

Adam Rose Gliding Scholarship Report

I've always wanted to fly, ever since I was a kid and when I received that confirmation email, I was over the moon. I was staying at AAC Middle Wallop and flying with The Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club from the 18th-25th of August.



The day began by arriving at AAC Middle Wallop. When I first arrived I got to meet all of the scholarship winners, along with scholarship winners from other sponsors. We started out by meeting Dave, who was responsible for organising everything we were going to do for this whole week. This first day we also got a tour of the Officer's mess and where we were all staying. I stayed in a room with the 7 other winners and couldn't have asked for better friends, everyone was really excited for the days that lay ahead.

The first day of gliding was on the 19th. It was a very clear and sunny day, perfect for gliding. I was assigned the November 3

aircraft along with 3 other students. The first aircraft I got into though was a motorised glider. Neil showed me the flight control surfaces, how they work and the effects of stalling, which, having never felt this before, was a very strange feeling. The strangest part however was that first winch launch, I was full of adrenaline as soon as the cable tightened and pulled us into the sky.

The rest of the days also had incredible weather, not a single rain cloud in sight. We all got about 3-5 flights per day. Throughout the week, I worked with my instructor Nigel on working through the BGA training sheet. The hardest parts to pass throughout the week was definitely turning, using the rudder while turning is not something I thought I was going to have to learn, and it did take the whole week to get that nailed down. Another reason turning was so difficult was the lookout, another skill I wouldn't have thought about.

Being in the air was something I wasn't expecting at all. It wasn't easy, something else I had thought before even getting into a glider. Everything has to be monitored at all times, it was quite exciting and made me even more determined to find a career in aviation. Once in the air, the first priority with my instructor was finding a thermal, it was quite difficult on some days to stay in the air for longer than 5 minutes. And throughout the week I got more control over the flight, it made me feel quite good watching my progress in real time, having learnt a new skill every time I'd make it back to the ground.

By the end of the week, I was not confident in my ability to fly the circuit. Despite having done it unaided. Though unfortunate, it has pushed me to sign up to my local gliding club and hopefully achieve my first solo flight. Before even getting in a glider, I



was hoping to go solo but as I realised I wasn't going to be ready, I spent all of my time trying to get better; revising the circuit, learning the safety walkarounds, learning all the security checks.



Although I was in the air for quite some time, there were jobs on the ground that needed doing. Over the 7 days I learnt how the winch and winch operator works, how to use a team and golf buggy to retrieve a glider, how to log everyone's flights and how to aid your team when they take off, along with various other skills.

The accommodation at AAC Middle Wallop was also incredible, I'd like to thank PNGC for making it so special. Every night we had a guest talk from various people including a 777 Pilot at British Airways, a Brigadier and one of our instructors, Nobby who was in the Royal Navy as a bomb defusal expert. In total we were 15 students, 7 of whom had been sponsored by the FAAOA, we got to meet some members from the FAAOA including a former seafire pilot and hercules pilot.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to my instructor Nigel. Not only did I feel that I was learning every single flight, but when it was getting difficult, he helped me through every step. I really could not have asked for a better instructor.