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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



March/April - 2011

First Aid Course

On Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of March, cadets and NCOs from 146 took part in the St John Ambulance youth first aid course. The course, which was 16 hours long, encompassed a wide range of subjects, including poisoning, CPR and bleeding. The lectures consisted of PowerPoint presentations, videos and the occasional anecdote from the staff. At the end of the course, assessment put the cadets into three challenging situations, ranging from Mrs Alford with a cut arm to Cpl Nightingale unconscious on the floor. All cadets attending passed with flying colours, a testament to the hard work of all the staff involved in the course. Cadet McGough said: "The course was amazing. We learnt loads, and everyone had fun". Perhaps the best part, though, was the badges awarded at the end, along with a certificate as recognition of the all the cadets' hard work. Another course is due to be scheduled, and if the last one is anything to go by, expect to see many more red badges around the squadron!



146 Retain Table Tennis Trophy

146 Sqn last week won the Wing Table Tennis competition for the 3rd year in a row, beating 1196 Sqn in the final 13-1.

The final was held at Burnage Media Arts College, an excellent venue which allowed spectators from both Sqn's to come and watch the match and cheer on their teams. Brian Curtis was at the event to present the shield to 146 Sqn, the winning team: "What a night ... it has been a very, very special final table tennis championship"



Online First For Cdt Farrow

eDofE is a new online system to replace the paper based log books used previously. This nationwide system was introduced last year to enhance the cadet experience, allowing them to upload photos, videos, sound clips as evidence for their award. It has been a great help to the staff, as it is hard to keep track of so many cadets earning their awards. 46 Entry was the first to start on eDofE, and from that entry, Cadet Farrow has become the first to complete her Bronze level award, which involves a two day expedition and up to six months of sporting activities, volunteering and skill section. Mr Moores said "It was excellent to be one of the first squadrons to use eDofE, it is hard work getting everyone used to the new system, but will be more rewarding in the long run". With many more cadets close to completing their award schemes, it is certain that there will be no shortage of Duke of Edinburgh's Awards in the months and years to come.

Other News

Promotions:

Cdt Beasley to Cpl
Cdt Rosa to Cpl
Cdt Brown to Cpl

Sports

Representations:

Wing Football

Flt Sgt Keller
WO Grant
Sgt Reynolds
Cdt Carolan.S

Wing Hockey

Cdt Farrow

Region Rugby

Cdt Quayle

Region Football

WO Grant
Flt Sgt Keller
Sgt Reynolds

Region Netball

Cpl Martin

Corps Netball

Cpl Martin (reserve)

Editor

Cl M Moores

Writers

Cdt D McGough

70th Anniversary Tree Planting

On Saturday the 5th of February, 22 cadets planted 500 trees at Oulton Park to bring to life a new wooded area. This area, named Pardus Septuaginta Wood by Squadron Leader Thompson in honour of the seventieth anniversary of the Air Cadets. Sqn Ldr Thompson explained, saying "Pardus is Latin for panther, and septuaginta is Latin for seventy". The commitment shown by the cadets was very well-received by the track's owners. 146 Squadron enjoys a good relationship with Oulton Park, with regular marshalling duties being available for Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering, and squadron exercises being held there. Stephen Bosner, the circuit manager, spoke in high praise of the cadets' efforts; "They did a wonderful job, and finished it quickly with military precision".



Raising Money For Indian Adventure

On Friday the 1st of April, the NCOs were playing the fools as cadets from 146 Squadron took part in a fund-raising night to help Flt Sgt Roberts go to India as part of Raleigh International, a charity that helps disadvantaged countries to help build infrastructure and sanitation. Activities on the night included cake sales, sponge the NCOs (and staff!) and, infamously, three NCOs took part in charity leg waxing. Sgt Stott, one of those brave enough to take part said that it was "extremely painful but fun". Another event was "Guess the number of eggs in the jar", won by CWO Grant, to the disappointment of Cdt Huggon, who's tactic of buying as many squares as physically possible didn't bear fruit. Cdt Wilde took part in a sponsored silence, raising over £70, unfortunately, she was unable to comment. We've no idea why. Flt Sgt Roberts was thrilled with the success of the night, which raised £167.60: "I never expected to raise that much money and it will be a great help to reaching my final total, thanks you to everyone that donated!"



L98 Shooting Competition

The L98A2 cadet rifle is one of the most advanced weapons shot in the whole ATC. It was a great privilege for three cadets from 146 to go to RAF Shawbury to take their weapon handling tests and have the opportunity to shoot the rifle, which is based on the British Army SA80. Rain didn't dampen Cdt Webb, Cpl Nightingale or Flt Sgt Boswell's spirits as they went on Sunday the 13th of February to compete against other squadrons in the Wing. The skills gained from the day were vital, according to Cdt Webb: "It was a great opportunity to make new friends and improve our shooting techniques. It was a great day".

This year is the first that 146 has entered all of the Wing shooting competitions and Wing Marksmanship badges being awarded to Cpl Keegan, Cpl Leach and Cdt Webb, and a Corps Marksman, the highest shooting award in the ATC, given to Cpl Nightingale. With a shooting range on the squadron, and marksmanship principles lectures being given regularly, it is certain that the Sqns' shooting success will continue.

47 Entry Passout Parade

On Sunday the 20th of February, 12 cadets who had completed their First Class Training Course took part in a Passing Out Parade, the final part of their training. The guest of honour, Squadron Leader Hadfield, spoke of what a great pleasure it was to be present, and took his hat off the assembled cadets, an unheard act of acknowledgement.

As is traditional, awards were presented to the new cadets as follows:

Cdt England won best Female Cadet and Best New Recruit
Cdt Nowell won Best Male Cadet, Best Drill and the Academic award
Cdt Hall won Most Improved cadet

After the parade, the 146 band played as the cadets marched back to Darwin Street for a reception for the parents. Some of the senior cadets played solo performances, as part of their BTEC Music course. The whole morning was a credit the Sqn, and with another FCTC course underway, it won't be long before a new generation makes the grade.

