

Fathers and Sons Event – Lilliput Adventure Centre.

So with a little trepidation, we pulled into the car park. Adam was really looking forward to this weekend. Me, well, not so much but it's a great idea and super for the kids to chill with the other kids and their dads which is more than likely something that does not happen all that often in today's world with everyone so busy. One rule for me! No phone or at least only use it for photos and to let the wife know we arrived fine.

The sun was out and we were ready for the fun and games that lay ahead. After meeting up with everyone and grabbing a coffee we all gather in the courtyard and the first activity was a treasure hunt.

We were all split into teams, Adam was our map reader and not a bad one as it turned out. We were to find 14 items all spaced about in the grounds. It was a timed challenge and the race was on. We were to come back and record the score and time, then wait for all the teams to come back (I think there maybe one team still out there.) Anyhow our team finish second and I got blamed for not being quick enough. (This would be a typical blame for the weekend.)

The second activity was the climbing wall. All the kids had a few goes on this and in fairness to them, they were all very good with a number getting to the top. A few dads gave it a shot and I think it would be fair to say the sons may have won this one!

Next was lunch which was good as the sun was replaced by cloud and a lot of wind. It was quite cold but it was a welcome break from the sun.

After lunch, we all hit the woods for a few games. We also all took a shot of archery, some were better than others. There was also a screaming challenge, to run up a hill and scream out loud with the same breath. Jay and Paul got furthest and there was a tweaked hamstring and a few close to passing out. Adam made it furthest from the kids.

Next on the list was onto the lake for a bit of canoeing. Once everyone got out into the lake there was a lot of water fights and fun, even with the wind doing its best to blow everyone back onto the shore.

The final activity of the day was the famous Bogs! Wow, the kids just loved it (and the big kids too, Paul and Jay). It's a boy's ideal activity, water and dirt. Walking, crawling and bombing! The bogs allow you to do it all, oh and say goodbye to your clothes cause they ain't getting clean (ever). As you walk through the fields with the bogs you see piles of shoes and trainers piled up from people who lost them in the bogs and they have been thrown out to the side by others. ...It's quite a site!

Freezing but happy we headed back to the warmth of the shower room where everyone spent ages trying to get the muck and dirt off themselves. My guess is they will still find dirt weeks later, especially in that beard Jay!

Then it was dinner which was hoovered up by all. A bit of time to chill and then back out into the woods for another game. A reverse game of hide n' seek where when you find the team hiding, you hide with them and then the last team to find all hiding out are the losers.

It was fun and took a while before we all got this one done. Then, a few final games of sniper and it was back to the lodge. There was a movie for some and for others, there was the best game of the weekend, the simple task of kicking a rugby ball into the bin.

A gang of us spent a good few hours taking turns at landing the ball into the bin. Adam Byrne was the only one to get it in, 3 times, in fact, left footed, right footed and from the ground! He well and truly put the rest of us in the bin!

Later a few of us played some cards then we hit the beds for some well-earned sleep.

Up early the next morning, the sun was out and it was a beautiful morning. The activities were to start about 10am so everyone was kind of doing their own thing and chilling in the sun.

The first activity of the morning was the building blocks. We were told the record was 27 crates which is very impressive, however, not to be outdone by this the lads set out to beat this and managed a new record of 35, which was pretty awesome indeed.

The final activity was the trampoline game which was a very very close competition. All the kids loved having a bash at this game and seemed to really enjoy it.

Then it was time to head home, worn out but happy out too. It was a deadly weekend, both kids and dads met some really nice people and had fun together which was the main thing.

A big thanks to Paul and Jay for making sure all ran smooth and that all the kids were looked after from the time they arrived to the time to head home.

Until the next one!

Ken and Adam Byrne