Minutes of GSLs meeting at DHQ held on 4th October

Present, Alan Hague, 16th M, Carolyn Blyth,13th L, Darren Phillips,23rd L, Jonathan Liver,16th L, Steve Landles, 33rd L, Don Hartley, 23rd L, Carol Holmes, Cent with W, Derek Holt, 34thL, Terry Bond, 1st Silv, Velma Keating, 5th L, Helen Plumb, Caton, John Nelson, 1st For, Janet Bradshaw, 1st War, Pat Griffin, DC, Craig Dewar, DDC, Barbara Hughes, CDO,

Apologies were received from Martyn Browitt, Paul Sargent, Kieron Ryan, David Clingain, Val Foster, and Jill Sloan

1.**CRB renewals** were discussed – a small list this year but the people on the list have now expired so it is very important they fill in the forms and submit them NOW to Kris Preddy. Each person has had the renewal form sent direct to them with a letter from HQ stating they need to renew. I will now provide the GSLs with the names so you can ask for the forms and get them processed.

If the person is no longer active in your group i.e gone to University, child no longer in group, then you must close them down. A simple email to Kris Preddy kris.buster@googlemail.com stating the name of the person and approx. date they ceased and she will close the record. This does not stop them scouting elsewhere in the county – they simply have to fill in an additional role form where ever they are to become active in the new area. We can welcome them back in 2 years time from uni and reactivate their Lonsdale record then. If you leave them open you could be asked for capitation fees for them!!

**EMAIL ADDRESSES** - HQ and County are now sending out short and informative email newsletters to leaders and supporters– we need correct email addresses to be on backpack records. Please encourage leaders to update their backpack with correct info – new postal addresses, new marital names, and new emails.

**FIRST AID –** all GSLs have received a list of names in their group do not have first aid certificates recorded on training records. If they do have valid in date certs then Carolyn Blyth, our LTM, blythcarolyn@gmail.com needs a copy of the certificate please, or if no email then pop a copy into her pigeonhole at DHQ.

We had a long discussion about the provision of courses. It is clear that the correct course is a 6 hour First Response course delivered by a certificated provider who can at the end of the course test the attendees and then issue a certificate that they are competent to a given standard and sign that certificate as authorised by their authorised body, be it NW First Aid (Now Trust Medical), St John’s Ambulance, Red Cross, or the Preston Provider Peter Beesley of Lollytrad who is doing the November 10th one at 13th Lancaster HQ (which is now fully booked). The alternative provider who is a guide leader is only offering 3 hours of refresher material and this cannot be used for new leaders, and therefore the arranged course on 13th October will not proceed. Carolyn will now arrange another course in early to mid January as we have a waiting list for places. Please supply further names to her now.

GSLs expressed concern at the cost of the full course, and wondered if section assistants (particularly students who are only with us for 1 – 3 years) could do the short form as they are unlikely to be left in full charge at either section nights or at camp. I am not sure if this is a good idea as it makes a 2 tier system of First aid which cannot be denoted on records. This to be further discussed.

**SAFEGUARDING** – the next course is 18th October at District HQ. Please book on with either Craig Dewar or myself so we know how many to expect for any hand-outs. No cost. Please do make sure any leaders who have not done safeguarding in the last 5 years or are new do this NOW, as we must get the list down of people who have not been brought up to date with social networking and current guidelines on young people’s safety. If you go onto your group list on Backpack on [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) then you can see each persons record – if new and they have done modules 1,2,3 and safeguarding then fine, and if existing leaders then it shows SAFE separately as an additional module – if that is not on the leader record and they have done it recently, we must know the date they did it and the provider please. You can also print out a list of members which will show their training needs from your backpack. If your group has more than 6 people needing Safeguarding then we could come and do it at your HQ for all – just ask Carolyn Blyth, or Craig Dewar craigdewar@hotmail.com to fix a date. It is now getting to the point of us having to make sure all leaders in Lonsdale are up to date with this as their warrants can be closed down for persistent refusal to do this mandatory module. If you do not get in touch with us we will be getting in touch with you. The next opportunity after Oct 18th is 22nd November at DHQ 7.30 p.m. which is the 2nd part of the Getting started course. We need to know when you are coming please.

**VALIDATON COURSE** - this training course on module 25 is on November 28th at DHQ cost £6 – it is for all current validators to refresh re new modules added or altered since the previous training was delivered, and for new people who want to come and learn the method of validating.

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** is on Sunday 11th November at Lancaster Town Hall from 10. 20 a.m. and at Morecambe Platform also 10.20a.m. Representing and presenting the Wreaths for us at Lancaster will be 13th Lancaster, and at Morecambe it will be Centurion with Westgate. Thanks for volunteering those two groups.

**Swimming Gala** – we reviewed the cancellation, which was due to low entries in all sections. Alan Hague asked why we did not phone round or send urgent email to ask for more entries once it was known they were low. ADCs were asked to press sections for more entries in the 2 weeks before the deadline but clearly the message did not get through. Pat asked if we wanted to re try for November – only date is 24th November and Helme Shield is following week 1st Dec. It was agreed that if people had not entered by now then they were unlikely to enter at November, so that is a NO for this year, and we cannot send a scratch team to County. Pat asked all groups to ask each section if she were to book for next year with likely date of 28th September 2013 would they could they support this with entries or is this impossible in Sept and do we have to look at pressing the Uni pool for a later date. The uni pool has Saturday commitment for all the year once the students are back so it is difficult to get alternative date.

**WAITING LISTS** – Pat has asked if you can advise Margaret Eddowes who does the ‘Want to Join’ enquiries if you have any places in sections so she knows not to offer if you are full and to try and send waiting list people to other places where there are spaces.

**ROTARY COMPETITIONS** the local Rotary club have advised us of Young Writer, Young Artist, and Young Photographer competitions for various age groups with deadlines after Christmas. Pat will give details to ADCs to email out to section leaders. Small prizes but worth doing as it gets winter badge work done also.

**DISTRICT RACE NIGHT** - is on Friday 19th October at Leighton Hall, our Presidents pad, a good social occasion, tickets only £5.00 and this event is designed to be a fun way of raising some money to keep district within budget. Accompanied children will need a ticket £3.00. Drinks will be on sale at a reasonable price. Even if you cannot go please try and sell a ticket or two to friends or to your leaders, or you can sponsor a horse!

**ROUND THE ROOM from all the Groups -** good news, events, and any can you helps!

34th Lanc found Chairman, and a new cub leader, planning sponsored cycle ride in 2013, need new GSL, and ASL.

1st Forton – enough leaders, and discussions re Explorer Unit.

53rd Lancaster – Don is moving away to Fylde and will be scouting there.(we will miss you Don but I am sure you will be back at 53rds  camps. AGM recently held.

16th Morecambe – 5 Chief Scout Gold, completed just waiting for interviews, Discovery Explorers now 20 members, Alan is pleased with their progress. Shoebox appeal being done by all sections, Invited by Hospice to submit garden designs which will form part of Hospice garden next year.

Centurion – Feeling very positive as so much help being offered, Exec meeting planned, lost BSL and ABSL due to internal difficulties, but CSL and SL and GSL covering beavers for now and seeking new leaders soon. Planning to take younger members to panto or show for Christmas.

23rd Lancaster – 20 Beavers so colony full at present, and cubs also full, found new cub leader, fundraising ideas being sought.

16th Lancaster – Maclean pack full at 28, planning Quiz night, Need Secretary, also additional ABSL and ACSL

33rd Lanc – Leaders have now achieved more kayaking permits so all can go onto water, just doing last sailing night at Killington before winter sets in. Need more cubs and beavers urgently. Need a male cub leader to help.

Caton Church – Leaders booked on training, need ACSL, done Harvest festival at church and doing shoeboxes for Christmas.

5th Lancaster – Another scout event linking with Liverpool troop planned, came 2nd in Moonlight competition held at Liverpool, need BSL or ABSL as students are good but go home at holidays leaving section vulnerable. 2 Chief Scouts Gold awards completed, just need interviews to be done.

1st Warton – CSL moved to SL, BSL moved to CSL now need BSL and ABSL as all others gone to Uni. Have booked scouts in for Christmas camp with GT but booking was difficult had to make personal visit to confirm! Janet showed us the book of pics re Trooping of Colour event in summer – excellent.

13th Lancaster – Cub Pack Full, low scout numbers, average beavers, Family camp planned 2013, may need some help shortly.

1st Silverdale – AGM held and a./cs delivered, Leaders meeting also held, found a new cub leader-paperwork coming in soon.

Pat said she felt that it was so good to hear good news from all the groups, and to see smiling, relaxed faces round the table, and felt we were all communicating better, and hopefully flagging up problems sooner. Well done all - a lot of hard work is being done!

**DEVELOPMENT -** Craig confirmed we were still working with several projects and will continue to offer help when we are asked.

Barbara then gave us advice on how to engage parents more usefully. She had a variety of methods and handed out skill questionnaire sheets for parents to complete at maybe an open evening or a camp preparation night or an AGM – if parents have an interesting job or a particular skill then they can maybe offer to show this on a pack or troop badge night, helps the programme and involves the parents. Question asked if they need to be CRBd just for one night doing badges etc – NO – only for regular unsupervised contact, or trips or camps or weekly or monthly helping – not for one off event with other leaders in hut. She advised us on how to correctly use parent rotas – make sure parent is involved, knows what the leader is doing that evening, and is invited to join in with the games as icebreaker, or the activity, not just hanging round the edge of the hut wondering why they are there. Good idea to ask parents to take ownership of the rota i.e to change own night if they cannot do one specified to save leader chasing round ring people up when someone cannot do their night.

Barbara showed us the new Parent Guide (replaces free ‘Where did all that mud come from’ but only 10p each so well worth it with uniform in where badges go etc, and all with new logos and lots in questions answered for parents)- can be ordered from scout shops in packs of 10. She showed us many other resources, flyers, help-sheets, beaver badges for parent rota rewards, same for beavers, some can be downloaded from Print centre and personalised before you print them, some can be ordered from Scout Shops.

Craig drew our notice to the SAFE and SOUND leaflet which is FREE from Scout shops and answers all the questions we get asked by parents re out safety and safeguarding policy. DO use these resources – they are very professional produced, many are completely free and look and feel good.

All the above items can be incorporated into a good looking and helpful parent pack for new entrants and the opportunity to show we are professional, trained and informed should not be missed.

I have extra copies for the groups who were not at the meeting and they will be in your pigeonholes to collect. (I will try and sort them out on Saturday morning). Please do use all the stuff and make sure if it is section relevant you hand it on to your Beaver Leader, Cub Scout leader or troop leader – it is no good in a cupboard, or in your briefcase.

AOB – the Scout Recruiter Badge is back in stock – we handed some out to groups needing numbers and some are held at the shop with John Buckley the badge secretary. They are FREE!!! Use them to get your numbers up please.

It was a really good meeting, we all shared views and sorted out problems, thanks for all who attended.

Pat Griffin, DC.