

Antoni Krzyzos

The Air Pilots Flying Club Gliding Scholarship



During the summer of 2023 I was honoured to be awarded one of the Air Pilots gliding scholarships.

The course commenced at Camphill with the Derbyshire and Lancashire gliding club. We all arrived on Sunday afternoon and were greeted by our instructors and Silvia, who gave us a tour of the airfield and showed us the club facilities.

On Monday the weather wasn't in our favour, but nothing stopped us from learning how to drive the club tractors to tow gliders once they land. Later that day we had a lesson about hill soaring and circuit planning.

On Tuesday I had my first ever glider flight. 'All out, all out' is the command to the winch driver to accelerate the line for the glider to take-off. The feeling of acceleration is

like nothing I have ever experienced, and the steep climb is thrilling. Compared to powered flight, which I usually do, it's a completely different experience with smooth, silent soaring along the hill ridge.



The weather was mostly good with only two days

where we had to use the club simulator instead in which we practiced field landings, stalls, and spin recoveries. I must admit that the highlight of the flying was the real winch failure low above the ground from which I managed to land 20 seconds after take-off.

One of the best aspects of the scholarship is the people you meet: Kai, Charlie, Adam, Rapha and Dave were great mates during the course and we are already planning to meet up in the near future. The

late-night aviation talk I will never forget. I would like to say a huge thank you to Pete, Alan, Silvia and John for being such great hosts, the food was 10/10.

My dream is to become a commercial pilot and this scholarship motivated me to work even harder to reach the goal. Meeting Jonathan, the Master and Nat from the Honourable Company of Air Pilots on the last day was great, as they presented me with opportunities which will be crucial in the competitive environment of commercial aviation.

Thank you to Derbyshire and Lancashire Gliding club and The Honourable Company of Air pilots.

