

Honourable Company Of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship 2017

London Gliding Club

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From Tuesday 29TH of August till 1st of September I was on an intensive gliding course at London Gliding Club in Dunstable. I found this opportunity from a website called <http://www.slenky.me/shots>. Once I applied through slenky they sent me the forms for The Honourable Company of Air Pilots, which I filled out and submitted after making sure it was perfect. I then went to the interview in London with my parents. I was a bit nervous but re assured myself that I would be fine since I prepared for it. A week later I got the fantastic news that I was selected and it meant the world to me!

On Tuesday 29th of August I arrived at the club to meet the staff at LGC and they were really kind and welcoming. After that I met Maria, who was also on the course, and Andy Zuchora who was my gliding instructor. We then started off the day by having a safety briefing, after that we went to the airfield and did a DI (Daily Inspection) on the Glider and towed it over to the launch point. I then was aero towed to 4000ft and started learning basic controls with the stick and the rudder and trying to find thermals while also looking out for other aircraft. The weather that day was good so we had a good amount of flights.

Unfortunately, on Wednesday 30th of August it rained from 11 onwards so we couldn't do any flying for safety reasons, so we relaxed in our cabin and read some of the gliding books our instructor let us borrow.

On Thursday 31st we had a good day of flying due to the weather. In my flights, I was improving my turns and also my co-ordination skills and learning how to climb in a thermal. I also did my first winch launch which was really amazing as everything happens so quickly!

Friday 1st September sadly arrived and it was our last day at the club. We did our DI's and began the day with winch launches. After following through the first time and understanding what to do, I was allowed to do a winch launch by myself. There were mixed emotions as I was excited but at the same time I didn't want to mess up! I ended up doing a winch launch successfully and that was one of the best experiences I had throughout the scholarship. We then had the amazing sponsors come and have lunch with us inside the club house and then present us our certificates. We then carried on with our flights and I practised how to land, and then I did! The end of the day came and we packed up and cleared our rooms and got our log books signed off. We said our goodbyes and departed.

I feel as though throughout this course my coordination skills improved massively and I have gained so much experience and knowledge and has focused me on my dream of becoming an Airline Pilot.

I would like to say a massive thank you to The Honourable Company of Air Pilots for giving me the once in a lifetime opportunity and Andy for Instructing me and Maria and London Gliding Club for having us. I feel very honoured and I will remember this for years to come.