



# **Glamorgan West Area Scout Council**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 7th October 2009**

## **Annual Report 2008 - 2009**



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 2009**

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## **AREA COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

At the time of compiling this Report, the Area does not have a permanent Area Commissioner. The Area is being administered by a Management Team comprising Ann Gratrix as the nominated acting Area Commissioner, Gary Evans the Area Chairman, Simon Brownhill (Field Commissioner) and the remaining 3 Deputy Area Commissioners, Allen Aldred, Sue Evans and Pat Thomas. A search party, under the Chairmanship of Gary, has been convened with the purpose of identifying and putting forward suitable candidates for appointment a new Area Commissioner.

The Area Executive and the Management Team would like to thank Rob Lloyd, who resigned as Area Commissioner earlier this year, for his term in office and for the valuable contribution he made to the running of the Area. Rob continues in Scouting and remains the ESL with the Reynoldston ESU. We wish him well for the future and for his continued association with the Movement.

We would also like to thank all leaders and members in the Area for your support and patience during this time of change.

### **Area Management Team**

## Presentation of Silver Wolf to Ann Harries



**I – r Stephen Champion**  
(Ann's grandson)

**Peter Duncan**

**Ann Harries**

### AAC REPORTS:



### AAC CUB SCOUTS REPORT

This year seems to have flown by. Once again so that Cubs would still meet together at Area Competitions, local competitions have taken 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 a Sports Day. I have held meetings with the leaders from the old Districts but would love to see more show their support. Our best meeting was held at Cadoxton with about 10 leaders taking part.

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 so that I can feed back your views. I keep on asking but don't seem to hear from anybody!

Have you seen a copy of the Area Directory? Are your details in it and are they up to date? If "No" on either account please let me know. Contact me if you would like a copy.

The Cub Scout Award for Wales has been out for some time now and there must be boys and girls out there who would love to obtain this badge. Please 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 you can download it from the Welsh Scout Council website: [www.scoutswales](http://www.scoutswales). Please take the time to look at it as it does run alongside the present day programme. Remember – young people like badges!!

I know many of you will have gone on Pack Holidays and Cub Camps during the year. I attended two on consecutive weekends in June. I do hope that everything went well with yours and that the cubs enjoyed themselves (which I know they would have). If you are short of support, or want to do something different, then why not do a joint Pack Holiday with a Cub Pack from another part of the Area? You could then enter yourselves for the Area Commissioners' Friendship Trophy, which has not been presented for a few years. Please let me know where and when you are going next year.

Waiting lists are still causing problems in certain parts of the Area. Please take a long look at these. If your cub pack is full and you have a Beaver Colony, why not pass on the Cub waiting list to others and explain to parents that there is a chance that their children may never join otherwise. I did send an email to most Groups enquiring about waiting list on behalf of the Commissioner Cub Scouts (Wales) but have had very few replies.

Area competitions were held as in previous years and the results are as follows

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-Up</b>
Chess	Thomas Hughes 7 <sup>th</sup> Swansea (St. Michael's)	Robert Curtis 5 <sup>th</sup> Neath (Bryncoch); <b>and</b> Max Everett 44 <sup>th</sup> Swansea (Sketty Church)
Draughts	Ben Collins (22 <sup>nd</sup> Swansea (Christchurch))	Luke James 9 <sup>th</sup> Neath (Skewen)
Road Safety	5 <sup>th</sup> Port Talbot (St. Theodore's)	32 <sup>nd</sup> Swansea (Rhyddings Park)
Football	22 <sup>nd</sup> Swansea (Christchurch)	7 <sup>th</sup> Cwm Newydd (Penclawdd)

Sand Sculpture	1 <sup>st</sup> Mumbles	44 <sup>th</sup> Swansea (Sketty Church) Beck Pack
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Congratulations go to two Cub leaders on being awarded the High Sheriff's Award. These were Joanna Morgan from 5<sup>th</sup> Port Talbot (St. Theodore's) and Craig Jones from 2<sup>nd</sup> Neath (Cadoxton). Well done both (and to the other recipients of the Award).

Again, without help from 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, so thank you to Barbara, Viv, Ann, Arline, Sonia & my wife Jill for your support. Thanks 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 on 01792 541498 or by e-mail [anthony.morgan90@ntlworld.com](mailto:anthony.morgan90@ntlworld.com). You can also contact Barbara Cotton ([babs\\_cotton@hotmail.com](mailto:babs_cotton@hotmail.com)) or Viv Lewis ([ken.l@ntlworld.com](mailto:ken.l@ntlworld.com)) as my deputies to ensure that Cub Scouting goes from strength to strength

**Tony Morgan**  
**A.A.C. Cub Scouts**



**AAC SCOUTS REPORT**

What a fantastic year the Scout section has had! All troops have been busy and active.

We had a very successful football competition in May that was held at Baglan Girls and Boys Club and our thanks go out to them once again for the use of their facilities. Joint winners of the competition were 44<sup>th</sup> Swansea (Sketty Church) and 47<sup>th</sup> Swansea (Killay), the first names on our new shield.

Also in May we held an Area Camp, which was dry for a change!

An Indoor cooking Competition was held in September that was well attended, with leaders dribbling a lot at the high standard of food and the great smells. 5th Cwm Newydd, with a very tasty version of Coq au Vin, won the competition.

Competitions held and the winners and runners-up were as follows

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Runner-Up</b>
Chess	Elliott Parker 2 <sup>nd</sup> Swansea Valley	Tom Watson 32 <sup>nd</sup> Rhyddings
Draughts	Luke Riseborough 47 <sup>th</sup> Swansea (Killay)	Joseph Price 14 <sup>th</sup> Neath

Thanks goes out to 47<sup>th</sup> Swansea for hosting a Shooting Competition. Well done to all that turned out, a great weekend!

I would just like to thank everybody for their help and support at competition level and troop level we all know it's not a couple of hours a week and we still keep turning up. Well done to all!

**Brian Dark**  
**AAC Scouts**



## **AAC EXPLORER SCOUTS REPORT**

In the Area there are 8 Explorer Scout Units, hopefully with the addition of a new Unit in the Loughor/Gorseinon area in the near future. There were 88 Explorer Scouts as of the last census, which is quite pleasing and all are undertaking a varied programme of activities within their Units.

Some Units have been on summer camps and again have attended national Explorer Scout camps and activities. In September, many Units from the Area will take part in AWESOME, again held in Glanusk Park, Crickhowell and with bigger and better activities this year, it should live up to its name and all those who attend will have an excellent time, I am sure.

Earlier in the year, there was a Network/Explorer Scout Bowling Competition at Swansea's Ten Pin bowling centre that was great fun. There has also been an Area Explorer Scout Sandcastle Competition, which was won by a pair of Explorer Scouts from Funky Monkey ESU who built a stunning sandcastle and were deserved winners! Thanks to Graham Rees-Evans for his work in organising those events.

### Killay ESU visiting London



### Sketty ESU visiting Gilwell



As an Area, support for meetings and events has been particularly poor. This is very disappointing, as Explorer Scout Units are not meant to run solely as separate Units. Remember that Explorer Scouting is run at District level (which for us is now Area level) and not at Group level. That means that all Units should be meeting up with other Units within the Area to do some joint activities through the year. As Explorer Scout leaders we are failing the young people if we are not giving them the opportunity to take part in joint events and we are letting down those Leaders that *have* given their time either to organise and run activities, or to show their support by attending with their Units. I think a better effort could be made by all to change this over the coming year.

Young Leader training remains a concern. After sending letters and/or emails to all groups and Units in the Area we have only had a response from a handful of people. There are many Young Leaders working out there in Groups that we do not know

about. If you have a Young Leader in your section that has not done any Young Leader Training they quite simply should not be there. It is an issue of Child Protection for both the Young Leader and the youngsters within the section. All Young Leaders should be registered with myself. On a positive note, we are working on restarting the Area Young Leader Unit and should be running the first training event in late September or October.

Obviously, we are doing something right as Explorer Scouting is doing quite well and I know that Units in the Area are certainly very active. However, I think we 'could do better'.

Finally, may I offer my thanks to all leaders, helpers, parents and Explorer Scouts for their work in making Explorer Scouting work so well and can I especially thank those that have supported me in my role over the year.

**Cath Jones**  
**AAC Explorer Scouts**



## **AREA NETWORK REPORT**

2008-2009 was a good year for Network in Glamorgan West. It marked our first year since reopening, and saw our membership increase. We now have good links with SSAGO in the university, and also are having members join from local Explorer groups. Several members have also brought friends to meetings who have never been members of Scouting before, and they have loved the experience.

We have had a good range of activities on our regular meeting nights, offering a good selection of the balanced programme. Our activities have included: circus skills, cooking, go-karting, crafts, silly games, international evenings, film nights, skiing, cake decorating, and much more with the list going on and on! We have also supported local Scouting events such as Area Camp in 2008 where we ran bases; attending Las Vegas night to raise money for Silver Cross; helping staff at the pedal car race in Margam.

We have run two of our own camps in Silver Cross (one in Easter 2008, the other February 2009), which were both well attended by members.

We have attended several national camps in this time including PSF in Coventry, Gilwell Reunion and Frostbite in Cardiff. We have started looking at the D of E and Queen Scouts Awards and have undertaken a few practice hikes

We have forged good links with other Networks, in particular our surrounding areas. We have been heavily involved in helping to set up a South Wales Network team, we have a representative on the UK Network team, and members involved in the Scouts of the World award.

Two members of our Network have also created a new award for Network members in Wales. This is currently going through the set-up process with the aim to launch within the next six months. Who knows it could go national if successful?

If any groups have Explorers approaching 18 or adult leaders under 25, then they'd be more than welcome to come along to Network, contact details can be found on the area website.

Finally a big thank you to the committee who have worked hard to make Network a success and all the other members in scouting that have helped us throughout the year.

**Mark Hicks**

**Chris Grove**

## **AAC INTERNATIONAL REPORT**

Yet another year has passed and we have had some activity on the international scene. The 44<sup>th</sup> Swansea Scout Group camped at the Irish Jamboree in County Kildare, Ireland. This was the only application I received for 2008.

Now looking to the future, I hope to have a bigger response for 2009. To date I have had six enquiries and three Groups are now making arrangements to go abroad. I hope to have a better Report for next year. All enquiries for overseas trips should be made to me.

**Hywel Weaver**  
**AAC International**

## Presentation of Silver Acorn to Eirwen Margetts



I – r

Eirwen Margetts

Ann Gratrix

## AAC ACTIVITIES REPORT

**1<sup>st</sup> Response:** Mike and I have continued to run full and retest courses with reasonable success. The syllabus has changed and we now offer the two night full course and the one night Refresher at the 44<sup>th</sup> Swansea and Cadoxton HQs. Mike also uses Rhyddings for his one-day course. Thank you to those Groups for their support and for making their HQs available. Leaders are reminded that leaders need to attend these courses in order to have a valid Warrant. Details of next year's courses should be available at the AGM and on the Area website. If you need details, you can also contact me by telephone on 01792 893151, or by e-mail [brucedenley@hotmail.com](mailto:brucedenley@hotmail.com)

**Nights Away Permits and Notifications:** Over the last year I have renewed all permits that 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 so that I can complete the 8-point assessment with you.

There has been some confusion as NAN forms mention District Commissioners. As we do not have these in our Area, we operate an Area Co-ordinator system and you should notify me of your overnight activities in advance by telephone or by e-mail. Please remember that this is a requirement for **all** Sections.

A module 16 course is run every 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:** Most Groups are now using the discounts offered to Scouts by local Activity Centres. Hillwalking, canoeing and climbing seem to be making progress slowly. This year we hop to reinforce our Activities team so if you have an interest in any of these activities, please give me a call. I do need about ten in number to run the necessary courses.

**Bruce Denley Jones**  
**AAC Activities**

## **AAC GENERAL REPORT**

I was asked earlier on this year to co-ordinate any interest and information regarding the World Jamboree in Sweden in 2011. So far, 4 leaders have been accepted as assistant contingent leaders from our area and they are waiting to see the number of units allocated before a final decision is made.

The World Jamboree takes place from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August in Kristianstad, Sweden. The price will be no more than £1800. Any Scout or Explorer Scout who was born between 25<sup>th</sup> July 1993 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 1997 is eligible to apply for Jamboree selection. Application forms are out at the beginning of September 2009 and must be returned to the Welsh Scout Council by the end of the month. The path to selection timeline is available at [www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers/worldjam/YouthParticipants](http://www.scoutswales.org.uk/explorers/worldjam/YouthParticipants)

Don't forget there are still opportunities for leaders to go to the World Jamboree as part of the International Service Team. To apply to come to the World Scout Jamboree, you need to register with the UK Contingent. Registration will open on Monday 19th October 2009 from the main UK Contingent website on a first come, first served basis. Applicants will also have to attend a full selection weekend. There will be a number of weekends available around the UK. There will be a separate Welsh IST, which you can request to be part of but you must first register with the UK contingent.

If anyone is interested in attending this event and applies for a place can they please let me know.

**Jonathan Gratrix**  
**AAC General**

## **AREA AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS ADVISORY PANEL, ADULT SUPPORT and SCOUT FELLOWSHIP REPORTS**

### **1. The Awards Panel Report**

We have again been fortunate in being granted the awards that we have requested, and our congratulations go this year to the following:

#### **The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service: -**

Jonathan Bull                      Wyn Jones

#### **Merit Award: -**

Sharon Wilkinson	Allen Aldred	Lawrence Sutton
Christine Lewis	Terry Avery	Angela Hopkins
Christine Dyer		

#### **Silver Acorn: -**

Steven Burgess                      Julian Morgans

#### **Silver Wolf: -**

Ian (Bill) Gratrix

#### **50 year service awards have also been awarded recently to: -**

John Mizen                      Hywel Weaver                      Glyn Strawbridge

We would like to take this opportunity to each one for their continued dedication, commitment and service to Scouting, especially to the Glamorgan West Area.

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

### **2. The Appointments Advisory Panel Report**

The Appointments Advisory Committee has been very busy this year, not only holding approval meetings for prospective leaders but because of the new appointment process, having to undergo training themselves.

During the period 01.04.08 and 31.03.09, 35 adults attended a panel meeting and all were approved for a provisional appointment. 10 of these have so far gained a full appointment and the rest only need validations.

There are still a small number of leaders who are well over the time allowed for Getting Started modules so now their provisional appointments are being reviewed.

All leaders should have completed a new CRB form by 31.12.08 but there are a number that still have not returned their forms. Please do so ASAP. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A CRB ONLY LASTS 5 YEARS.**

### **3. Adult Support Report**

It appears that many leaders are still not sending in their course application forms by the required closing dates, the result being cancelled courses. This is always annoying and frustrating for the Trainers. All leaders on accepting an appointment make a commitment to complete their training within a set time period. This is not happening. We need to know if you are having problems.

On a positive note, one to one training and use of Workbooks are on the increase. The Child Protection Training has been a success with over 20 adults on each course. To date 130 adults have attended these courses. First Aid Training is ongoing with dates set well in advance at least one per month. Michael and Bruce are prepared to run these courses for individual groups. Please get in touch with them to organise. Module 16 is another popular course.

Please remember whichever way you decide to do your Modules, there is always a validation element at the end. Validation is your responsibility. Please let your Training Advisor or a member of the team know when you are ready to be assessed. Validation days and evenings are ongoing.

This year Manager Woodbadges have been awarded to Cath Jones, Pat Thomas and Jonathan Gratrix. Congratulations and well done to these leaders.

My thanks must go to the appointment committee for their continued support and commitment. This year we have increased in number but we will always welcome new members. Also thank you to the members of the Training Team and the Training Advisors for their continued support, as without them no one would gain their Woodbadge.

If there is anything you need to know, or if you only want a chat, please get in touch by phone or email.

### **4. Scout Fellowship Report**

We are fortunate to have 3 Fellowships in the Area, all of which are open to all members irrespective of age or location. The Silver Cross Fellowship primarily acts as the Service Crew for that campsite and is always in need of support. If you are able to help maintain the site in any way, please contact Andy Shurey, the campsite warden.

Both the Gower and Neath/Port Talbot Fellowships are well supported and welcome new members. Their activities are in the main social but they also help out with Scouting activities being run in the Area. If you are organising an event and need extra support from adults, then why not consider asking the Fellowships if they can

assist? For the Gower Fellowship, please contact Mike Fenton; and for the Neath/Port Talbot Fellowship, please contact Ann Harries. If you do not already have Andy's, Mike's or Anne's telephone numbers, please contact me and I will provide you with them.

**Ann Gratrix**  
**Deputy Area Commissioner (Adult Support)**

### **Presentations of High Sheriff's Award to Leaders in the Area**



**I - r     Peter Richards                     Joanna Morgan                     Hedley Jones                     Craig Jones**

## Appendix A

### Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

#### Census Comparison 2009 v 2008

	2009	2008	Increase/ Decrease
<b>Active Groups</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Beaver Scouts</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>-54</b>
<b>Cub Scouts</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Scouts</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Explorer Scouts</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-22</b>
<b>Scout Network</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Leaders</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Section Assistants</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Others (inc. Fellowships)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>-47</b>
<b>Total Scouts etc</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>-40</b>
<b>Total Network and Adults</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>-7</b>

