

Oliver Russell

The PM Dorothy Saul Pooley and Ken Lyndon Dykes Gliding Scholarship

In 2025, a friend of mine from a higher year in school was accepted for the Honourable Company of Air Pilot's Gliding Scholarship, and he told me it was one of the best experiences of his life.

Earlier this year I was accepted to the same scholarship and can say I too had one of the best experiences of my life



The application process was challenging, really teaching me some key skills for applications or interviews such as:

- Prioritising key information
- Understanding my achievements and weaknesses
- Fluent speech and explanation

To prepare for the interview especially, I took a lot of measures to maximise my chances of success:

- Speaking to previous scholars to see what they did right and may have thought they could improve on
- Made notes to ensure I covered enough information and so sounded fluent in my talking.
- Ran a mock interview to make the real interview feel more natural.
- Learnt about the STAR technique to follow in the interview.
- Took feedback on things such as my tone of voice or hand gestures, and what could be improved.



I undertook my scholarship at Midlands Gliding Club, having the chance to be instructed by both Sam Prin and David Gorrell as well as snapping up the opportunity on the first day to be taught how to operate the retrieve winch by Marc Greening, resulting in getting my certification by the end of the week.

Throughout the week in the glider, I not only got to land unsupported on my first ever flight in a glider but also got the chance to do a ghosted solo on the final day!

Also, as part of the ghosted solo I had to learn how to control a winch launch from inside the glider and the technique and timing necessary for a safe and effective launch.

Though the solo was a great experience, the week was nothing short of full of fun, getting the chance to perform some incredible aerobatics and climbing past 5000ft, pushing myself and the glider to the limit (within reason), and doing things I'd never have thought I'd be able to ever do in my life.

The week was truly an invaluable experience for progressing my career within aviation and the link with a company as prestigious as HCAP will stick with me for life, and I too hope gliding as a whole sticks with me for life.

Finally, the week was made by the incredible people I met, not only the instructors and MGC staff but my fellow scholars, who made the week a non-stop laugh and I could not imagine the week without them.

Total Launches brought forward		Total Hours brought forward		Flight Time breakdowns brought forward										PIC		Under Instruction		Other (see notes)		23rd Nov - 2019	
Page No	Date	Glider Type	Registration	Takeoff location	Landing location	Launch Type	Crew Capacity	PIC Name	HS	Min	HS	Min	HS	Min	HS	Min	HS	Min	HS	Min	
1	2/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
2	3/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
3	4/8/20	K-13	CCA	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
4	5/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
5	6/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
6	7/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
7	8/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
8	9/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
9	10/8/20	K-21	MYN	Long Mynd	Long Mynd	W	2	S. Paine													
Flight Time breakdowns carried forward									Total Hours and Launches Carried Forward		Hours		Launches								

23rd Nov - 2019

3hrs, 47 mins

Remarks and Details of Flight

From 0800hrs to 1100hrs, adverse wind (rough and cold)

Team to sea - storming

Arrival - Ridge 100, 100m/s, 100m/s

Squad 100 - 100m/s, 100m/s, 100m/s

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A huge thank you to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots and Midlands Gliding Club as a whole for sponsoring me and giving me such a fantastic opportunity that I will cherish for life.

