

Off to a flyer

Cadet Amelia lands £15,000 to fund RAF fast jet dream

Tracey Allen

A 17-YEAR-OLD student whose ambition is to become an RAF fighter pilot has been awarded a £15,000 flying scholarship.

Amelia Richardson from Buckinghamshire was chosen from 55 applicants aged 17 to 24 to receive the second Attagirls Molly Rose Pilot Scholarship.

The only one of its kind in the UK, the scholarship entirely funds all elements of attaining a Private Pilot's Licence, said Paul Olavesen-Stabb of Aetheris Films who established the scholarship and created the Attagirls brand.

Molly Rose, who died in 2016 aged 95, was one of the aviatrix heroines of World War II. She is featured in the novel and film screenplay *Attagirls*, based on the true story of her life as a pilot in the ATA.

Paul added: "Amelia was selected from five finalists who attended interviews and a flight test in April, and she will receive full pilot training at the Cambridge Aero Club over the summer.

"The scholarship was funded by Marshall of Cambridge, with contributions from Graham, Gregory and Nigel Rose, the three sons of the Air Transport Auxiliary pilot Molly Rose; Philip Meeson, the founder of Jet2; and the British Women Pilots' Association."

A Cdt Sgt in the Combined Cadet Force (RAF Wing), Amelia intends to join the RAF, and said she hopes to be a fighter pilot. She



went solo at 14 and achieved her Basic Instructor rating three months after her 16th birthday. She is now looking to achieve the Aerobatic Sports badge at RAF Shawbury Gliding Club.

She said: "Being awarded the scholarship is a huge honour and a fantastic leap towards achieving my career aspirations. Thank you to everyone for supporting me."

Paul added: "The scholarship is synonymous with Molly's story as she was not afraid to embrace opportunities that during her time were exclusive to men.

"She was an apprentice engineer at Marshall of Cambridge and thereafter a pilot, and at a time when it was extremely rare for women to take on such roles."

In Brief



RUNNING TOTAL: Sqn Ldr Wakeham raised £2,400 for Samaritans charity

Tam's on track

MARATHON RUNNER Sqn Ldr Tam Wakeham has smashed her fundraising pledge for Samaritans after completing the London Marathon in just over four hours and four minutes.

She wanted to raise £2,000 but has so far made more than £2,400 for the charity that helps those struggling to cope and are at risk of suicide.

High Wycombe-based Tam chose to support Samaritans after struggling with her sexuality gave her suicidal thoughts. She now volunteers for the charity.

The experienced runner said: "I completed the marathon, no problems. The atmosphere in London was unbelievable, the crowds were amazing.

"My finishing time wasn't quite what I wanted, and I ran 26.66 miles going around people.

"I've signed up for the Richmond Marathon in September in aid of Sense, for children and adults who are deaf and blind."

INSPIRING: ATA pilot Molly Rose