



Glamorgan West Area Scout Council

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 6th October 2010

Annual Report 2009 – 2010



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 2010

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Members of the Glamorgan West Area Executive 2009 - 2010

President HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, D Byron Lewis, Esq CStJ
FCA

Chairman R Gary Evans

Secretary Mrs Fiona Dark / Mrs Linda Powell

Treasurer Peter Muxworthy JP FCA

Members Mrs Ann Gratrix, Acting Area Commissioner

Allen Aldred, Deputy Area Commissioner Programme

Mrs Sue Evans, Deputy Area Commissioner C & C of Swansea

Mrs Pat Thomas, Deputy Area Commissioner Neath & Port Talbot BC

Simon Brownsill, Field Commissioner for South and West Wales

Mrs Carol Fowler

Dr Michael Isaac

Anthony Johnson

John Mizen

Graham Rees-Evans

Kerry Roberts

Andy Shurey

Hywel Weaver

Life Vice
Presidents

Keith Davies

Dr Brian Davison OBE

Mrs Ann Harries MBE JP DL

Commodore Sir Robert Hastie KCVO CBE KStJ RD JP RNR

AREA MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT

For yet another year, we have been without an appointed Area Commissioner (AC) and therefore there is no formal AC's Report. However the duties of the AC have not been neglected and have been undertaken by Ann Gratrix as the Acting Area Commissioner; Allen Aldred, Sue Evans and Pat Thomas as the Deputy Area Commissioners; and Gary Evans the Area Chairman, all ably assisted by Simon Brownsill, our Field Commissioner. Our thanks go to these individuals, especially to Ann who has borne the brunt of everything, for keeping the Area very much alive and thriving.

The Search Party set up to find a replacement AC has met regularly throughout the year and after a few false starts, is now hopeful that the situation will be resolved shortly.

We have been very fortunate this year to have the services of Richard Flowerdew, our Local Development Officer, who is funded by the WSC. Richard has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Area and is one of the reasons for the increase in our membership this year. We would like to thank him for all his efforts and also, to congratulate him on his recent marriage. If you think that your Group would benefit from Richard's assistance, please discuss it with your DAC to see what can be done. However Richard does not have a magic wand and all of us are responsible for seeing how we can increase and retain the number of our Members, both leaders and young people. In some Groups we do actually have very long waiting lists, so please ask yourself what you can do personally to bring in additional leaders/helpers and most importantly of all, keep them!

Do you have a copy of the Area Directory and if you do, are your details and those of the other members of your Group included/correct? Please let Tony Morgan AAC Cubs know if the answer to any one of these is 'no.' Please remember also to make sure your personal details on Scoutbase are correct and updated when required. You can amend the details yourself but if you have any difficulty, or do not have access to a computer, please let your DAC know.

Again for those of you who have access to IT, please take time to look at the new Area website, which can be found at www.new.gwscouts.org.uk. The site will contain useful information, details of events and courses taking place in the Area. It will not be our only form of communication and we will still ensure that information reaches the membership as quickly as possible. However if you do have access to IT, please share whatever is on the site with your colleagues who do not have such access. Our thanks go to Graham Rees-Evans and Jon Rees for all their hard work in setting up the site and if you do want anything included, please contact either one of them to have it added.

Finally we welcome all those new Members who have joined us this year, especially those new leaders/helpers, and we would like to say a thank you for your past service to those who have left. To everyone, a big thank you for all the time and commitment you give to the Movement. You are very much appreciated.

Area Management Team

PRESENTATIONS 2009 AGM



Hywel Weaver (20th Swansea) receives his 50 year Service Award from Jill Gloster, Chief Commissioner of Wales



Bill Gratrix (47th Swansea) receives the Silver Wolf from Jill Gloster and HM Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan, D Byron Lewis Esq

AAC REPORTS:



AAC CUB SCOUTS REPORT

It's hard to believe that yet another year has come and gone. So that Cubs can still meet together at Area Competitions, local competitions have taken place with Packs competing against each other within the old District boundaries. This I think has worked quite well. However some of these competitions have been poorly attended and there are some Groups who still do not take part for one reason or another. It would be really great if everyone could come along and join in.

I have held meetings with the leaders from the old Districts. Many thanks to those of you who did come along but I would love to see more of you turn up and show your support. The best attended meetings always seem to be at Cadoxton but the response in Swansea is always poor. I am not sure why this is and if you have any ideas as to how we can improve these arrangements and get more of you there, please let me know. We need your support to ensure we give the young people the best Cub Scouting can offer and provide them with more challenges.

The Cub Scout Award for Wales has been out for some time now. Do you know about it? Have you seen it? If you have not, 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 from the WSC website: www.scoutswales. Please take a look at it as it runs alongside the present day programme - and Cubs like badges!! There are some Packs using it and was delighted to present three at the 8th Port Talbot (St. Catharine's) and twenty one (yes, twenty one!) at the 5th Neath (Bryncoch). There must be other boys and girls out there who would love to obtain this badge.

I know many of you will have gone on Pack Holidays and Cub Camps during the year. I attended two on consecutive weekends in May and one in June. Congratulations to 5th Mumbles on their successful Chinese evening at Parkmill. I do hope that everything went well with yours and that the Cubs enjoyed themselves (which I know they would have). If you do not have your own permit (and even if you do), why not consider doing a joint Pack Holiday with a Cub Pack from another part of the Area. Not only will it help develop your skills and share ideas, you could then enter yourselves for the Area Commissioners' Friendship Trophy (which has not been presented for a few years now). 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 Groups and explain to parents that there is a chance that their children may never join otherwise.

The following competitions have taken place and congratulations not only to the winners/runners up but to all who took part:

Competition	Winner	Runner Up
Chess	Thomas Hughes 7 th Swansea (St. Michael's)	Paul Crudge 32 nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park)
Draughts	Andrew Vaughan 44 th Swansea (Sketty Church) (Beck Pack)	Ioan Jones 2 nd Neath (Cadoxton)
Road Safety	5 th & 8 th Port Talbot	2 nd Swansea Valley (Clydach)
Football	6 th Mumbles	32 nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park)
Sand Sculpture	14 th Neath (Cimla)	20 th Swansea (Clase)
Sports Day	32 nd Swansea (Rhyddings Park)	44 th Swansea (Sketty Church) (Beck Pack)

Congratulations also to Geoffrey Loyns CSL of the 5th Neath (Bryncoch) on being awarded the Silver Acorn.

Again I could not do the job without help from a small team of willing volunteers. I am very grateful to them for the time they spend in their Groups, Districts and with me – so many thanks to Barbara, Viv, Charles, Arline, and my wife Jill for their support.

If you have any information to pass on you can always contact me on 01792 541498 or e-mail anthony.morgan90@ntlworld.com ; or Barbara Cotton babs_cotton@hotmail.com ; or Viv Lewis viv.l@live.co.uk as my deputies to ensure that Cub Scouting goes from strength to strength.

Tony Morgan
A.A.C. Cub Scouts



AAC SCOUTS REPORT

Once again the Scout section has had a busy year with many of the troops being busy and active.

We had another successful football competition in May, which was held indoors at Baglan Girls and Boys Club due to the inclement weather. Many thanks to them for the use of their facilities and well done to all who took part in the competition. We also send our thanks to the very patient referees kindly lent to us by the KRUF football team.

An Indoor cooking Competition was held in October that was well attended. Leaders again dribbled a lot at the high standard of food and the great smells produced. Next time though we will try to remember the sensitive smoke alarms! My ears are still ringing!

The Chess and Draughts Competition was held at Bryn Road, thanks to Hedley!

Winner in Chess	Jack Brenton 2 nd Swansea Valley
Runner up	Alex Williams 3 rd Lliw Valley

Winner in Draughts	Thomas James 9 th Neath
Runner up	Elliot Parker 2 nd Swansea Valley

I did hold a forum in February which was poorly attended but for the brave Scouts that did come along, we had a great meeting with lots of interesting ideas. I am hoping to deliver on some of them....watch this space!

Thanks go out to 47th Killay for hosting a Shooting Competition. Well done to all who turned out. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but from the reports I have had, all enjoyed!

Thank you to everybody for the continued help and support at Area, competition, 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

Explorer Scouting has continued to do pretty well in the Area. There are two new Explorer Scout Units, one in Loughor/Gorseinon with 14 members (Caws Mawr ESU) and another in Brynmill (Red Kite ESU). All the Units continue to provide young people with fabulous opportunities to take part in a wide variety of unusual, challenging and adventurous activities.

In September, three Units from the Area went to AWESOME (All Wales Explorer Scout Camp) held at Glanusk Park in Crickhowell. All the Units enjoyed the Camp, especially the sunny weather, and they met up with other Explorers from around Wales. Other Units have again been to national Explorer Scout Camps such as

Gilwell 24 and have had a great time at these events.



In March this year, the successful, annual Network / Explorer Scout Bowling Competition at Swansea's TenPin bowling centre was attended by lots of Explorers who thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Last November, we held our first Area Explorer Scout Quiz. Most Units from the Area entered at least one team and the smallest team of two girls from Funky Monkey ESU took the prize!

Caws Mawr ESU getting stuck into site service at Silver Cross campsite

As an Area, support for meetings and events has been much better this year and there is a sense of renewed enthusiasm and teamwork amongst the Explorer Scout leaders from the Area, which is extremely pleasing.

Eventually, after a few setbacks in the past few years, we have run a successful Young Leader training day. Fifteen Explorer Scouts, who are working as Young Leaders in other sections, completed three modules of their Young Leader training scheme. They all took an active part in their training and enjoyed the day. The next Young Leader training session will be held in November.

However, we are aware that there are still Leaders in the Area who have been signing Duke of Edinburgh books for Explorers and other Young Leaders that have not attended training. All Young people working in a section as a Young Leader must attend the training and complete modules to complete the service element of the Award within Scouting.

Explorer Scouting in the Area is fairly strong with new Units and some Units have seen a significant increase in numbers over the past year, which is very encouraging. I know that all the Leaders are working really hard with their Units and what they offer the young people is excellent.

We are looking forward to a busy year ahead, with an Area Explorer Scout weekend camp, another quiz and bowling competition, a joint Area camp at Gilwell Winter Camp and another camp in July. We are also hoping that the Explorers will attend the proposed Area Camp in 2011.

Again, may I offer my thanks especially to all leaders, but also to helpers, parents and Explorer Scouts for their work in making Explorer Scouting work so well and to friends and other Leaders that have continued to support me in my role over the year.



Killay ESU climbing on Gower

Cath Jones
AAC Explorer Scouts



AREA NETWORK REPORT

Network has had another successful year in Glamorgan West. Our regular turnout has increased, both with new members joining from Explorers and students new to Swansea. Several of our members have achieved national awards, including the Queens Scout Award and the Explorer Belt.

Our programme of activities has included opportunities to attend national camps such as the Coventry Network Festival and Gilwell Reunion, and a wide range of normal week to week activities that have included traditional Scouting skills such as orienteering and backwoods cooking, learning new skills from magic tricks to line dancing, and just silly or fun activities.



Biscuit making – Network style!

Our plans for the next year include attending more national events, holding our own camps more often, and continuing to offer a fun and balanced programme in order to attract new members and keep existing ones in Scouting.

Richard Organ
Network Chair

AAC INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Yet another year has passed and three Groups have ventured abroad. The Students in Swansea University in Guides and Scouts went to Poland and had a very successful Camp. I received a good report from them on their return.

The 7th St Michael's Group had a Camp in France, which was also very successful.

The Explorer Scouts of the Penllergaer ESU went to the Irish Scout Camp in County Kerry Rol in August 2009, where they had a good time and met Scouts from all over the country.

I would like to remind you all that if you are thinking of camping, hiking or undertaking any other type of visit abroad, you should have prior authorisation from me. If visiting outside of Europe you must give six months notice, whilst visits inside Europe require three months notice. Failure to do this might result in you not being authorised to take Scouts outside of the country under the umbrella of the Scout Association. Application forms to take Scouts abroad are available from me.

Hywel Weaver
AAC International

AAC ACTIVITIES REPORT

There have been a variety of changes to the Activity rules and permit scheme this year and all Permit Holders will have an extension of their current permit until September 2011 to allow activities to continue for the next year. The Scoutbase system seems to be working well as I have had very few enquiries for help this year.

Nights Away - the new two module system information will be distributed at the AGM and will be on the Web site from October. Full details are easy to find on the Scoutbase site.

Ist Response - Mike Isaac and I have run numerous courses with a variety of numbers attending. The new course dates will be available at the AGM, with Mike running one day courses and I will continue the running the two hour retest and two evening six hour full courses. Looking at our records there are a large number of retests and full courses needed this year so we look forward to meeting many of the new Leaders in the next few months.

Bruce Denley Jones
AAC Activities and LTM

SILVER CROSS CAMPSITE REPORT

I'm sitting here writing this just before the start of our summer season 2010 and reflecting on last year's summer (if you can call it that!). 2009 was our busiest year ever in the history of the site, but also the wettest that I can remember! After three extremely wet summers, the camping ground had taken a pounding and would have done Glastonbury proud. So, as many of you are aware, we closed the site to camping from the end of September till June this year and had land drainage put in over the entire site. In November, with the site full of diggers, pipes and chippings, we did wonder whether all would be well for this summer. But, glad to say, the drainage is complete (apart from one small area which will need to be done at the end of this season), the site re-seeded, and we are open again to camping. And the added bonus – the drainage seems to be working very well.

Enjoying the Silver X Assault course

The big freeze in January took its toll with the boiler breaking down in the Pembroke Building resulting in the need for a complete re-plumbing of water, central heating and boiler. Luckily, our insurance covered this, and the building was only out of use for about a month.

Before we re-opened for camping, we also had a tree safety survey done on the main camping area by



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

The following awards were also gained and our congratulations go to the following:

The Queen's Scout Award

Harriet Brewster Richard Organ

Explorer Belt

Harriet Brewster

2. The Appointments Committee

The committee has again this year undergone some changes. In the main, Gary Evans has stepped down as chairman and Bill Hocking has taken on this role. Viv Evans has taken over as secretary and we also have a new member on the committee, Barbara Cule Davies.

This year we've had 43 adults attend an Appointments Panel, of which 42 were successful. We have also completed several Reviews. We still meet every 6 weeks but this year have added extra panel meetings due to the increase in prospective leaders. On one evening 14 members were interviewed, it was a marathon! My thanks go to all the Appointment Committee for their continued support and commitment. We are always looking for new members to join us so please let me know if you would like to do so.

Please remember when you were appointed as leaders you made a commitment to complete your wood badge training within 3 years. In some cases this has not happened and unfortunately this now means that a few of you will be losing your appointments.

3. Scout Fellowship

This year the Fellowships are undergoing change. The new name is Active Support. We are in the process of talking to the three fellowships and deciding on the way forward. Everything has to be completed by December 2010.

4. Adult Training

First aid courses are ongoing and so are the Child Protection courses. Sadly we have had to cancel training courses again this year because leaders are not applying by the closing date.

Validations continue with Training Advisors being very busy, we are still having problems with some leaders not completing their assessments. Please remember that validations are your responsibility, your Training Advisors have not got crystal

balls to know when you are ready. If you can't contact your Training Advisor, then please don't hesitate to contact me.

This year the following Wood Badges have been awarded:

Managers

Tony Morgan
Ann Gratrix

Sue Evans
Hywell Weaver

Kevin Williams

Explorer Scout Leader

Graham Rees-Evans

Harriet Brewster

Cub Scout Leader

Kristin Elwin

Beaver Scout Leader

Jennifer Owen

Alex Perman

Once again I would like to thank all the members of panels and teams supporting the adults in Glamorgan West over the last year, they really do make my work so much easier.

Thank you

ANN GRATRIX (ADULT SUPPORT)

Silver Acorn Presentations at the 44th Swansea HQ (June 2009)



Steve “Budgie” Burgess appears to be practicing his salute on DACs Sue Evans and Allen Aldred prior to his presentation



Julian Morgans checks that it really is his name on the certificate after receiving his presentation from Bruce Denley Jones

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council (Wales)

Census Comparison 2010 v 2009

	2009	2010	Increase/ Decrease	
Active Groups	33	33	0	Note 1
Beaver Scouts	271	289	18	
Cub Scouts	491	504	13	
Scouts	285	293	8	
Explorer Scouts	97	102	5	
Scout Network	3	0	-3	Note 2
Leaders	184	204	20	
Section Assistants	20	30	10	
Active Support Units/Fellowships	28	31	3	Note 3
Other Adults inc. Area Officers etc	28	30	2	
Area Membership Totals	1407	1483	76	

Youth Totals	1147	1188	41
Total Network and Adults	260	295	35

Note 1: 20 of the Groups in the Area showed an increase in membership over the previous year, as did Explorer Units and Network

Note 2: there are actually 17 members of the Network, all of whom have a dual role in the Area and therefore appear elsewhere on the Census

Note 3: in addition to those members shown, there are another 19 members of ASUs/Fellowship who also have a dual role in the Area and therefore appear elsewhere on the Census

Notes: