

Honourable Company of Air Pilots' Gliding Scholarship 2018: Fraser Barnes

In August 2018, I was fortunate enough to undertake a 5-day gliding course at Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club in the Peak District, as part of a Gliding Scholarship awarded to me by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

I have always wanted to be a commercial pilot, so this scholarship was a brilliant way to allow me to take my first steps towards a career in aviation. After my application form for the scholarship was successful, I was invited to an interview at the Air Pilots' offices in London. After a week I received the good news that I had been successful and would complete the scholarship in the Peak District; a stunning setting for flying.



When I arrived on Sunday night, I was shown my room and met the other people on my course. The members at Camphill were very welcoming and hospitable and the food and accommodation was superb; we all looked forward to the delicious meal at the end of a tiring day up at the launch site.

During the week, we were initially taught the basics of gliding in a classroom and then in the club's simulator, which allowed us to prepare before we got into the real thing. We were given a logbook for logging our flights and a very helpful book about gliding which provided a lot of information to beginners like us.

My first flight was unforgettable, and the scenery of the surrounding area is amazing to glide in. With the guidance of the two instructors, Peter and Alan, we learnt so much about gliding during the week. We started off with straight and level flight as well as turning and essential stick and rudder coordination. As we progressed, we learnt the different stalls experienced on a glider and spinning. Circuit planning and executing successful approaches came next, with time in the simulator spent consolidating these skills if the weather wasn't great.

As well as the flying part, we all learnt how to prepare a glider for launch, retrieve it and pack it away; gliding is as much a team effort as it is an individual one.

By the end of the week, I had learnt so much about gliding thanks to the instructors and members of the club; it felt a shame to leave!

This would never have happened if it wasn't for the Air Pilots and I can't thank them enough for the great fun I had. It is a fantastic opportunity for anyone like me who wishes to learn to glide and I am very thankful for the generosity of the Air Pilots for creating these scholarships. I would also like to thank Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club for their hospitality and the huge effort they put into the 5 days for making it so successful.

