

From: Flight Lieutenant M F Bell



Commanding Officer : Flt Lt M.F. Bell BSc RAF VR(T)

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PRESS RELEASE

Dunstable Air Cadets Celebrate a Year of Success

“Air Cadets from 460 Dunstable Squadron celebrated another successful year at their Annual Awards Presentation Evening held at Brewers Hill Middle School on Thursday (25 May)

In front of the Squadron’s Honorary President, The Town Mayor of Dunstable, members of the Royal Air Force Association (RAFA), Veterans of 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, and Parents, the Squadron Commanding Officer Flt Lt Mick Bell RAF VR(T) paid tribute to the effort and enthusiasm of the Cadets as he gave details of their activities and achievements during the year. These included two Cadets completing Gliding Scholarships and a Cadet completing an Air Cadet Pilot Training Course, as well as other cadets getting 53 opportunities to fly in the RAF duel control Grob Tutor training aircraft. Cadet Warrant Officer Emma Crawford also had the opportunity to fly in a Hawk fast jet of 208 Squadron RAF after winning Top Cadet at the annual summer camp at RAF Valley.

During the year the Cadets have successfully competed against other Squadrons in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire in various sports events, including cross country, athletics, swimming, and netball, finishing in the top three in each and winning two team trophies as well as 23 individual medals. The Squadron also successfully defended their title of Top Guns, winning the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Shooting Trophy for the second year in succession.

Flt Lt Bell also detailed the many Community and Charity events that the Cadets had assisted at and congratulated the Cadets for either raising themselves, or helping at events that had raised over £40,000 for various charities during the year.

A special award was presented to the Squadron by Mr ‘Griff’ Griffiths on behalf of the Royal Air Force Association in recognition of the Cadets efforts in raising funds for the Association. The Squadron’s fund raising event was held at the Dunstable Leisure Centre and saw the Cadets give a display of continuity drill under water and then swim the length of the English Channel. The event



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raised over £1500 for RAFA and was judged to be the best in the Central and East region
Individual trophies were presented by The Town Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Mrs Cynthia Gresham who thanked the Cadets for their support for the Community during the year.

Individual award winners were:

The Chapman Trophy for Academic Achievement – Cadet Daniel Bianchi, aged 14

The Sports Trophy – Cpl Dale Poole, aged 16

The Hinchliffe Trophy for Marksmanship – Sgt Christopher Featherstone, aged 16

The Drill Cup – Sgt Grace Clarke, aged 15

The Ambler Cup for smartness – Flight Sgt Loretta Matthews, aged 16

The Attendance Cup – Cpl Dale Poole

Most Improved Cadet – Cadet Megan O’Dwyer, aged 14

The Cadets Cadet, chosen by the Cadets – Cpl Dale Poole

The Staff Cup for Meritorious Service – Civilian Instructor Dave Crawford

Best Recruit – Cadet Kimberly Featherstone, aged 13

Best NCO – Cpl Dale Poole

The Binbrook Trophy, awarded by the Veterans of 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force for effort and endeavour, was presented by Mr Reg White who served as a rear gunner in Lancasters during WW2 to Cadet James Bassett, aged 14

The Award for the Top cadet of the Squadron was presented by Squadron Leader Dave Bowen RAF VR(T) (Retd) who is a former Commanding Officer of 460 Squadron. To win the trophy and be acknowledged as the ‘Best of the Best’ takes sustained effort during the year and the Top cadet has to show all round excellence in every activity. For his achievements, enthusiasm, effort and Leadership qualities shown throughout the year, the worthy winner of Best CADET WAS Flight Sergeant Jonathan Price, aged 16

At the end of the evening Flt Lt Bell outlined the many exciting events planned for the coming year that included camps at RAF Boulmer, RAF Halton and Folkestone, a summer ball celebrating the Squadron’s 65th Anniversary, as well as flying and gliding opportunities for the Cadets. The Squadron will also continue its close relationship with the town of Dunstable by helping at community and charity events.”

Dunstable Squadron are currently recruiting so, if you are aged between 13 and 16 years of age with a sense of adventure why not contact Flt Lt Mick Bell on 01234 307776 or at atc460sqn@yahoo.co.uk, visit our web site at www.dunstable-aircadets.org.uk, or visit the Squadron any Monday or Thursday evening.

Michael Bell

Flt. Lt. RAF VR(T)

OC 460 Squadron



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Encls: *Photo*

- (1) Town Mayor Councillor Mrs Cynthia Gresham with members of RAFA, Veterans of 460 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force, staff and cadets of Dunstable Squadron*
- (2) Mr 'Griff' Griffiths, RAFA presents the Central and East Region Award, accepted by CWO Emma Crawford on behalf of the Cadets*
- (3) The Binbrook Trophy awarded to Cadet Bassett by Reg White of 460 Squadron RAAF*
- (4) The Top Cadet Trophy awarded to FS Price by Sqn Ldr Dave Bowen RAF VR(T)(Retd)*
- (5) Sgt Grace Clark in an RAF Grob Tutor*

