

# Tour Report

Abeed Visram  
Captain 2008-09  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE GLIDING CLUB

Winter 2008-09

## 1 Attendance

Full members of Imperial College Gliding Club:

- Ryan Tunstall
- Caius Freeman
- Miles Mulholland
- Jonathan Lam Fung
- Hannes Bohlin

Associate members of ICGC:

- Rory Condon
- Emma Worley
- Koon Lam Yip

Others:

- Ed Foxon (Tour instructor)

## 2 Financial Status

Imperial College Gliding Club received £180.00 in funding towards the travel costs. The travel costs consisted of towing 96, the club's highest performance single seater, and driving with all the tour participants from Basingstoke to Portmoak.

Participants were responsible for paying for their own food, accommodation & flying charges.

### 3 Activities, Aims & Objectives

The tour gave all the club members to fly at a different airfield to Lasham, and conditions were suitable for flying every day, so in this respect the tour was successful. The only problem with the conditions was that the wind was not blowing in the correct direction for lift to be produced off the sides of the ridges, meaning that flights were shorter than expected. It was suitably ironic then that on the day that tour finished the wind direction and strength was just right, but, alas, the club could stay no longer!

Edinburgh also provided entertainment in the evenings; lots of street parties and fairground rides for everybody to enjoy. New year's eve was celebrated on the airfield with a bonfire and not much drink, as everybody wanted to fly the next day!

### 4 Member's Review

A poem about the tour by Caius Freeman:

Twass the week ater christmas when all were about,  
Portmoak in the morning, everybody was out,  
We all chipped in, and opened the doors  
Rigged up the gliders, frozen to the floors.

There were K21's, Juniors, and Discuss 505's galore,  
Iced up on the ground, waiting to soar,  
But who should come striding across the grass  
Ed Foxon the bold, rated instructor class.

All day we went, up up then down  
Conditions allowed circuits not lift was to be found.  
Until Caius went up to 3000 feet  
Aerotowed by a guy who looked half asleep  
Along the ridge, we soared and we flew  
Until Ed got excited, and did two loop-de-loops

New years was so funky Caius drank and he cheared  
He hadn't had a drink in over a year.  
The plan was to see midnight at the top of the peak  
Hannes and Caius raced off to complete the feat

No light, no torches, and the ground was a frost  
Poor Caius and Hannes, got a little lost.  
But low and behold we found our way back.  
In time for some port and a tasty snack

The trip was awesome but for one thing  
The weather was poor there was no soaring  
The day that we left we laughed and we cried  
The weather weather was perfect we were out of time.

## 5 Improvements for the Future

Imperial College Gliding Club has been to Portmoak airfield for the winter tour for the last couple of years, and has had varied results. The main problem with trying to fly during the winter is reliance on good weather, which is unpredictable to put it lightly.

When conditions are good at Portmoak they are very good, much better than could be expected at Lasham airfield, our home airfield, for the same period. When the conditions are bad then they are just the same as bad conditions anywhere, so it is really a moot point.

As well as having the opportunity for great soaring flights Portmoak airfield is located close enough to Edinburgh to make Hogmanay and day trips viable options for the evenings and unflyable days. Other airfields with similar terrain to Portmoak, i.e. ridges within close proximity, suffer from the fact that they are usually fairly isolated, leaving tour participants with nothing to do if they cannot fly.

A final point worth considering is that Portmoak would also be suitable for a tour during either spring or summer, when conditions can get even better than during the winter. You can achieve flights up to an altitude of 25,000ft and higher, a sombering thought when airliners cruise at 31,000ft or so!

## 6 Photos



Figure 1: An early and frosty start to rig 96, Imperial College Gliding Club's highest performance aircraft.



Figure 2: The finished glider after much lifting, wiggling and pushing!



Figure 3: Beautiful sunrise over Portmoak airfield.



Figure 4: Instructor Ed Foxon and ex-student Rory Condon prior to a check flight.



Figure 5: Edinburgh during the new year period is always vibrant.



Figure 6: Always lots of things to see and do in the evening.





Figure 7: Everyone together, with one of the ridges in the background. Unfortunately the wind was not blowing in the correct direction for it to be of any use.



Figure 8: Getting launched via aerotow behind a pawnee powered aircraft.



Figure 9: Coming into land.



Figure 10: The sun setting on a long days flying and another successful Imperial College Gliding Club tour.