

Josh Fagan

In August 2018 I was lucky enough to be given the fantastic opportunity of a gliding scholarship at the Derby and Lancashire Gliding club.

The on the first day we met our instructors and course-mates, and we were issued with our log books before being shown around the hangar. We then were taught how to drive the tractors (to varying degrees of success) which was very fun and provided us with one of the main sources of amusement over the week as well as enabling to help with recovering the gliders.



On Monday flying was unfortunately cancelled due to low cloud and rain but we were instead introduced to the Glider we would be flying, the Puchacz, and filled the time with some valuable ground school, learning in depth about relevant topics such as how stall speeds vary with angle of

bank and attack, and secondary effects of controls, before moving onto the impressive Simulator on site to apply what we had learnt.

The rest of the week however was kind to us weather wise, especially Wednesday where the conditions were good enough for most of us to spend nearly an hour in the air and get to a safe enough altitude to perform stalls and spins and learn how to recover from them. I thoroughly enjoyed my time flying the Puchacz, and by the end of the week I had tallied up a total of 3hrs 47 minutes had progressed sufficiently to be able to fly take-off through to landing with only verbal inputs



from my instructor.

The staff at the gliding club were fantastic, they were all very friendly and knowledgeable, and I would like to give special thanks to my instructor, Peter, who was incredibly encouraging and a brilliant teacher. I am very grateful to HCAP who have enabled me to pursue my dream further, and I would thoroughly encourage anyone who wants to become a pilot in any capacity to apply for this scholarship.