



Q1/2015

The Panther

www.theaircadets.org

The official newsletter of 146 (Northwich) Squadron

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Tuesday and Friday 19:00 - 21:30pm

WELCOME to the new look Panther! This year, Sgt Mackintosh takes over as 1IC of media flight, kicking off with some modernisation.

NEW CADETS GRADUATE WITH ROYAL APPROVAL

Sunday 1st March was a proud day for a select group of teenagers and their families in Northwich and the conclusion of an intensive 18 weeks induction, into 146 Squadron, Air Training Corps.

The Cadets graduation parade took place at Rudheath's Chester University College Campus, watched by proud family and friends. Special guests of honour included Northwich Town Mayor, Alison Gerrard and Wing Commander Les Keen RAFVR(T), Merseyside Air Cadets Wing Commander. The reviewing officers of the day were none other than both the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Susan Sellers and the High Sheriff of Merseyside Mrs Abila Pointing.

Susan Sellers, Cheshire High Sheriff commented "The parade was really well organised and was a very special day, I was only too pleased to be able to play a part in it."

"I was not only impressed by the number of cadets, but the variety of activities they undertake. It is a terrific achievement for all of them" "The graduation parade is the proud culmination of 18 weeks of intensive training, designed to introduce the cadets to both the Air Training Corps and 146 Squadron, which is one of the largest in the country. The cadets cover a varied range of

subjects from Airmanship and Gliding to first aid and expedition training and they all gain new skills and make new friends, all leading to making them better citizens, regardless of whether they choose to continue their education via university, join the Armed Services or embark on any other civilian career" said Squadron Leader Paul Thompson RAFVR(T), Commanding Officer of 146 Squadron.

Following the presentation of their First Class badges, five individual awards were given to recognise special achievement, culminating in the coveted "Best Overall Cadet award, won by Cadet Phoebe Carlin, from Leftwich. The new cadets were then joined by the remainder of the Squadron and led by the Squadron band, marched from the site of the old Memorial Hall to their base in Darwin Street.

- *Cl Dutton*



Cdt Carlin being presented with the Best Cadet award for 55 Entry

COMMS CADETS

On the 6th to the 8th of March, I went to the Merseyside Wing Full VHF/UHF Operator Course to obtain my certificate as a



Cpl Murray and Cdt Woodfinden on a HF listener exercise

radio operator. This course allows me to use VHF/UHF radios without supervision, to their full effect and also forms the second of the compulsory modules that achieve the Cadet Communicator badge. Cpl Murray, Cdt Barr, Cdt Case, and I used voice procedures from the Provisional Operator Course as well as learning some new ones to control networks of radios, direct messages, and authorise operators on a network to complete exercises and pass assessed tasks. For example, one of the exercises was to authenticate a station, then tell it to send a routine coded drill message to another station using CODEX and correct procedures. This message was then decoded and the net control station assignment was passed on to that station. Once we had completed this and a number of other exercises (involving a battleship-esque game), we received a certificate from Flying Officer Hudson from 610 (City of Chester) Squadron, as well as a certificate for the Satellite Comms module of the Communicator's badge. Overall, I would say that the course was very enjoyable and I believe that others from the Squadron also gave extremely positive reviews. If you enjoy using radios, I would urge you to go on this course!

- *Cdt Woodfinden*

Social Networks

-  www.facebook.com/atc146
-  www.youtube.com/atc146
-  www.twitter.com/atc146

Promotions:

- Cpl Twist to Sgt
- Cpl Mackintosh to Sgt
- Cpl Hensby to Sgt
- Cpl Howard to Sgt
- Cpl Tomlinson to Sgt
- Cpl Edment to Sgt
- Sgt Harvey-Kelly to Flt Sgt

Sports Representations:

- Squadron:**
- 5-a-Side Football
- Girls - 1st place
- Senior boys

Wing:

- Hockey**
- Cdt Dickenson
- Netball**
- Cdt Westray

Region:

- Hockey**
- Cdt Dickenson

Corps:

- Hockey**
- Flt Sgt Harvey-Kelly
- Netball**
- Flt Sgt Harvey-Kelly

Up-Coming Events:

- Presentation evening
- Radio Adventure Day
- Canoe Polo Comp
- Wing Activity Day
- Wing Full Bore Comp

Editor: Sgt Mackintosh
Writer(s): Flt Sgt (ATC)
Hensby, Cl Dutton, Flt Sgt
Harvey-Kelly, Flt Sgt Yale,
Cdt Woodfinden,



STAFF TRAINING DAY

146 staff participated in a weekend of DofE training to further develop our skills in order to deliver a successful DofE programme to the squadron. He's known by some cadets as 'Bob' but we call him Owen...our instructor for the weekend! The staff spent the Saturday reviewing delivery techniques for training and refreshing DofE material. The next day we went out into the field for navigation training armed with rucksacks and a selfie stick, it was a cold day in January so many layers were required! Our training took us to Delamere which is good for navigation training due to the many paths and routes available. The location is a favourite for Bronze DofE. Who did we find on our travels? The one and only Gruffallo! Not only did the staff further develop their knowledge and skills but spent time developing as a team! Here's hoping for a successful DofE season for 146 cadets!

- Flt Sgt (ATC) Hensby



Staff team with instructor Owen

STANDARD BEARER COMP

Banner bearing for 146 Squadron is always an honour. Be it a simple road march, or Field Training day competition, it always just feels good! Being asked to represent our Squadron at a multi-Wing Banner competition made me proud.

Four NCO's from Merseyside Wing made the trip to the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool; Sgt Heyes, 1913 (Knotty Ash), Cpl Jackson, 1982 (Huyton), Cpl Cowley, 2359 (Woolton) and myself were representing

Merseyside Wing, along with a group of NCO's and Cadets from Greater Manchester Wing.

The competition was very close. The judge from the Royal British Legion was a very harsh marker. The Banner competition entrants were all so good it was almost impossible to choose a winner. So much so, in fact, that the 9 Cadets and NCO's who entered were separated by just 7 points and four cadets came a joint-joint-joint second place!

The winner was Sgt Bradshaw from 1832 (North Manchester) Squadron, three of the Four second-placers were Merseyside Wing NCO's, and I (without wishing to sound blunt) came last. But, getting 75 points, coming 7 points away from the overall winner, I learnt a lot on the day and got to socialise with a great group of NCO's from my wing still made a superb day.

- Flt Sgt Yale

HIGH HONOURS

Subsequent to captaining the Wales & West netball team at the Inter-Region tournament, I was selected to play for the Corps netball team in February. The tournament took place at RAF Cosford and was against several local netball clubs and the Corps Veteran Netball team. Although we didn't win overall it was an enjoyable day of netball and we raised our game as a team to put in a strong effort in some closely contested games and dominate over several teams.

After playing for the victorious Wales & West Region hockey team at RAF Cranwell, I was also selected, along with two others, to represent the Corps. This was my third time playing hockey for the Corps but I was nonetheless thrilled to have the opportunity to play at

this level. The match was to be held at RAF Cosford against the well accomplished Corps veterans team which included several familiar faces from Merseyside Wing. After nearly being called off due to a frozen pitch, the match was closely fought (so the Corps Vets like to say) with a 1-0 lead to the Vets at half time. Being young and fit, our Corps team stopped going easy on them in the second half and emerged with a healthy 3-1 win. Both teams finished the match in good spirits and we really bonded as a team considering we had only met the night before. It was a privilege to be awarded man of the match after the game and it really topped off what was likely to be my last Corps representation

- Flt Sgt Harvey-Kelly

TRAINING FUTURE NCOS

The JNCO Course was an opportunity to learn about how to conduct yourself as an NCO, and an opportunity to learn about leadership methods, styles and techniques.

The week consisted of drill theory lessons and practical training and assessments, syndicate discussions, leadership activities and management training.

The activity that I was leading was a jigsaw task whereby I had to lead my team in completing two jigsaws in a given time. This was hard to do as the puzzles themselves were very difficult to complete, but the team completed it. Other activities included building a lego car, building a tower out of wooden pegs, and other logical puzzles.

Overall, the course was very interesting and gave a great insight into how leadership works and the correct methods of managing and leading cadets.

- Cdt Woodfinden

