

## George Coe – FI Scholarship

It had been a dream of mine to become a Flying Instructor for a long while, so I was overjoyed to find out I had been successful in gaining an Honourable Company of Air Pilots scholarships to complete my FI rating.

Having started my aviation careers working on the Operations Desk at Goodwood Flying School, it felt only right to head back to complete my training there and to use the support and knowledge of friends and previous colleagues along the way! Before I started any formal training, I had to complete a pre-assessment flight with Graham – Goodwood’s FI instructor; it was a great chance to re-familiarise myself with the C172SP and practice some basic, but key parts of flying such as steep turns and stalls. Luckily, it hadn’t been too long since completing my CPL/IR training, so the exam style flying was still fresh in my mind.



After a short de-brief, I found out I had been successful, and I was given an overview of the FI course ahead of me. There and then I booked in my first few sessions of training, I knew I had a lot to learn, but couldn’t wait to get started.

The FI course is made up of a big chunk of ground school - learning about teaching/learning techniques and understanding key teaching points of the flying syllabus, and flying training – putting into practice the theory and ensuring the correct patten technique was used. A classic British summer full of low cloud and rain gave me a good chance to work through lots of ground school initially! I had no idea how many different teaching and learning styles there were – something I have certainly taken away and will consider in all of my future instructing. The ground school was also a great opportunity to get acquainted with the PPL syllabus again and re-learn small areas that I hadn’t touched on since I completed my original PPL training. It was a blessing to get a big portion of this out of the way as a good ground brief really sets both the instructor and the student up for a good practical session in the air – it helped me organise my patten before delivering (or initially, attempting to deliver!) this in the aircraft.

The rest of the course combines continued ground school with practice of PPL lessons in the aircraft. The practical flying really opened my eyes to how much an instructor must think about – particularly in the early parts of the syllabus as the student is completely new to flying concepts. Not only do you have to fly the aircraft to a good degree of accuracy, whilst talking about what you and the aircraft are doing but you also must consider checks, positioning, RT calls etc etc. A few seconds off the ball and you’ve completely strayed away from the datums you’re trying to show the student, oh dear! Practice makes perfect though as they say and after time, you develop the skills and knowledge to manage the multiple parts effectively, whilst constantly sharpening your flying. It’s like learning to fly all over again and it was just as exciting and enthusing as when I first learnt to fly all that time ago.

The end of the course come around rather quickly and just as you feel you're getting into it – it's time for a test. This links to another key learning from the course – you never stop learning - teaching techniques, patten and style will all develop over time with experience. I'm also told there'll be a few moments of increased heart rate as part of that too! After lots of revision and finessing, I completed my test with examiner Chris and thankfully passed with minor observations and positive feedback to take away with me.



I thoroughly enjoyed the course and really feel I have developed myself and my flying which I can now continue to progress and develop with real students and fellow pilots for many years to come; as I write this, I'm awaiting my updated licence in the post and can't wait to get stuck in. I hope to be able to give something back to many future aviators and inspire many more into such a wonderful hobby/career down the line. My thanks go out to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for the opportunity and scholarship which has allowed me to complete the course as well as all those who have helped to support, guide and impart their knowledge to me throughout the course.