

Bethany Robbins – Gliding Scholarship

This past summer I was fortunate enough to complete a Gliding Scholarship at Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club, residing in HMS Sultan for the duration of the course.



Looked after by a naval officer, our small group of students were escorted to the airfield where we began the day by walking our gliders out of the hangar, grouped in our syndicates onto the runways. Paired with our tasks of cleaning and putting away the gliders at the end of each day our group were able to learn more about the practical side of Gliding, and all the teamwork involved. We were able to have many flights in our Glider, practicing take offs, landings and circuits and working as a team to both launch and retrieve Gliders for the other members in our syndicate. Our instructors taught us efficiently offering us feedback at the end of each flight, meaning that we progressed effectively.

Unfortunately I was not able to go solo due to bad weather on the last day. However, both my instructors were extremely experienced, enabling them to take me on two aerobatic flights during the week to experience spinning and other manoeuvres I had previously never seen done in a glider- both flights were definitely the highlights of my week.

The course offered an invaluable insight into the inner workings of a successful gliding club, whilst broadening my view on a variety of potential careers in aviation; through the knowledge of both my sponsors and instructors I was able to learn more about both commercial and military aviation. The expertise and guidance of my instructors was a great advantage to my learning and I benefitted from their support and advice. I am extremely grateful for both the support of the Instructors at Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club and the sponsorship of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for this unforgettable experience

