

Gliding Report – Mitch Chandler



“Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward. For there you have been, and there you will anyway long to belong” This quote once said by Leonardo da Vinci has been some sort of inspiration in my career and I feel as the young air pilots gave me the opportunity to do that. From the beginning, I started my Aviation aspiration at the age of 9 where I visited the Royal international air Tattoo. Seeing how the man made birds of the 20th century gave me inspiration from how far we had come, where the wright brothers first took in 1903. I joined the Combined cadet force in 2016, where I had my first experience of flight. This was given to me in a Grob tutor 115, where we undertook flight paths and even aerobatics. Following on the next 2 years I joined the Air training corps and

managed to achieve my first NCO rank. Something I've always dreamt off and never thought I could achieve. After many flights with Royal air Cosford I was hooked. No better feeling than being in the sky...I saw this gliding scholarship on a post on a Facebook group chat, I had never done gliding before and was curious. I managed to spend hours and hours researching into the company, the scholarship as well as the principles of flight in a glider. Instantly, I had the urge to apply. Once I sent off the forms, I continuously checked my emails hitting refresh at every moment I could. After a day at college, I saw the email that kick started my love for gliding. An email from young air pilots stated I had a place and that I should wait further details for upcoming updates. That feeling of adrenaline pumping through veins. It was the first of august, we set off in the morning for a four hour drive to Lancashire and Derby gliding club. At arrival, I was instantly surprised, by the small trailer boxes that held the gliders, thinking of it like a Tardis. I stepped out the car and was instantly greeted by the housekeeper who showed me the rooms, halls and even some of the first arrivals meaning that I had already met some of the students on the course. Once everyone arrived we all sat down and got to know each other. After this we went up to the airfield, shown how to attach the fully to the glider as well as how to drive the tractors that soon become famous for towing up the gliders. On the 2nd day, we managed to get hour first flights in. I had 3 in total. Soaring though the sky. No engine... Just my instructors voice informing me on how to find thermals and how to pilot the glider. It was amazing, the thrill and sheer joy of gliding. Even the takeoff, where the winch at the other side of the airfield accelerates you so that you face feels 2cm behind you. Everything was amazing and I could tell that I wanted this to be something I can keep up. Throughout the week, we developed our skills marginally. We went from developing our pre flight checks to approach controls and landings. Developing the skills of being able to multi task with your feet on the rudder, one hand on the controls stick and another on the air brake. Gliding and weather is very hit and miss. Fortunately, we had the best of it ! As well as the most keen staff to get us in



the air so even if we did have a bad day we would get up earlier to go up for some flight time. Over the 1 Wednesday, 22 September 2021 week we were also taught about different types of gliding such as Thermals (updrafts of warm air), Ridge lift (found where the wind blows against the face of a

hill and is forced to rise) and wave lift (standing waves in the atmosphere, analogous to the ripples on the surface of a stream). Both thermals and Ridge lift we had the experience in. Throughout the course, I developed so many skills. From communication to multi tasking. There was just so much to do with gliding and I loved every single bit. Even the revision, and that meant a lot for me as I usually despise doing revision but its for a subject I'm passionate about. I also met the best of people, people who I still stay in contact with and plan to meet further on down the line for some more gliding. As well as that, this scholarship gave me the knowledge and experience to apply for a gliding membership at my local club. The week in general was so fun and aspiring, something that I will always remember. Thank you the young air pilots team who made it such an amazing week as well as the staff who participated in gliding though the gliding club.

