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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



Nov/Dec - 2009

New D Of E Awards

Duke Of Edinburgh awards have been presented to the following people:

Cdt Hurst - Bronze
Cdt Edwards - Bronze
Cpl McAlinden - Silver
Sgt Bamber - Gold
Sgt Clarke - Gold
Sgt Reynolds - Gold

Some cadets also travelled to St James' Palace to receive their Gold awards from the Duke Of Edinburgh.

New Staff

A/Sgt Abi Hensby has been with the Sqn since joining as a cadet, aged 13 and a half. At the age of 20, Abi started the process of becoming an adult NCO. After a lengthily process, Abi is now officially a member of uniformed staff.

A/Sgt Liam Stott went through much the same process as Abi, starting as a cadet and working all the way up to Cadet Warrant Officer, the highest rank attainable as a cadet. Liam is currently awaiting the final paperwork to be approved before officially becoming an Adult Sgt.

Cl Aimee Brooks has also come from being a cadet for nearly 7 years and is now staying with the Sqn as a Civilian Instructor, mainly helping out with Sqn sporting events.

Exams

Leading, senior and staff cadets recently sat exams as part of their BTEC National Diploma in Aviation Studies. 52 cadets sat exams in Basic Navigation, Propulsion, Airmanship and Aircraft Handling. All cadets who sat exams passed with some excellent marks.

Power Boating Course

2 cadets and 1 member of staff joined cadets from East Lancashire Wing on a power boating training course in October. Cdt Harvey-Kelly, Cdt Leach and A/Sgt Stott spent a weekend, literally learning the ropes! Unfortunately bad weather on the last day prevented much outdoor activity. Watersports courses are ran throughout the year and anyone can get a place, as long as you have a swimming proficiency, the dates for 2010 are:

- a. 16 - 18 Apr 10
- b. 30 May - 04 Jun 10
- c. 11 - 16 Jul 10
- d. 10 - 12 Sep 10
- e. 29 - 31 Oct (Powerboat only)

All dates, apart from e, include kayaking, sailing and power boating.

Wing Training Weekend

Cadets and NCOs recently attended a weekend of training courses to further their personal development. Courses ranged from senior and junior NCO courses to drill and fieldcraft courses.

Other News

Promotions:

*Cdt Roberts to Cpl
Cdt Bullen to Cpl
Cdt Stott to Cpl
Cpl Stanbank to Sgt
Cpl Wright to Sgt*

Sports

Representations:

*Wing Athletics
F/S Keller
Sgt Reynolds
Cdt Gibney
Cdt Martin.J
Cdt Derrig-Vanzie
Cdt Stelfox.D
Cdt Nightingale*

Region Athletics

Cdt Gibney

Wing Junior Football

*Cdt Williams-Randle
Cdt Dodson*

Wing Swimming

*Cdt Ebbitt
Cdt Clewes (selected
but was unavailable
for competition)*

Wing Netball

*Cdt Derrig-Vanzie
(Non-Travelling
Reserve)
Cdt Ebbitt (Non-
Travelling Reserve)*

Wing Rugby

*Cdt Fagan
Cdt Gibney
Sgt Kennerley
F/S Keller*

Region Rugby

*Cdt Fagan
F/S Keller*

Remembrance, Lest We Forget

The 8th of November marked Remembrance Sunday and all 146 cadets were out on parade to remember servicemen and women, past, present and future.

Parades were attended in Northwich, Hartford, Davenham and Weaverham. The Sqn band played in Weaverham and Northwich.

Thank you to the Royal British Legions in Northwich, Davenham and Hartford for their kind donations to the Sqn.

Thank you also to all of the cadets who were on parade, it is much appreciated, especially by the ex-service personnel.

Bronze Expeditions

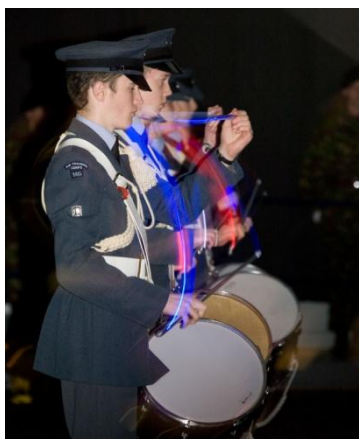
44 entry recently undertook a two day walk, to qualify for the expedition section of their Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh's Award. They camped overnight under some heavy rain, but had a successful walk, apart from a few mis-read maps by some groups!

Concorde Hanger

146 Sqn's band was invited by 318 Sale Sqn to perform at an Armistice's parade, in Concorde's new hanger in Manchester.

Over 70 veterans were in attendance, along with some members of the public, making for an audience of over 200.

146 Band played with illuminated, red, white and blue drum sticks, to great effect when the lights were turned off in the hanger!



Check out the Sqn's YouTube account for videos of the band and the last post.

www.youtube.com/atc146

Windermere AT Week

The following article is written by Sgt Moores, who attended the Windermere Adventure Training Week, along with 24 other cadets:

The hill walk was certainly interesting, even though we did the same route as 3 years ago and I had a Bronze, Silver and Gold expedition under my belt, it was very challenging. The 2 days route was covered in one windy, rainy day, but I certainly enjoyed it!

Kayaking was yet another experience, not because I fell in, but because what felt like half the lake was poured on our heads! We paddled over to a small pier and had to run across the upside down Kayaks that we tied between two wooden platforms, then we did a mini expedition out to some islands further up the lake.

Everyone loved the indoor rock climbing and I was no exception, putting your trust in someone else to belay for you, while you scale the walls really feels exhilarating.

The gorge walking was one of the highlights of the week, we had to struggle up a swollen river and took turns choosing the path to lead the rest of the group up, one wrong move could have seen us swept away and while no one went under the water, we had some close shaves.

The best part of the week was undoubtedly Rookin House, we did go-karting, archery, an assault course and best of all we went in a 6 wheeler off road Argocat, ploughing over rough terrain and through fields.



There will be another Adventure Training week next year, 17th-24th of July. Keep the date free!

For comments, feedback and contributions, contact: panther@theaircadets.org