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# The Panther

The official newsletter of 146 Northwich Squadron



## Spring 2014 Edition

*What a great start to 2014! Cadets from 146 have had some superb opportunities, including two cadets visiting RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus, Flt Sgt Martin completing his flying scholarship and Flt Sgt Keegan completing the prestigious Junior Leaders course. - Off Cdt Moores, Editor*

### Two Northwich Cadets Selected For Top Leadership Course

Cdt Howard and Hensby have both been selected for the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership Course, to be held at RAF Cranwell, the RAF College in July.

The course comes with tough physical entry requirements, with all cadets completing a timed 1.5 mile run. Cdt Hensby had to complete the run in under 11 minutes and Cdt Howard in under 12.5 minutes, which is no mean feat!

The course entails more physical fitness, command tasks, navigation and compass training, culminating with an official parade, watched by parents and guests.

Best of luck to both cadets for their courses, a full report will follow in a future newsletter.

### Gliding Update

As well as the completion of a flying scholarship, we have also had two cadets who have completed gliding scholarships at RAF Ternhill.

Cpl Tomlinson completed his scholarship to Silver standard, meaning he flew to Vigilant glider solo without instructor.

Cdt Holland completed virtually all of her course, before it was paused due to potential issues with the aircraft which grounded the entire fleet.

We have no doubt that as soon as the issues are resolved, Cdt Holland will be straight back in the air to complete her solo flight!

### One Step Closer To Pilot Dream

Flt Sgt William Martin, was recently awarded a 12 hour Flying Scholarship in Dundee.

Flt Sgt Martin was awarded the scholarship along with only 185 other cadets for 2014! This was following a successful written application process, where Flt Sgt Martin wrote about his hobbies, contribution to the Air Cadets and future aspirations in aviation.

"I learnt the skills required to start, taxi, takeoff and land the aircraft, all without an instructor present!"

"I most enjoyed the solo flight, as it gave me a huge sense of accomplishment. The skills and experience will help me greatly in my future career", said Flt Sgt Martin

Fly Sgt Martin wishes to become a commercial airline pilot and is currently in the process applying for jobs. - Flt Sgt W Martin



## Other News

### Promotions:

Cpl Doyle to Sgt  
Cpl Edwards to Sgt  
Sgt Keegan to Flt Sgt  
Sgt Wallace to Flt Sgt  
Sgt Houghton to Flt Sgt  
Sgt Martin to Flt Sgt

### Sports Representations:

Wing 5-a-side  
Cpl Yale  
Cdt Mackintosh

### Wing Athletics

Cdt Hawkins.C - Discus  
Cdt Twist - Relay

### Corps Hockey

Cpl Harvey-Kelly

### Gliding Scholarships:

Cpl Tomlinson  
Cdt Holland.R (solo pending)

### Flying Scholarships:

Flt Sgt Martin

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### Editor

Off Cdt M Moores

### Writers

Flt Sgt Keegan  
Flt Sgt J Keegan  
Flt Sgt W Martin  
CI M Dutton

## Junior Leaders 2014, Flt Sgt Keegan's Experience

The Junior Leaders course is the most mentally and physically demanding course available in the Air Cadets. This was made clear throughout the entire course from the selection weekend in September to the 10 day graduation in April.

The selection process is based on the real RAF tests. They look at a candidates confidence, leadership potential and fitness. Passing this leads to the lesson and navigation based phase one. In this area we were taught how to navigate in the dark, present to groups of people and theory of leadership. Phase one also included regular fitness sessions and tests to assess the potential to live and work effectively in a field environment.

Phase two brought a lack of beds and mess food! The field phase taught living in the field from arrival on the Friday night until the coach home on the Sunday. Key skills from cooking and building a shelter to section attacks and recognisance patrolling were taught, practised and reinforced during this tough winter stage.

The final element was the test phase. A full week of living in the field combined with assessments while taking roles of section commander and second in command of the section for every member in the team. As if this wasn't enough to keep everyone on their toes, we were also assessed as a subordinate. This phase was undoubtedly the hardest part of the whole course, especially as the first night involved taking control of a fortified compound with hostile forces defending it.

This theme was carried out through the exercise. For me, the attack on the mock army compound, was the best experience of the course. Especially as I was attached to the squadron commander with thermal imaging technology for the initial stages!

I would happily recommend anyone to do the Junior Leaders course, but it isn't for everyone and you need to be determined to succeed in every task they set. - *Flt Sgt J Keegan*



## Northwich Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

146 Squadron will celebrate their 75th Anniversary on the 13th of June this year!

Originally formed on the 13th June 1939 just prior to the start of World War II, 146 Squadron was one of the first 50 Air Defence Cadet Corps Squadrons in the country. It was soon decided that the Cadet Corps was of such value, that it should be formalised into the Air Training Corps, in 1941.

Over the last 75 years, 146 Squadron has welcomed thousands of young men and women, from around the Northwich area, all who have a shared interest in aviation and adventure! With a wide range of activities, from flying & Gliding to shooting, hiking, canoeing and much more!

Squadron Commanding Officer since 2008; Squadron Leader Paul Thompson RAFVR(T) said "We are all delighted to be celebrating 75 years of 146 Squadron."

"We are also extremely proud to have been a major influence, and provided unique life changing opportunities, to thousands of local 13 to 20 year olds who gained so much and who, in turn, gave so much back as responsible and productive citizens in many walks of life both near to their home town and around the world.. All who joined 146 had a common spirit of adventure and were eager to learn new skills and make new friends - we intend to satisfy that same spirit and eagerness for future generations of local youth."

To celebrate the occasion, the Squadron are holding a 75th Anniversary Ball, in 1940's dress, at the Oaklands Hotel, on the day of the anniversary. All past and present members of staff and cadets are invited. Any "alumni" who are interested in attending, should contact the Sqn Adjutant, Off Cdt Moores, for further details - *CI M Dutton*

## Inter-Sqn Adventure Training Competition

146 again entered a team into the Merseyside "WATEX" competition, an exciting weekend where teams compete to be the best in archery, climbing, kayaking, navigation and first aid, to name a few of the activities.

This year, 146 came in 4<sup>th</sup> place, up from 5<sup>th</sup> last year! The team also won in the archery and climbing elements, which they had been practicing on parade nights.



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