



Summer
2015

The Panther

www.theaircadets.org

The official newsletter of 146 (Northwich) Squadron since March 2001

NCC, Darwin Street, Northwich, CW8 1BT
01606 77620,
webboardadmin@theaircadets.org

Tuesday and Friday 19:00 - 21:45pm

Cpl Barr Attends Nijmegen Marches

At the end of July, I went with the rest of Merseyside Wing to Nijmegen, Holland, for the 99th annual Vierdaagse 4 Day Marches. This prestigious event involves walking either 30, 40, or in my case 50km a day for 4 days.

For the first few days, we had free time in Nijmegen. The whole town came out to celebrate the occasion, with lots of food stalls and things to see and do. Luckily, everyone seemed to speak some English, so our limited knowledge of Dutch - *dank je waal* (thank you) and a few other random words - was enough to get by.



Crowds greet the Nijmegen marchers

On the days that we were walking, I have to admit that it was painful and mentally tough. I think that everyone in our team had at least one wobble during the week, but we all pulled through. The support from the crowds was amazing: it was mental seeing so many people out on the streets cheering at 4am.

I think overall, the lowest point was on the third day when we were all damaged beyond repair, or so we thought.

However, the sense of achievement we all felt crossing the line on Friday outweighed the pain, and I'm so proud to hold the shiny gold medal and have the badge on my brassard, as it was by far the hardest, but most rewarding thing I have ever done in cadets.

Cpl Barr

Merseyside Canoe Polo Competition

Merseyside Wing as a whole is renowned for its sporting reputation after winning the Gillan trophy for the last 10 years. Merseyside excels themselves by offering its Squadrons a wider range of activities such as inter-Squadron rounders and its latest edition, Canoe Polo.

The game itself is essentially netball in a kayak, a combination which may at first seem strange. It has become an annual sporting event, with increasing participation.

Cadets from 146 have participated on this event both years, this year entering 2 teams into the competition. Our teams were divided by abilities in order to gain the optimum chance of winning each division. It was an incredibly long day for the cadets, especially due to the soaring heat. Cadets and staff will now represent Merseyside Wing in the North West division.

Sgt Mackintosh

Canoe Skills For Cadets and Staff

Two members of staff and one cadet, recently completed a 2-star canoe and kayak skills course, with Merseyside Wing instructors and Liverpool Docks.

Plt Off Ross, Plt Off Moores and Cdt Billington undertook several weeks' worth of training, in both open canoes and closed cockpit kayaks. They learnt basic strokes, undertook several journeys and also learnt safety elements such as how to recover from a capsized.



Cdt Billington in a canoe at Liverpool Docks

The course finished with practical demonstrations of everything learnt over the course and a final question and answer session on canoe and kayak theory.

Cdt Billington will now go on to complete his Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh's Award by canoe later this year. Plt Off Moores and Plt Off Ross are moving onto coaching courses later in 2015, which will allow them to train more 146 cadets over the coming years. Any cadets who wish to learn more about kayak and canoe skills can talk to the Squadron AT Officer, Flt Lt Pinder.

Plt Off Moores

Social Networks

www.facebook.com/atc146

www.youtube.com/atc146

www.twitter.com/atc146

Promotions:

Cdt Barr to Cpl
Cdt Snelson to Cpl
Cdt Woodfinden to Cpl
Cpl Murray to Sgt

Awards:

CMOI Lanyard
FS Bennett, FS Doyle
FS Harvey-Kelly
FS Houghton

Air Cadet Leadership Course

Cdt Woodfinden
Cpl Barr
Sgt Murray

Flying Scholarship

Sgt Cawley-Cooke
Cpl Holland

Sports Representations:

Canoe Polo Teams

Other Representations:

Wing JNCO Course:

Cpl Woodfinden
Cpl Barr

Up-Coming Events:

Wing Field Training Day
Region Field Training Day
Wing DofE Expeditions
Battle of Britain Night
Rugby, Netball, Hockey and
Football Trials
Youth First Aid Course

Editor: Plt Off Moores

Writer(s): Plt Off Moores,
CWO McGough, CI
Fallows, Cpl Woodfinden,
Cpl Barr, Sgt Mackintosh



56 Entry Pass Out With Flying Colours

After finishing their 18 week First Class Training Course, 56 Entry took part in their Passout parade, the first to be held at the newly rebuilt Memorial Hall in Northwich town centre.

The Passout weekend started with the traditional Dining In Night, in the spectacular setting of Vale Royal Abbey Golf Course. 21 cadets graduated on Sunday the 12th of July in front of the guest of honour, Mr Eric Lare, a cadet with 146 Squadron during WW2.

Awards were given as follows:

Best Academic: Cdt Moore
Most Improved: Cdt Wager
Best Drill: Cdt Robinson
Commendations: Cdt Colfar, Cdt Cawley
Best Male: Cdt Ravenscroft
Best Female: Cdt McLeman
Best Cadet: Cdt Ravenscroft



56 Entry Dining In Night at Vale Royal Abbey Golf Course

The weekend was a great success, culminating with a parade back to the Squadron and a flawlessly executed drill routine by the graduating cadets.

CWO McGough

QAIC Applications Open

The Qualified Aerospace Instructors Course is held at RAF Linton on Ouse near York and MOD Boscombe Down near Salisbury, the candidates from 146 Sqn will be based at Linton.

Applicants for the QAIC will be interviewed and assessed 4-6 September and the successful candidates will be expected to attend Linton for one weekend per month until the assessment and graduation week which will be 18-24 March 2016.

The 20 successful candidates will be divided into groups of 4 and will work as a syndicate throughout the course studying Leadership, Flight Simulator, Air traffic control, Radio theory and practice, Presentational Skills, Psychology and the theory and practice of training with the aim of producing well motivated and trained individuals equipped to train other Cadets both on their respective Squadron and at the Regional Activity Centres.

At the Graduation and Assessment weekend in March each syndicate will give a 30 minute presentation to the assembled guests who will be high ranking RAF Officers and senior figures in the Civil Aviation industry, such as the Head of NATS, Head of Flying Training establishments and other individuals who are "high flyers" within the Civil and Military aviation fields.

CI Fallows

Cadets work towards Communicator badges

On Saturday the 11th of July, Sgt Edment, Cdt Westray and I travelled to 1913 (Knotty Ash) Squadron to complete the remaining two modules of the Comms Badge. The course started early in the morning and went on until mid-afternoon. In this time we learnt about wave propagation and different types of antenna such as the "Horizontal Half Wave Dipole Antenna". In addition we also listened to the amateur radio users of the country talking to each other through a website called Hack Green, which is ran by a dedicated group of radio enthusiasts.

After logging 40 different contacts and even listening to people from Latvia and Germany, we changed topics to Data Comms, which involved sending and receiving data and using specialised prosigs and completing a quiz, I got the certificate passed off, and so have completed all of the modules I need to complete the Comms Badge. I would highly recommend going for this badge if you are interested in the ins and outs of communication in the ATC.

Cpl Woodfinden



A flight sim sortie is one of the tests for potential QAIC students



The Panther

