the year 2007/2008. Perhaps we will have more activities and more enquiries in the next twelve months.

Hywel Weaver
AAC International

AREA APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE and AREA TRAINING TEAM REPORT

Appointments Committee

My thanks must go to the loyal small group, mainly ex- scouters who form the Area Appointments Committee. This year they have met about every six weeks and approx. 20 potential leaders have been interviewed. I say potential because as you should all know by know, no warrants are issued until the prospective leader has

completed modules 1,2 & 3 of the adult training scheme and also, these modules have been validated.

The Appointments Committee is also part of the review system and 10 existing leaders have been interviewed. Please remember that warrants are not valid if your first aid and child protection modules are not in date.

As you can see the appointments committee does a very important job in the area, so I must thank them all again.

Training Team

This year the training team have been working very hard, trying out new methods of delivering training modules. It has been a challenge and I think will continue to be one for some time. We realise now we are never going to please everyone, but remain committed and open to any suggestions. The team on times have been very despondent, especially when nobody has turned up at training. On other occasions training has been successful, so we've felt it has been worthwhile.

There are regular module 10 sessions, full courses run by Mike Isaac, and renewals run by Bruce Denley Jones. Nobody has an excuse for an out of date First Aid Certificate.

Modules 1,2 & 3 have been held on different days every month, again no excuse of group meetings. It is the GSL's and learner's responsibility to let us know when they are ready for assessment. Remember NO VALIDATION - NO WARRANT.

The other modules are run as and when required - you ask we produce!

The team consists of myself, Julia Jones, Tony Johnson, Bruce Denley Jones, Phil Jones and Mike Isaac. Alan Mone, Brian & Fiona Dark and Barbara Cotton are assessors. My thanks go to them all, for the wonderful job they are doing. I know there are more assessors in the process of training, but we still need more, many hands make light work.

Thank you everyone who has taken part in training this year, we hopefully will build on our small successes next year.

Ann Gratrix
Deputy Area Commissioner (Adult Support)

AREA CENSUS

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

Census Totals as at 31 January 2006

	Swansea	Swansea Gower	Cwm Newydd	Afan Nedd	Area	Total
<i>Active Groups</i>	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

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

Membership Changes in 2007 from 2006

2007+/-	-12	-2	34	-7	-2	11
% Change +/-	-7%	-0%	9%	-1%	-10%	1%

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

Census Totals as at 31 January 2007

	Swansea	Swansea Gower	Cwm Newydd	Afan Nedd	Area	Total
<i>Active Groups</i>	8	9	8	13		38
Beaver Scouts	19	75	119	127		340
Cub Scouts	61	164	111	194		530
Scouts	33	104	84	76		297
Explorer Scouts	5	50	22	16		93
Scout Network						0
Leaders	30	59	51	55		195
Section Assistants	8	10	6	16		40
Others	3	26	5	8	18	60
Totals	159	488	398	492	18	1555