

Explorer Leaders Meeting

Tuesday 16th November 2010 at Lonsdale District Scout HQ, Moor St, Lancaster

7.30pm- 9.30pm

Present: Craig Dewar (DESC), David Clingain (DESA), Pat Nelson (DESL - Awards), Paul Geddes (ESL - Lune Valley), Rob Taylor (AESL - Lune Valley), Dan Horton (ESL - The Erics), Anthea Manderson (AESL - The Erics), Andrew Manderson (AESL - The Erics), Mel Turner (AESL - The Erics), Lynn McCann (ESL - The Saints), Karen Ingleby (AESL - The Saints), Cathie Metcalfe (ESL - YL), Jane Lyde (AESL - Silverdale), Kevin Greene (AESL - Castleton), Tom Armitstead (AESL - The Bulls eyes), Hannah Detko (AESL - YL)

Apologies: Pierre Willingham (DESL- Programme)

Administrator's Report

Our budget for next year has been submitted and accepted by the District. Next year the subscription fees will be going up to £29.55 for payments made on time. It will be an additional fifty pence for late payments making in £30.05

All Units accounts have been submitted on time which is great news. Some needed changing slightly but overall everything is fine.

The newsletter will be ready for distributing on the Knight hike on Saturday 20th November. It will also be put on the explorer web-site.

AP – David to E-mail Craig the newsletter.

Every Unit should now have a copy of the Who's who and District Diary.

A reminder that the website has all forms and information to be downloaded, including:

- Gift Aid Forms
- Registration Forms
- Awards Pack
- Leader Minutes

Past Events

The swimming gala seems to have been more of a success than previous years. Only two units entered which were Castleton and the Saints. Castleton won. Other units couldn't enter teams as it fell on the same day as the Ripley Sixth Form open evening.

Fireworks and Bonfire night went well. Sharing with Silverdale helped to cut the cost of the event. Promoting the event was late due to worries about insurance and was recognised as a problem.

AP - Better planning next year giving explorers more notice.

Environment weekend was enjoyed by all the participants. The District received a letter of Thank you from Great Tower to thank the explorers for all their hard work. Next year we need to try and get a bigger turnout from Lonsdale as all the Explorers and Leaders really enjoyed the event.

The team that entered Splash and Dash did brilliantly and came second in the competition. Fylde won this year. The team really enjoyed taking part and we had lots of new members on the team.

Unit Reports

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| The Erics - | Membership at the moment is up and down each week but have usually a good turn out. Ready steady cook was a huge success with the explorers wanting to do it again. Lost all the older explorers. Need to look at doing some recruitment. |
| Castleton - | Regular turnout of about 16 each week. Becoming quite diverse with some French, Dutch and German speaking explorers. Just had another brilliant Planning night. Carolyn is due to |

finish as Explorer Leader at Christmas with Kevin set to leave as AESL next summer. **AP Craig to identify new leaders to start ASAP**

- Lune Valley - Regular large turnout each week. Now have a new Leader Richard Irvine who is a outdoor activity instructor. Bank account now open soon. Currently struggling with linking to 33rd and 34th Lancaster Scouts.
- The Saints - Recently been to take part in archery at Littledale which everyone enjoyed. They are currently struggling with some bad behaviour from certain Explorers. Craig is supporting.
- The Bulls eyes - Have a regular turnout of about 7-8 explorers. Have been running a good programme, but sometimes have had to change days about which the explorers were ok about. Visits to Bolton Le Sands Scouts and Slyne Scouts.
- Silverdale - They have had a great start to the year. Silverdale are always meeting with a large number of explorers on a regular basis. They could do with some more leaders.
- Young Leaders - Had a brilliant camp in October. A Newsletter has gone out to all Young Leaders and Section Leaders. There is still a lot of Young Leaders that need to complete their training. Hannah Detko is now training to teach module A of the Training.

Leader Training

The games workshop was a brilliant night and all Leaders that attended the night said they thought it was worth while going. Thank you to Cathie for helping with this. It has been suggested to do a similar night but about Scouting skills for leaders that are new to Scouts

AP - Organise a workshop for Leaders about Scouting Skills

Ten Leaders have just completed their First Aid Module. Thank you to Dan for teaching this module. It was suggested that it was beneficial to have separate ESL First Aid Courses to cover 'extras'.

AP – Hannah Detko's certificates were sent to the wrong address. Craig to arrange re-sending.

There are six Explorer Scout Leaders booked on Explorer Scout Leaders Essentials (modules 11-19) at the end of the month. The next Module 5-9 training is on the 20th February in the Wyre District.

All needs renewing their appointments or changing roles to Explorer appointments need to redo the safe guarding course.

Craig is going to Validate training as he visits units.

Up and Coming District Events

All seven units are set to enter teams into the Knight hike. We need some help with making sure we put seven bases on for the event.

The Explorers Christmas social is to take place at Littledale this year. They are having a party and jacks join then stay over the night and bacon butties in the morning. Cathie Metcalfe has volunteered to organise. This has been arranged for the 18th December with a service day on the 19th December. Cost £2. (Explorers need to book on with Cathie)

District Explorer Scout Camp is on the 15th-17th April. This is going to be held at Great Tower campsite where we have hired the bunkhouse. Suggested Activities for the weekend are High Ropes, walking, caving and cooking. On Sunday Craig suggested going Dragon Boat Racing. Karen Ingleby and Dan Horton to help organise, with nights away while Cathie Metcalfe will support.

Kevin Greene has organised a series of Sundays at Littledale called 'Explorers at Work'. Details are on the Explorer Web-site. This is a great idea for explorers as it helps them to give something back to scouting along with gained skills and the work goes towards the PDQ Awards.

Up and Coming County Events

The winter challenge camp is coming up.

There are still places on the Snow and Ice trip. This is a brilliant event for Explorers. Every Explorer that has been on this trip has come back raving about it and would definitely go again.

Also coming up soon is the MAC. This is to be held in April. This is a great Competition which we came second last year. This event can also count towards Explorers PDQ award and Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

Up and Coming International Trips

There are quite a few International trips happening next year.

The Ardennes Adventure is set to take place in the May half-term holiday. Details are on the West Lancashire Scout Web-site.

Cathie Metcalfe is leading the West Lancashire contingent to the Serbian Jamboree. David Clingain is assisting. There are still places if Explorers want to go Contact Cathie or David.

Craig Dewar is leading the Explorer belt in 2012.

Other trips are Canada 2012 and Peru 2012. Details of these can be found on the West Lancashire Scout web-site.

YSP's

We currently have 3 YSP's trained in the Lonsdale District. There has been some interest. If you know of any Explorer that is a good talker and will say the right thing when talking to the press, please get them to contact Craig.

County Forum

We could do with Some Explorers attending the County forum and representing Lonsdale.

Linking Events

Slyne and the Saints Explorers took part in a Drag net with the Scouts. The event went really well with Scouts commenting say they can't wait to join Explorers to do more activities like this.

AP – Units to look at some different types of linking events for the next year.

T-shirt Competition

Paul Geddes has recently acquired a T-shirt printer and has suggested setting the explorers a challenge of coming up with a design that can be used as a district t-shirt when we are on county events for example, County Camp.

AP – CD to circulate an activity form.

Next Meeting – 17th December 2010 – The Leader Christmas Do!