



Glamorgan West Area Scouts

Annual Report 2022/2023

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Area Chairs Report

Report to follow

Area Commissioners Report

Scouting is a movement, and as a movement we are constantly adapting, changing and ensuring that we have the right structures in place to ensure that we can deliver good quality Scouting to the young people in our care. We must ensure that our Movement does not stand still but 'moves' forward to cater for the interests of the young people of today and the future.

Earlier this year I shared the new structure that Scouting is moving towards and the concept of sharing tasks and building teams to ensure that the workload is shared between volunteers.

Whilst there were some doubts, I believe that the difficulties that changes will bring can be overcome and that the successful growth of Scouting will follow.

If we are to progress there sometimes is a need to make changes and many of us would agree with Mark Twain's comment "I'm all for progress, it's change I object to."

There is an ongoing need to build on the strengths within our Area and to recognise our weaknesses so that we can make progress. To achieve this, we will continue to build on our forward plan so that everyone involved in Scouting in Glamorgan West can work towards the common goals of developing a focussed, sound, relevant, diverse and growing youth movement.

It is great to see that we are still growing as an area with 45 new youth members between 2022 and 2023 (an increase of 3%).

Scouting in Glamorgan West is full of fantastic people who give of their time for the benefit of others and I ask everyone involved in our wonderful Movement to pull together to ensure that we continue to promote the development of young people to achieve their full potential, physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support and guidance over the past 12 months, and particular thanks to Steve Jones who has decided to finish as DC for Swansea and Gower after 10 years in the role. Steve is not leaving Scouting, and will use his skills elsewhere in the area.

Graham Rees-Evans - Area Commissioner

Area Youth Commissioner Report

No commissioner in position

Area Activity Team Report

No report received

Area Training Report

What a year. Slowly getting back to full training courses. Now able to have face to face as well as Zoom training which seems to be working well. But now Transformation, is coming. New system for Headquarters, no more Compass, Training will become Learning!

This might affect validation which is still a problem and despite having regular workshops they are not well attended. We shall be having a concerted effort next year to get validations completed and have monthly evenings or weekend workshops. This is essential to ensure that training is not lost when the change over to the new training and systems arrive in 2024. Until then the TAs and line managers will be busy and maybe proactive to get Compass correct and up to date!

Compliance figures are coming down but still not to the 2% level required. UK are sending emails regularly to ensure the National levels are kept low, so we need to ensure that all Leaders, Managers and Supporters keep their Safety and Safeguarding training up to date.

First Response training figures are also good, as we have been running monthly training courses this year.

There have been 16 Wood Badges presented during the period Mar 22- Mar 23. Congratulations and thank you to them all for their achievement and their continued support to the young people and Scouting in the Area.

Dai Jones (ASL Cwm Newydd)	Jen Saets (BL Swansea and Gower)
Julia Jones Mone (GSL Cwm Newydd)	Jonathan Allen (GSL Afan Nedd)
Chris Law (SL Swansea and Gower)	Debbie Garrett (CSL Cwm Newydd)
Gemma Watts (ESL Swansea and Gower)	Bryan Jones (GSL Cwm Newydd)
Dan Whitehouse (SL Swansea and Gower)	Katie Morgans (SL Swansea and Gower)
Shaun Harris (SL Swansea and Gower)	Anna Spenser (ESL Afan Nedd)
Gareth Walsh (ASL Cwm Newydd)	Adrian Parker (AESL Afan Nedd)
Neil Ward (ASL Cwm Newydd)	Emma Lammond (CSL Cwm Newydd)

Young Leader training has been running slowly this year and a more concerted effort from all those involved should now be a priority as these are the Leaders of the future.

Changes to 'learning' are coming with the new National systems, it looks very exciting and hopefully we shall have a smooth conversion. But as yet no definite date is set so we carry on as normal and continue to complete our Wood Badges and work to get Compass up to date ready for the conversion.

Finally, my thanks to the members of the training team for their support, commitment and friendship which has enabled us to achieve much during the past year and hopefully continue to a better and rewarding 2023/24.

Pat Thomas
ATM Glamorgan West
pat@afannedd.org.uk

Campsites and Activity Centres

Moorlakes Wood Scout Centre



By the time the AGM is held this year, it will be 12 years since we purchased the site, and I think it would be fair to say that it now looks quite different to when we first purchased it! Gone is most of the rhododendron that had infested the site, gone are most of the fallen trees that were everywhere, and gone are the sheep and cattle that used to churn up the ground when roaming in freely from the Common. Now we have 6 good camping areas, a bunkhouse, a roundhouse, and a square house (the latter two being constructed from materials from the site), and over 38 acres for adventurous activity. It is a fine balance between trying to provide the facilities that our visitors want and preserving the environment, and I would hope that we are managing to achieve that.

By far though, our biggest achievement this year, is getting mains water into the site after all this time. We are very grateful to the City & County of Swansea, who wanted to get water into one of the stock fields, and who took on the task of dealing with all of the bureaucracy involved – planning permission, numerous surveys (environmental, trees, badgers, and even one for unexploded ordnance(!)), liaising with Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water, as well as engaging the appropriate contractors to do the work. Even with their expertise, it still took over a year when they originally thought it might be a few months! However, it is now in, and thanks to Craig and friends, who did all the work on our side of the fence, we have a water station, and just lately a washing up station. It is well worth visiting the site just to see the structures they have created to house these facilities.

The next stage is to investigate how we can instal ‘proper’ toilets and showers, to supplement the compost toilets that we have on site. We also need to decide what other facilities and/or activities we can provide within a limited budget. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have had a meeting of interested parties and gathered up suggestions as to how we can enhance the site and give users what they want. If you have any ideas or suggestions (at any time) though, please let us know.

Our work is very far from done and we would welcome any additional help that you can provide, from a few hours to an occasional day. We have a monthly working

party, usually on the first Saturday of the month, and if you would like to come along and lend a hand, let us know and we will include you on the WhatsApp group. It does not have to be a Saturday and if you can come on an alternative day, get in touch.

It is very pleasing to see the site getting busier and busier. Covid slowed things down for a few years, but now we are seeing more visitors than ever. In terms of income, log sales are still slightly higher than camping income – 55% log sales and 45% camping last year, but there are already signs that that position will be reversed in this current year. Whilst we are able to, we will still carry out log sales though as they help generate income that can then be put back into improving the site, but it is very pleasing to see more and more income coming in from camping.

Despite everything else going on, we exist to provide facilities for our Scouting members. Having recently been re-designated from greenfield to a campsite, will only help our situation and lead to more visitors coming. It is very pleasing to see more local Scouting (and Guiding) groups using the site, but also seeing quite a few of them now coming from outside of our Area. When we get toilets and showers in, then those figures can only lead to an increase in numbers. Many of our local Scout groups also meet at the site just for an evening during the lighter months (for which there is no charge) and will often have 2 or 3 of them at any one time, with plenty of space to accommodate them. If you are interested in doing the same, then please let us know.

Although we are a Scout centre, we still get a lot of visitors from community groups – local schools, DofE groups, the Gower Youth Society, women's wellbeing classes, yoga and meditation retreats, and drum workshops. We have also been very fortunate to host a few weddings, a Chinese community funday and also (again this year) the Gower Climbing Festival. It is amazing to see how the site is transformed when some of these community groups are with us, and very pleasing to see how we can accommodate such large numbers of people and activities without any issues. Apart from your own Scouting group, if you are involved in any community group that you think may benefit from a visit/retreat, then please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate them.

I end as ever, by offering my grateful thanks to all those who have helped us during the year, but especially to Peter (Muxworthy) and Craig (Seaman), without whom I would suggest there would be no Moorlakes. Peter and I often discuss our aches and pains, and how we are both getting on in life, when having lunch up there. It is true, but as long as we are able to, along with Craig and helpers, we will continue to work and try to provide a Scout Centre that is admired by all. We do need your ideas and help to do it though, so do not be shy or bashful - please come forward with both and get involved!

Allen Aldred

Follow us on Facebook:

Moorlakes Wood Scout Centre

Email:

moorlakes@gowerscoutcampsite.org.uk

Neath Scout Campsite, Cadoxton



This last year has been very successful for Cadoxton, we have fully adopted an online scout manager-based booking system which has allowed us to reach new groups from further afield that we haven't before. It also lightens the load for the team with meeting group with contactless bookings.

The committee has not changed in the last year in terms of its membership, we formally meet around 4 times a year but are in regular communication between the running of the shop and requirements from the camp site.

The Scout shop continues to be a huge success for the site with many thousands of badges provided to groups in the area and further afield, we have decided to invest in the shop this year with a refurbishment and the shop has been emptied, painted, stock sorted, and new badge organisers fitted. A special thank you must go to the whole team who have put a phenomenal amount of effort and time into ensuring the shops continued success.

The site has been used by many Scout groups from all over Glamorgan West, South Wales and further afield, we also continue to host sessions for local fitness classes, the local conservation group as well as other groups and community initiatives.

Financially the site is in the best position it has been since the millennium with a large amount of money received last year as part of the legacy of John Leitz (DC Neath 1953-1963), We continue to plan to use this money to improve the site and offering of activities we can give to our visitors.

We are also looking to improve the car parking and drainage at the main hall as over years this has eroded the car part and entrance way, we are still in communication with Neath Port Talbot Council regarding solutions to drainage and if planning permission will be required, this has been delayed due to change of local councillors.

Going forward we are exploring the plan for Cadoxton over the next 10 years as the building will unfortunately not last forever and we must start planning now to ensure this facility is still there in the future.

I would like to thank all the members of the Cadoxton Committee for their continued support over the last 12 months and going forward. If anyone would like to join the committee please get in touch.

Thanks again

Rhys Mainwaring
Chairperson.

Silver Cross Scout Activity Centre



Finally we seem to be clear of the spectre of Covid 19 and thankfully the year 2022-23 saw a return to similar numbers as pre-pandemic. However, our outgoings have remained high as we have struggled to get everything back shipshape on site. The site was well used by local Glam West groups and also with visiting groups from England and Wales, including Raysfield, Corby, London, Bromsgrove, Hendon, Oxford, Chipping Norton, Malvern, Eastleigh, Streatham, Worcester, Cardiff and Penmark. We had a visit from the Swedish Explorer Belt expedition in early summer, and also our regulars from Warlingham School DofE groups making a welcome return after Covid. The Kingdom Conference of the Christadelphians had a very successful youth camp in July – so much so that they’ve booked again for 2024 already. Also Silver Cross was the venue for some outdoor First Aid courses run by David Lee. Bookings for 2023 are very strong so we look forward to yet another busy summer.

Maintenance has again been the main focus again since the end of the second lockdown and we finally see us gaining against Nature’s onslaught! In order to help with the yearly task of clearing leaves the site has invested in a leaf sweeper which will be towed behind our mower. Drainage between the Lid and the Campfire circle has also been undertaken. We did have a water leak in the Laundry which wasn’t detected for a few weeks unfortunately, but all is now fixed.

The Lid was finally completed during summer of 2022 and has proved to be a great asset to the site and it has been used extensively. In June we sadly lost a great friend of the site after illness – Mark ‘Muc’ James, who many of you will remember for his circus skills sessions and his juggling. We decided to dedicate the Lid in his memory, and we had a small dedication and buffet for this in October and we were pleased that Muc’s family was here for this.

The abseil tower is no more, having been professionally dismantled in early Spring this year. We do have plans for a brand new activity for this location ready for 2024 – watch this space!

All the other activities are now up and running, with Archery, Tomahawk Throwing, Splatapult, Crate Stacking, Spiderland, QR Code Trail, Soft Crossbows, Team Building, Orienteering and Pioneering Spars available. We have purchased a new container to store the crate stacking equipment securely and away from any possible contamination from petrol fumes and chemicals.

Three sections now use the site for their weekly meetings, 4th Lliw Pontarddulais Cubs and 4th Lliw Pontarddulais Beavers for the summer meetings and Draig Arian ESU who meet all year - it's great to hear voices ringing around the site and to feel the site alive after a quieter winter.

Our annual tree safety survey and work was carried out professionally in April, and all remedial work was carried out. Ever since the very sad fatality that occurred in Manor House Wildlife Park some years ago we have been as proactive as we can by engaging professionals who know what they're doing to undertake the safety survey for us annually and to carry out any remedial work needed. If the unthinkable should happen when people are camping we have the peace of mind that we've done as much as we can to keep the campsite safe.

After the cancellation of our Las Vegas Night because of Covid 19 restrictions, it was great to see this back up again in November, and next year's will be on Saturday November 25th - a date for your diaries. Although the evening was a success, it was very disappointing to see the lack of support from our Area for this. It is always a great evening for those who turn up, and it would be fantastic to see more of our own attend - we, as usual, had our friends from Douglas, Cork, make the journey across the sea to attend and support us.

A reminder please, also, that we've signed up to Easyfundraising, so if you can, please support us on <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/silvercrossscoutcentre/>. As you buy anything online or with a card a donation will be made to us if you go via the easyfundraising website first - it will not cost you anything, you will get your shopping normally, but it can help us. Thank you.

Finally, I really need to thank the members of the Service Team who as usual have pulled out the stops to get things running on the site this year. I know I say this every year but I can't over emphasise how amazing these people are, some spending almost every weekend in the year here at the site where possible despite family commitments. A HUGE thank you to you all - it would not be possible for Silver Cross to function as it does without you :)

Don't forget to keep checking our website, and while you're at it check out our Facebook page as well to keep up-to-date with what's happening. Here's to a good 2023 and even better 2024!

Andy Shurey, Warden
www.silvercross.org.uk
Facebook: Silver Cross Scout Centre
Twitter : @SilverCrossCamp

Area Membership Census

	2022					2023					2022 vs 2023					
	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	Male	Female	Self-identify	Prefer not to say	Total	% change
Squirrels	6	6	0	0	12	6	6	0	0	12	+6	+6	0	0	+12	+392%
Beaver Scouts	283	87	0	0	370	291	77	0	0	368	+8	-10	0	0	-2	-1%
Cub Scouts	397	110	0	0	507	392	118	0	0	510	-5	+8	0	0	+3	1%
Scouts	253	83	3	0	339	256	89	0	0	345	+3	+6	-3	0	+6	2%
Explorer Scouts*	73	27	0	0	100	69	19	3	0	91	-4	-8	+3	0	-9	-9%
Total Membership	1012	313	3	0	1328	1050	320	3	0	1373	+38	+7	0	0	+45	3%

*Explorer Scouts figures include Young Leaders

	2022	2023	2022 vs 2023
Squirrel Scout Dreys	3	3	0
Beaver Scout Colonies	29	29	0
Cub Scout Packs	31	31	0
Scout Troops	26	26	0
Explorer Scout Units, including YL	11	11	0

Units			
Groups	35	35	0

[illegible]

Glamorgan West Area Scout Council
Report and Accounts 2022-2023

Summary - Cash & Bank Balances

	2023	Income	Expenditure
Area	£ 342,167.97	£ 14,458.50	£ 34,234.34
Area Events	£ 8,157.38	£ 680.00	£ 2,458.73
SilverCross	£ 12,757.43	£ 26,088.82	£ 31,730.55
Parc Le Breos	£ -		
Moorlakes	£ 38,176.42	£ 19,698.10	£ 14,101.97
Neath Scout Campsite & Shop	£ 54,623.58	£ 25,223.85	£ 24,963.51
Training	£ 2,274.54	£ -	£ 221.98
Totals	£ 458,157.32	£ 86,149.27	£ 107,711.08

I confirm that I am satisfied with the financial information provided and there is no cause or issue for concern.

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David Butler
AAT