



# BICESTER CHAT



The newsletter of 2507 (Bicester) Squadron, Air Training Corps

## Issue 08/01 – September 07

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**Bicester Chat**  
**2507 (Bicester) Sqn**  
**Air Training Corps**

Editors: Mrs Williams and  
Flt Lt Breward

### Parade nights:

Tuesday and Thursday  
evenings from 1845 until 2145:  
at Duclos Hall,  
DLO Caversfield,  
Skimmerdish Lane  
Bicester

Band Night Sunday 1900-2100

### The Staff

OC: Flt Lt Breward  
DOC: Fg Off Wastie  
ASgt Lewis  
CIs Mr Blatcher  
Mr Brafield  
Mr Gidney  
Mr Kelly  
Mrs Peck  
Miss Robinson  
Mr Sloan  
Miss Sutcliffe  
Mrs Wastie  
Mrs Williams  
Mr West  
SIs Cpl Cole  
SAC Brown

### Up coming events

(please put these events in  
your diary)

#### **September**

**Sat 8/** Intake 17 Training  
**Sun 9** Weekend  
**Sun 9** Selection for Wing  
Sports Team  
**Sun 9** D of E Planning Day  
**Sun 9** Band Trip  
**Sun 23** Wing Field Day  
**Sun 30** Flying at RAF  
Benson

#### **October**

**Thurs** Wing Aircraft  
**4** Recognition Comp  
**Sat 6** Full Bore shooting at  
Otmoor  
**Sun 7** Regional Activities  
Day (if required)  
**Fri 12/** Bronze D of E  
**Sun 14** Expedition  
**Sat 13/** Llanbedr  
**Sat 20**  
**Fri 19/** Step Forward  
**Sun 21** Course  
**Thurs** Alton Towers Trip  
**25**

#### **November**

**Fri 2** Radio Comms  
**Sat 3** Flying at RAF  
Benson  
**Sat 10** Full Bore shooting at  
Otmoor  
**Sun 11** Remembrance Day  
(all cadets to attend)  
**Fri 16 –** Tactical Leadership  
**Sun 18** Camp  
**Mon 19** Exam Resits

### Messages from the OC

It has been an eventful year so far. The Squadron has continued to flourish: cadet numbers have stabilised at around 40, and we have recruited additional staff to help provide a multitude of parade night and non-parade night activities.

The Squadron came second in the Wing Athletics Championships back in May, with the Junior Girls team doing especially well. I was pleased to see so many Swimming Trophies returning from the Wing Swimming Competition at the start of September.

### **Subs**

Headquarters Air Cadets have doubled the amount of subscriptions we have to pay from 1 Oct 07. Consequently, we have to put the subs up to £7.50 per month from 1 Oct 07. Please can everyone get their new Standing Order Mandates back to the Squadron as soon as possible, so that we can get the mandates processed in good time, and not have to collect additional cash from those who haven't updated. If you are a tax payer and haven't signed the Gift Aid declaration, please do so. This enables us to claim back a reasonable amount of money from the Tax man, at no extra cost to you.

### **Promotions**

The Squadron's executive have agreed to scrap the competency system that we have been running for the last

6 years to assist with selection for promotion. Promotions will now be made for eligible cadets (those that have passed certain classification levels and been on NCO training courses).



### **Flying – Cadet Robinson**

Flying is one of the most exciting experiences that I have ever been involved in with Cadets. By flying I don't just mean going up in a 2-seater plane, flying around and coming back down again. I mean going up in a 2-seater plane, taking full control of a great big hulk of flying metal, nose diving towards the ground, then pulling back up on the control stick and carrying on over to do a loop the loop, then going vertically up until the engine almost stalls then free falling before pulling back up so you are level again. Flying is great because you have full control of how the plane moves around in the sky. For that short 20 minutes (ish) you are free like a bird. To be able to do this sort of thing outside of cadets would cost hundreds of pounds, whereas in Cadets you get to do this and many other things for free!!

### **Flying – RAF Benson**

The next chance for cadets to fly is on 30 September. Names on the Board please!

## **Probationer Training**

### **Wearing the Greens – Cadet Raja**

When you first join the Air Cadets you undertake a 3-month training scheme to teach you all about the ATC, the RAF and the activities cadets do. When enrolled in the Air Cadets you get to wear a neat and smart blue suit; the suit that would make your mother cry and give you a big hug. However, you can only wear it when the 3-months are over so instead you have to wear horrible green overalls that would make your mother look away in horror!

During the 3-month period you have to go through a series of tests, to become a first class cadet, which weren't fun at all but because you do the tests you get to learn what the subject, for example history of flight. You won't be able to learn this any where else.

The Air Cadets is all about learning and giving you more options in life which you might never have; many Cadets go on to join the RAF, some even become jet fighter pilots. In my view having the worst 3 months of your life wearing green overalls is well worth it!

### **New Probationers**

Welcome to the 11 new probationers who started cadets at the beginning of September.

Our next intake is in January 2008. If you will be over 13 by then and would like to join please ring the squadron and we can arrange for you make a visit on a parade night.



### **Heartstart – Cadet Whitehead**

Heartstart is a fun new course which is mandatory for all cadets. It teaches you to put someone in the recovery position when the subject has passed out but is conscious, and about performing CPR when the subject is unconscious.

It also teaches you how to deal with people who are choking, bleeding and even how to help a person when they are having a heart attack, and to recognise what the symptoms are.

[The Squadron now has 9 trained Heartstart Instructors, and ¾ of the Cadets have undertaken Heartstart training - Ed]



### **Weapons Handling Test – Shooting – Probationers Simmonds and Smith**

When probationers join they can't do everything that enrolled cadets can do such as night exercises. Before you

can do all of the activities you need be trained in a number of areas and pass a number of tests. One of the first we did was Weapons Training, and Weapon's Handling tests. The training lasted 6 hours, and then we were all tested: we fitted it all into one day. It was long but once we knew we had passed everyone was very excited and eager to get shooting. Soon after, we went to the range on the cadet minibus. Everybody was very excited and the trip was very worthwhile. We shot on a 25 metre rifle range and we fired the number 8 small-bore rifle at tin-hat targets that have 5 bulls eyes on one sheet of paper. We aimed for the top left target. Everybody enjoyed it greatly and everybody managed to hit a target at least once with their five rounds.



### **RIAT 2007 – Cdts Morris and Dixon**

On Thursday 12 July, 7 cadets (Cpl Sells, Cpl Kellar, Cpl Plumb, Cdt Wood, Cdt Dixon, Cdt Union and Cdt Morris) arrived at USAF base RAF Fairford for the Royal International Air Tattoo 2007.

Our arrival was greeted by the red arrows and F18s flying aloft over our heads. The campsite was on the turning point for the display. Soon enough we had the briefing

and about 70 cadets from all around the country got sorted into flights of around 10 cadets: our male cadets were in Tempest flight, Typhoon was the destination for Cdts Union and Dixon and Cdt Morris was assigned to Victor flight. All of the 25 flights carried out different duties ranging from crowd line to guard of honour to disabled parking to catering. We also got given at RIAT a peak cap, two tee shirts and a pass holder. Soon we found out that American Pilots will swap almost anything for an official hat.

**Cdt Morris:** Friday was the day it all began. We woke up at 6am for a very early start and to get breakfast. Victor flight had the morning off whilst the other flights had duties, having their photo taken with the red arrows. Later on we did the guard of honour and spoke to many senior officers, the lowest being a Squadron Leader. Afterwards we went to the mess, had dinner, went back to the campsite, and went to bed ready for an even earlier start the next morning.

**Cdt Dixon:** On Friday night my flight were doing catering which was packing all the lunches for pilots and RIAT staff. My flight altogether packed 3582 lunches. After all of that we had a relaxing shower and went to bed. On Saturday thankfully we had the morning off to watch the aircraft and to get really good pictures. In the afternoon my flight did parking which was really fun. There was a milk shake man who gave the cadets medium for small prices and large for medium

prices. We each got two hours to go round the show. Sunday was the most eventful day ever!! The day itself was boring but the events were very adventurous. We had an ambulance pull up for two cadets in the campsite, and a fire in the field behind the campsite in a barn, but everything was fine in the air. Monday we had a massive FOD PLOD [Litter Sweep – Ed] before the aircraft could take off, and then in the evening we had a massive barbeque. We had a fabulous time.

On Tuesday we left at about 9.45 and got back to Bicester around 11am. It was a great week.



### **Tactical Leadership Camp – Cadet Howell**

Some cadets from 2507 Squadron were given some TLC from 23 – 25 March 2007 when they went to the Bramley training area for a Tactical Leadership course.

The course has three levels ranging from basic to intermediate and advanced. The cadets were split up into flights and had some basic briefing on the first night. The basic and intermediate cadets slept inside in their sleeping bags whilst the advanced cadets had to sleep outside in their bivvys. On the second day after eating our ration

pack breakfast we split up into our flights and spent the day learning about cam and concealment, hand signals, formations and how to move tactically in the wild. After dinner we were given a briefing for the night exercise and set off in our teams where we had to reach different check points without being captured by the enemy. On the last day we had a few more lessons and then we did a long exercise where we had to get a bomb into a building without being caught. Overall the weekend was cold, wet but fun and a useful course. The cadets from Bicester Squadron who went were FS Rowell, Cpls Williams and Smith and Cdts Peck, Howlett, Robinson and Union.



### **The Longest Day Gliding – Cadet Lamburn**

On 23 June 07, 10 cadets from Bicester Squadron took part in a record breaking event. 'The Longest Day' was an attempt to get a record number of cadets up in gliders in one day over the skies at Dalton Barracks in Abingdon. Many squadrons turned up happy and energetic and waiting to fly. All the Bicester Cadets had to Camp overnight. We were woken up at 0300 by a piper playing the bagpipes, and were expected to be up, dressed and awake to get down to the runway to see the

first five gliders take off. Cdt Hewitt from our squadron had the privilege of being in the first glider which took off at 4.40am. After we had each been in the air for 20 minutes, we went back to the rest of the Squadron for the tasty fry up, which tasted quite nice apart from the beans. In total over 230 flights were made during the day, and the record was broken.

### **Becoming an Adult Civilian Instructor at Air Cadets – Cl Alison Williams**

Its seven months since I 'volunteered' to be a Civilian Instructor with Bicester Squadron. I was persuaded to join at the annual dining-in evening. After plying me with several glasses of wine the uniformed staff, Cpl Cole and the CO, Flt Lt Breward persuaded me to fill in the forms; I can't resist men in uniforms.....!

I was interviewed by the CO, and then by a Squadron Leader from Thames Valley Wing then had to undergo CRB and other checks. The checks take several weeks to complete and while you are waiting you can't be left on your own with Cadets but can help out in a supervised role.

I'm fully checked out now so can help out with all aspects of the Cadets. So far I have taught some lessons in map reading and airmanship – subjects I had to learn about myself before I could teach them. I have also trained to be a Heartstart tutor and teach this course. I have been on a two day Expedition First Aid course and am now a designated first aider. I've also done lots of filing – you

wouldn't believe how much paperwork there is! I've been lucky enough to go gliding four times. What a fantastic experience. You really should see the White Horse of Uffington from the air!

I wasn't working when I joined having been made redundant, but working with the squadron has given me something interesting to put on my CV, and has increased the skills I have to offer to employers. I've just got a new job, giving advice to young people. I'm sure working with cadets helped me to secure this role.

If you are interested in helping out as a Civilian Instructor – you can even progress to becoming uniformed staff if you wish – then contact the squadron. You don't need any particular qualifications or experience, there are several different types of roles available, and I can assure you it is good fun as well as an invaluable experience.

### **Thames Valley Wing Swimming Competition**

Congratulations to all the swimmers who took part in this tournament on 1 September. Bicester Squadron won 10 individual medals and four trophies:

Junior Girls  
Senior Girls  
Overall girls  
Overall Swimming Trophy for Thames Valley Wing

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### **CONTACT US**

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