

The 21st running of the Annual 125 Competition in 'A' Company

At the recent weekend camp held at Browndown Camp, the eight Units from 'A' Company assembled to participate in the 21st running of this Annual competition.

Started in 1985, to commemorate the 125 Anniversary of the forming of the Army Cadet Force, 'A' Company has continued to run an event every year since. Each unit submits a team of 8 cadets, governed by Star level criteria, to compete in 9 events spanning the APC syllabus.

Each event as an individual trophy to compete for, with the winning team receiving a Decanter and tray. Alongside the main competition another competition is run, this being the Hogg trophy. The team with the highest accrued score from the shooting and orienteering events is the winner and recipient of this cup.

On arrival on Friday night the teams are briefed and the draw for team numbers take place. This draw also has a significance in the Tug of War event, as the knockout phase pitches team 1 against team 2 and so on.

The first event for all is the drill event, where the teams are inspected for their turnout, marked on their set drill proforma and the team instructor is marked on his words of Command. Again this event is a valuable one to win as in the case of a tie at the end of the whole competition, the team best place in the Drill event will be position highest. This year, the teams were marked by the CTY RSM, present OC A and the designate OC A. Amazingly, we saw very similar scoring from all three judges, which meant not too much deliberation, was required to find the winner.

After the drill, teams were given their timings for the round robin events. Saturday saw Shooting, Obstacle course, Fieldcraft, First Aid, Speed March and Sports events taking place. The OC designate took up the challenge of the Training Officer, to see who was the better shot. This ended in a team of five Adults taking part in the Shooting scenario, with (thankfully!) the team beating the best cadet team by over 100 points. More importantly, the OC Des. beat the TO with 2x 20mm groupings. However, the friendly banter continued well into the evening.

The day's scores were put up, with the first five events only being shown. This meant that at half way, Old Basing and Farnborough were tied in first place with 40 points, and Aldershot close behind on 38.

Sunday saw the orienteering event take place and things change rapidly, with Bordon putting in a last minute surge, that placed them first going into the last event, with Basing 1 point behind. At this stage any team from 4 could win, and this was where the draw on Friday took it toll.

First up were Farnborough and Aldershot, with the losing team dropping out of the hunt for first place. Unfortunately for Farnborough it was them who fell, with Aldershot going on to the final.

The next interesting draw was would Bordon score higher than Old Basing, to keep their lead. Unfortunately, Alton had a play in this and beat Bordon in their draw, leaving Old Basing to make sure they pulled Cove to guarantee at least 2 points more than Bordon could obtain, and thus securing the win. With this added incentive, it was no surprise to see basing come out winners, but at this stage other than the OC and TO, no one knew the significance of this. Basing lost out in the next round to Fleet who then themselves beat Aldershot to become the unlikely winners of the event. Once again the enthusiasm and spirit of the competition was epitomised by this final event, with team loyalties transferring from their own to other similar badged Units.

A very well competed and supported event marking my own farewell to the competition and last remaining member of 'A' Company who had seen all 21 years.

As a farewell, I could not have asked for a better ending.

Major A Dawes.

Score sheet

Team Number	Unit Name	Speed March	Shoot	Assault Course	Section Attack	Drill	Orienteer	First Aid	Sports	Tug of War	Total Points	Overall Position
8	Old Basing	9	9	3	10	9	8	7	8	8	71	1
3	Bordon	9	10	7	4	5	10	10	9	6	70	2
1	Farnborough	6	6	9	9	10	7	6	7	4	64	3
2	Aldershot	10	8	6	8	6	6	5	4	9	62	4
4	Alton	6	3	10	6	7	3	8	10	8	61	5
5	Fleet	7	7	8	5	4	9	4	6	10	60	6
6	Gibraltar Bks	4	5	5	7	9	4	9	3	4	50	7
7	Cove	3	4	4	3	3	5	3	5	5	35	8