

# Episkopi and Dhekelia Sixers Camp



Over the weekend 2 - 4 October the sixers from Episkopi and Dhekelia cubs, plus one from Pergamos, went on an expedition camp in the hills to the north of Lefkara.

## Friday 2nd October

The boys met at Episkopi Scout Hut or Scout Wood Dhekelia at 14.45. Following a check of personal kit the buses were loaded and the adventure began. The journeys were uneventful but for the tremendous noise from the singing of just four boys!

Episkopi cubs were first to arrive at Lefkara village football pitch. The cubs from Dhekelia arrived just a few minutes later. Thanks to the municipalities of Lefkara village this was to be our campsite for the night. The boys were paired off with someone they didn't already know then they attempted to put up their two man hike tents with minimal assistance from the leaders. Unfortunately the early darkness caught us unawares and the lamps had to be lit before 18.00.

Once all the kit was stowed away Brigid (Akela from Dhekelia) cooked us a hearty meal of chicken stew. From then on the cubs would be cooking for themselves so they made the most of decent food!! Swiss roll and custard followed and was much appreciated by all. Some more hard work next as the cubs all washed up and tidied everything away. Finally it was time for a quick walk up into the village. It's strange to walk through the streets up there and not be badgered into buying goods, but I suspect that's just because the shops were closed! Having worn the cubs out (not to mention the

leaders) it was time for a stop at one of the tavernas for a drink and a rest. Then it was back to camp and would you believe everyone was in bed by 21.30. A miracle for a first night cub camp but everyone slept well and nobody seemed to have been up during the night.

## Saturday 3rd October

Gooodoooo morning Lefkara. It's 06.00 hours and Oh My God It's Early! Time for the cubs to cook their own breakfast. Well what an experience that was. I've never seen sausages burned to that extent!! Seriously though, everyone ate well ready for the long day ahead. Whilst the cubs washed their plates and themselves Brigid and Russ (Akela from Epi) got the packed lunches ready. Then it was tents away and all the kit into the buses.

DC ESBA (Steve), ADC WSBA (Marilyn) and Peter (Brigid's husband) arrived just as we were squeezing the last pieces of kit into the buses. I gave a quick brief on where we were going, showed everyone some photos and gave out the maps. There was just time for a photocall and it was off on the hike to Lefkara Dam.

By 09.50 we had decided it was too hot to walk but we carried on, making plenty of stops to top up with water. For anyone who has never ventured up past Lefkara, the scenery is quite breathtaking at times. The walk was fairly easy going for all but the last KM. That was all uphill and the cubs were finding it hard going by then. Reaching the top of the hill was well worth it though. The view of the Dam is absolutely stunning, and don't forget your camera if you go!

After lunch it was time for a fishing competition. It's pretty much impossible to count tiny fish in a bucket so nobody was ever quite sure who won! The fish were returned to the water and then it was time for a sit in the shade. Our visitors looked after the cubs whilst we sorted out the logistics of the buses, then it was time to bid them farewell as we set off for our next campsite.

The road up to Lythrodhondas is quite bumpy and twisty but we finally arrived at the village school at 16.00. The tents went up with a lot less hassle this time, in front of a very curious audience of Cypriot school children wander-

ing what we were doing in their playground. Trying to co-ordinate the construction of a campsite amid the roar of scooters wasn't too easy but we managed.

Down to the serious business and the cubs made a start on dinner. What a feast we had... chicken drumsticks, kebab, sausages, mushrooms, potatoes and salad. Everyone had more than their fair share of food and very little was left, much to the dismay of the local cat population!!

Later in the evening our examiner for the cooks badge arrived. Obviously instructions were good as it only took him a few hours to find us! Better late than never though! After that there was just about time for a couple of ghost stories then it was off to bed. I can't believe there was silence just after 21.00!

## Sunday 4th October

The cubs began to rise at 06.30. Obviously Saturday had taken its toll. By 07.30 everyone was up! Then it was back to the slog of cooking breakfast. Lessons had been learned and all the food I saw looked edible this time! Then the site was cleaned up, kit packed away and the tents taken down. All the kit was packed into the buses and John (our cooking examiner) took two of the cubs away for Kean football.

Our numbers reduced to six plus two, we had a walk into the village. Once again we stopped for a drink in a taverna then had a brief look inside the local church.

Being Sunday the cubs ran a quick service of their own. Then it was time for refreshment before saying our goodbyes and going our separate ways. An excellent time was had by all and I would like to thank everyone involved in any way at all for all of their assistance and support.

Russ Pearce, Akela  
57th Episkopi Cubs