

Adam Webb Gliding Scholarship Report

During the summer of 2023 I was awarded a Gliding Scholarship through the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. It was an absolute privilege to be given the chance to get actively get involved in gliding and aviation.

I completed my scholarship at Camphill with Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club. I arrived on Sunday afternoon and was made to feel very welcome by all the staff, instructors, and members of the club. I met with all of the other scholars who were just as keen as me to get involved as much as possible and get as much out of the week as we could. I could not praise the staff and facilities on site enough, they more than beat expectations.

In true British fashion, the weather was not on our side on the first day. However, determined to gain a wealth of knowledge around gliding, we were happy to learn about the theory of gliding from instructor



Pete, also known as Greasy. The knowledge I gained made me even more interested in gliding and aviation. Later that day we learned how to drive tractors so that we could tow the gliders back to the launch point when we started to fly.



On Tuesday we got to experience gliding for the first time. For me this was an epic opportunity to put into practice all the theory knowledge I had around gliding and aviation. It was a thrill I will never forget. The initial launch from the winch and feeling the acceleration which felt like being in a rocket ship, to becoming airborne and soaring above the peak district. Once we landed after over an hour in the sky, I was greeted by 2 smiling faces and a big yellow tractor to tow us back to the launch point. I was given the opportunity to get involved in the launching of the gliders too, hooking on the winch cable, radioing the winch driver, and running on the wing to stabilise the glider on take-off.



This pace of learning and getting experience in gliding continued throughout the week. On days when the weather stopped us from flying, we were being taught more theory around gliding and the weather whilst also putting into practice this knowledge by flying on the gliding simulator.



My biggest highlight from the week was flying along the ridge with 2 other gliders, all of us in really close formation. It was such a special feeling to be flying a glider while others are flying just off your wing tip. Another highlight was landing an aircraft by myself for the first time. I was overcome by a sense of accomplishment when the wheels gently touched down on the airfield.

The whole experience was made so much better since every single person I met was kind, enthusiastic and keen to help me and answer questions. The other Scholars who I shared the week with quickly became close friends and we are all still in contact to this day, with plans to



meet up again. I would also like to compliment John the chef who made the most amazing food for us every day.

I believe that this scholarship has truly kick started my aviation career and my dream to become a business jet pilot seems a little bit more achievable and my devotion to aviation and passion to achieve my career goals have never been stronger. I learnt valuable lessons in teamwork, communication, situational awareness, decision making and leadership. These skills will become invaluable in an aviation career and I have had a chance to practice these skills over the duration of the scholarship.

Thank you so much to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding Club for a week I will never forget.

