

# Gordanoos March 2009

Welcome to the March edition of Gordanoos. During the last month we have seen the Leadership skills weekend take place, a really good event, and if you did not make it you certainly missed out.

We have seen Explorer teams dominate a recent County competition, more details below, and even more progress made at Glenn Wood.

As we move into the time of increased outdoor programme and Scouting is all about being out and about, adventure and developing our Young People, don't forget to meet the basic requirements of sending in an activities notification. Remember this is required for activities out of the HQ and for adventurous activities in the HQ (Shooting, Archery etc..) on each occasion. If in doubt submit a form. It only takes seconds and ensures you comply with POR. The link is on the front page and on the menu bar of our website - [www.gordanoscouts.org.uk](http://www.gordanoscouts.org.uk)

## RICKARD SHIELD - GORDANO EXPLORERS DOMINATE

The Rickard Shield is an annual night-navigation competition for Explorer Scouts and Senior Section Guides (aged 14-18) within the Avon Scout County created as a memorial to Mark Rickard. Mark was a life long scout from Backwell that died from a brain tumour at the age of 40 in May 2003. Mark started his scouting with the 1st Backwell and loved hill walking and climbing. He became a popular member of the Yeolands Venture Scout Unit in Wraxall.

This year's overnight challenge held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> March took place at Chelwood and surrounding area, and for once in good, but cold night time weather conditions. Traditionally Gordano teams have always held their own, although not managed to get in the top 5. Well this year what a difference, as we had 3 placed teams in the top 5. Our congratulations therefore go to Triple X ESU team 2 who were fourth, with 383 points, Barracuda ESU team were third, with 385 points, just 3 points behind the winners who were Triple X ESU team 3, 388 points. The team was led by Jo, with members being Gavin, Chris, Dan, Laurie and Shaun, a guest member from MELONS ESU.

Very well done to all three teams and the 4<sup>th</sup> Gordano entry Triple X 1, who in their first attempt gained a very creditable 239 points. For Jo and the team to win was very poignant, as Mark was Jo's godfather, and there has been a great determination to win the trophy for a number of years. Many congratulations, certainly an achievement to be proud of. Picture of the winning team with their trophy.



## CAMP PERMITS

Following recent experiences and comments made, I take this opportunity to remind everyone if you wish to take Beavers, Cubs, Scouts or Explorers away you must hold a relevant and in date nights away permit or have a member of the team with you that holds such a permit.

Permits will normally only be issued following camping experience, with an existing permit holder, completion of the nights away training module and then an assessed residential / camp. Simply to attend one camp and then expect to be issued with a permit is not on or a realistic expectation!

Please remember to complete your night's away notification at least 14 days prior to the camp and wherever possible much earlier, so any queries can be resolved well in advance of the event.

The above is applicable for Residential experiences, including staying in a Scout HQ, Camping at a recognised Scout camp site or Greenfield camping (in a field and only for the most experienced campers).

Please remember to keep your permit up to date, and to request a renewal please complete the form at <http://www.freewebs.com/gordanoscouting/nightsaway.htm> and send it into me.

## BEATING THE BOUNDS

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June we are looking to "beat the bounds" of the District with various Groups combining to ensure our boundaries are covered.

Southern and eastern boundaries to be covered by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders / adults from Backwell, Long Ashton and Nailsea

Western boundaries to be cover by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders / adults from CCY and Clevedon

Northern boundaries be cover by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders / adults from Portishead and Crockerne, on a different date to avoid the local carnival.

It is hope that everyone will join in and look to take the opportunity to raise money for a local charity / good cause, suggestions to whom very welcome.

More details of the routes, timings etc will be issued nearer the date.

Please pop the 20<sup>th</sup> June in your diary.

### **TEN TORS 2009 - TRAINING UPDATE**

Training started in November, after a period of consultation with the organisers, which resulted in a complete revamp of team names, but fortunately without a reduction in our overall team numbers. It was agreed, somewhat reluctantly by some, that we should reflect the scout districts and guide divisions, which make up the Gordano Ten Tors training group and the relative size of each of these contingents and our team allocation for this year gives Gordano 5x 35 teams, 2x 45 teams and 1x 55 teams, while Axe and the Guides have 2x 35 teams, 1x 45 teams and 1x 55 team each.

All the early training walks were well attended. The Mendips walk in November was held in very pleasant walking conditions, followed by the Forest of Dean in December when the weather was very sunny but cold and frosty. while the Quantocks walk in January was a much greyer day, but still icy on the ridges, which caught out some of the younger walkers who found out very quickly that the water in the puddles was only a very thin layer over ice below.

February should have seen the first visit to Llangattock, but the weather intervned in with a very significant snowfall during the preceding week. Plans were changed with Quantocks and Mendips being considered, but we had to concede defeat and cancel the training. Some teams did venture out locally the next weekend, but Llangattock had to wait, and wait it did

The March training saw the 45 and 55 teams walking in the Brecon Beacons on Saturday as well as Sunday and although the weather on Saturday was wet, Pen-y Fan was conquered and everyone camped at Dolygaer. Sunday dawned bright and sunny, but what a false dawn that was. Within 40 minutes of the 35 mile teams starting out on Llangattock, they were in driving snow with very limited visibility. Generally everyone kept going, but there were some very tired young people at the end of the day. Llangattock had lived up to it's reputation and given us the demanding training day we wanted.

The last weekend in March sees the training move to Dartmoor and gives the teams a chance to experience the terrain they will have to overcome on the Event in May and to bond with their team mates as most team places have now been decided.

Everyone is now looking forward to the Ten Tors Challenge over the weekend of May 9 –10.

Steve Hamey - District Ten Tors Coordinator

### **HQ INITIATIVE – THE BIG ADVENTURE**

The Big Adventure is all about encouraging parents and others connected with your Group to experience the fun of Scouting as an active part of the leadership team.

Research has shown that the most effective way of turning adults on the edge of the Group into volunteers is to give them an active role in the planning and running of a residential experience.

The Big Adventure is about putting this into practice. Defined roles could include organising a particular activity, being a cook, supervising a Lodge, Six or Patrol or handling the money and accounts.

The Big Adventure will run across the country from the beginning of May to the end of August 2009. So, if you are planning a camp, sleepover or other outdoor event this summer, then why not make it part of The Big Adventure?

Further information can be found at <http://scouts.org.uk/thebigadventure>

### **GORDANO FELLOWSHIP**

Attached with this Gordanoos is the latest newsletter from our Fellowship, offering a good range of activities and chances to join in.

### **Next Edition**

The next edition of Gordanoos news will be issued in April. I would welcome any articles, pictures or contributions. Please E mail them through to me on [philwoolcock@blueyounder.co.uk](mailto:philwoolcock@blueyounder.co.uk)



Phil Woolcock - District Commissioner

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