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The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



June/July - 2012

Highest sporting achievement for Laragh

Cadet Harvey-Kelly, from 146, has recently represented the Air Cadets in Hockey.

She has gone through all stages, first playing for the Sqn, then being selected for the Wing team, Region team and finally the Corps team, the highest level possible in the Air Cadets.

The Air Cadets team played Tamworth Hockey Club and an Air Cadet Veteran team at RAF Cosford, coming in second place overall.

Well done to Laragh on this superb achievement.

Record total raised for Help for Heroes

Twenty five cadets from Northwich Air Cadets raised £2,086 for Help For Heroes, by completing a sponsored climb of Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales.

The cadets, along with ten supervising staff, completed the climb in June and have been busy collecting in their sponsor money since. Cpl Byrne, a cadet NCO from the Sqn, convinced his College friends to support the climb by completing the whole day dressed as a caveman! Luckily the weather held and waterproofs were only required for a short period.

The record total was helped by generous walkers on the day, who couldn't miss the group with their banners, t-shirts and wristbands, raising over £200 on the day alone.

Flt Lt Pinder, who organised the event said: "It was very rewarding to see so many enthusiastic young people giving up their free time for such a worthy cause"

Other News

Promotions:

*Cdt McGough to Cpl
Cpl Rosa to Sgt
Cpl Byrne to Sgt
Cdt Farrow to Cpl
Cdt Foundation to Cpl
Sgt Nightingale to Flt Sgt
Sgt McClelland to Flt Sgt*

Sports Representations:

Wing Athletics:
*Cdt Hall - Shot
Cdt Hodkinson.D - Shot
Cdt Brown.N - 800M
Cpl Ward - Shot
Cdt Hensby - Long Jump
Cdt McIntosh - 1500M
Cdt Harvey-Kelly - 1500M*

Region Athletics
*Cdt Hall - Shot
Cdt Brown - 800M
Cdt McIntosh - 1500M*



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Challenge Wales

I was given the opportunity for an eight day trip aboard the Challenge Wales yacht earlier this year. Having never sailed a day in my life, I didn't know what to expect but was still looking forward to the experience.

When I arrived on Saturday 9th June, I realised that I was not on my own, there were seven others from the ATC who also had absolutely no sailing experience and then there were eight crew members who volunteered regularly and knew what they were doing.

We spent some time learning the basics; how to tie the necessary knots, what different parts of the boat were called, how to get a sail up and down and much more! Then we set off from St Katharine dock to West India dock to prepare for the race the next day.

From there we went to the start line and were ready to win the race. Barely 5 minutes after the race started, we were in the lead and the boat was heeled over to the extent that we had to be clipped on for safety. Most of us ended up ill as we had very little experience on the sea. Then the shift pattern started.

We were operating on 4 hour shifts from 8am till 8pm, and then 3 hour shifts from 8pm to 8am. Getting a cup of tea pushed into your cold hands at 5 in the morning when you get up for your shift really helps wake you up. We were all responsible for cooking and cleaning, two people would cook the meal then another two would clean up. The race lasted from about 17:00 on Monday till 10:00 Wednesday morning at which point we crossed the line in first place.

The next few days were spent preparing the boat for a visit from The Countess of Wessex on Friday. She was very interested in sailing and ours was one of the only boats that she looked around.

After that we engaged in a few team building exercises for a bit of fun, then got ready to go home on Sunday.

The week was one of the best experiences of my life, all the other people on the yacht (ATC members and volunteer crew) were exceptionally nice and after spending eight days on a boat together we all built a close family like relationship. I would happily jump at any opportunity to take part in an event such as this again and am looking to put myself forwards as a volunteer for the charity. - *CWO Stott*



Merseyside Annual Inspection

Each year, all Sqns are inspected by their Wing HQ, to check how the Sqn staff and cadets are getting on, ensuring all paperwork is up-to-date and to award marks, which go towards trophies to be presented later in the year. This year, Wing Commander Keene and Squadron Leader Sarsfield visited the Sqn to perform the inspection.

146 put on a good show, with a full parade and band playing to greet the officers. Wing Commander Keene took time to speak to a lot of cadets, asking them about their favourite experiences and activities and what they wanted to go on and achieve with the Corps.

After the parade was complete, Wing Commander Keene toured the Sqn, to see the various activities taking part that night, including shooting, rifle training, eDofE, radio comms lectures, drill and sport.

The Wing Commander was very impressed with the Sqn, but no results will be revealed until trophies are presented later in 2012.

The Wing Commanders parting duty was to present three Jubilee medals, awarded to members of staff who have served in uniform for five years or more. These were presented to Sqn Ldr Thompson, Flt Lt Lloyd and Flt Lt Pinder. Not present on the night, but receiving the award at a later date were Flt Lt Twose and Flt Sgt Taylor.



For comments, feedback and contributions, contact: panther@theaircadets.org
If you are a parent and wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact: webmaster@theaircadets.org