

Course Information 2023



IMPORTANT PLEASE READ BEFORE ARRIVAL

Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen to join a gliding course at the Midland Gliding Club situated on the beautiful Long Mynd.

We want to ensure that you have the best possible holiday, so please read this information which will help guide you through the things that you need to know. **Martin** or **Eddie** in the office will be pleased to answer any other questions that you have before you come, or on the day of arrival.

Before you come

Please complete the booking form sent with this e-mail if you haven't already done so.

If you have never been gliding before it is an exciting but daunting process. Ground school is provided as part of the course, but you will have a 'flying start' if you come prepared so please read this information before you set off.

We are a hill site, so even if a heat wave is forecast for the rest of the country, you are advised to pack a warm, windproof jacket, a hat and gloves! Sunglasses are also essential.

Please also note that there is an absolute pilot weight limit of 104kg. If you may be close to this weight limit or more than 6' 3" tall please phone in advance for advice.

Pre-reading

We highly recommend that you read the BGA Student Pilot Manual, which covers all the basic theory information that you need to know in your first week. Copies are just £7.95 and available to purchase from the MGC office or online at:

<https://order.gliding.co.uk/checkout?productid=171&productlist=Student%20pilot%20manual>

Alternatively, The *Glider Pilots Manual* by Ken Stewart is also recommended (available on Amazon etc.).

If you are looking for a basic textbook that will take you a bit further, we also recommend John McCullagh's *Bronze and Beyond* which will take you through the theory that you need for your licence examination. It costs £20.00 and is available from:

https://bgashop.co.uk/cart/index.php?route=product/product&path=5&product_id=22

There are a number of useful videos available on our website that will help introduce flying at the Long Mynd, but if you are not going to be able to arrive the day before your course starts for the informal induction process, at least please try to watch the safety video of the launch point operation before your arrival.

Link: <https://www.midlandgliding.club/instructor-resources/>

Travel information

If you have never been to the Mynd before, finding us may not be straight forward. We are situated at 1400ft above sea level, therefore no surprise that the drive is up a steep hill!

Commonest Route: The Burway

The most straightforward route is via Church Stretton, just off the A49. If approaching from the south, turn left at the traffic lights on the A49, or right if coming from the north. Go over the railway bridge up the main road to the crossroads. Go straight over and follow the road for about two miles to a fork with a finger post. This road is single track and very steep at the bottom but does have passing places.

At the fork bear left to the gliding club, for a couple of miles. The club entrance is very clearly marked on the left.

There are two other routes detailed in the visitor's section of our website – details at the end of this information.

Trains

There is a train station at the bottom of the hill in Church Stretton. The line runs between Shrewsbury and Newport in South Wales. It may not be easy to get a taxi up to the club, so do not be afraid to call the office and see if a club member will drive down and collect you – it is all part of being a friendly club!

Cycling. The hill is a lovely place to walk and cycle. By all means bring your bike if you like, but cycling up the hill with your luggage is only for the fittest. Good luck if you try it!

On Arrival

Informal Induction

If you have never flown in a glider or even if you have not been to the Mynd before, **please try to arrive by mid-afternoon the day before your course starts** i.e., usually Sunday afternoon. You can come earlier if you wish. We will then find a club member to show you around the club house, show you the safety video, and take you out onto the airfield where someone will start teaching you informally about how the airfield runs and how to handle the gliders on the ground. During the course you will be expected to help launch and retrieve the gliders, so you need to know how to do it safely.

Arriving early will also give us the opportunity to show you your accommodation (if booked). It should be available by late afternoon.

Driving in

The gate is kept shut when flying is in operation. After driving through the gate please close it behind you. Keep on the track, keeping a good look out for gliders and follow it round to the right to park outside the clubhouse.

We are trying to make your holiday as efficient as possible to maximise the flying you get on the formal part of the course. From Early April to the end of September we are open 7 days a week so there is always someone at the club to welcome you.

The office is open 9.00-5.00pm on weekends, and 9.00-2.00pm during the week, but if there is no-one in the office just turn right into the main clubroom/dining area and ask anyone where to go.

Catering on site

We are lucky to have excellent caterers on site. Accommodation and food are not included as part of the course fee, so you can choose to eat in or out, but Helen's food is both wonderful and good value. She is pleased to be able to cater to almost anyone's dietary requirements provided that she knows what they are in advance.

Breakfast is served from 8.00am and evening meals are usually at approx. 7.00pm. It is helpful if you order your lunch in the morning so Helen can have it ready for you when you come in.

If you have specific requirements, she can be contacted in advance at:

catering@midlandgliding.club

Club House Facilities

There are toilets, showers, a rest room, small library of gliding books, a television and a gliding simulator all available in the club house.

A well-stocked bar is open once the hangar is packed in the evening and works on an honesty system. Do not forget to list what you take in the book!

The course

We usually start with a briefing each morning generally 9.00am on the first day but after that it may be earlier if the course members are enthusiastic to get going earlier.

The hangar has to be unpacked and the gliders inspected each day, and the airfield is 'set up' for the day depending on the weather/wind.

The course has a mixture of ground school and flying depending on what the weather delivers each day. A glider takes four people to launch it. You will be expected to help with all the jobs necessary to keep the gliders in the air, and the more efficient the team is, the more flying to will all fit in, so please get stuck in. The team aspect of gliding is a very enjoyable part of the whole experience.

If the weather allows we generally fly until approximately 5.30pm and then everything must be packed away, so we are normally finished at approximately 6.00pm.

Please note that gliding is a weather dependent sport. Your instructors will do their best to get the most out of the weather for each trainee depending on their stage of training. This means that you may not always fly in strict rotation. Please accept that the instructors have your needs in mind and are trying to do their best for everyone, but the weather will not always be as forecast and it might mean sometimes you may have to wait for the right conditions.

You should keep a logbook in which to keep a record of all your flights. If you do not already have a logbook/progress card please collect one from the office on arrival. The instructors will show you how to complete it and keep it up to date during the week.

Local facilities

Church Stretton

Small food shops, chemist, petrol station, hardware store, bakery, post office, multiple small shops, Indian restaurant (BYO), cashpoint at the Co-Op and petrol station.

Craven Arms

Small supermarket, chemist, petrol station, hardware store, post office and cash point, fish and chips, Indian and pizza restaurants.

In an emergency

First aid box in the main clubroom and in the launch point vehicle.

List of trained first aiders by the phone in entrance hall.

Emergency information/flowchart kept by the phone in the clubhouse.

Nearest minor injury unit: Ludlow minor injuries, Ludlow, SY8 1QX open: 8.00am-8.00pm.
X-ray 9.00-3.00pm only.

Nearest A&E department: Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, SY3 8XQ.

Finally, please ensure we have contact details for whom to contact, should you need help in the event of a serious accident.

Contact us

Midland Gliding Club Ltd

The Airfield
Long Mynd
Church Stretton
Shropshire
SY6 6TA

Tel: 01588 650206

Email: office@midlandgliding.club

We look forward to meeting you,

From the Midland Gliding Club team.

Feedback form



We hope you have enjoyed your stay. We are constantly trying to improve our courses and feedback helps this process. Please complete this form and return to the office. Your name is optional. Return to: office@midlandgliding.club

How was your experience at the club?

	Very good	good	average	poor	Very poor
Instruction					
Flying Opportunities					
Accommodation					
Catering					

Please tell us what you particularly liked about the course/your stay with us:

Please tell us if anything was not satisfactory:

Suggestions for improvement:

Course start date: Name: (optional).....

Thanks for your input and we look forward to seeing you again.

The Midland Gliding Club Team