

5th West Bromwich Camp 2009 Newsletter



Saturday 18th July

After a long trip in convoy from West Brom, we arrived at TMC at 16:00. Tesco saved us having to go shopping for food by delivering to us, as arranged. After tea we all went down to Caernarfon to let the lads unwind. Whilst there and to Ken's extreme pleasure, we saw the massed bands of the Welsh Regiment beating retreat for Armed Forces day. The lads then played in the park and threw stones into the sea.



Sunday 19th July

We awoke at 7:30 to cloud and rain but despite this, we went, as planned to the beach. By 11:30 the sky had cleared and we went crabbing on the rocks. We caught a bucket full of crabs and Ty caught 11 catfish all by himself! Well maybe he had some help from Matt... Mid afternoon saw the sun come out and after lunch we went up the mountain, as the lads called it and played tracker. After a hearty tea, the company section went back to the beach for a driftwood fire while the junior section stayed in and played skittles.

Monday 20th July

A fine day saw the two sections split once again. The junior section went to Greenwood Forest Park and company section hired mountain bikes and went riding along national cycle route 8. The route was 12.5 miles long which meant that those who completed it, cycled 25 miles in the day! At Greenwood Forest Park the junior section went on a roller coaster, built dens, went on a bare foot trail and rode pedal cars among lots of others things, too many to list here! In the evening the company section watched a film while the junior section went for a walk up the slate mine.



Tuesday 21st July

We awoke this morning to proper Welsh rain, absolutely chucking it down! The company section had a mountain walk planned which they duly set off for. The walk started well with a climb of about 200 metres but had to stop because of the driving horizontal rain and 45mph wind! If we had continued, the wind would have reached at least 60 mph at the top of the mountain! Whilst the company section were getting drowned and muddy on the side of a mountain, the junior section stayed in the centre and played games and a connect four competition. With rain still pouring down everyone went to Bangor Leisure Centre to swim and a couple of the more adventurous of the company section jumped off the high diving board! After tea the weather had cleared up a bit which meant we could go down the beach for a walk and to skim stones off the sea and just for the fun of it Matt and Jake ran the 8 miles back to camp!



Wednesday 22nd July



Today's weather was dry but really windy which meant that company section couldn't do the planned activity of 'coasteering' since the waves were over 2.5m high! Instead, the company went to 'Ropes and Ladders' in Llanberis which saw us climbing through two obstacle courses high above the ground, climbed 80ft up a pole and did a 'leap of faith' and a '3G swing'! When we had finished swinging around in high places, we visited the slate museum next door.

Junior section spent the day at RAF Valley which is an air force base which specialises in jet fighter training where the lads learned about emergency equipment and even had the chance to sit in the cockpit of a hawk fighter plane! After tea, everybody watched the film 'Hotel for Dogs' and when the junior section had gone to bed, company section went for a midnight walk up a hill to a lake where we sat and had epilogue, sang the vesper and walked back in complete darkness...scary! And so, another extremely busy day drew to a close.

Thursday 23rd July

The wind had dropped slightly today which meant that the swell was only 1.25m so the company section could now go Coasteering! We started by putting on our swimming costumes, then a t-shirt, then a wetsuit, then another wetsuit, then a fleece, then a waterproof jacket, then a buoyancy aid and finally a helmet! Once kitted out we went off for a 15 minute walk from the minibus to the place we could enter the water. Once in the water we manoeuvred ourselves along the rocks, battling the waves and jumping off at strategic points!



Junior section spent the first part of the day go-karting where Andrew had a hair raising experience with Ty steering him around the track. Caleb managed to crash and took the tyre wall out completely but the obvious winner of the race was Jordan. The second activity of the afternoon for the junior section was paint-balling and it was Robin who managed to hit the most targets. During the evening, the whole of camp went glow in the dark ten pin bowling! Alex Powell won the company section and Hakeem won the junior section.

Friday 24th July

The last day of camp has arrived and so quickly too! We had a fantastic day at Morfa Nefyn beach even though we thought we might not get there as the minibus diesel light had been on for quite a few miles without us being able to find a fuel station but luckily we eventually did! We played games in the sand and had a great time splashing around in the sea and we were also treated to a special tour of the lifeboat station! We had a guided tour of the 27 ton steel rescue boat where everything was in immaculate condition and ready to go into action at a moments notice to save another life. After a few sun burnt shoulders, we had a walk around the headland to see if we could see any dolphins and take the camp photograph. We didn't see any dolphins but we did follow a grey seal around some rock formations which was interesting. We got back to camp at around 19:30 and had burgers, sausages and chips and a few presentations for the winner of the inspections, connect four competitions and bowling. The winner of the connect four competition was Kadeem, the winner of the company section inspection was Alex Powell and the first junior section winner was Matthew Woodcock, the second was Stuart Kirk. Well done to everyone who tried their best in the competitions this year!

