

Kieran Shingler

After the application and interview stages I was absolutely thrilled to find out that I had been awarded the Gliding Scholarship through the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. I was informed that I would be attending a week long residential course at Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club.

Upon arrival on Sunday 13th August to a drizzly Camphill airfield, I met with the other 4 successful candidates who were on my course. We were introduced to the staff and were shown around the facilities. The instructor issued us with our student gliding logbooks and textbooks. We had some time to get chill out before we went outside where we were taught how to drive the tractors that are used to tow the gliders, as this would be important during the week. This was very amusing and it was a good laugh.

We woke up on the Monday morning to find very low cloud over the airfield which hindered our chance to go out and glide. To make best use of our time during the poor weather, we had some lectures from our instructor and then applied that practically on the simulator in the clubhouse. In the afternoon, we unpacked the hangar and got ready for some gliding. However, the weather was not on our side and we got rained down which resulted in only 1 of us getting a very short flight.

The rest of the week brightened up and I completed a number of 12 launches which gave me a total of 3 hours 27 minutes airborne time throughout the week in the Puchacz glider. The flights were amazing and some lasted just 6 minutes whereas others lasted up to 48 minutes! I enjoyed the responsibility as a student pilot by learning hands on and gaining more gliding experience.



Gliding is pure flying and it was fascinating to understand the different types of soaring that can be achieved at Camphill. There is never a dull moment as even when you weren't up in the air, there was always something to do whether that being launching more gliders, retrieving gliders or even logging the flights from the computer.

Having almost no gliding experience at all, I went from being a complete novice to a more competent glider pilot, as I was flying the glider independently and only receiving verbal instruction.

It was an incredible experience that I will never forget and I am so grateful to both the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club for giving me this fantastic opportunity.

