WAC Competition Finalists day with the Red Arrows
4th July 2013

On an overcast 4th July, as part of their prize the WAC Competition finalists met at RAF Scampton for a superb VIP day with the Reds Arrows.

Squadron Leader Ruth Shackleton is the Team Manager, and she hosted the group of visitors.

The day started with a tour of the engineering hangar, where the Hawk TMk1 aircraft are maintained and prepared.

The group were then led to the briefing room, and sat in on the pre-flight briefing given by Team Leader Squadron Leader Jim Turner.

Given the overcast conditions, the team were to practise their low level routine.

It was then outside to the flightline, where we watched the team walk to the jets, complete pre-flight checks, and go into a 45 minute full rehearsal.

Mike Ling, Red 10, gave us a running commentary about the display routine and the challenges of each manoeuvre. Mike had previously had three tours with the Reds, two as part of the synchro pair.
After the practice display, it was back to the briefing room for a buffet lunch with the pilots.

Martin Soltau, WAC Chairman, presented a cheque in favour of the Jon Egging Trust to Jim Turner Red 1 and Ben Plank Red 8, as a gesture of our appreciation for the Red Arrows support.

It was a quite superb day which will be long remembered by all.

Martin Soltau
WAC Chairman