

## **The Great Escape - Tawd Vale April 2009**

Two Patrols from 1st Thurstaston joined with seventy other teams from all over Merseyside including teams from 5th Heswall, 1st Frankby Greasby and 2nd West Kirby Sea Scouts. The Great Escape is a patrol-based competition requiring the patrol to complete a range of fifteen fun challenges, which test their ability to work as a team and their initiative.

Like many of the other Scouts at the Great Escape, they found themselves being woken up at 6.30 am in the morning, to have a quick breakfast before going down at campfire circle for the start of the Great Escape and to do early morning aerobics.

At 9.00 am The Great Escape competition began and both patrols went off to find their first base. Each patrol was responsible for finding the bases and arriving there in good time, they had fifty minutes between each base. Throughout the day both patrols found themselves completing a range of tasks. They had to carry a stretcher through an obstacle course, build the highest tower possible with milk crates, while one of the Scouts was standing on the tower, use pipes to get marbles in a bucket, pull a chariot around a muddy assault course and navigate through a spider's web of ropes without touching them. The teams also had to manoeuvre a canoe with the bottom cut out for their legs, around a slalom course, complete a low ropes course with some of the team blindfolded and transport a radioactive container without the buzzer being set off.

On Sunday both patrols had to complete four more tasks. They had to cross a minefield, cross the River Tawd on a rope bridge and then work as a team using a chair on a pulley to get the patrol back across the river. There was a first aid base where they had to use a block and tackle to lift a log off a trapped dummy's feet, so that they could take it to safety, after first making a bridge over a deep and very muddy ravine.

At the Great Escape patrols compete against each other in either a composite patrol, a patrol made especially for the competition, or a standing patrol, a patrol made up of existing patrol members in a troop.

A great time was had by all those who attended and everyone is looking forward to next year's event.

Below are some photos taken during the activity.





