

Tour Report

Abeed Visram
Captain 2008-09
IMPERIAL COLLEGE GLIDING CLUB

Spring 2008-09

1 Attendance

Full members of Imperial College Gliding Club:

- Abeed Visram
- Paul Rignall
- Jonathan Feldman
- Michael Haynes
- Khilan Shah
- Ruben Menke
- Michiel Blokzijl
- Arthur Yeung
- Ryan Tunstall
- Hannes Bohlin

2 Financial Status

The club received £104.20 from the grant and £127.00 from the IC Trust towards the travel costs over the week. The club hired a union minibus, at a cost of £484.00 for the week, and fuel cost of £64.85. The deficit was met by the club members, who each paid £32.00 to cover the cost of the transport.

Accommodation was free of charge, since the club had free use of a caravan and was able to camp on site. Flying costs and food were paid for individually by each of the participants on a daily basis.

3 Activities, Aims & Objectives

The main purpose of the tour was to provide the gliders and instructors so that club members could make a significant amount of progress with their training. In this sense the tour was a success, as the club had use of 3 two seat gliders and 3 instructors for the majority of the week, and everyone who came had long and beneficial flights.

All the participants agreed that having a week long intensive training course provided a better quality of training than doing the same number of flights over a longer, as would be achieved with the club's normal activities.

After the flying had ceased for the day the participants did a variety of activities in the evening, from having a barbecue and a well earned beer to going into Basingstoke city centre.

4 Improvements for the Future

It is natural that gliding is dependent on there being fair weather, and we were very lucky to have flyable days every day of the week we were there, as well as it being soarable on several of the days. As the purpose of the tour is to provide fairly intensive training over a concise period of time it is unlikely that another location would be suitable for this purpose.

5 Photos



Figure 1: Imperial College Gliding Club's two seat training glider, 496. Great weather for this time of year, soaring flights in March and April are a bonus!



Figure 2: 496 being readied for launch off the winch. The cable will be pulled in and accelerate the glider to 60mph in under 3 seconds, and the glider will then climb up to an altitude of around 1500ft.



Figure 3: The main runway at Lasham is also an active runway for use by jets coming and going from ATC maintenance and repair on site. This provides an opportunity to see some large aircraft at a very close range.