

Honourable Company Of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship 2017

Derby & Lancs Gliding Club

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During the last week of the summer holidays I underwent a week's gliding course in the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club. I have always wanted to be an airline pilot and next year I plan to study aerospace engineering in University, I found this scholarship online and thought that it would be an amazing experience whilst also helping me with my career plans. I submitted my application form and hoped to be invited for the interview. A few weeks later I received an email inviting me to the interview in London, I took a day out of school and travelled to London with my mum, I felt a little nervous going in as it was my first interview but after a while I was fine. When I received the email to inform me that I had been accepted I was over the moon.



When I first arrived at the gliding club I was shown around the facilities and given the keys to my room. I was given some time to unpack my clothes and a sort out my belongings. Later that afternoon, I was taken up to the airfield and shown around. I spent about an hour there talking to the club members and getting to know them, I was also shown how to launch the gliders. In the evening, I helped to put away all the equipment and gliders ready to have my meal and prepare for the first day of flying.



On the first day of flying we were introduced to our instructor for the week, David Bailey, he talked us through the various health and safety aspects involved with the airfield and showed us how to move the glider around whilst it was on the ground. We were then shown the glider that we would fly during the week, the Puchacz. After this it was time to fly! I was the first person to fly that day, I was walked through the pre-flight checks and introduced to the aircrafts controls. In no time, we were ready for take-off! We were

winch launched to around 1000ft, perfect for me to learn the basics of controlling the glider. That day I flew four times with an overall flight time about an hour.

On the second day, I managed to fly twice. During these flights, I learnt about ridge soaring whilst perfecting the basic controls of the glider ready for going onto stall procedures the following day.

Midway through the week I was really enjoying the course and began to practise stalling exercises. I flew five times in total and covered all types of stalls including stalling with a wing drop. As you can imagine, after these exercises I was feeling quite light headed however I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

On Thursday, I also flew five times and began to handle the top half of the launch. On the second flight, I set flew the circuit and lined the glider up with the airfield ready to land. On the last two flights that day I had the chance to fly a different aircraft, the K13, it was very interesting to see the difference between the way it handled compared to the Puchacz.

The final day arrived and I was feeling quite sad that it was nearly over, however I was also excited for the day ahead. I managed to fly a further four times that day bringing the total flight time up to just under five hours. On that day, I attempted the approach and landing three times with assistance from Dave. On the final flight of the week, Dave demonstrated a spin in the glider which was great fun.

Over the course of the week I learnt so much in such a short space of time. It was an incredible experience that will never be forgotten. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for giving me this opportunity, Paul Nicholas for sponsoring my course, the Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding club for accommodating me and Dave Bailey for being such a fantastic instructor, without any of you this couldn't have been made possible. I really am very grateful and know that this opportunity will help me for the years to come.