

Flying Officer Jeff Goodley RAF VR (T)
1406 (Spalding) Squadron ATC



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PRESS RELEASE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

AIR CADETS FIND THEIR WAY IN ORIENTEERING CHALLENGE.

Not content with athletics and cross-country success Spalding Air Cadets are leading a national league by hundreds of points. Always first to take up a new challenge the Spalding Squadron decided to take on the tough and growing sport of Orienteering. Under the guidance of Civilian Instructor Michael Nell, himself a former Territorial Army Orienteering Champion, the Spalding cadets have made their mark on the sport, in a big way.

Orienteering is a combination of cross country running, map reading, and compass work. Competitors run a course set by event organisers finding set checkpoints in the correct order using compass and detailed orienteering maps. Courses are graded in difficulty and distance dependent on age and experience.

Competing against other Air Cadet squadrons from across the country in a 'Virtual' League, the Spalding cadets have been entering competitions organised by the BOF (British Orienteering Federation) and the Royal Air Force Orienteering Club. Results are submitted to a central control and points are then awarded against an agreed scale. The season continues until the end of July and currently **1406 Squadron is over 700 points in the lead.**

Squadron Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Keith Bate, said 'This is great, I am pleased that our cadets are once again proving that they are among the best in the country, the Athletics season is about to start and we are anticipating another busy year.'

Anybody between the age of 13 and 17 can become an Air Cadet and there are opportunities for adults between 20 and 50 to join the instruction team; anyone interested in joining should call Flying Officer Jeff Goodley on 07050 222600.

ENDS

Picture 1: Cadet Cath Homewood checks in on her way to a high score in a recent Orienteering event.

Picture 2. Cadet Michael Seal-Coon running in a West Anglian Orienteering Club Event



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