

Jake Hill

Gliding Scholarship

Firstly, I would like to say how grateful I am to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and to the instructors and staff at the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club for this once in a lifetime opportunity.

My scholarship was a week long and took place at the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club in the Peak District. I was especially fortunate with this location as the views alone made the long trip worth it, not to mention the amazing company of the 5 other people my age (16-17) who were on the course. Although I was nervous at first, we gelled instantly as a team and I am happy to say that I feel I have made friends for life, I think that this instant friendship was due to common interests in military aviation that we all shared as well as the level of teamwork required to successfully and safely fly and recover a glider.

As for the gliding itself, all I can say is that since I have been back I have been searching tirelessly for my next opportunity to feel the thrill of gliding. It is safe to say that this scholarship has introduced me to a hobby I hope to carry on for the rest of my life.

My team consisted of two other scholars and our instructor Hans, flying foxy (so called because of its tail number G-CFXO). In this team we were responsible for the cleaning, safe storage and preparation of the glider for flight as well as recovering the glider after landing using tractors.

Over the course of the week we managed to get 16 flights. This started at the beginning of the week by learning pre-flight checks and how to turn and by the end of the week into doing take offs and landings without input from the instructor.

We even had the opportunity to be shown how to get into and recover from a stall and recover from a spin which really got the heart pumping.

Everyone who I met and on the scholarship were extremely accommodating answering all of the hundreds of questions that I had. Silvia and John, who ran the accommodation and the bar/kitchen, took amazing care of us for the whole week, always making sure that we were well fed and comfortable, which was especially nice after the long days gliding and being far from home.

Finally, again I am eternally grateful to everyone at the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club and the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for all their kindness and effort that they put in.