



# CAPE GLIDING CLUB

Dear prospective Cape Gliding Club member,

The Cape Gliding Club (CGC) formed in 1953 at the Fisantekraal airfield. The club relocated in 1990 to Worcester airfield which we share with the Worcester Flying Club (WFC). The WFC operate primarily during the week whilst the CGC operate on weekends and public holidays. Both clubs are purely non-profit and have memberships of approximately 40 for WFC and 80 for CGC. The airfield is home to approximately 35 gliders and 11 power planes.

We hope this brief letter provides you with pertinent information regarding our club, its operation and how you can become a licensed glider pilot.

The CGC is owned by its members. All members have a vested interest in its assets and facilities, and have contributed over many decades towards what is the second biggest gliding club in South Africa. To join, you need to apply for membership online using the following link:

<http://www.myglidingclub.co.za/index.php/online-membership-form>

Your first step after joining is to start your training, with the aim of going solo. This takes between 40 and 65 flights on average, depending on your ability and previous flying experience (if any). You will, amongst other things, learn how to glide in a straight line, do turns, stalls, spins, take-off and land. Training is weather dependent and takes place on Saturdays and Sundays. We do not have training time slots as with a commercial operation. We mainly do aero tow launches and twice a month (on a Saturday) we do winch launches.

Our aircraft fleet is extensive, we have one dedicated Tug Aircraft, and one Touring Motor Glider which also doubles as a Tug Aircraft. The glider fleet consists of 2 two-seater Schleicher ASK-13 trainers, two single seat Grob Astirs' for post solo flying, one two-seater Grob Twin Astir and one two-seater Janus for advanced training and cross country flights.

All instructors do instruction on a voluntary basis, and do appreciate you arrive on time and prepared for your flying lessons, with all the appropriate documentation up to date. You will not be assigned to a single instructor, you will receive instruction by one of 15 club instructors on duty in all flyable weather conditions on various glider types. Students are required to be there by 9:00am and assist with the preparation of the gliders for the day's flying. Students are to remain at the airfield for the day and assist stowing the aircraft and equipment in the hangars, followed by a debrief session with instructors once flying has ceased.

A club hut with communal bunk beds is available for overnight stays. You are also welcome to bring a tent and camp for the weekend. Ablution facilities are provided and a pool is available throughout summer. There is a snacks and bar facility in the club house which operates on an honesty basis.

We encourage that you stay overnight and fly on both the Saturday and Sunday, this provides excellent training opportunities and you get to socialise with other members also overnighing. Ride share arrangements from Cape Town with other members are often made during the week via the online club chat group.

The club offers an incredible deal, unlimited flying time on any club glider for R500 per month, (instead of R4.50 per min/R270 per hour), you then only pay for the launch. This pricing option is



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strongly encouraged to both save you money and encourage more flying time. The more you fly the quicker you will progress towards solo, we recommend that you fly at least 4 days per a month.

Below is an illustration of what one should budget towards the attainment of a GPL.

Soaring Society of South Africa annual fees R880 per year

Aero Club of South Africa annual fees R460 per year

Cape Gliding Club joining fee R2500

Membership fees  $R375 \times 8 = R3000$

4 days flying per month = 8 flights per month = 8 months to do 64 flights (note than you can do more than two flights per day, depending on the weather and number of students)

Glider Hire  $R500 \times 8 = R4000$

30 Aero Tows @ +- R425 per tow = R12 750

34 Winch launches @ 65 per launch = R1950

Total R25 500 if you do 64 launches (30 aero tows and 34 winch launches)

This is purely illustrative and can have many variants.

Typically, to complete your GPL at a rapid rate (12-16 months) you would spend in the region of R35k to R50k. For comparison, other aviation licence costs are as follows. A paragliding licence costs in the region of R20k to R30k, a National Pilots Licence ~ R80k, a Private Pilot Licence ~ R120k and Helicopter Licence ~ R250k+.

To go solo, you need to attain a "solo standard" grade for all the training exercises demonstrating proficient and safe flying, a valid class 4 flight medical and a restricted radio licence.

Many of our club members that have begun their aviation careers with gliding and have gone on to become professional airline pilots. It is advisable that you chat with these members when you get a chance.

The club committee members are: Chairman: Stephan vd Berg, Treasurer: Jaco Visser, Secretary: Michel Reolon, Maintenance Officer: Wally Tamsen, Chief Duty Officer: Hitesh Gajjar, Additional members: Nico le Roux, Ralf Hansen, Colin Sindle. The club flying committee members are: CFI: Nicky Oberhofer, Deputy CFI: Durr Pieters, Chief Tug Pilot: Peter Clemence, Safety Officer: Paul Ireland, Winch Master: Ian Forbes

Finally, should you wish to do a training introductory flight (TIF), please contact Hitesh at [ChiefTugPilot@cgc.org.za](mailto:ChiefTugPilot@cgc.org.za). The TIF flight costs R2000, should you join our club within a month after the flight, we will bill the TIF flight at club rates and credit your flying account accordingly.

Kind Regards

Michel Reolon

CGC Secretary 0828031797