

## Isabelle Murfitt Gliding Report

In August 2021 I completed a 5-day gliding course at Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club, which is located in the peak district, I was lucky enough to do this after being awarded an Honourable company of air pilots gliding scholarship.

When I arrived on the Sunday afternoon, I was greeted by instructor for the week Alan Jolly and I was also introduced to all the others on the course. We were then shown around the airfield and shown the gliders that we would be flying for the week (Punchaz). Following this we had our first meal made by John and Silvia who cooked and looked after us the whole week with "restaurant quality food" with so much choice and so many options, I didn't go hungry that week.

On the first morning of the course, we had the fun of learning how to drive tractors, which I think by the end of the week everyone had mastered some enjoying it more than others. This was an important thing that we needed to learn as this is what we would be using to retrieve the gliders once they had landed. This needed to be efficient to ensure we got as many flights as possible. We then had the task of getting the gliders out of the hanger and helping with the checks to make sure the glider was working correctly. Once we were up at the airfield, we were taught how to attach the cables and how to launch the gliders.



The weather of the week of my gliding course wasn't very good the first day we got a few flights averaging about 20minutes each due to being able to ridge soar with parts of the day being rainy and not being able to fly at all, the following 2 days we didn't get to fly at all as there was very low cloud and rain however, we did get taught some valuable skills on the clubs gliding simulator which had surround screens and a glider that you sit in which makes it very realistic. Luckily by the Thursday we managed to get flying again with some sunny weather but with the clouds low we got shorter flights, this was enough to practice turning, trimming and stalling though. By Friday I was also controlling parts of the take-off and doing the landing with some help from my instructor Alan. The weather on the Thursday and Friday also allowed us to fly until

7/8pm which allowed us to get in more flights than usual and I am grateful to all the instructors and volunteers who let us carry on till that late in the day, which allowed me to do 91 mins of flights in total.

A highlight on the Friday was being able to be in a thermal and able to fly near to the Tom Cruise Mission Impossible film set where there was a steam train crashing into a quarry.

The week also taught me teamwork skills as we had to work as a team efficiently to launch and retrieve the gliders to get as much flying as possible.

After all the flying for the week we were presented with our certificates and had our final evening dinner and said our goodbyes to our instructors. Then in the morning we had our final breakfast and left Camphill.

I would like to thank the Honourable company of air pilots for awarding me this scholarship and Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club for the experience, which will hopefully be my first step in becoming a solo glider pilot as I hope to continue gliding in a local gliding club.

