

The Cadogan Scholarship Report

John Haile

Becoming a Pilot has always been my dream. I joined the Air cadets (444 Sqn) at age thirteen and it was through the Air cadets that I was fortunate enough to have received a 12 hour RAFA Scholarship, sponsored by the Aviation Focus Group. This scholarship reconfirmed my ambition of becoming a Pilot and truly gave me a taste of what my life could be like. And so, I started to research into PPL scholarships and came across the Air Pilots. I was awarded the Cadogan PPL Scholarship this year by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the Cadogan trust for this invaluable scholarship which has been pivotal in aiding my journey to become an Airline Pilot and provided an amazing summer of flying.



After the interview, I spent a few days constantly checking my emails eager to see whether I was successful or not, it was just after my maths lesson finished that I found out that I was successful! I immediately called my mum and sister to share the amazing news. I chose Stapleford Flight centre as I heard a lot of positive comments from my previous instructor and as it is straight forward to get to from where I live.



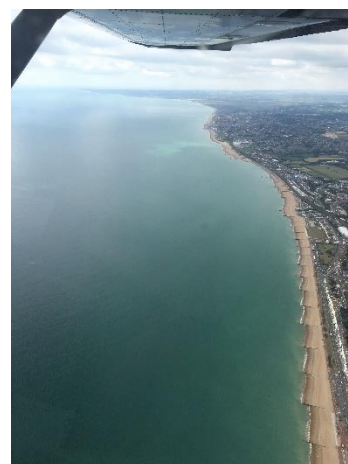
Friday 12th of July was my first flying lesson and the weeks leading up to this date was filled with moments of sudden realisation that I was actually going to get a PPL and that my dream is coming true. On my first day at Stapleford airport, filled with excitement, I met the welcoming reception staff members and my flying instructor. My instructor and I did a quick summary of the pre-flight checks as I was familiar with the procedures started getting on with the syllabus.

Immediately after take-off from Runway 21 at Stapleford Aerodrome we could see the skyscrapers of London nearby which was such a breath-taking view and completely different when seen from the



sky compared to the view while walking in the city. The general flight training area for students at Stapleford is over a local reservoir, a medium sized body of water which is easily distinguishable in the surrounding area seen from above. Unfortunately, there were quite a lot of cancelled flight lessons due to the bad weather but during these days I would study for the theory exams, review the next lessons plan and recap all past lessons. Having sat 4 of my written exams during my previous scholarship, I had the advantage of having more time to focus on revising my actual lessons in depth.

Once we had accomplished the general handling and emergency procedures phase, we moved on to circuits to work towards soloing again. During this, we went through many different approaches and landing techniques. Next step of the course was navigation, this was hard at first especially learning the planning aspects but it was the most fun and exciting part in the end.



Flying over new places and co-ordinating what you can see outside to your map is a really strange and surprising feeling. Fortunately, we had the best weather during this part of the course which made my experience even better with clear and beautiful views. A small part of the course involves basic instrument flying where I wore goggles to limit my view to just the instruments inside the aircraft in order to simulate what it would be like if I had entered a dense cloud. It was a very interesting part of the course, and once I completed this I felt much more confident and aware. Some places we flew over were South-end Airport, South-end Pier, a bridge crossing the river Thames with London City close by on our

right and Hastings (a city on the south coast of England). All these places built up to my cross country solo navigation which saw me fly to Lydd, Earls Colne and back to Stapleford.

On the day of my solo cross country flight I had marginal visibility in the morning but it soon cleared to be a perfect day. My favourite part of the flight was during a zone transit overhead South End Airport when an airliner took off from the runway beneath me. At this point I had emergency drills as second nature due to my instructor, Terence, frequently pulling the throttle back to simulate an engine failure during our lessons in order to always keep me ready for emergencies. After the cross country solo, Terence helped me to prepare for the final skills test. We revised the whole syllabus and practised a quick mock exam to make sure I was ready to carry on with my skills test.



And finally, the skills test. The day before, I met with Alan the examiner. We had a briefing where Alan explained our planned route and the layout of the exam. The next morning, I arrived early and met with my Instructor who gave me some quick last-minute tips. Once ready my examiner and I took off and flew for 2 hours and 15 minutes. As soon as we landed back at Stapleford, Alan said I had passed the skills test. My mum was waiting eagerly at the cafe to hear the result, we called my sister to tell her I passed and we celebrated together straight after, this was the moment we had been waiting for all

summer and thanks be to God that this moment was finally here.

My last day of the scholarship was a few days after this when I had all the paperwork ready, Alan helped me fill in all the forms and sent off the application for my licence. Two weeks later, my Licence arrived and finally my PPL training came to an end with success. This concluded my amazing summer of flying training at Stapleford Flight Centre. The staff members at Stapleford were very helpful and supportive in accommodating my needs to reach the scholarship completion deadline. Terence has been a great instructor which I have learned a lot from and who also contributed greatly on meeting my deadline. And finally, my Mum and sister who have both been very supportive and there for me throughout every step of the course. I encourage any person interested in becoming a pilot to apply for this and any scholarship that they can. This scholarship has given me a great experience and brought me a massive step closer to my dream. Thank you again to all the people that have been involved from the start to the end of my course

