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MEDAL HAUL AS BRITISH DUO TAKE GOLD AND SILVER AT JUNIOR WORLD GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Golden boy Jake Brattle (left), with team member and Silver medal winner Finn Sleigh (right), and team captain Matthew Scutter.

BRITAIN'S sensational summer of sporting success continues as the British Gliding Team's Jake Brattle soars to new heights to become the new Junior World Gliding Champion with teammate Finn Sleigh taking silver!

High-flyer Jake Brattle, 25, from Charlton in Hampshire, has been competing against the world's top glider pilots at the 11th FAI Junior World Gliding Championships in Szeged, Hungary.

Jake, who has won the UK Junior National Championships for the last two years, said: "It's an incredible feeling to win a Gold medal for the team and my country. I'm so proud."

Team GB's Finn Sleigh, 22, from Andover in Hampshire, is also celebrating after finishing the championships in second place to take the Silver medal.

Finn said: "I'm lucky to be part of an amazing squad and would like to thank everyone who has supported me and my team mates on our journey to reach the Junior World Gliding Championships in Hungary and played a part in Team GB's phenomenal success."

The competition to find a junior world gliding champion took place over thirteen days with points awarded daily to the fastest pilots to fly from point to point around each day's set cross country task. The competition was fierce from day one with just points separating the top five places right up until the last day's racing.

The British Gliding Team's success in Hungary was a huge team effort that started twelve months ago when Finn and Jake first visited the country to learn the conditions.

Jake, a former Ashford schoolboy and University of Bristol graduate, added: "From our tireless families supporting us as crews to the coaches we trained with and to all of the generous crowd funding donors, glider donors and our sponsors that helped us to maximise our training schedule this year; it really could not have happened without everyone's help and so we are very grateful."

The new world champion is now encouraging others to try gliding. Jake added: "It's a very accessible sport with clubs all around the country for all ages and backgrounds. It's how I started with an introductory flight and just kept going. You could end up in Team GB!"

Team GB's Peter Carter from Norfolk and Simon Brown from Nottinghamshire also had a great competition with strong final places.

The British Gliding Team trains at Lasham Gliding Society in Alton, Hampshire. For more information about gliding and to find your local gliding club, visit www.gliding.co.uk

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Medal haul as British duo take gold and silver at junior world gliding championships 11.08.19

Visit <https://www.gliding.co.uk/press-releases/about-the-bga> for more information.

The full results are available at <https://www.soaringspot.com/.../11th-fai-junior-world.../results>

Jake Brattle

Jake attended Norton Knatchbull Grammar School in **Kent** and graduated with a BEng in Aerospace Engineering at the **University of Bristol**. He flew his first solo in a glider on his 16th birthday at Kent Gliding Club and developed his cross country flying skills at **Bristol and Gloucestershire Gliding Club** at Nympsfield near Stonehouse.

Jake, now living in Charlton, **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.

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. He has since gone on to fly six Junior National championships, winning the last two. Jake competed at the Junior World Gliding Championships in Lithuania in 2017 finishing fifth.

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 22-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.

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, 24, 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 time representing Great Britain, and he's looking forward to the new challenges flying standard class will bring.

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, 24, flew solo in the same year and continued to hone his piloting skills, making every effort to attend national 'Juniors' events whenever possible.

Simon flew 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.

Gliding - key facts

- A glider is an aircraft that doesn't need power to fly. By flying in rising air, for example a thermal, a glider can gain height.
- Using these invisible rising currents of air, known as 'lift', gliders can soar to great heights of up to 40,000ft, travel at average speeds of over 100mph and cover vast distances of more than 600 miles all within the UK.
- 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.
- The UK will host the Women's World Gliding Championships at The Gliding Centre, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire in 2021.