

AST Gliding Scholarship 2025 – Alex Dalglish



Hi there, I'm Alex, and since I can remember I've always been absolutely fascinated by anything that can fly, whether it be an airliner, light aircraft or a glider. That's why I was absolutely thrilled to find out I'd been awarded a gliding scholarship from the Honourable company of Air pilots for the Summer of 2025. It's safe to say the week surpassed all my expectations and was one of the most memorable of my life.

We arrived on the Sunday evening, having a lovely dinner and meeting all the other amazing course mates. They were all really welcoming and nice people, which made the whole week all the more enjoyable. We also met our wonderful instructors Matt and Sam, who were both extremely knowledgeable about gliding and lovely people. We then were up early on the Monday morning for the first day of proper gliding! As someone who had only taken 1 short 5 minute glider flight before, I was beyond excited for this day, and it didn't disappoint. After a briefing in the morning it was time to fly, and I was lucky to get a nice 40 minute long flight in the morning where I learnt the basics of handling the glider. Across the course of the week I managed to have 11 flights ranging from 4 minute circuit flights to even an hour and 25 minute long flight on the last day which was epic. We covered the basic handling of a glider, winch launches, circuits, approaches and landings and flying in thermals. Learning all of this was super enjoyable and really helped improve my flying skills. The view from the glider was simply incredible, as the Midland gliding club is located in the Shropshire hills. While we did learn lots about gliding, the main thing I took from this experience was just how enjoyable gliding is.



Apart from the actual flying of the glider, we also learnt all about the ground operations to help launch a glider, including getting the gliders out in the morning, running the wing, attaching the strop and operating the retrieval winch. Learning all of these important skills was very interesting and made me appreciate how much goes into getting a glider into the air. We were assisted in doing this by some fantastic members of the Midland gliding club who helped oversee everything and teach us these key



skills. Before the week I didn't realise how much time would be spent preparing the gliders for launch, but I actually really enjoyed this aspect of the week and it was good for teambuilding with other course mates.

We flew from around 9 am until 6 pm every day, apart from Wednesday when we got to help with

some evening gliding until 9 pm. After each day we had a lovely dinner provided by the club's café, and had a chance to socialise with the other course members as well as discuss different techniques with the instructors and fill out our logbooks. On Thursday we had a group barbecue which was very tasty and enjoyable.

I can't say enough good things about the experience and it was genuinely such an enjoyable week. Getting the opportunity to glide as much as this would never have been possible without the HCAP scholarship, and so I'm

eternally grateful to them for giving me this opportunity. Midland Gliding club was also extremely accommodating, and my instructors and course mates were amazing people who made the experience even better.

Doing this scholarship has ignited my passion for flying even more, and I hope to join my local gliding club and do more gliding in the future because this week was just so enjoyable.

