

Our Summer Camp: IOM 2011  
By Mark

When we arrived at the Adventure Centre we were broken up into groups and were shown to our dorms. There were 2 male scout dorms, 2 male explorer dorms and 1 girl dorm. After we had chosen our beds we were taken up to the barn and we were given a talk. Then it was dinner which was soup to start off with, then sausages and chips then to finish off a doughnut. When we had finished dinner we all went on a coastal walk up the only mountain on the Isle of Man where we were shown the seven kingdoms which are Mann, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, Neptune and Heaven. Unfortunately there was so much fog we couldn't see them! After that it was the trek back home and then we were allowed to relax until it was time for bed.

The next day were woken up at 08.00 and we got dressed and had breakfast. After that we were told what we were going to be doing for the day. For my group it was the zip wire and assault course, abseiling and archery. As we left for the zip wire we were all given a helmet and harness and were told to sit down on a bench where we were given a talk about the zip wire, then the first person had their go. After the wire we went to the assault course and to the tunnel of doom (a slide where at the end water was thrown at us by the instructor!). After that it was on to the monkey bars which was over a stream and if you didn't make monkey noises or you fell off, you guessed it, YOU GOT SPLASHED!!!!!!!!!!!!

After that we went we went on a rope bridge which again I got splashed on. After we had been on the assault course it was abseiling and tree abseiling which was us free falling down a huge tree (funnily enough)! After we had dinner and it was archery, dinner and then finally TUCK SHOP!!!!

The day after we went to the rifle shooting range with instructor Connor and then we met up with another instructor, Emma who took us to crate stacking (which was **very** scary!) Then after lunch we went to our first sailing session which was so much fun especially the capsizing!!!! After dinner it was cliff abseiling which was probably the scariest thing I had ever done as it was about two and a half times the size of the tree.

The next day we had a day in Douglas where we visited the Great Laxey Wheel which is the largest water working wheel in the world. After that it was a shopping trip in the centre of town then after it was a run to catch the tram and dinner. After our day in Douglas we had a sailing with Ben and more capsizing!!!!

Then it was another day out with a trip down to the beach where we built mini grand designs and power boating then it was home to skin a rabbit. Yum!!! After dinner it was wide games in the park.

The next day we went kayaking. Unfortunately I was the slowest and I was **really slow**.

The final full day was a competition of rifle shooting, archery, river canoeing and kayaking - all before dinner. Then we did our final activity, the Phoenix Challenge, which consisted of small challenges such as the cube where you had to get a stuffed toy out of a box of lethal lasers. Then we watched movies until 11 o'clock and then for some of us it was off to bed. In the morning we caught our bus and we arrived at the port and it was off to home.

Summer Camp 2011 Isle of Man  
By Simon

**-Day 1**

Summer camp began when a group of eager Scouts and Explorers arrived at the harbour of the Isle of Man ferry. On arrival, tickets were handed out and rucksacks were taken. After quite a long delay, the ferry arrived, and we boarded.

Inside the ferry that we would be travelling on was a café, two cinemas, shop and reserved seats for us. We milled around the passenger decks, watching movies, buying sweets with our pocket money, sitting in the café and chatting about what awaited us over the next week. Eventually, after three hours on the ferry, we arrived at the port at Douglas, the capital of the Isle. The leaders got us off swiftly, and soon we were getting onto a coach, (only managing to knock over a potted plant and taking down a welcome sign!)

After a half hour journey on the coach, we arrived at the 'Venture Centre', the activity centre that we would be staying at for the next week. We greeted by an instructor who split us up into five groups; two Boy Scout groups, two Boy Explorer groups and a Girl Scout and Explorer group. Each group was then assigned a dorm. I was the leader of one of the rooms in dorm two, a Scout group consisting of seven boys, including me. Our dorm was different to all the others, as it was two rooms with about five bunk beds in each, and a bathroom with only one toilet and two sinks. The room beside us, was also part of dorm two, and was under control of another senior Scout.

After dumping our bags into our rooms and claiming bunks, we headed up to the Barn, where we met three instructors, who gave us a safety briefing and other information. Then, we were split into activity groups. I was patrol leader of group 2 and was in charge of seven Scouts; four boys and three girls; each group was also assigned a leader.

After being split into groups we were all asked to get changed into waterproofs for a two hour hike.

Ten minutes later we were waiting in the courtyard in high visibility jackets. We began the hike, starting on the road before moving onto a mountain path. We snaked our way up through the ferns and heather. Eventually, we reached the highest point of the hike. Our clothes and hair were soaked due to the mist. Our instructor told us we should be able to see the Seven Regions; England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, The Isle of Man, Heaven, and the Sea. But really because the mist was so thick, we couldn't even see the Sea, let alone Scotland!

We then began our way back down the mountain, passing a historical graveyard which had Christian, Celtic and Viking gravestones. Eventually we were back at the centre, where we got changed and had our first sleep on the Isle.

## **-Day 2**

It was an early start on day two, as we found out it would be each day of the week, when our leader came into our dorm telling us to get up at promptly 7:45. Breakfast was a bowl of cereal and toast. Then we were taken outside and briefed on the activities we would be given. Our group was given the Zip line and Assault Course, and we were warned that we would get wet and muddy.

After getting changed and meeting our instructor for the activity, we were led to the Zip line where we queued for a go at flying down the line, and getting tackled by a volunteer at the bottom. After we'd all had a go, we walked down the path to the entrance of the assault course. In the ground was a dark tunnel/slide, also known as THE TUNNEL OF DOOM! After most of us had gone down it was my turn. I must admit I was a bit nervous as everyone who had gone before me screamed when they reached the bottom. Anyway, I positioned myself and slid down. It was very dark in the tunnel and when I reached the bottom I squinted in the sun light. I looked up and saw most of my group standing there looking at me smiling, soaked in water, then I realised why they had screamed. Through the assault course ran a stream, and the instructor had just filled up a bucket full of water and was walking towards me. I pleaded for her not to but, inevitably, I ended up as soaked as the rest of my group. Then we had the monkey bars, and if you were too slow, fell off, or didn't make monkey noises, you got soaked. Then all eight of us had to stand on a tractor tyre and if one of us put their foot down, we got splashed.

The rest of the Assault course included getting splashed; crawling through mud, climbing over walls, swinging on rope swings and crawling through dark, cramped tunnels.

After the assault course, we went abseiling. I was very proud of my group as they all tried it and completed it, even if they weren't comfortable with heights. The instructors told us this was preparation for cliff abseiling. After dinner, there was archery; which was really fun. We had competitions, games and generally improved our archery skills.

## **-Day 3**

After another early start, the groups had breakfast, and then we went outside for another briefing. Our group and group 1 were going to join and go gorging. After getting changed into wet suits and getting kitted up with buoyancy aids and helmets, we drove down to a forest. After removing jumpers, changing shoes etc, we headed down to the river, where we dived into the freezing cold water. Most of the session included crawling over rocks, jumping into the water and other fun stuff.

When we got back, we got changed and did some rifle shooting, followed by crate stacking.

#### **-Day 4**

After breakfast, all groups headed down to the nearest tram station, where we caught the tram to Laxey, and visited the famous Laxey wheel. This is the largest working wheel in the world. After the visit, we got back onto the tram and arrived at the capital, Douglas, where we spent an hour shopping and looking around. After having dinner once we got back we were soon in bed.

#### **-Day 5**

Once we'd had breakfast, we went coasteering, wearing the same equipment as we did gorging. We joined with group 1 and entered the freezing water. We spent the next two hours going into flooded caves, rock climbing over the sea and jumping off rocks. After dinner, we headed to the beach where we went cliff abseiling. Again all the members of my group tried and completed the terrifying abseil!

Then, after the cliff abseil, we headed back to the centre where we were given a map and told to find all the different points around the centre, and field opposite. After the orienteering, we went to bed.

#### **-Day 6**

On the last full day on the Isle, we started with river canoeing and kayaking, where we travelled up a river and improved our water skills. After the canoeing, we did a rifle shooting/archery competition, followed by sailing. After sailing, we did a 'Team Phoenix' challenge, which was a series of challenges. Our team came 2<sup>nd</sup> over all.

#### **-Day 7**

The senior scouts and explorers got to stay up all night watching movies, while the younger scouts had to go to bed.

At 4 o'clock we woke up the younger ones and packed our stuff. Soon we were on a coach to the port in Douglas for the 3 hour journey back home, where we arrived home to eagerly awaiting parents.

As we left, we thanked the leaders and headed home from summer camp, 2011.