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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



March / April - 2012

Merseyside Inter-Sqn Athletics

This year marks 146's first entry into the Merseyside Athletics competition, since moving Wings last year. Hoping to make a good impression, the Sqn ran a full practice session at Hartford High School, so everyone could find their best events.

A full team was entered and all events covered. The final results put 146 in a respectable 3rd place overall. Additionally, seven cadets will be representing the Wing on the 20th of May at the Regional competition!

The following cadets achieved Gold medals on the day:

- Cdt Hall - Shot
- Cdt Hodgkinson.D - Shot
- Cdt Brown.N - 800M
- Cpl Ward - Shot
- Cdt Hensby - Long Jump
- Cdt McIntosh - 1500M
- Cdt Harvey-Kelly - 1500M

Well done to the whole team.



Silver DofE Expeditions In The Peaks

On the 13th to the 15th of April 2012, fifteen cadets from 146 Sqn and six from 391 Sqn, took part in their Silver DofE qualifying expedition, which took place in the Peak District. The cadets travelled on the 12th and stayed overnight at Thorpe Farm. They were all very lucky as it hardly rained for the whole three days of walking and two nights of camping outside in the wilderness. All the cadets passed the expedition walk with flying colours. Cpl Webb, who was on the expedition, said: "The Silver expedition was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, I just can't wait to move onto Gold!" - Cpl Webb



NOTE TO PARENTS - eDofE

For those that don't know, eDofE is the new online system for tracking a cadets progress through the Duke Of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The system allows cadets to upload registers, photos and other evidence from events they have assisted at, sports they have played, charities they have supported, etc.

eDofE is almost entirely participant orientated, which means that if cadets do not log in every one or two weeks, to upload all of their recent activity, then their awards will not progress, even if they are doing the work for it.

We do run regular sessions at the Sqn, to allow cadets to update their eDofE profiles, the Sqn has invested a lot of money in laptops for this purpose. But we would ask that you encourage your children to spend some time each week, ensuring everything is up-to-date.

Other News

Promotions:

- Cdt Webb to Cpl
- Cdt Edwards to Cpl
- Cdt Braithwaite to Cpl

Sports Representations:

- Wing Hockey:
- Cdt Foundation
- Cdt Harvey-Kelly

- Region Hockey:
- Cdt Harvey-Kelly

- Corps Hockey:
- Cdt Harvey-Kelley

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CI M Moores
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Cpl Webb
Cdt McGough

Cyprus Overseas Camp

For a taste of sun, sea, and mosquitoes, two cadets from Northwich spent an action-packed ten days at RAF Akrotiri, in Cyprus. Cdt Doyle and Cpl Carolan travelled with other members of Merseyside Wing to take part in activities from orienteering to ice skating, as well as experiencing life on an active and busy RAF station.

On Wednesday 28th of March, the cadets had to endure a six hour coach journey, starting at midnight, before flying out from Heathrow to arrive in Larnaca, Cyprus, just in time to miss a rain shower. They were then driven to the base, and were greeted with a hearty dinner. The highlight of the otherwise typical accommodation was the luxury of British plugs.

Each morning, at 0600 hours, wake up call was followed by a full English breakfast, before embarking on another long and tiring day. Trips swimming in pools and to the beach, ensured that no cadets were in too much danger of stress-related illnesses. Visits to towns in Cyprus gave an interesting insight into Cypriot culture and go-karts and ice skates gave the cadets a different option on getting from A to B. There were section visits to 84 Squadron RAF, the DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer) and the base fire department.

One of the best camps the ATC has to offer, our cadets definitely enjoyed their time in Cyprus. It was, in the words of Cdt Doyle, "brilliant". - *Cdt McGough*



146 Sqns' First Qualified Aerospace Instructor

Corporal Ward recently became the first 146 cadet to graduate from the prestigious Qualified Aerospace Instructors' Course, one of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities the ATC has to offer. The course, held over six weekends and a week-long assessment period, tests cadets on subjects ranging from flight simulator training to professional operation of a radio. Each student was also assigned a unique callsign to wear with their flying suit uniform, Cpl Ward's being "Theodore".

Students on QAIC IV were tasked with holding a forty minute presentation on an air-related subject in front of guests who included Air Commodore Barbara Cooper and Air Vice Marshal Mike Lloyd, as well as producing an Air Power essay. They also learnt how to operate an Air Traffic Control simulator and dealt with emergency situations. At the end of the course, the graduates attended a formal dinner in the RAF Linton-on-Ouse Officers' Mess. Graduates received a certificate and patch, as well as being allowed to wear the QAIC blue lanyard. The course is so highly valued, the President of the Royal Aeronautical Society plans on formally crediting the course for the Society, so graduates will be able to place initials after their name. - *Cdt McGough*

