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Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

**Annual General Meeting
8th October 2008**

Annual Report 2007 - 2008



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 2008

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AREA COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

During the year to which this report relates we saw the completion of our centenary year and the beginning of the second century of the Scout Movement; a Movement that has changed considerably since its conception and continues to develop rapidly to keep pace with an ever changing society. It is of great credit to all Leaders and adult volunteers within Glamorgan West that we are still able to provide such fantastic opportunities for young people that provide them with the fun, challenge and adventure that they need. I have noticed that the number of enquiries I have received from parents looking for places for their children to join Groups has increased significantly, which confirms that what we are offering still remains relevant to the young people in our Area.

The changes to the governance and structured support offered by the Area have now been in place for one year and I would like to thank everyone for adapting to these changes. I believe that as an Area we must constantly look to the way we offer support to Leaders and respond to needs as necessary. I realise that there will always be a need to build on the strengths within our Area and to recognise our weaknesses so that we can make progress, so if anyone ever feels they need to contact me with suggestions, advice or even complaints I will be happy to receive them so that we can endeavour to provide a service that is relevant to all Groups and all Leaders in Glamorgan West.

Our aim must be to expand what we can offer to more young people and to do this we need to attract more adult volunteer support. To help us to achieve this goal we have been successful, in conjunction with the Welsh Scout Council, to secure funding to employ a full time Development Officer whose sole objective is to find and retain volunteers so that Scouting can continue to grow. Of course the Development Officer cannot achieve this alone and we need to offer whatever support we can to make this project a success.

Scouting is a fantastic organisation, the biggest and the best in the World for providing fun, challenge and adventure for young people and everyone in Glamorgan West should be proud of what they do for the young people whose lives they effect in such a positive way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in our wonderful Movement for everything they do to ensure that we continue to promote the development of young people to achieve their full potential, physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

Let's continue to develop Scouting, continue to benefit young people and continue to enjoy our own Scouting.

Thanks.

Rob Lloyd
Area Commissioner

AAC REPORTS:



AREA CUB SCOUT REPORT

This year has proved quite a difficult one to organise. As we are one Area, I decided so that Cubs would still meet together at Area Competitions, local competitions would take place, with the Cubs competing within the old District boundaries. This I think has worked quite well with some joining forces in new competitions, such as Cross Country and Sports day.

I have held meetings with the leaders from the old districts, but would love to see more show their support. The best meeting was held at Cadoxton with about 10 leaders taking part.

In May we had the Area Camp, which was attended by quite a lot of Cub Scouts, but I was very disappointed with the support I received. If it were not for SWIGS and a FEW cub leaders the things that I organised would not have taken place. Unless I know in advance the support I am going to get next year, then I am sorry each Cub pack attending will have to organise its own fun.

On June 14th was the All Wales Cub Fun Day. Attended by only 3000 cubs, to which I now apologise to all leaders for the bad organisation of the day, as I feel that no Cub should have been turned away, and I know a lot were turned away, which was put down to safety and the issue of wrist bands which was a farce. I am still awaiting copies of your assessment forms!!

The programme has been amended with new zones and Activity Badges, also new Challenge Badges. How do you feel about the change? Please let me know. (anthony.morgan90@ntlworld.com).

Have you seen a copy of the Area Directory? Is it up to date? If on either account let me know. Would you like a copy?

The Cub Scout Award for Wales has been out for some time now. There must be 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.scoutswales.org 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 July 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, and then enter yourselves for the Area Commissioners' Friendship Trophy it has not been presented for a few years.

How many girls have joined since January 2008? It would be nice to know.

Area competitions were held as in previous years,

Chess

Winner - Luke Riseborough - 47th Swansea (Killay)

Runner-up - Morgan Doel - 7th Swansea (St. Michael's)

Draughts

Winner - Ryan Miller - 20th Swansea

Runner-up - Owen Jones – 8th Port Talbot (St. Catharine's)

Road Safety – 5th & 8th Port Talbot

Runners-up - 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park)

Football

Winners - 7th Cwm Newydd - Penclawdd

Runners-up - 22nd & 32nd Swansea

Sand Sculpture

Winners - 7th Swansea (St. Michael's)

Runners-up - 32nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park)

Again, without help from a 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 Barbara, Viv, Ann, Arline, Sonia & my wife Jill for your support and also to all those other leaders and parents for their support during the events that have taken place at local levels.

If you have any information to pass on you can always contact me or 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

My first year as AAC, new territory for me and my aim was to get at least 3 events, more if possible, going for the year. I also wanted to meet as many Scout Leaders and Scouts as possible on the events.

Well we had a very successful football competition in May, a great May camp, which was dry for a change! An Indoor cooking Competition in September and coming up shortly a Chess and Draughts Competition.

Not bad for a start, however I would like to see more leaders, assistants and/or helpers at the meetings I hold during the year. This will enable new and fresh ideas to be aired and of course will help everybody get to know fellow volunteers. (You know the ones that give up a couple of hours a week!)

We are still short of Scout Leaders in the Area but hopefully things will improve this coming year.

I would just like to thank everybody for their support and patience and hopefully together we can take Scouting forward to new heights and achievements.

Brian Dark
AAC Scouts



AREA EXPLORER SCOUTS REPORT

Explorer Scouting continues to be successful with 8 Units running across the Area. These Units all run an active programme of activities and provide opportunities for young people in the Area. Through the year, many of the Units have attended nationally organised events and camps including The Sun Run, Malvern Challenge and Gilwell 24 and have gained much from meeting other Explorer Scouts at such events. Although it seems like a long time ago, there were 4 Units from Glamorgan West at AWESOME, the All Wales Explorer Scout Camp in Glanusk Park, Crickhowell. Some of the activities on offer were kayaking, climbing, inflatable life-size table football and skinning rabbits to make rabbit stew. Again this proved an excellent opportunity for Explorer Scouts to meet others and make friends, whilst having a good time. As well as all these, most Units have been on successful summer camps.



Prepared for kayaking at AWESOME



Bungee running at AWESOME

On the negative side, Young Leader training in the Area has not been organised during the year, apart from a couple of opportunities to undertake Module A, kindly provided by a couple of leaders from Neath. This needs to be addressed as soon as possible but as always needs volunteers to help out as trainers. There are

opportunities through the Welsh Scout Council to take part in training as part of Team X (the dates are available on the Welsh Scout Website) and it is hoped that Explorer Scouts interested or participating in the Young Leader scheme have been made aware of this fact.

To move back to more positive news, there are Explorer Scouts in the Area who have been awarded The Queen's Scout Award, the highest award in Scouting. We are proud of their achievement and congratulate them for their dedication and skills in gaining the award.

On meeting with the Explorer Scout Leaders last year, it was decided by the Leaders that Area Explorer Scout events were not required and Units would just join together for activities. Whether this is actually successful remains to be seen. There was however a Network / Explorer Scout Bowling Competition organised by Graham Rees-Evans which all enjoyed and a cup was presented to the winners!

Again, thanks to all leaders, helpers, parents and Explorer Scouts for continuing in their dedication to making Explorer Scouting happen.

Cath Jones
AAC for Explorer Scouts

AAC GENERAL: 2007

The Centenary year finished a little disappointingly. There was a good turnout for the past and present leaders cheese and wine at Bryn Road but it would have been nicer to have had more present leaders there. All those who turned up enjoyed it and I feel that it was a missed opportunity. The Dragon Award under canvas was very poorly attended at Silver Cross but those who turned up made the most of it in spite of the bad weather. A coach of young people from the Area went to the 02 Arena for the concert. It was fantastic venue and brilliant concert but a very long day. Thanks to Little Warren Group for organising the trip.

Overall the Centenary Year was very successful and I would like to thank again those few leaders who supported me during the very busy year. We had lots of very positive publicity and this will hopefully increase the numbers in the Area over the next few years.

It was suggested (by Steve Burgess and Julian Morgans) that we had another Area Camp to build on the success of last year, so a committee was set up. The team worked very hard during the start of 2008 to arrange this Camp, which was a huge success.

Jonathan Gratrix
AAC General

AAC INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Yet another year has passed and we have had some activity on the international scene. The 7th St Michael's Scout Group camped in France to celebrate the Centenary. As an Area we hosted a Dutch contingent of 80 Scouts and leaders before the World Jamboree.

I would like to congratulate and thank the 47th Swansea and the 3rd Gower Scouts Groups, as well as all the other helpers, for the hard work that they did at that particular time, which made a very successful visit to Wales for the Dutch Scouts. Since the World Jamboree I have had a number of enquiries for the year 2008 and it looks like the interest is growing in the Area for international activities.

Hywel Weaver
AAC International

AAC ACTIVITIES REPORT

First Response

Mike and I have continued to offer 1st Response courses throughout the year. The syllabus has changed and we now offer the two night full course at the 44th and Cadoxton with the One night refresher course also at these venues. Mike uses Rhyddings for his one-day courses. Thanks must go to these groups for their willing support. Unfortunately this is not always true for those leaders who need to attend these courses to keep their warrants up to date. Details of next year's courses should be available at the AGM. BDJ

Nights Away Permits and Notification

Over the year I have renewed all the permits I was aware of as the old permits are now void. IF you think you have a permit and have not received a replacement please contact me or better still complete the application form and send it to me as that I can complete the 8 point assessment with you, (this can often be done over the phone with leaders I know) There has been some confusion as the Night away notification form mentions District commissioners. However in CATVOG, Mid Glam and Glamorgan West we operate an Area coordinator system, which is working well, an e-mail or Phone call is all need from permit holders.

A Module 16 course will run each year provided we have enough leaders who apply on time! This course does need three to four weeks to set up at the very least.
Activities

Hill walking, canoeing and climbing seem to be making progress slowly. This year we hope to reinforce our Activities team so if you have an interest give me a call
Bruce Denley Jones AAC (A), LTM, Nights Away
Coordinator brucedenley@hotmail.com, 01792 893151

AREA ADULT SUPPORT AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

ADULT SUPPORT

Doesn't time fly. It seemed only yesterday that Rob asked me to take on the job of Adult Support Commissioner and here I am writing my second report. 2007 was a very busy year for all of us, with centenary celebrations and the re-organisation of the Area. It has taken quite a while to sort out, but now this is complete we can move forward and focus on other matters.

Adult support is as the words suggest, support for all adults in Scouting, this includes Fellowships, Committee Members, Helpers, and of course Leaders. I will report on the various teams separately.

The Appointments Committee

We are very lucky in the Area having a very dedicated team of people, all ex Scouters who sit on the Area Appointments Committee. They meet every six weeks on a Thursday evening, but are very flexible and are willing to meet at your convenience, anywhere, any time, any place.

During the period 1/4/07 and 31/3/08 24 adults were interviewed, and all were recommended for provisional appointments. Out of these 24, 5 have since left the movement due to work commitments and 9 have gained full appointments. Ten have not completed their getting started modules within the required five month period, a few have had a further period of 5 months, and still not have not gained their full appointment, so their provisional appointments will have to be reviewed.

My thanks go to Gary, Bill, Margaret, Lynne, Chris, Val and Hywel, all members of the committee for their continued support and commitment, they make my life so much easier. We would also welcome new members, however as in all areas of Scouting there is a certain amount of training needed.

Please note that all leaders have to have a "Scout CRB" check by 31st of December 2008. Please make sure that you and your colleagues have one, as only those issued by Scout H.Q. are recognised by the movement.

The Training Team

The members of the training team have again this year delivered a full programme of modules, as courses and as one to one training. Some were well attended some very poorly attended. The dates of these courses were widely circulated to leaders and G.S.L's. First aid courses are also suffering from lack of participants, on a few occasions the trainer has sat there on his own waiting for leaders to arrive, no one has. A vast amount of work, time and resources go into preparing for the trainings and the trainers get very despondent and disappointed when this happens.

There is still a problem with module validation. It is your responsibility to let us know when you are ready to be assessed. The team of trainers and assessors are always there to support and advise you. If you need any help or advice please ask.

Thank you to the leaders who sent in their views and comments on the trainings they attended it was valuable information we can use for our review system. We need these observations to ensure that you all receive good quality training relevant to your own needs.

This year the first 3 leaders gained their Wood Badges on the modular system - Lynda Jones, Bryan Jones and Jenni Aazem. 4 leaders also gained their Wood Badges on top up modules - Ann Waters, Jackie Morris, Diana Jones and Michael Lewis.

Heather Culliford, Phil Jones, Pat Thomas and Chris Dyer completed module 25 and have now become Training Advisers.

Congratulations and well done to all these leaders.

My thanks must go to all the members of the Training Team for their continued commitment and to all the Training Advisors without whom no leader would gain their Wood Badge.

The Awards Panel

We have been extremely fortunate this year in being granted the awards that we have requested. This is not always the case as sometimes applications are refused by Headquarters for various reasons.

If you would like to recommend an adult for an award, please contact me and I will explain the process.

Our congratulations go to the following on their awards this year:

MERIT AWARD	Keith Thomas Joanna Morgans Paul Llewellyn Hugh Saunders	Judith Davies Stuart Evans Della Llewellyn Zoe Rees Evans	Heather Culliford Keith Kostromin Pat Thomas
SILVER ACORN	Andrew Shurey	Eirwen Margetts	
SILVER WOLF	Ann Harries		

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each one for their continued dedication, commitment and service to scouting especially in Glamorgan West.

These are just 3 of the area's that I manage but I'm sure there are more. Get in touch if you need any information on the above I'd love to have a chat.

Happy Scouting

Ann Gratrix
Deputy Area Commissioner (Adult Support)