

William Frost AFG Gliding Scholarship 2023



I was thrilled to be awarded a HCAP Gliding Scholarship to train at Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding club, located on Camphill in the breathtaking Peak District. I arrived with no prior experience and left with a comprehensive understanding of the basic skills of gliding and a passion to continue the sport.

Camphill was a fantastic location to learn to glide. Firstly, it is one of the few places in the country where we could experience all three types of lift: thermal, ridge and wave. I managed to experience all of them during the residential course and learned how to recognise potential indicators of each. Secondly, Camphill was sloped, which meant that we could practise landings in multiple directions and over different terrain gradients as the wind direction and speed changed.

My instructor, Hans, was brilliant at teaching me about all elements of gliding: from daily maintenance checks to the physics of flight and principles of meteorology. We flew a Puchacz glider named 'Foxy' after its registration 'FXY', amassing three hours and twelve minutes of flight time over eighteen launches. I really enjoyed speaking to all the regular club members and learned a great deal about gliding from our conversations. The owners of the club, Sylvia and John, were very kind and made our stay incredibly enjoyable (John also served fantastic food!).



The learning progression was swift, and by the third day I was in control of launching and landing the glider. When the weather took a turn for the worse, I went down to the winch and learned about operating the machinery, managing awareness of overhead gliders and I was delighted to be able to splice two pieces of launch cable together as if I was repairing a severed rope.

I would like to thank The Honourable Company of Air Pilots and AFG for this immensely valuable opportunity which has given me great insight on my journey to a career in aviation. I am inspired to now continue gliding at my local club, building on the skills taught to me during the scholarship.



