

Annmaria Tome – The AFG Gliding Scholarship



I had the incredible privilege of spending a week at Middle Wallop with the Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club, thanks to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the Air Pilots Trust for sponsoring me. The experience was truly unforgettable, giving me the opportunity to significantly improve my flying skills.

From the very first day, I was excited to meet fellow scholars who shared a common passion for flying. I was able to learn the fundamentals of gliding—from winch launches to in-flight manoeuvres. Each day brought new challenges, and as the week progressed, my confidence in the cockpit grew, and I began taking on more responsibility with each flight.

I'm deeply grateful to all the volunteers at the gliding club who worked tirelessly to give us as many flights as possible.

One of the highlights of the week was the social aspect. After dinner, we would gather with the other scholars and instructors, and it was always great fun. Sharing stories, learning from each other's experiences, and simply enjoying the camaraderie made the evenings a perfect way to unwind after a full day of flying.

On a day we were grounded due to bad weather, we had the chance to visit the Army Flying Museum, which was fascinating. Learning about the history of military aviation while still being immersed in an aviation-related activity made it a memorable day, despite not being able to fly.



Additionally, the presentations from aviation professionals were incredibly insightful. It was fantastic hearing from people who have built successful careers in both military and commercial aviation.

I would highly recommend applying for this scholarship to anyone with a passion for aviation. It offers not only a solid foundation in flying but also an amazing opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and be part of an incredible community. I cannot thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and the AFG enough for making this experience possible!

