



## Trial Flight Information

Welcome to the Lakes Gliding Club, *Learn more about us at [www.lakesgc.co.uk](http://www.lakesgc.co.uk)*

This will tell you a little bit about your flight, gliding in general, a bit about the club and how YOU (yes, *you*) could learn how to fly with us.

### Your Flight

Your flight will be a basic introduction to gliding. You will fly in a two-seater glider with a qualified instructor. Prior to the flight the instructor will go through some checks to make sure that the glider is ready to take off. The instructor will fly the glider for the first part of the flight whilst it is being towed behind the tug. Once at 2,000 feet when the rope is released you will be shown how the controls work and what effect they have. You can then have a go at flying the glider (although you don't have to if you don't want to - but what a waste of an opportunity!). Most people are able to fly the glider from then on until the instructor takes over to do the last part and the landing. Feel free to ask any questions at any time.

### Gliding - So what's it all about?

Basically it's about flying in small(ish) aeroplanes without engines! Once airborne the challenge is to stay airborne for as long as possible. This is done by finding air in the atmosphere that is rising and can lift the glider up with it - hence the term "lift". There are three types of lift called hill, thermal and wave.

Hill lift is where the wind blows against the side of a hill. The air has to go somewhere and it usually goes up and over the hill. A glider can fly in this rising air and hence stay airborne. Thermals are where the air rises because it is heated up by the sun-warmed ground. If you think of a fountain of warm air coming off a small warm area on the ground it's pretty much what a thermal would look like if we could see it. Again, if the glider flies around in circles in this "fountain" it will be lifted up. Wave lift is formed where wind blows over a hill or mountain. As the air descends on the other side it will eventually hit the ground. If the conditions are right it will then bounce and bounce up higher than the first time, before coming down and bouncing back up again and again further down wind. This type of lift can go up very high. The highest experienced at Walney is over 20,000 feet. (About 4 miles)

Once the glider has found some lift and can stay airborne, anything is possible! It is usual to fly off cross-country using more lift along the way to stay airborne. Gliders can travel huge distances. The furthest anyone has gone from Walney is over 500km (300 miles), flying across to Northumbria, down to Nottinghamshire and back to Walney via Durham. If that doesn't appeal then perhaps aerobatics will. With proper training, and in a suitable glider, it's possible to do some very impressive manoeuvres, including flying upside down! An aerobatic flight is without doubt the biggest and most exciting fair ground ride you can imagine. (Aerobatics can only be taught by suitably qualified instructors.)

### Our Club

The Lakes Gliding Club is one of the oldest soaring clubs in the UK beginning life as the Furness Gliding Club and later adopting the current name in the 1950's. Flying operations have been based at the Walney site since 1962 offering all types of soaring: hill, thermal and wave, to pilots of all levels from the complete novice to pundit. Flying from Walney offers some of the best scenery in the country with marvellous views across the Cumbrian Mountains to Scotland, Yorkshire and North Wales.

The club is a member of the British Gliding Association and operates under the rules and guidance set by the national body. We have a team of instructors who are all club members thus ensuring continuity during learning. The club is operated voluntarily by its members; nobody is paid or employed by it which helps to keep costs down. Our fees are amongst the lowest in the country.

As well as flying we have an active social side to the club with regular party nights, BBQ's and an annual dinner etc.

The club currently has two 2-seater gliders for training (IS28 & K21) and a Piper Super Cub for towing. All launches are by aerotow, which means you are towed into the air by a small aeroplane. About 12 other privately owned gliders of the members fly from Walney.

### Supersize your flight

For an extra £25 you could have an extra 1,000 feet of height and increase your flight time. By taking an aerotow to 3,000 feet it increases the flight time for little extra cost. The extra height will give you more of a taste for what gliding is about! This option is at the discretion of the Instructor and the weather and can only be purchased on the day you fly.

### How you could subsequently learn to fly

Once you have experienced gliding you may like to learn how to do it yourself? Included in the cost of your trial lesson is 3 months membership.

With your **trial flight** you get special terms which allow you to fly at fixed rates in order to help you to find out if gliding is the sport for you. Flights in this period will be at a fixed price of £50 to 2000ft and £10 per 500ft above that.

**OR** you could upgrade to our **Starter Pack** which is better value to progress further, you get 6 flights to 2000ft for £250 and £10 per 500ft above that. Ask us about it. You can then start to learn in earnest. Depending on how fast you learn it will take 30-50 flights to go solo. Just about anybody, any age (over 14), any sex and any background can learn to do it - it's not much harder than driving a car.

**OR**, have even better value and greater flexibility, opt for annual membership and fly at normal club rates.

### Annual Membership charges (2013/14)

The full list of charges is on the Lakes Gliding Club website. Annual membership is £227 per year. For Juniors aged up to 18 or Students in full time education, Membership is reduced to £110 and all soaring is free.

### How to access the airfield

We have a mobile telephone which is only switched on when we are flying on Saturdays and Sundays, the number is 07860 135447 and is also on a notice on the gate. On arriving at the airfield phone us and we will open the gate for you. You will be directed to the launch point (bus with windsock mast) where you can join us and we will explain a bit more about your flight. Launching gliders requires teamwork, so don't be surprised if you are asked to help.