

Winter Training Camp 2015

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The Winter Training Camp took place at the Bicester Airfield from 9th to 12th December 2015, just after Michaelmas term.

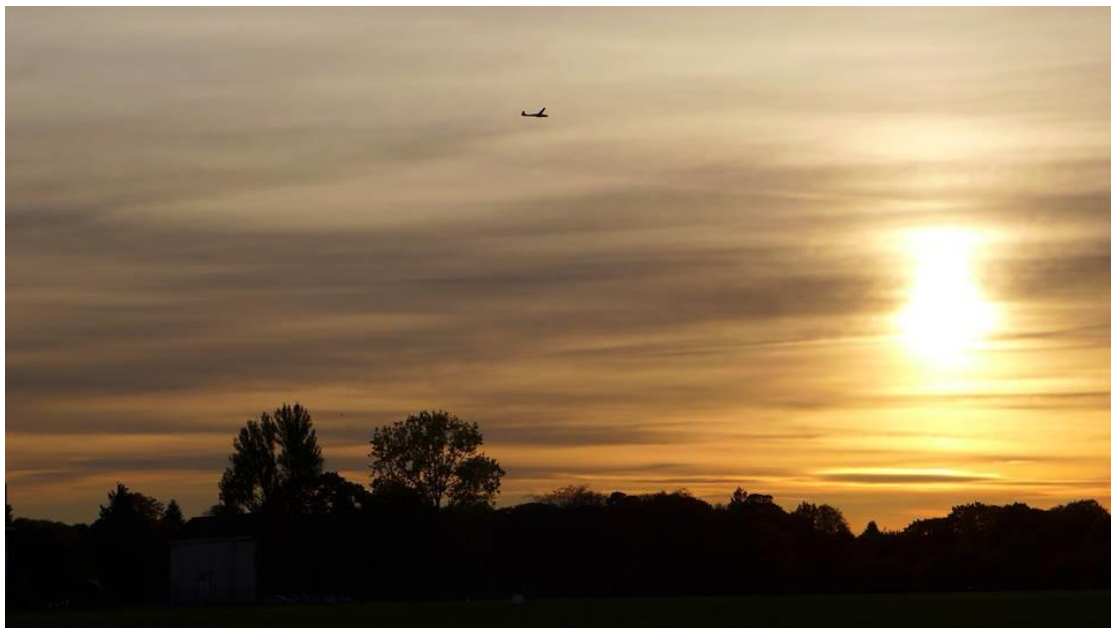
Though attended by an eager set of 10 ab-initio pilots, the unpredictable weather meant that only two of the four days were spent gliding. This was in no way a deterrent to the amount of fun that was had. On gliding days, the bus was a prime target for the new and experienced. K13s landed dangerously close to it, and K21s swooped over it at record low heights in efforts to recover practice launch failures. One afternoon, canopies fogged over incessantly as the sun crept closer to the horizon, resulting in repeat recitations of CBSIFTCBEs with few flights to follow, but those who soldiered through the four days were rewarded for their optimism. As the rain put a happy morning of flying on hold, generous instructors offered free driving lessons to the relatively inexperienced golf buggy drivers, and despite all the disruptions, a total of 92 flights were still made.

The entirely cancelled day had other treasures in store. In the morning, there was a handy theory class conducted by our home-grown pilot-physicist, Oliver Bosanko, followed by a greasy lunch of fish and chips. And while gliders rested in the hangar, the attendees drove on to the Oxford Gun School for a casual afternoon of clay pigeon shooting, with a competitive shoot out between the boys and girls (who won). The evening was spent in the bar, with a home-cooked meal, long chats about previous expeditions, and a re-run of the Hunger Games, while nights were capped in Bicester Airfield's cosy rooms.

The camp ended nicely but all too soon, with a delicious meal at a Chinese Restaurant in Bicester before the pilots headed home for the holidays a day earlier than expected.



A glider being prepared in the early hours of the morning



Gliding against the sunset



Oliver's theory class



Clay Pigeon Shooting



Evenings in the bar



Winter Gliding Camp Crew