

Anna Hulme – Gliding Report

I heard about the gliding scholarship through my local air cadet squadron. I was genuinely interested in the opportunity and decided I would apply. The following month I heard that I had been short-listed for an interview, I was delighted. The interview took place in London in April, I made the journey by train which was enjoyable and gave me plenty of time to think as this was my first real interview, previously I have just been interviewed at school. It had been a really good experience, I made the journey home. A few weeks later I had wonderful news, I had a gliding scholarship, I honestly didn't expect that I would be awarded and was very excited.

In August I would be going to Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club for the Scholarship, flying out of Daedalus airfield each day. I arrived at HMS Sultan, Portsmouth, which was to be my home for the week, upon arrival I was made to feel very welcome and quickly made friends with others who were on the same course as me.



My experience kicked off Sunday morning, as a group we were transported to and from the Gliding School, on the first morning we were introduced to the instructors who would be with us during the week, everything was fully explained, we had a full safety brief each day and were kitted out with safety equipment required. We were

soon ready, I remember feeling a little apprehensive, this was to be my first experience of flying in a cockpit of a glider. My instructors showed me how the instruments work to control the glider up and down, pitch of glider, control the roll of the glider and yaw of the glider. I was also taught what to do if the glider stalled. We flew upto 2000ft when gliding and 400ft for any aerobatics. I loved soaring through the clouds. I made steady progress throughout the week.

A few of the highlights from the week for me were getting to do some aerobatics with my instructor Graham, On the Wednesday my tow rope snapped which meant the glider had to come down straight away as 200ft of rope was hanging off the nose of the glider this was unexpected but I was very proud of myself for staying calm and managing to fly back safely. This was a valuable learning point but left me feeling a little under confident the next time I went back up in the air. Towards the end of the week Commander Phil Shaw flew me up in a tiger moth for a short flight in which I took control of the aircraft before I was taken through some aerobatics.

I didn't go solo due to weather and time but hope to in the future and go on to a higher level. I have learnt such a lot and it has been the best start to a flying career. At the end of the week we all enjoyed a presentation and buffet.

I would like to thank HMS Sultan for making me welcome, the PNGC instructors who made sure our experience was the best it could be and the HCAP for providing me with the opportunity, its been fantastic and I would recommend to anyone to try like I did, I honestly did not expect to be awarded so you never know it could be you in the future.