

# **Amalia Gheorghiu**

## **Air Pilots Visits Team Gliding Scholarship**

Ever since deciding I wanted to become a pilot and finding out about The Honourable Company of Air Pilots, I set my mind and heart to getting awarded one of their scholarships.

After applying for the scholarships in 2024, but unfortunately not being successful, I knew that I couldn't give up on applying, and good thing I didn't!

The journey began in April 2025, when I received the email I had been long awaiting, inviting me to an interview. I was quite nervous at first, but I knew I shouldn't be because I had prepared early in advance, and thankfully, the interview went extremely well, with all the questions I had prepared being asked! I was ecstatic when just a week later, I had been told I was successful and got a place on the scholarship!

The first day I arrived at Midland Gliding Club we were shown around the airfield and learnt how to safely handle gliders on the ground.

The real fun began on Monday morning, when we had our initial briefing, and later had a chance to fly in the simulator, as the weather was unfortunately not suitable for flying that day. This turned out to work in our favour though, as on the second day I felt more adequately prepared and equipped to go flying.

I still remember the feeling of being launched for the first time; it was such a surreal feeling that can't be described. The first day of flying included learning to keep the glider flying straight and doing turns. It was unbelievable how much flight time we got that day, with the thermals being as strong as 10knots!

The next things we learnt were stalls and doing circuits. Stalls were by far my favourite, especially the ones with a wing drop! It felt like being on a rollercoaster. Circuits were also really fun to learn about, because once you got the hang of them, you were able to be in control of the glider for most of the duration of the flight. Lastly, I learnt landings and launches, and I'll always remember the first landing I did on my own. It was my biggest accomplishment, especially with the challenges you could face flying into Midland Gliding Club, with its strong crosswinds, but this just made the experience that much more memorable.

I would also like to thank my instructors, Sam and Rhys, for being so supportive and for the best instruction! It was one of the best weeks of my life. I am also really grateful for having met so many new people there, and making friends with like-minded individuals, with similar aspirations to mine, and I hope to cross paths with them again in the future.



And finally, I want to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for making this happen, and for all the opportunities that they offer for young individuals, and hope to be able to move on to complete a PPL scholarship with them.

