

Peak Assault Report – Black Mountains – October 2009
By Jon Wall
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“We have a reputation to uphold”

For those of you who don't know, Peak Assault is usually remembered as THE main event for many an ex-Batchworth Venture / Explorer Scout with several winners and high placed finishes over the years. It's a fantastic competition, which tests your team work, navigation skills, fitness and resilience over 2 days in a remote mountainous location. Great fun. So, when the new Bograts Explorer leaders found it was time to enter a team this year they were keen to ensure that the current Explorers showed the rest of Hertfordshire what they were made of.

Unfortunately, however, due to shoulder injuries, University visits and Geography field days, Bograts Explorers were just one team member short of being able to field a complete team at Peak Assault this time round. Daniel Byrne, however, managed to sneak in to the District team and did the whole unit proud with a storming performance, finishing 7th out of 35 teams. This is a great achievement considering the average age of his team was under 16 when the competition for Explorers is 14-18, and the winning team looked more like a group of Commandos. Well done Dan.

So having fallen short of delivering a full team to Peak Assault, the Bograts' Leaders did the only thing they knew they could. That's right, they entered a team of their own into the Senior Competition. Keen to lay down a marker for the Explorers next year, the Gowing Brothers, Fred 'The Rookie' Priggs and Jon Wall's creaky knees (aka "Bograts OAPs") fought to 3rd place out of 21. It was a great effort considering most of the team hadn't read a map in anger for 2 years and Fred hadn't competed in a competition like Peak Assault before.

So, over to all the Explorers next year now that the bar has been set, show the rest of Hertfordshire Scouts what you've got!

