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Gliding 60 years ago

On an October Friday John Nelson came to the club for a lesson, which turned out to be a simulator day. He brought with him some old photos

was the rear fuselage of a Tiger Moth.

His instructors were Valerie Wyles, Ian Dandie, Tom Davidson and Ansgar Sambale.

I asked him if he could remember anything about the flying. During a demonstration DI John says that a screwdriver was found below the joystick in a T21. The



of Portmoak in 1967. He had flown during two weeklong residential courses in 1966 and 1967.

He remembers the large wooden shed next to the main clubrooms which was the maintenance room smelling of cellulose dope and ventilated with a domestic fan placed next to a hole in the wall. In the building





Olympia in one of the photographs clipped some three foot tall shrubbery/weeds in South Field and ground-looped without harm to itself or the pilot.



Some of our more mature members might also recognise faces and places in the photographs.

As told to Mark Adams

University of Strathclyde - Gliding Experience Days

28th of August 2023, the Scottish Gliding Club started another University of Strathclyde students gliding experience week. I had a chance to talk to students and ask a few questions. This was what I found out.

rience was intimidating at first.

"When you sit in a glider, you sit in a small space. You have a lot of control over the glider movements that you are responsible for, and sometimes you do not know what to do with it.

Occasionally you feel confused, and just rely on the instructor that if something goes wrong – they will correct it. For example, I unexpectedly stalled the glider by increasing angle of attack. That was very scary..."

The students also noted the speed of the winch launch, the feeling of turbulence during flight, and the structure of the glider are fascinating. They said that it was surprising how tranquil and peaceful the flight was, and the amount of control they had over the flight compared to powered aircraft.

At the end of the week students are more advanced and may continue gliding.

Lina Aleksandraviciute

Picture courtesy Mason Maxwell



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The Gliding Experience module is included in the Aeronautical Engineering degree, and all students have the option to choose between a simulator or a physical gliding experience. According to one of the students, he chose to study in the Strathclyde University's Aeronautical Engineering only because it provided them with the opportunity to glide. All four students said that the gliding experience

Tribute to Alan Boyle

Alan was a glider pilot for a long time starting at the Cambridge club and latterly as a member at the Scottish Gliding Centre at Portmoak. He was an active cross country pilot, an instructor and served as both secretary and chairman of the club. For many years he ran the club Cadet scheme supervising the 14 – 18 year olds on the scheme and running the very popular summer cadet week each year.

I got to know Alan properly in 2010 when he joined in a Discus glider syndicate with me and Mike Forster. It was entertaining to watch him fold his "6 foot and a good bit" frame into the glider as he barely fitted but he proved to be a very sensible and capable syndicate partner and rapidly became a good friend too. Alan was a good match in this group but, despite being probably the cleverest person I have known, was notoriously devoid of mechanical or electrical aptitude. We quickly reached an agreement that Alan would fly but was not allowed to touch *anything*. This worked well until one day when the engine seized when I was flying. Alan quickly disclosed that he had kindly refueled the glider the previous day – unfortunately not realising why 2 stroke engines need 2 stroke oil added to the fuel.

In 2012 Alan persuaded me to join with him in switching to a Discus 2 – a much higher performance machine but, more importantly, a much longer cockpit. Alan fitted nicely into this one although it was always a pain flying after him and spending five minutes trying to reach the rudder pedals to adjust them back to a position for normal people.

Alan loved taking part in gliding competitions and had many friends throughout the gliding movement as a result. He normally ended up

near the bottom of the results but it was the taking part and social interaction that he enjoyed rather than who won. He took our shared glider to the south of France on one trip and seemed to enjoy the challenges of flying there – although he did get my attention when he phoned after arriving in France and mentioned that the glider trailer had come off the car towball on the way down... whilst he was driving into a petrol station. Thankfully there was no damage and everything behaved after that.

He was generous with his time at the gliding club despite holding a high pressure position as Professor of Public International Law at the University of Edinburgh and being in great demand as a highly regarded expert in the field of international and environmental law - representing a variety of nations at International courts and tribunals as part of his private practice. He was never one to suffer fools and was refreshing clear in expressing his opinions - which were always insightful and useful. I greatly valued his advice and counsel which were always freely and generously given.

Alan bore his illness with optimism and a positive outlook and was lucky to have Caroline looking after him. She has done an incredible job over the last few years in making Alan comfortable, keeping him engaged with his legal areas and still finding time to take him out when he was able.

It has been an honour to know Alan and to be able to count him as a friend. We will all miss him enormously.

Our thoughts are with Caroline.

Alastair Mutch

UK Junior Winter Series at Portmoak

From 13 to 15 October we welcomed 70 pilots for Round One of the Junior Winter Series here at Portmoak Airfield. It turned out to be a spectacular weekend of flying with many achievements from both our visiting and resident pilots.

Congratulations to:

Mason Maxwell (SGC) – on going solo on his 14th birthday! The earliest a pilot can go solo in gliding!

"My main goal was to go solo so I'm proud that I've done it after only 3 months".

2 Diamond height gains including our own Steward Reid and 1 Gold height gain.

Lots of ridge and wave flying and incredible



views were enjoyed.

Our airfield has seen 60 launches on Friday, 100 on Saturday, and another 70 on Sunday. So if you were in the area you'll have seen plenty of activi-



ty.

We also enjoyed catering all weekend provided by Gordon from Procaffeinate.



Winter Season Talks

Thanks to AStewart Reid, who is organising this year's series of talks over the winter months. As usual, we will have a meal at 18:00, with the talks starting at 19:15 and the bar open all evening.

Below is the complete programme:

Date	Speaker	Topic
28 October	Ian Cessford	Parachute safety
18 November	Archie Liggat - RAF	Life of a fast jet pilot
2 December	Karen Cloney - Saco Dundee airport	GA safety and airspace around Dundee
13 January	Mark Adams	Arctic adventure stories
3 February	Paul Morgan	Tayside mountain rescue team
24 February	The XC+ pundits	The best of the year
16 March	Tony Sperling	Sport psychology