

Final Report Stanley Sparling

Since childhood, all I have ever wanted to do was fly, for me the best part of the family holiday was the Flight! I remember my first ever flying lesson which was a Christmas present from my grandparents, when I was aged 13. After that first flight my Instructor said to me that it is possible to get a Private Pilot's License at Aged 17. From that moment on I was determined to get my PPL at 17. I started volunteering at Enstone airfield, helping out with washing and refueling aircraft as well as cutting the grass. Just to be around aviation! However due to lack of funds getting my PPL was still a hurdle for me.



A friend at airfield who is a professional pilot understood my situation and recommended the HCAP PPL Scholarship to me, I saw it as an excellent opportunity that I could not afford to miss. And I'm glad I didn't miss it, the moment I received that email from HCAP congratulating me was a feeling like no other! And I could not wait for me to finish my AS Level Exams.

Friday 9th June, the day after my final AS exam, I headed for to Aeros Gloucester! I was introduced to the PA28-161, which is a fantastic trainer for anyone wishing to learn to fly. I was so happy to be back in the air and was looking forward to fantastic summer doing my PPL course full time. The course consisted of 45 hours of flight training and 9 theoretical exams. I quickly passed my Air Law and Operation Procedures in order to fly solo. 1st July 2017 was my first solo flight, a flight that will stay with me for the rest of my life. It was a big milestone for me and was looking forward to the navigation phase.

During the start of my navigation flying phase the weather was not reaching expectations however it was the perfect opportunity to complete all my theoretical exams, I passed all my exams first time. It was a big weight off my shoulders and now I could focus on my doing my Qualifying Cross Country. My QXC was the best flight I had ever done. Flying solo across the south of England. I flew from Gloucester-Cardiff-Halfpenny Green-Gloucester. I really enjoyed flying solo, knowing that you were the pilot in command. I also had a great feeling every time I got out the aircraft, I always thought "I landed that!"

Then it was on to the finer details of flying, preparation for the skills test! I had a mock test and a brush up flight before my test. My skills test flight was fantastic, I really enjoyed it, by the end I was exhausted, but to have the examiner congratulate me on the pass after I but the mixture to idle cut-off and flicked the master off. I had reached my goal of gaining a PPL at 17!

The HCAP PPL Scholarship taught me more than just to fly, flight training was full of ups and downs and developed me as a person. It taught me to believe that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it. I'm more motivated than ever to pursue my dream to become a professional pilot. I'd like to say thank you to all the staff at Aeros Flight Training, and to the Honorable Company of Air Pilots for this fantastic opportunity.

Thank you, I am forever grateful.

