

Honourable Company Of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship 2017

Derby & Lancs Gliding Club

Harry Langcaster



During the summer holiday of 2017, I was privileged enough to gain a full weeks gliding scholarship through the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The scholarship was held at the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club upon the site “Camphill”. With the beautiful surroundings and the opportunity to go flying, the week was undoubtedly one of my best experiences.

For as long I can remember, I have always wanted a career in aviation, whether it be military or civilian. After hearing about flying scholarships I was recommended (by family members working within aviation) to apply for one of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots yearly scholarships. It was due to the HCOAP and the wonderful hospitality of DLGC staff that I was so privileged to achieve such an invaluable and unforgettable experience at Camphill.

Before beginning the scholarship, I had no experience with gliders and therefore didn’t know what to expect from the week. Like most of the students, I was nervous and had very little idea what would be in place for the week. The site was extremely helpful in providing each student with accommodation, food, utilities etc. This allowed us to set our full concentration on the challenging, nevertheless thoroughly enjoyable week of gliding that was set out for us.

On our first day at Camphill, we met our two instructors for the week, Dave Bailey and Peter Grey, who introduced us to a glider simulator in which we were shown the basic controls of the glider in order to prepare ourselves before our first flight (or at least at Camphill). My first real flight in a Puchacz glider (one of the many gliders at the club) will be one I never forget, being winch launched for the first time was something I was not used to but thoroughly enjoyed. After having three flights on the first day, the week was off to a fantastic start.





Throughout the week, we all soon became familiar with the art of gliding and grew stronger in our ability to do so. If it were not for the outstanding help from the two instructors, especially Dave Bailey (Dave being my instructor), I don't think I would've progressed as much as I did during the week, along with the other

students on the course.

Whilst on our scholarship, we were surprised to meet a member of the Honourable company of air pilots who was helping fund the incredible experience, and who was also handing out our certificates at the end of our week. I am very grateful to those who helped support the scholarship and especially those who helped run it. The week was run on teamwork and with the group of staff and students, the people I made a strong friendship with and who I can most definitely call my friends, it is possible that we could not have had such a fantastic and rewarding experience like that at Camphill. I wish all the instructors, volunteers and admin who work at the club a huge thank you as if it weren't for them, the week would not have been as enjoyable without their guidance, humour and participation.

Thank you Camphill for a truly unforgettable experience as well as making lots of friendships with a group of amazing people.

