

For immediate release

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TEAM GB ANNOUNCES JUNIOR PILOTS TO COMPETE IN GLIDING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BRITAIN'S brightest gliding prospects have been selected to represent Team GB in the Junior World Gliding Championships (JWGC) in Hungary next year.

Jake Brattle, Simon Brown, Peter Carter and Finn Sleigh, and reserves Clement Allen and Henry Inigo-Jones, are now honing their flying skills through world class elite coaching and support from the British Gliding Team.

Graham Garnett, British Gliding Team Manager, said: "Our primary aim going into this competition is to win medals for the UK but also to allow Junior pilots to experience the amazing thrill of competition at the highest level in the world as many will go on to represent their nation as seniors."

The pilots were chosen by a selection committee using criteria based on UK competition results and success in training camps held through the year. The age limit to compete in the JWGC is 26-years-old.

The competition to find a junior world gliding champion will be held over thirteen days and includes a practice week for the pilots to familiarise themselves with the local gliding conditions and terrain.

The overall winner and new junior world champion will be the pilot with the most points scored during the competition period. Points are awarded daily to the fastest pilots around each day's given cross country task, which will typically be between 150 kilometres to 500 kilometres long.

The newly-formed British Junior Team will compete in the 11th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships in Szeged, Hungary from 28th July 2019 to 10th August 2019.

Team GB announced for JWGC December 2018

For more information about the pilots and the British gliding teams visit

www.team.gliding.co.uk and follow them on:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/britishglidingteam/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/GBGlidingTeam>

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Ends

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MEET THE TEAM



Jake Brattle

Jake from Andover, **Hampshire**, has his ex-RAF pilot granddad to blame for his love for flight. This passion eventually led to his granddad buying him a trial lesson at the age of 13 and ever since then, he's never looked back. Jake went solo as soon as he could, on his 16th birthday, at Kent Gliding Club.

When Jake started his Aerospace Engineering degree at the University of Bristol he joined the Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club and this is where he got addicted to competition flying. Jake, 24, has come a long way since his first ever competition day where he landed out before the start line even opened! He has since gone on to fly six Junior Nationals and won the last two. Jake competed at the Junior World Gliding Championships in Lithuania in 2017 finishing in fifth and is determined to better that result in Hungary next year.

Simon Brown

It was Simon's early interest in becoming a commercial pilot that led him to join his local gliding club at Darlton, near Retford in **Nottinghamshire** in 2010, at the age of fifteen. Simon, now 24, flew solo in the same year and continued to hone his piloting skills, making every effort to attend national 'Juniors' events whenever possible. With the help and encouragement of his new gliding friends and mentors, and after having been invited to join an ASW15 syndicate at Darlton, he was able to fly his first competition at the Northerns in 2014. He was delighted to be invited to join the Junior Training Squad in 2016 and the British team in 2018.

Simon has a degree in Mathematics from King's College London, is currently working in the financial services, and can often be found on a pair of skis somewhere in the Alps when the weather is not good enough for flying.

Peter Carter

Peter started gliding at Tibenham in **Norfolk** when he was 13, after being introduced by his dad who also used to fly at the club. Peter went solo on his 16th birthday and had his first taste of competition flying at the two seat training at the juniors in 2012 - this is where his passion for competition flying comes from. This passion drove Peter to begin his competition career, as well as driving him to find an instructing role in New Zealand for a season in 2014. After returning to the UK, he attended Loughborough University, where he did a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Peter, 23, lives and works in Norwich but most weekends he flies an ASW19 at Lasham. His most memorable flight last year was a 500k triangle around southern England, completed with team mates Finn and Jake. This is Peter's first representing Great Britain, and he's looking forward to the new challenges flying standard class will bring.

Finn Sleigh

Finn spent a lot of time on airfields when he was younger and despite his initial fear of flying, he was very keen to learn. Soon after going solo, he rapidly progressed with his cross country flying and then caught the bug for competing in gliders. Finn, who's 21-years-old and from Andover in **Hampshire**, loves racing in his Std Libelle alongside his friends around big tasks at weekends and having spent the winter in Australia chasing another summer, Finn is very excited for the challenges 2019 will

bring.

Gliding - key facts

- The British Gliding Association (BGA) is the governing body for the sport of gliding in the UK and represents more than 80 gliding clubs stretching from the Highlands of Scotland to the south-west tip of Cornwall in England.
- A glider is an aircraft that doesn't need power to fly. Gliders fly by gliding gently down a slope causing air to flow over the wings, which generates a force that supports the weight of the glider. The steeper the slope, the faster the glider flies. By flying in rising air, for example a thermal, a glider can gain height.
- The longest distance ever flown in a glider in one flight is 3,008km, taking 15 hours and eight minutes at an average speed of almost 200km/h in South America.
- Gliding is an inclusive sport and enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities. Subject to completing the required training, you can fly a glider solo at age 14. There is no upper age limit with some glider pilots still flying in their early nineties!
- Many people first experience the thrill of gliding by taking an introductory discovery flight at a BGA member club and become hooked.
- Gliding is an affordable sport open to all and costs are comparable with playing golf. Gliding and flying scholarships and bursaries are also available through organisations such as The Air League.
- There are currently around 7,000 glider pilots in the UK
- Each year pilots from gliding clubs across Great Britain represent the UK at World and European Championships. Britain is represented at both Junior and Senior level, and the Women's World Championships which will be held at Husbands Bosworth in Leicestershire in 2021.
- Aerobatics are an established and growing part of gliding, and an excellent means of improving and developing pilot skills and confidence. Whether young or more senior in years, aerobatics does not discriminate. It is all about flying skill, airmanship and having fun.
- Gliding brings the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) agenda to life to inspire the next generation of pilots and engineers using the principles of aerodynamics and lift which keep an unpowered aircraft airborne.