

Honourable Company Of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship 2017

Derby & Lancs Gliding Club

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I was fortunate enough to take a part of the residential gliding course at Derby and Lancashire gliding club, thanks to the scholarship that I've been awarded from honourable company of air pilots. The application process was really exciting. Receiving the email stating that I have awarded a scholarship gave me a great joy on those stressful exam months. As the date getting closer I started to pack up and did some research about the club and their air field (Camphill) that's where I discover that they only use winch to launch their gliders. which made me more excite because most of my glider experience I've had was on the aero-tow.



On 13th I have arrived to the Derby and Lancashire gliding club everyone was very welcoming. Myself and my parents were able to have look around the airfield. I was so amazed by the landscape and starting to imagine how will they look once I am in the air. After that I said good bye to my parents and started to unpack my luggage. At 7 pm all the scholarship winners meet up at the briefing room where we had safety brief as well as an

introduction of how a day at Camp hill is operate. Once we had dinner we all met at the common room and started introduce each other. They were all so nice funny and after talking for a while we did get along with other really well.



As we started the week, first day we had late start due to bad weather although we were able play around with the simulator. After that were put into two groups and one group were flying a k-13 with Pete (instructor) and the other group were flying Puchacz Dave (instructor). Around 11.30am we walk to the launching point and we were all briefed how to launch a glider and other ground tasks after all gliding is a team sport.



On my first launch

I was able to follow through the launch with my inductor and It was so different from an aero-tow that I used to do. It felt like a fast and steep roller coaster ride. As the time goes I was able to do the top part of the launch on the second day and the full launch on the third day. Once I was airborne Dave showed me around the airfield and ridge that we are plaining soar. This was

great opportunity to practise coordinated turnings. I didn't start that well although once I got the idea of ridge soaring and starting to perform better turns I was able stay up for longer. Another way we used to gain height was thermal soaring, where we put the glider into a turn and orbit around the core of the thermal to gain height although we only found thermals on the days we had great weather (sunny and cloudy). When we had enough height, Dave introduce me to stalls and spins and how to recover from them. Finally, he start to introduce circuits and landing. I had my first attempt to the landing on the third day although it wasn't the best but I got better on last few days.

When I am not flying, I learnt how to drive a tractor to retrieve the gliders it was one the most enjoyable ground operation.



After we put the gliders back to hangar we all meet up at the bar with the instructors to discuss about the day and fill out log books.



After the dinner, we all meet up at the pool board to play game of pool while having a chat.



It was the best time I've had in this summer and once again thank you for honourable company of air pilots for organising this programme really well!

Thank you for my sponsors "Air pilots' London schools gliding"

Finally thank you for all the members at the Derby and Lancashire gliding club for giving us such great time!