

Scouting in the Areas

Jamborees

An abundance of material relating to World and Welsh Jamborees has been received. Welsh contingents have attended all the World gatherings since 1920, and Jamboree Cymru was held every four years from 1948 until 1997. In 2001 the event was cancelled because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and its future is presently being reassessed. Numbers had declined sharply between 1993 and 1997 and there are questions about the demand for such events in the future.

About 400 Scouts from Wales went to Olympia in 1920, and there were, as one correspondent noted 'Good references to Swansea!'

The 24th Swansea (Wesley) troop put on a scenic display of a colliery accident, which involved 37 scouts (all under 18, as was noted) and lasted for fourteen minutes. This involved the erection of a pit head, a simulated explosion, and a display of rescue and first aid work. It was described as 'an excellent demonstration of emergency scoutcraft'.

The Tug o' War teams were defeated by lack of weight, and a gallant effort in the Foot Obstacle race saw a team from West Glamorgan lose in the final to Norway.

The Trek Cart race saw great dramatics. Only one of the three teams made it through the first round, but the B team went through four rounds undefeated, only to lose to Denmark in the final on what the observer clearly thought was a technicality. In the Boxing, Wales won two 'gold medals' (except that there weren't any) in both the heavier divisions, but their Marathon cycle race team was disqualified for failing to read the instructions – a fault which even the partisan commentator could not excuse.

Altogether a good time was had by all.

A mere sample of the numerous comments on Jamboree Cymrus must suffice. In July 1952 *The Scout* magazine carried a feature describing the camp then being held at Picton Castle. All the activities were designed to produce 'Jamboree dollars' for the winners, and the patrol with the largest number of dollars at the end of the camp would receive a special award. The magazine itself was sponsoring Patrol expeditions, designed and set up by various scouting celebrities, and a good take up was anticipated. Saturday, 2nd August, was to be 'observation day' during which secret infiltrators into the camp would have to be identified, and detective mystery solved. The day would conclude with a 'show down' at the evening Camp Fire. 'I hope the weather keeps fine' the commentator added optimistically.