

## Mid Glamorgan

This Area was formerly known as East Glamorgan, and included Cardiff. Although a certain amount of evidence survives in the form of basic statistics, there are very few records of early Scout activity. The movement started in 1908, as it did across most of South Wales, the first Troop being recorded at Penarth before the end of that year. Another formed at Aberdare in 1909, and twenty seven others followed before the outbreak of the first World War. The first surviving report dates from 1922, and gives the very large totals of 4500 boys, 336 leaders and 103 Groups. There were, apparently, rather more Scouts and rather fewer Wolf Cubs than had been the case in the previous year, but what they were doing has passed without surviving record. We know that in 1933 there was a County dinner, because it was attended by Sir Percy Everett, by then a Chief Scout's Commissioner, and by 1935 the Miskin camp site had been in existence long enough to be holding reunions, but we know very little about what went on there. In the same year the Scouts of 'outwards' East Glamorgan joined with those of Cardiff to welcome the Prince of Wales to Sophia Gardens, and between then and 1939 no fewer than 16 new Scout Headquarters were built with aid from the National Council of Social Services. It must have been nice to be appreciated with such gestures!

Regular reports do not begin until 1952, when we are told that no fewer than 1000 Scouts from the County attended the Welsh Jamboree at Picton Castle. The first recorded County Camp was held at Miskin in 1956, and a party from East Glamorgan helped out at the Commonwealth Games at Cardiff in 1958. By 1960 Scouting was a large and flourishing youth movement, and in 1962 there were 55 Queen's Scout awards in the county, which was not only a record, but probably more than in the rest of Wales put together. By 1969 the census showed 4500 Scouts, now organised into nine Districts and 100 Groups, figures which bear a remarkable resemblance to those for 1922, except that there had been a considerable dip during the war. East Glamorgan was the largest Scout County in Wales by some margin, and memories of activities at that time must be still very much alive – except that they do not seem to have been recorded. The change in 1974 was mainly one of nomenclature. With a few fringe exceptions, East Glamorgan simply became Mid-Glamorgan, the Scout County following the local government boundaries. Being mainly urban, Mid Glamorgan was one of the first Counties to participate in the Scoutreach project in the 1970s. Full time workers are first mentioned in 1974, and in 1977 two professional Scouters were appointed, albeit on short term contracts. By 1978 Scoutreach was operating out of the County office in Caerphilly. Since then Local Government has again been reorganised, although without much affecting the Scouts, but both numbers and ambition have declined. In 1994 the new county of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan was separated from Mid-Glamorgan, and the new Scout Area of CATVOG came into existence.