

Louis Hall - 2021 HCAP Gliding Scholarship



As an Air Cadet, I had experienced my fair share of gliding over the years, however my experience really flew into its own level in August 2021, when I was lucky enough to spend a week gliding at the Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding club. Being in the heart of the beautiful peak district, and one of the oldest clubs in the country, it's hard to imagine a better place to learn the art of gliding. My story in learning this art begins on Sunday, where I arrived, and was given a brief yet comprehensive tour around the place, by the excellent site caterers, John and Sylvia. I was the first to arrive, I passed the time waiting for my colleagues by reading the provided copy of "Gliding: From passenger to pilot", a brilliant book with all the advice a novice pilot could ever need. After to being introduced to my fellow course attendees, we were given a quick briefing, shown around the aircraft

hangar, and then we retired to the clubhouse for dinner.

On Monday, we started our day by performing the intricate task of moving out Puchacz gliders out of the hangar. We had been allocated 2 gliders for the week, G-CJRJ, and the one that I flew in, which was G-CHKW. On the course, we were expected to do our own glider recoveries, so we were given a quick driving lesson on the tractors, before we were sent up to the launch point, and started the day's flying. Unfortunately, the weather was slightly damp, however the ridge system was working, as a result, one of my fellow attendees was able to stay up for 1 and a half hours – not bad for no engines!

However, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the weather had turned for the worse, and we were unable to do any gliding those days, however we did use the simulator, which itself is very realistic, and provided a great substitute for flying.

When Thursday and Friday rolled around, the weather had decided to be nicer, and we all managed to get several winch launches each in on each day. On these days, we were able to apply what we had learnt in the simulator in real life, namely, landing and circuit practice. Rather unfortunately, the course came to an end just as I felt I was getting into things properly – all good things must come to an end it seems...



On the Friday evening, we were presented with our certificates, and on Saturday morning, it was time to bid farewell. We had become great friends, despite only knowing each other for a week.

Overall, this was a fantastic week, and I would like to thank the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and D&LGC for this opportunity, and I'd also like to thank my instructor, who did a fantastic job in teaching me to glide. As a total, I got 73 minutes of gliding experience that week, something I'd never have been able to do otherwise.

