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# The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 (Northwich) Squadron



## Spring/Summer/Autumn/Winter 2014 Edition

### SUMMER CAMP TO BOSCOMBE DOWN

Boscombe Down was a great experience, not just for those who have been on camp before, but for those who were going on their first camp. Boscombe Down is an MoD base in Wiltshire.

Unfortunately, we didn't get the Chinook flight which was promised, but we still got to visit three amazing museums, as well as the fire station and the air traffic control tower. We also got to have a look around the Empire Test Pilot School hangar and sit in a Tornado GR4.

Overall, it was a great week, and hopefully inspired the cadets to go on more camps in the future.

*Cpl Cawley-Cooke*



*Cadets visiting The Tank Museum*



*Squadron band performing at Training Day*

### WING FIELD TRAINING DAY

On Sunday the 7th of September, the Squadron competed against the 29 other members of Merseyside Wing at the annual Wing Field Training Day. Against a backdrop of clear blue skies and sweltering sun, cadets vied to excel in drill, banner drill, first aid, modelling and the project.

146 had also competed in a variety of preliminary competitions, and were very successful. Cdt Thurston was the best at Aircraft recognition in the entire Wing for both under 16 and open age categories, and will represent the Wing at the regional competition. Flg Off Lever was also the best full bore shot of any of the Wing staff. Cdt Baylis, despite never having used a flight sim before, managed a respectable 9th in the competition.

The Squadron also had its Annual Inspection, in which the Wing Commander visited the Squadron to inspect its cleanliness, camaraderie and organisation. The Squadron was very successful, coming in 4th in the entire Wing, a great result.

Another highlight of the day was the project, in which teams were tasked with designing a board game that could be used to teach the Air Cadet syllabus. 146 achieved 4th place with a brilliant game: The Race to the CO's Hat, with a life size peaked cap made from cardboard and fabric.

Overall, the day was a great success, with the Squadron coming an overall 5th place against fierce competition. Well done to all cadets who contributed to such a great result!

*CWO McGough*

### Promotions:

*Cdt Hawkins to Cpl  
Cdt Mackintosh to Cpl  
Cdt Halpin to Cpl  
Cdt Hensby to Cpl  
Cdt Twist to Cpl  
Cdt Howard to Cpl*

*Cpl Harvey-Kelly to Sgt  
Cpl Bennett to Sgt  
Cpl Yale to Sgt*

### Sports Representations:

#### Wing Netball

*Cdt Overall  
Cdt Prime  
Cdt Galley  
Cpl Harvey-Kelly  
Cpl Mackintosh*

#### Wing Hockey

*Cpl Harvey-Kelly  
Cpl Mackintosh*

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/atc146](http://www.facebook.com/atc146)

### YouTube

[www.youtube.com/atc146](http://www.youtube.com/atc146)

### Editor

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Cdt Snelson

## ADVENTURE TRAINING WEEK AT CAPEL CURIG

On 26th July a total of 41 cadets from Northwich and Neston Squadrons headed off for the annual Adventure Training Camp, which this year was held at Capel Curig in the heart of Snowdonia. Cadets were split into six groups for their stay and each group had the opportunity to participate in canoeing and kayaking, archery, climbing and abseiling, geocaching, mountain biking, raft racing, white water rafting and visiting Llechwedd slate mine. The highlights of the week have got to be experiencing the UK's fastest and longest zipwire "Velocity" at Bethesda where riders can exceed 100mph and start at over 500ft high and Bounce Below, a totally new experience where we all bounced on nets suspended high above the cavern floor whilst deep underground!

We also cannot forget the expeditions - some of us got wetter than others - and living off ration packs and pub food, when the camp's cooking facilities were unexpectedly shutdown due to a problem with food waste. A huge thank you must go to the staff who were fantastic and encouraged us all to push our boundaries and experience new things. A great week for all who went and one we won't forget in a hurry. New friends were made and old bonds strengthened through the team building exercises and we all had great fun at the Kinel-Zat on the last night. We arrived back, one week later, exhausted but with great tales to tell.

If you didn't get to go this time then make sure you put your name down for next year, the opportunities are amazing!

*Cdt Snelson*



*Cadets at the finish of the Geocaching activity*



*Cpl Twist at the afternoon abseil activity*

## NCO WEEKEND

All the NCO's gathered on a warm Friday evening ready for a weekend of activities and getting to know each other, especially the five new members to the NCO team! This weekend gave us all the opportunity to bond, learn some of our strengths and weaknesses and also overcome some of our fears.

We loaded up the bus and headed for Thorpe Farm, a fond memory from most of our Silver DofE expeditions. Once we arrived we were told where our rooms were and to unpack our bags and relax for a while, there was a fight for the best beds, but once that had been settled, everyone was sat chatting and having a laugh, awaiting on what to do next.

Eventually we were called for supper and split into two teams, once split we were given some small exercises to help us work better as a team and to get to know a little more about each other, the usual awkward kind of ice breakers you are given on the first day of school or college. Most of us were pretty tired so after we had completed the exercises we headed for bed so we would have energy for the next day of activities.

In the morning we had breakfast and got into our two groups for activities, one group went abseiling first and the other caving, swapping at lunch. My group were the first to go caving and were anxious to know what this involved as there were a few mixed ideas about what we could be doing.

After pulling into a layby, we were handed boiler suits, wellies and a helmet equipped with a torch and told to follow our instructor to the caves. Upon reaching the caves we were sent through a few tests to get us used to squeezing through the tight gaps underground and to make sure we were able to do it. There were a few panics of people claiming to be "too big" but everyone managed to get through and we headed for the cave. It was a long tunnel underground full of all sorts of bugs, tight squeezes and freezing water but it was a lot of fun although it may not sound it!

Upon arriving at abseiling, we shared our stories with the other group over lunch and awaited our instructor to arrive with all the kit. Once he arrived, we walked to the bridge we would be abseiling off and put on our harnesses. After completing the smaller abseil we moved on to the larger one, where Cpl Nasralla conquered her fear of heights and Cpl Harvey-Kelly and Flt Sgt (ATC) Hensby completed their ALS ice bucket challenges in the freezing cold stream below!

The next day we had to get up a little earlier, because all our bags had to be packed and on the bus before we left for the day walk. The walk was not very long or challenging, especially as a few of us remembered the route from our silver expedition the previous year.

At the end of the walk we were put back onto our busses and headed for home, with everyone very tired and ready for some rest. The weekend was a great opportunity, which allowed the more senior NCOs to get to know the newer ones and also a chance to say goodbye to some of our NCOs that were leaving for University in a few weeks time. Overall the experience was a lot of fun and very helpful for us to bond as a team and we are all looking forward to next year.

*Cpl Twist (pictured left)*

**For comments, feedback and contributions, contact: [panther@theaircadets.org](mailto:panther@theaircadets.org)**

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