



LASER NEWS

Journal of the Air Cadet Headquarters London and South East Region



Tale of two fast-jetting LaSER cadets



CWO Jon Tolson with Ft Lt Duncan Laisney



CWO Amy Tibbetts – sonic-flight sensation!

Two senior cadets from LaSER had the opportunity to fly in fast jets thanks to the Royal Air Force. Instructor Cadet Warrant Officer Jon Tolson of 99 (Folkestone) Squadron flew in a Hawk from 208 Sqn based at RAF Valley.

windy North Wales up to 30,000 feet and clear blue skies where he was able to actually fly the aircraft and carry out some aerobatics under the watchful eye of his pilot Ft. Lt. Duncan Laisney.

Jon's Sqn Commander, Ft Lt Cremin said, "Jon, who is a high flier within both 99 Squadron and the Corps overall, is also the

Lord Lieutenants Air Cadet for Kent and was given the flight in recognition of his achievements as a cadet".

Instructor Cadet Warrant Officer Amy Tibbetts, of No 308 (Colchester) Squadron, hot on the heels of her ambition to become a pilot in the RAF, enjoyed a flight in a Tornado F3 after winning the Essex Wing,

Presidents prize. Hosted by No 111(F) Squadron, RAF Leuchars, Amy was given a full briefing on the squadron operations before being treated to an hour's flight in the Tornado.

Amy said: "There was deceptively little sensation as we accelerated at low level over the sea to 1.2 times the speed of sound and then climbed to high level."

282 Sqn in 10 hour festive joy

Cadets from East Ham's 282 Squadron, spread some festive joy amongst the shoppers at ASDA Supermarket, in Beckton by bag-packing at the check outs.

The main aim was to raise £1000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Air Cadets, but due to the cadets' tremendous efforts, and the huge generosity of the East Londoners, a total of nearly £1800 was raised in just 10 hours!



282 Cadets – Joyful ASDA Bag-packing !

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Regional Commandant's Message

The Success of LASER is dependant on the professionalism of the staff and the commitment of the cadets. Our excellent results, both at team and individual level, are down to the quality of our people and their leadership and example.

We have all the ingredients for future success and I commend all

officers, SNCO's, CI's, civilian support staff and civcom members for investing their time and effort in our most precious commodity – our young people.

As we start the new year we should reflect about our organisation and its ability to get the best out of people by striving for and attaining team excellence. Let me thank you all for your

loyal service and strong endeavours and wish all of you, whatever your Wing or Squadron, a happy and peaceful 2008.

No Deviation.

Gp Capt Hakin OBE RAFR
Regional Commandant
LaSER

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year... writes Region's Chaplain

As I write, a political think tank has suggested that Christmas should be downgraded, in order to improve community relations. This seems to me rather like suggesting demolishing St Paul's Cathedral to improve traffic flow into the City of London.

I do not believe community relations are improved by removing or 're-inventing' religious festivals, whether Diwali, Eid, Christmas or many another. An influential coalition of Christian and Muslim leaders responded publicly to the think tank, defending Christmas. One of the strengths of the Air Training Corps is that draws from each local community and brings together cadets of various races and religions. Cadets work together regardless of creed or colour. We seek to recognise and respect diversity.

As for the festival to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us remember that as well as being the founder of the Christian faith, Jesus is recognised by Muslims as a great prophet, that

he was a Jew and is recognised by religious Jews and people of other faiths as a significant teacher. Our country has a large majority who, even if not regular churchgoers, call themselves Christians. Much of the tradition and establishment of our country has a Christian basis. Let us then, rather than downgrading Christmas, put Christ back into Christmas and make it primarily a religious festival, whilst retaining the fun and family gatherings. In this way we will be able to go forward into the New Year knowing Jesus' promise to his followers, "Lo, I am with you always to the end of time."

I continue to write in the Corps' magazine, 'Air Cadet', about the major festivals of the

world religions. Do take the opportunity to get to know something about the festivals of other faiths and even share in them. Let us go forward into the New Year of 2008 AD (Anno Domini = Year of Our Lord) or, if you prefer, CE (Common Era), valuing our diversity, whilst we work together.

I send all our readers, whether members of the ATC or those of you who support and take an interest in the work of the ATC in the London and South East Region, not 'Season's greetings' but the assurance of my prayers and my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev Christopher Miles
Regional Chaplain



LaSER Cadets Swimming to Success

LaSER swimmers have been achieving success at region and national levels, reports Flt Lt Sally Rattle, Region Deputy Sports Officer. Inter-Wing Swimming Championships was held at the Guildford's Spectrum Leisure Centre on 29 September 2007.

Following were the results;

London Wing won the Junior Girls competition.
Essex Wing won the Senior Boys competition
Sussex Wing won the Senior Girls competition
Surrey Wing won the Junior Boys competition and the overall Trophy.

The LASER team for the 63rd Inter-Region event at RAF Cranwell on 27 October 2007 consisted of 26 cadets from all six wings.

We brought back
10 trophies,
16 gold medals,
3 silver,
8 bronze
and came 2nd overall.

2 Cadets from LASER broke records at RAF Cranwell:

Senior Boys Freestyle -
1/Sgt A Edmonds 173 Sqn Kent
(beating his own record set last year)

Senior Girls Backstroke
- Cpl S Trotter 461 Sqn Sussex

10 cadets from LASER will swim for the Corps against Lincolnshire and South Lincs Swimming Clubs on 24 November 2007.

The following records were broken at this event:

Junior Girls Breaststroke –
Cdt S Glenny 1475 Sqn London

Junior Girls Medley Relay –
London Wing

Senior Girls Freestyle –
Cpl S Leopold 1374 Sqn Middx

Senior Girls Backstroke –
Cpl S Trotter 461 Sqn Sussex

Senior Girls Freestyle Relay
– Surrey Wing

Junior Boys Individual Medley –
Cdt R Powell 305 Sqn Kent

Junior Boys Breaststroke –
Cdt A Fenwick 323 Sqn Surrey

Well done to everyone.

2nd is the best result LASER have had in the Inter-Region Swimming Championships for years.



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Commandant Air Cadets Visits LaSER Field Day



Sqn Ldr Reg Holstock RAFVR(T)Retd- Defence Council Appreciation

Over 450 cadets, staff and civilian committee members from the LaSER Region attended Crowborough Training Camp, East Sussex, on Sunday 14 OCT 07 to compete in the Annual London & South East Region Field Day.

The competition for cadets teams from LaSER Wings included Aircraft Recognition, Drill, Target Shooting, Aircraft Modelling, First Aid, Band, and a challenging obstacle course.

Review officer, Air Cdre Moulds MBE RAF, Commandant Air

Cadets, made a tour of the competition venue and took the opportunity to talk many cadets and volunteers staff before the final presentation of awards and march-past parade.

A very special award in the form of a Defence Council Letter of Appreciation was also presented to Chairman of Sussex Wing ATC, Sqn Ldr Reg Holstock RAF VR(T) Retd, for his service to Air Cadets Organisation.



LaSER cadet meet the big-boss!



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