

Adam Joss - Red Arrows Trust Gliding Scholarship

I was delighted to be awarded a gliding scholarship at Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club.

When I first arrived at the club house around 3pm I was kindly greeted by John who introduced himself and talked about some of the members of the club and showed us where all the facilities were such as rooms, bathrooms and showers. He then gave me my room key and I started unpacking. Whilst I was getting my stuff sorted I met two other people who were doing the scholarship as well. After I finished sorting out my stuff, me and the two others started talking and decided to briefly visit the airfield to see what it was like. We couldn't stay for long as we had a briefing at 4pm.

At the briefing we were given a general overview of the course as well as safety. During the briefing we were assigned into two groups of three with each group being assigned an instructor and a glider. We were provided with log books and training cards to document our flying and ground process. After that we were told the timings we were doing the activities. After the briefing we were given time to chill until dinner which was around 6pm. We were given a Sunday roast and had a massive choice of some delicious food which was made by John. After the fabulous dinner we were provided with some fantastic desserts by Sylvia. After dinner I talked to the other people on the scholarship who were kind and friendly. We were also taken outside that night and shown by kind club members how to operate the tractors and a gator. After that we went back to our rooms and settled in for the night.



Throughout the week

Throughout the week I woke up early to make sure I had enough time to get ready for breakfast at 8am. Every morning I would meet up with everyone and then we would head to get breakfast. We had an amazing fry up from John and Sylvia everyday with fresh cereal provided if you didn't want a fry up. After breakfast we went back to our rooms to grab our items and head to the hangar.

At the hangar we met up with our instructors and got the gliders out of the hangar. We then moved the gliders to the launch point and got ready for launch. I was the first in my group to go in the glider and it was amazing. Before I went in I did the pre launch checks and got my parachute on and got ready to fly. The instructor Pete who was with my group did the winch on the first couple of launches. The winch was awesome as it felt like a roller coaster. After we got up the instructor would let us do a couple of turns and manoeuvres to see our skill level. Throughout the week the instructor would allow us to do more of the flying which involves circuits, all of the takeoffs and pretty much all of the landings. After each flight we would go in the bus at the launch point and Pete would sign my logbook.



However we were able to do much more than just fly as when we weren't flying we were helping out on the ground. This included fun tasks such as operating the lights for the winch launcher and being able to run with the glider wing to help it launch. The main ground event was driving to and retrieving the gliders. This usually involved you and someone else driving the tractor or the gator to collect the glider which was an amazing experience. After we drove to the glider we hooked it on to the tractor or gator and slowly drove back to the launch point. This process would repeat throughout the day.

For lunch John would go to the launch point with sandwiches of our choice that we choose at breakfast. After an amazing day of flying and helping out we would take the gliders back to the hangar and after they were secure we would head back to the club house to chill out before dinner. For dinner we got offered a massive variety of high quality and utterly fantastic food choices which was followed up by Sylvia's world class dessert. After dinner I would chill with the other people on the scholarship until I got tired and ready for bed.

In total I had 13 flights over the course of the week and I enjoyed every minute. On the final evening we had a presentation and we were awarded a certificate.



Conclusion

First of all I would like to thank John and Sylvia for their hospitality and brilliant meals, Pete for allowing me to progress in my flying career with very helpful instructions and feedback. I would also thank all of the other club members for being so kind and helpful. I would also like to give a thanks to the winch driver as without him we would not have been able to get the gliders in the air. Finally I would like to thank the Red Arrows Trust Fund for sponsoring my scholarship and the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for this fantastic opportunity.

