Minutes of GSL meeting Wednesday19th March 2014 at St Paul’s school

Present – Craig Dewar DC, Jason Henderson 11th Morecambe, Pat Armstrong 3rd Hornby, Jim Holland, AGSL 16th Lancaster, Andrew Holland 16th Lancaster, David Clingain 3d Morecambe, Mandy Sweet 35th Lanc, Howard Greenwood 1st Warton, Terry Bond 1st Silverdale, Paul Sargent 53rd Lanc, Alan Hague 16th Morecambe, Iain Taylor 5th Lanc, Simon Lefever 34th Lancaster, Pat Griffin 13th Lanc.

Apologies received from Helen Plumb Caton, John Elliott Halton, Craig Pyne Slyne with Hest, Carol Holmes Centurion with Westgate.

Craig welcomed the new GSLs to the meeting - Simon, and Iain and Pat Armstrong, and Jason who was representing 11th Morecambe, he feels if GSL not free to come it is important another member stands in for info gathering for groups to get info straight from meeting not wait for minutes. Simon asked if we had all received the minutes from the January meeting done by Paul and if any matters arising. There were none.

Craig opened with a discussion re safeguarding and asked for us to support getting new leaders and those just completing reviews on next safeguarding events. Everyone must do Safeguarding training delivered by a recognised Trainer on joining and every 5 years on review, or on reappointment if they have had a period out of scouting. Pat Griffin LTM provides safeguarding during each Getting started course – next scheduled for June, but if we need safeguarding at a group’s HQ we can do it with groups of 6-10 people with adequate notice. Please do not neglect this subject, and book with Pat G BUT if you have any queries please refer to Craig .

**District badge** – John Buckley had asked if we were interested in a joint/merged county and district badge as some district have. After small discussion it was decided to keep as we are with separate District badge.

**Appointments reviews** It is best for Appointment secretary, Judith Hunter, to receive the completed review form plus renewal of crb/dbs together – please look at the crb date in leader’s record when you do review, and if only 6 months to go then do it now. We discussed what training we would need for using new membership data system called Compass, so far not much info and GSL forum has been delayed to a later date to include such info. Project compass will be much better than current system and will enable us to do all record keeping this way, and will eventually be the method we have census details taken so we must be up to date with members who are ours and close down those who have left. Youth members will go on also. Plan is for possible change over in July 2014. County exec training is coming up soon.

**Module 36** – this module on Special Needs is being delivered at the St Paul’s School, Scotforth, Lancaster on 30th March from 11 a.m. to 1.30 it will include info on ASD and ADHD. If you want to book a leader on this contact Fiona Jackson – County Trainer on Fiona.jackson@baesystems.com - cost is £5.00 per person and she needs names asap as closing date is 24th March.

**Jamboree selection** – 32 applied and 28 attended selection weekend. It was a very good event and high standard of young people who worked very hard to gain places. Those not selected will be written to personally offering them alternative International opportunities.

**Young leader mentor** sessions will be rearranged and Craig apologised for the mix up with the last one which left people at DHQ waiting for admission and a tutor. This was a communications mix up. GSLs asked for a list of Young leader mentors, as there is supposed to be one in each group.

**Marketing** – all GSLs present did a quick RAG review on visibility of groups (17 questions) this gives Craig a good idea of how many people have own website regularly updated, whether on twitter or facebook , how HQs are signed and whether groups use Scout brand fonts on standard letterhead or have own range of informal clothing.

**Scout Community week**- please take part in this event, and use it as a good advert for good scouting, helping in community and being seen as useful young people. Register now for a pack and tell Craig what you are planning. (Pat has 1 spare pack if anyone wants it).

**Group AGMs**- Craig reminded us that he should get an invitation to each groups AGM, and that a/cs should be in a written format available for each attendee to see at the AGM, not back of envelope and verbal. If possible some form of group report should be prepared with maybe pics from group camp or event during year showing good news of groups. (can use the prepared ones in scout website brand centre for really good results). The group chair is the nomination of the GSL, and should be done at the Agm - BUT do not stand up in the meeting and say the group needs a group chair, sec , treasurer or we will be closed down as that turns people off and will not result in good appointees. Instead do some homework beforehand, approach people you think might be good in role and ask them face to face if they could help your group with this role. Often people do have skills and are pleased to be asked, they might not have time to be a leader but could do chair or sec. Do prepare an agenda for the meeting and plan what you will say and how business will be presented.

We shared ideas from those present on what was a good way to have a successful AGM. Some were;

Presentation by young members of an item they have done during year assisted by leaders, include as an item at a group camp but plan it don’t spring as a surprise, BBQ on a suitable evening when parents can come and unwind with food and a drink (Friday nights?), welcome glass of wine on arrival, pictures on display of years events, camps and badge work etc, slide show of same, fun and games evening after business of meeting.

Do consider the guest list, include all parents and friends or group, people who might have helped you over year with bag packs or with selling plants or doing a clothes collection, local councillors (who often have small grants money to give to groups in locality), anyone who you might want to work with over next year a sports club for example.

**Census** – Good news for Lonsdale is membership is up by 87 which is 6%. Craig discussed various points from his summary sheet (to be circulated separately), and one particular good thing was the increase in numbers of beavers per colony. We had a discussion on female membership, still not moving up, and Craig asked us why?

**St George’s day** – Sunday 27th April, meet 1p.m. at St Leonardsgate car park in Lancaster (just up from Grand theatre, full uniform, at 1.15 walk through Lancaster to Priory church for Scouts own type service with young people leading the promises both traditional core promise and new. Flags and bearers to line up outside Priory and then be presented in the church. Service will be from 2 – 3 p.m. and dismissal from church – we are not parading back through town. The District team will be networking with some local dignitaries at Storey institute after the service.

The collection is to be for St John’s hospice in view of the current appeal to save this facility in Lancaster.

Craig has issued separate letters to leaders re format of the day and provided letters to go to parents so look out for those and use them please.

**District camp** – Craig asked for volunteers to form a team to head up the planning for this camp- please contact him direct if you feel you can usefully help to plan this autumn event.

**Vision 2018** - The final part of the meeting was reviewing the document for the strategic planning of Lonsdale toward 2018. A lot of work has been done on this by Craig and the District team and the exec and it goes for final approval to the exec in May and feeds into the County plan. All groups can have sight of it and make any comments if they wish.

The next GSL meeting will be 21st May at DHQ.