

Camron Manrique

I was lucky enough to be awarded a gliding scholarship by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots in August 2019. The course was a 5 day course taken at Camphill with Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club.



I arrived on Sunday afternoon along with the others on the course and we got time to meet each other and have a look around the airfield. This included some tractor driving practise which I think most of us found more difficult than gliding itself. We were also given our rooms, log books, our 'Passenger to Pilot' books which was a 160 page book telling us everything about gliding and our first meal. All of this was included in the course.

Monday was the first day of flying and we were introduced to the glider we'd be flying, the Puchacz. The first two days were very hot however the weather only allowed for flights of around 6 minutes but this was not a problem as this allowed us to learn the basics of flying the glider and eventually fly the top half of the launch and the approach and landing. On Wednesday it rained for most of the day but I still managed 2 short flights and we spent the rest of the day on the simulator and also having a presentation on winch launching and how to safely perform one. Thursday and Friday provided windy and fairly challenging conditions to fly in however on Friday I was lucky in finding lots of thermals and was able to stay up for 41 minutes. By the end of the week I had tallied up a total of 2hrs 6 minutes, much of that thanks to the long flight on Friday.

I would like to give a huge thanks to Air Pilots for this opportunity and to Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club for everything that week, it couldn't have been better. I would also like to thank my brilliant instructor Dave. I now look to join a gliding club local to me and continue gliding.