

Winnie Shard

Report on the Week-Long Gliding Scholarship Course at Midland Gliding Club

Provided by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots

I had the privilege of participating in a week-long gliding scholarship course at the Midland Gliding Club, generously provided by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. The experience was nothing short of extraordinary, offering a comprehensive introduction to the world of gliding, enhanced by the warm hospitality of the club members and the expertise of our instructors.

Warm Hospitality

From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with open arms by everyone at the club. Special thanks must go to Dave and Helen, the club's caterers, who made us feel right at home. Their warmth and kindness meant a lot to our group, especially when we felt homesick. Whether it was a hearty breakfast or a comforting dinner, Dave and Helen's culinary skills and hospitality provided the perfect environment for us to bond as a group and relax after each day.

Instructors and Training

The success of the week was largely due to the supportive and motivating instructors, Mark, Rose and James, who guided us through each step of the course. Their deep knowledge of gliding and their passion for teaching were evident in every lesson. They provided us with a fabulous introduction to gliding, ensuring that we not only learned the technical skills required but also developed a true appreciation for the art and science of flight. Their encouragement and patience were instrumental in building our confidence as we took to the skies.

Daily Routine

Our days at the Midland Gliding Club followed a structured routine, designed to maximize both learning and flying time. Each morning began with breakfast prepared by Dave and Helen. After breakfast, we would head to the hangar to unpack the gliders, a task that not only taught us about the equipment but also instilled a sense of responsibility and teamwork.

Following this, we would participate in the morning briefing, where the instructors would outline the day's objectives, weather conditions, and safety protocols. This set the tone for the stimulating day ahead, filled with launching and flying gliders. Each flight was a new learning experience, as we practiced take-offs, landings, and various in-flight maneuvers under the watchful eyes of our instructors.

Club Members and Industry Insight

A special mention must be made of all the members of the Midland Gliding Club, who took the time to share their knowledge and experience with us. Their insights into the gliding world and the wider aviation industry were invaluable, providing us with a broader understanding of the opportunities and challenges within this field. Their enthusiasm and willingness to help were deeply appreciated and added a rich layer of learning to our experience.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the week-long gliding scholarship at the Midland Gliding Club was an unforgettable experience. The combination of expert instruction, warm hospitality, and the camaraderie of the club members made it an ideal introduction to gliding. I am incredibly grateful to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots for providing this opportunity and to everyone at the Midland Gliding Club for their unwavering support and encouragement. This experience has solidified my passion for aviation, and I am excited to continue pursuing my dreams in this field.