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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



September/October - 2011

Two Start Year Long Leadership Course

Two NCOs, Sgt Whittle and Cpl Martin, from 146 Sqn have been awarded a place on the upcoming BEL (Basic Expedition Leadership) course ran by Merseyside Wing. The course consists of seven full weekends, spread over the course of 2011 and 2012, coming to an end in July next year. They must also log a considerable amount of hours walking experience to be eligible. The BEL qualification will allow them to supervise cadets when they are out walking, an excellent resource for the Sqn.

Good luck to the two candidates over the next year.

First Sporting Event With New Wing

146 made an excellent impression on the new Merseyside Sqns, by winning the Inter-Sqn Swimming competition! They took home trophies from the male and female categories, as well as the overall winner's trophy, with several cadets winning their individual events. Cadet Kale was selected to represent the Wing, but was unfortunately unable to attend due to his Bronze Expedition.



The swimming team with their trophies

Another Successful Expedition

48 entry cadets have recently completed their Bronze expedition, one of the four sections they have to complete to attain their Bronze awards.

Four groups took part in the walk around Acton Bridge and Delamere, carrying all of their cooking, camping and emergency equipment with them. All of the cadets completed the walk without issue, well done.



Cdt Hawkins, Kale, Radford and Baugh

Remembering The Fallen

This year, cadets attended remembrance parades in Hartford, Northwich, Davenham, Winsford and Weaverham, with the Sqn band performing in Northwich and Weaverham.

CI Moores said: "On such a solemn day of remembrance, it is important to see more young people attending these parades, to remember past and present events."

"I am always very proud to see so many of our cadets there".



Other News

Sports Representations:

Region Netball
Cpl Martin

Region Cross-country
Cpl Martin

Wing Cross-country
Cpl Martin

Wing Swimming
Cdt Kale

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Editor
CI M Moores
Writers
Cdt McGough
Sgt Whittle

Nesscliff Camp - Cdt McGough

From the 23rd to the 28th of October, nine cadets from 146 braved the autumn chill to go to Nesscliff Training Area for a fieldcraft camp with Merseyside Wing. None of the cadets knew what the camp would comprise of, but cadets from the new Wing who had been before spoke highly of it. The camp accommodation was spartan, with less than toasty billets contrasting with boiling showers. The food, however, was delicious, with a full English available every morning. However, never trust the chefs when they say that the curry is only "mildly" spicy! Every morning, a six o'clock wakeup call allowed the cadets to have a full range of activities, from climbing to clay pigeon shooting.

One of the best opportunities available was the Day-Ex. A five o'clock start was followed by a march to the exercise area, where cadets were issued with a ration pack and a wooden training aid, in the shape of an L98 rifle. They then had to cook breakfast, before spending a busy morning learning military skills, from camouflage to movement in the field. This continued after lunch, also cooked by the cadets, with a nightline activity, where, blindfolded, they followed a rope one by one through a farmhouse along a path strewn with obstacles. These varied from pillars and netting to officers spraying silly string and dropping planks on the floor. This was to train the cadets to be confident working in low light conditions, ready for the evening exercise.

The exercise was the most advanced anyone on the squadron had ever been on, with a realistic storyline, cooking in the field, pyrotechnics and kidnappings. The sun soon went down and most of the exercise was in pitch black, which added to the suspense. A well-guarded compound allowed all of the cadets to test their skills to limit, with reconnaissance patrols leading to a final assault. Cadet Webb said that: "the Day-ex was by far the best day on camp. The combination of fieldcraft training and putting it into practice as well as leadership and organisational skills was a great experience".

On the minibus journey back, it was clear that everyone enjoyed the camp and the Scouse company. It was a truly memorable experience, and in the words of Cadet Keegan, "incredible".



Cdt Hawkins and Cpl Quayle with other cadets, preparing for a sporting session at Nesscliff camp

Winter WARMA Road March - Sgt Whittle

A group of cadets and staff members took part in the Sandbach Winter Warma March on the 9th of October. The purpose of the walk was to give cadets a chance to experience the style of walking they would be expected to do if they were to undertake either the two day Cosford fifty mile march or the four day Nijmegen one hundred mile march.

All the cadets and staff who wanted to take part were split into two groups. Each group would be undertaking a different length route depending on whether they were experienced in long distance walking or not. The cadets who were at Bronze DofE level, walked a twenty kilometre route, lead by Sgt Whittle and those who were Silver and Gold DofE level did the thirty kilometre lead by Sgt Keegan.

Everyone completed the walk and were all awarded a medal and a WARMA Walk pin to add to their brassards.



Thirty km group



Twenty km group