

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT LEADERS' MEETING



Notes of Scout Leaders' Meeting held on 6 February 2012 at DHQ, Moor Street, Lancaster.

Present:

Caton: Sylvia Myall, **Centurion w W:** Ted Myers, **Forton:** Geoff Trimnell, **Halton:** John Elliott, **16 Lcr:** Andrew Holland, **33 Lcr:** Martyn Browitt, **16 More:** Alan Hague, **Overton:** Bridget Worsnop
District: Mark Walker (ADC), John Buckley (DSL), Pat Griffin (DC).

Apologies: Mark Worsnop.

1. Review Minutes of 9 January 2012 Meeting

There was nothing additional to report that was not on the agenda for this meeting.

2. Chief Scout's Gold Award

Mark reported that the next County certificate presentation evening was to be held at Skelmersdale College that Thursday. Scouts from 5th & 16th Lancaster and Silverdale would be attending.

3. Competitions Update:

a. District Quiz

John gave a progress report. One match had been played and the semi-finals would be 53rd Lancaster v 16th Morecambe and Forton v Caton. It was hoped that these matches might be played during February with the final match taking place in March.

Bearing in mind the small number of Troops who had wished to take part this year discussion took place on whether the quiz would be repeated next year. There was a consensus view that whilst there were sufficient Troops expressing a wish to participate that the quiz should go ahead; continuity was key and the event was worthwhile for those who did wish to join in. In the interests of expediency the possibility of a changed format was considered with perhaps a "pub style" format being used.

b. Challenge Camp (formerly Camping Competition)

The possibility of Young Leaders taking a leading role in organizing this was still being pursued. A date of 29 June – 1 July was agreed.

4. Patrol Leaders' Forums

a. District

There was to be an opportunity provided at the County PL's Day on 18 February to hold a District Forum. However, another one needed to be held in the District in order to have PL's from more Troops in attendance. These forums provided a valuable opportunity for young people to express their views on what they wanted from Scouting. A date would be advised in due course.

One common theme emerging from forums was a request for more camping opportunities. Cost was identified as an issue and ideas were discussed on how these might, if required, be minimized, with a number of suggestions being put forward. These included partial self-catering, bargain buying of food, utilizing the District's own campsites, which are free of charge for camping, and self organization of activities. A figure of £8.00 for a short weekend was cited as an example.

b. District PL's Training Camp

Another PL's Training Camp was also proposed. Venue and details would be advised in due course.

c. County PL's Day, 18 February

5 PL's from Lonsdale would be attending. Numbers from around the County varied enormously from District to District.

5. Football Competition, 11 February 2012

Andrew reported that only 6 teams had been entered for this previously popular event. In the circumstances the matches would be organized on a round robin basis. The old adage of "use it, or lose it," applies. If your Troop is not joining in with District run activities why is this? – Perhaps you could let the District Team know in order to see what might be done to facilitate your participation.

6. County Rally, 11/13 May 2012

a. Theme

The theme for the camp is the Olympics; Each District had been allocated a country and Lonsdale's will be Germany.

b. Numbers

147 had attended from Lonsdale this year and it was hoped that more might be encouraged to attend in 2012.

c. Information Pack

This would be available soon. In respect of camp fees, it was proposed that this would be in just one payment this time of £30 per person (includes transport by coach). Entries would need to be returned no later than the end of March so that arrangements for coaches etc. could be put in hand in good time.

A leaders meeting to finalize arrangements was planned for Monday 30 April at the Greaves Hotel.

Mark reported that County were keen to identify for the future a dedicated County Rally team

7. County Scout Team Update

a. Moving-on Award – Linking Cubs to Scouts

There is an issue with some Cubs not moving on to Scouts. Are Cubs details being passed on to SL's? Try utilizing the Moving-on award if you are not currently doing this. Leaders reported different ways that they facilitated transfer in their own Groups.

b. Waddecar Strategic Plan – Consultation Document

This document has been circulated. Please have a look and send in your comments. See <http://www.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/downloads/view/179>

c. International Events

County is formulating a plan for 2014 - 18. Possible events include Paris trip, Zelhoff, 'Snow & Ice' for the Scout Section, Sweden expedition. Watch the County website for details.

d. Bowlander Hiking Competition - Training Weekend

Numbers are down this year. Give it a try.

e. Go4Gold Weekends

More of these are planned. Watch for details.

8. Any Other Business

a. Dates Confirmed

Hiking Competition – 29/30 September.

Knight Activity – 17 November..

b. St. George's Day Parade

The DC sought views on the date, venue and format for this year's celebration. The policy had been for some time to alternate venues between Morecambe and Lancaster. Following discussion leaders expressed a preference to hold the event on the 23 April (Monday night), at the proposed venue of the Platform in Morecambe with a parade from a location to be confirmed and with a form of service, involving young people. Pat confirmed that there would not be any CSA presentations on this occasion.

c. District Swimming Gala

The DC reported that the only suitable date available at the University was 29 September. This conflicted with the present proposal to hold the Hiking Competition over that weekend but there was a view that this would not necessarily present a problem.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 5 March at 7.30 pm at DHQ..