

LONSDALE DISTRICT SCOUT LEADERS' MEETING



Notes of Scout Leaders' Meeting held on 2 July 2012 at DHQ, Moor Street, Lancaster.

Present:

Caton: Sylvia Myall, **Halton:** John Elliott, **16 Lcr:** Andrew Holland, **53 Lcr:** Andrew Buckley, **11 More:** Fiona Wetton, Michael Wetton, **16 More:** Alan Hague.

District: Pat Griffin (DC), Craig Dewar (DDC), John Buckley (DSL).

Apologies: Mark Walker (DSL), Tony Routh.

1. Review of Leaders Meeting

It had been agreed that meetings would be held bi-monthly in future. Dates were agreed as follows:- 3 September, 5 November, 7 January 2013, 4 March 2013.

2. ADC (Scouts) & DSL's

Craig reported that the process for identifying possible candidates was progressing. The intention had been that this would be a more open procedure this time around. Mark Walker had notified his intention to step down as ADC from the end of May 2012 when he would continue as a DSL. It was hoped that the process might generate a number of possible people, as it had done in the case of the Beaver section, to identify an ADC and a number of DSL's.

Two nominations had been received so far and it was requested that any more nominations be submitted within one week. The DC highlighted that one main aim was to provide improved support to Troops.

3. Challenge Camp (formerly Camping Competition)

John reported that the format and name of this event had been changed, as agreed, in order to promote greater participation from Troops. He had experienced difficulty in contacting and arranging for Young Leaders to take an active part in planning and running the event; there was a suggestion that the date planned was at a difficult time for YL's but Craig agreed to look to address John's concern for the future. In the event it had been decided to cancel the camp owing to lack of expression of interest.

A lengthy discussion ensued on whether an augmented District Team might beneficially improve Troop involvement in events, and meetings. Craig felt that experience showed that lack of such contact was prejudicial to the numbers participating. There was general agreement that District Leaders visiting Troops to speak to leaders and Scouts would improve the situation.

4. Hiking Competition

The date for this had been changed to the weekend of 22/23 September to avoid conflict with the Swimming Gala. Entry forms were handed out and would be available on the website.

John indicated that the first day's Saturday hike for the senior teams would be about 9 miles long and the Sunday one about 5 miles. On this occasion the routes would be specified with senior teams notified one week before the event so that they could prepare a Route Plan. They would be marked on accuracy in keeping to their projected times. The closing date for entries was 8 September.

A query regarding the possibility of entering more than one team per Troop was left in abeyance until the level of overall entries was determined.

5. County Rally Review

John reported that this appeared to have been generally enjoyed. A fewer number of Scouts had attended this time, around 50 – 60. Travelling to the event by coach had proved to be very successful.

Andrew H raised an issue with leaders being required to pay the same fee as the Scouts. This was felt to be unreasonable, particularly as leaders didn't do activities. The DC agreed to raise this with County.

Andrew also enquired whether any surplus funds from the event, locally, would be refunded to Troops. John would speak to Mark regarding this.

6. Patrol Leaders' Training

As this had stalled to some extent recently in the way of forums and courses, discussion took place on how the situation might be improved. The DC indicated that this might be a key subject for early discussion by the new District Team, once constituted, but organizers should perhaps be more sensitive to methods of delivery by possibly scaling down sessions making them more user-friendly e.g. a day at a campsite, rather than a weekend.

7. Review of the Agenda

This subject broadened out into a lengthy discussion on the format and content of the meeting. Suggestions for improvement to make the meetings more useful and meaningful and to promote increased attendance included identifying a particular subject to look at – with discussion and paperwork to hand out, and consideration of other themes than just scouting skills. A successful item tried at GSL's meetings was to have individuals report at each meeting on a couple of good news items from their Troops with one area identified where support was perhaps needed.

The discussion moved onto improving induction of new leaders with a suggestion that this might be enhanced with the introduction of a card listing useful assignments to be ticked off, such as visits to another section or Troop, to gain a useful insight into others workings and to promote contact, or to a Group Executive Committee for example.

Another suggestion forthcoming, for the proposed All Leaders Meeting on September 13, was to start with a 'mixing' type activity to promote contact between Groups.

8. Any Other Business

a. Sponsored Swim

The date for this will be 16 March 2013.

b. Swimming Gala

This will be taking place at the Lancaster University Sports Centre on 29 September from 7 – 9 pm. Details are now on the website. The event will mirror the County's rules on ages etc. No entries will be considered after the closing date.

A letter will be handed out to individual winners on the night inviting them to represent the District at the County Helme Shield event on 24 November.

c. West Lancs Scouting +

Are you getting this new information shot? To make sure you get it, log into the "My Backpack" on <http://www.scouts.org.uk> to make sure your email address is correct.

d. Safety

Craig emphasized the need to have a known nominated leader-in-charge at all Scout meetings and events. This is important should any untoward incident occur. Safety is being given a high priority by the Association and there are suggestions that leaders will be required to attend a session specifically on this subject, on the lines of 'safeguarding' in the future.

It must be agreed between the leaders who the nominated leader-in-charge is – who is it if the SL is late or does not come? Discuss this at your leader meetings NOW please- we don't want any slip ups. You never know when you need to depend on a quick action by the leader in charge if you have an incident, and it saves the worry of people saying I thought it was so and so. Make a definite rule and stick to it please.

e. Cancelling Bookings at Lonsdale's Campsites

Andrew queried the mechanism for cancelling bookings. You should contact the Booking Secretary Arthur Griffin by email or phone and he will action this.

f. Activities Drop-in Sessions, 11 September & 10 October

There will be Activities Clinic drop-in sessions at DHQ for activity permits – applications, questions etc on 11 September & 10 October

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 3 September at 7.30 pm at DHQ..