

Douglas Lansley

The journey was smooth, got on the train a relatively stress freely changed a few times and arrived in Hathersage. A member from the club was waiting for us there, we later found out he was our wonderful chef for the week. There was one room each, nice bed and all essentials like a lamp and power sockets. And WiFi.

The first day was beautiful weather, so hot I sunburnt, there lovely views from the gliders but there wasn't much rising air around. The next day was the same until the third day where the wind picked up, flying conditions were too choppy so we went back inside to use their relatively high tech simulator, we practiced things that we wouldn't get frequent or any opportunities to do in the actual glider, like take offs and being tugged by a powered plane.

The second-best part of the course was the food, with a pub style menu the breakfasts ranged from a bowl of cereal to a full English. The lunches were brought out to the bus at the top of the airfield which were a sandwich of your choice and some crisps. The dinners were amazing, burgers, chicken nuggets, curry, whatever you wanted really. The staff were really friendly, the instructors were patient, good teachers and very knowledgeable about the activity. The other people on the course became close pretty much instantly, card games around the dinner table was one of the many highlights of the evening and the pool table and table football were used frequently for overly competitive games.

Overall it was an amazing experience and has inspired me to take gliding further, and has m taught me valuable principles that can be applied anywhere in the world of aviation.