

Jack Marshall - The John Brownlow Gliding Scholarship 2025

Derbyshire & Lancashire Gliding Club

Having experienced a flight in a Viking glider through the Air Cadets, I knew that gliding would be a brilliant way to get into the aviation industry. I applied for a gliding scholarship with the Honourable Company of Air Pilots to kick start my gliding career, and when I received the email congratulating me on my success in the application and interview process, I was beyond excited to get started.



I arrived at Camphill on Sunday evening, after 5 hours of travelling, and after a friendly welcome from Sylvia and meeting the other scholars and Hans, my instructor, my nerves were put to rest. We got started on Monday morning, and were taught how to unpack the hanger, and complete the daily inspection of the Puchacz, our glider for the week. Although the weather wasn't the best on Monday, we still managed to get everyone in the air, and I had a good introduction to the aircraft. When we weren't flying, we had plenty to do - tractor driving and towing gliders, completing pre-flight checks, and operating the launch lights to name a few.

The weather improved as the week went on, and over the week I had a total of 16 launches. By the end of the week, my flying skills had greatly improved - from no previous flying

experience, I was able to successfully complete a full flight (winch launch, circuit, and landing) without Hans, my instructor, taking control.

After a 9 hour day of flying, we relaxed in the clubhouse, enjoyed exceptional meals cooked by John and Sylvia, filled in our logbooks, and talked about flying. I had the best time with the others on the course - we all got on really well and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company, and the unity and cohesion we had as a group certainly benefited us over the week, as we worked together efficiently in order to maximise each other's airtime.

Although the learning curve was steep, and the first days were challenging, the week has been unforgettable, I have learned so much both in the air and on the ground, and grown as a person. I would like to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for the opportunity, John Brownlow for sponsoring the scholarship, everyone at Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club for your support, John and Sylvia for their hospitality, and Hans, for being the best instructor I could've wished for.

I am very grateful for receiving this scholarship, and believe that it has benefited me greatly at the start of my aviation journey.

