

Harvey Dunmore

Lane Burselem Scholarship 2019

I started my flying journey when I was 13 and joined my local gliding club. I was soon hooked on the thrill of taking to the skies and I quickly realised that I wanted to pursue a career in aviation. After three years and 52 launches in a glider amassing to over 23 hours, I began learning to fly powered aircraft and my ambition to fly professionally was further reinforced. My first powered flight was on the 25th January 2018, marking the beginnings of my PPL and I continued to fly whenever financially possible. In February 2019 a year after starting my PPL, with little over 16 hours of flight time, I applied for a PPL scholarship from The Honourable Company of Air Pilots. After receiving the initial confirmation email, I expected nothing further would follow and hence proceeded with my flying and gained a further 5 hours as an when I could. To my utter amazement and delight, I was invited to an interview in London. Slightly Nervous yet exited and feeling humbled to even have the opportunity to experience what an interview would be like in such a competitive field. Therefore, you could imagine my joy when I received an email informing me that I had successfully secured the Lane Burselem Scholarship.

I made quick work of informing my flight school and booking as many flights as there were available throughout the whole summer and checking daily to see whether any more slots had arrived. To my absolute frustration, I went through the unluckiest summer in terms of weather and unplanned aircraft maintenance. From the official Scholarship commencement on the 28th May 2019 I remained grounded up until the 30th of June. Over a month of no flying. Undeterred I used this time wisely and started revising and completing ground school exams, moreover, I kept up some practical skills by flying in a simulator. Just as I thought the future was looking bright, I was once again thwarted by a combination of the great British weather and further unplanned maintenance of aircraft. A frustrating time for the whole of the flight school as they shared my vexation.

With the early October deadline becoming more and more apparent I was becoming increasingly worried and more or less bombarded the flight school to ascertain a solid plan to obtain my licence before the 3rd of October and with thanks to the team at Eden Flight Training, I was able to do just that. I completed all cross-country flight barring the qualifying cross country and built the remainder of my hours as well as completing the remaining ground school exams. From the beginning of September, I was placed in direct contact with the owner of the flight school, and he set aside his personal time in order to see the course to its completion. Yet with the weather refusing to ease the deadline dropped from my grasp and to my ultimate disappointment it became an unrealistic target. I felt deflated, I had failed to uphold the promises I laid out in the interview and after expressing my final concerns in the weekly log, I received the most positive phone call at the most negative time.

I was granted a month's extension and providing the weather would allow, a month was all that I needed. I immediately contacted my flying school and made them aware of this revelation and I once again stressed to them I was available at any time to fly. Much like my first solo on the 6th January

2019, the events that took place on the 17th of October are some that I will not forget. I completed my solo cross country soon after completing it dual only two days beforehand.

Over the next week, I built up the rest of my solo hours and then sat two dual revision sessions taking my hours to exactly 45. In the three summer months where I expected to easily complete the PPL, I only managed to attain thirteen and a half hours on top of what I already had. It then took only nine days in October to accumulate a further twelve and a quarter hours to complete my PPL. On the 24th of October 2019, I passed my practical skills test and my Radiotelephony was soon to follow. As of current I am waiting for my license, eager to get back into the left seat to further experience and explore the beauty of aviation.

This journey came with its challenges and although hard to overcome and frustrating to have to work around it is a journey that I will not forget. The experience gained not just in the flying but in the communication with industry professionals and the personal skills learnt from writing a weekly log, truly is priceless. I cannot thank enough the team at Eden Flight Training lead by Mark Lee; The entirety of The Honourable Company of Air Pilots, with special thanks to the board for awarding me this fantastic opportunity; the Lane Burselem scholarship and Angie my contact at the company.

The PPL is only the first step on the ladder in my aviation career. I will keep my hopes high in the aims of eventually becoming a commercial airline pilot.