

Verity Greenald- HCAP AFG Gliding Scholarship 2024

In 2024, I was fortunate to be selected among others for the Honourable Company of Air Pilots Gliding Scholarship, which gave me the fantastic opportunity to spend a week experiencing gliding for the first time. Having had some experience with powered flight in



the form of microlights and helicopters from the airfield near me from a former flying scholarship at Cotswold Airport, I had never had the opportunity to try gliding before, and so was hugely excited for this experience. Over the course, I was able to spend the week at the Derbyshire and Lancaster Gliding Club, where I was able to fly every day despite the sometimes challenging weather, learning skills and theory from the instructors as I flew. While on the course, my group also was able to fully experience the ground handling that occurs surrounding gliding, including retrieving the gliders from across the airfield, learning to drive tractors and completing safety checks etc. We

also were able to have a go on the flight simulator, which really helped me refine my technique while flying.

On the course, I also had numerous opportunities to learn about the theory behind flight, with a focus on the best methods to optimise the use of thermals, which I found especially interesting as someone who had only ever experienced powered flight before.



My longest flight lasted 40 minutes, since I was able to experience both ridge lift and strong thermals after the initial winch launch. I was also fortunate enough to experience several decent length flights, varying from 5 to 35 minutes in length.

Overall, I was incredibly grateful for this scholarship experience, as it has inspired me to pursue more gliding in the future and showed me how much I enjoy flying, as well as enabling me to meet some great like-minded people who made the week even better. I'd love to thank HCAP, my sponsors AFG, and the Derbyshire and Lancaster Gliding Club for providing this fantastic opportunity for me.