

Cambridge Gliding Centre Cloud Rally 2026

By Oliver Montgomery

What is the Cloud Rally?

Each year, Cambridge Gliding Centre hosts a local, friendly gliding competition. The competition is split into 3 categories. The Tyro Class mainly for pre-solo or pre-license pilots who cannot yet fly cross country but still want to enjoy the atmosphere of competing. The Funster Class is for new, or less experienced pilots who want a less competitive set of tasks that they can compete in. The Racer Class is for well seasoned pilots who want to battle out their tasks as fast as possible. The flying is only a small of the competition. As well as helping all these pilots, there are social events every night that make it great for me to meet and get to know lots of people who have very different experiences with flying as a hobby, and a career.



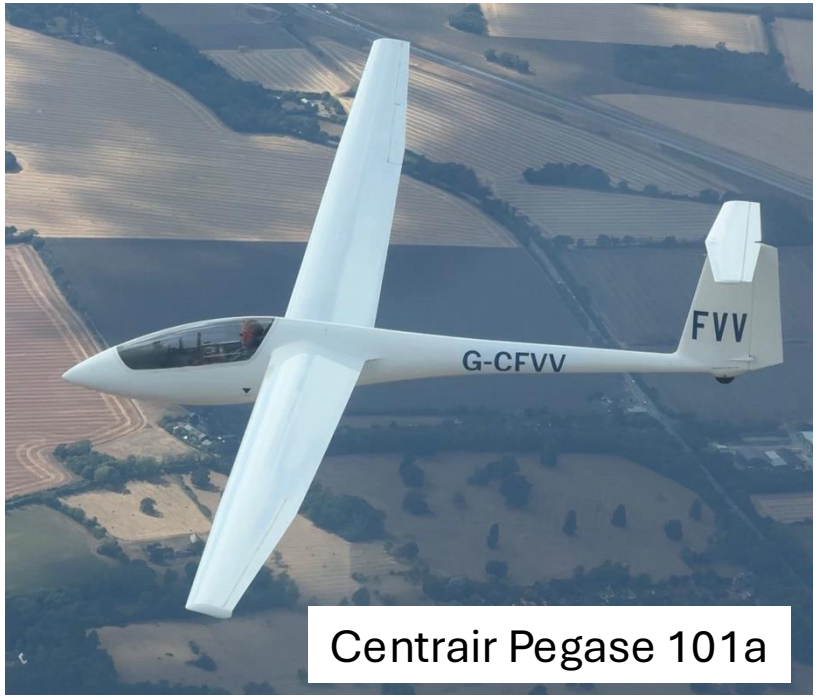
Launch queue at the launch point

The aircraft I fly

After completing years of training and acquired my license I can fly the two high performance gliders that the club owns:

1. Centrair Pegase 101a – a French built, 15 metre, retractable gear Sailplane, which cannot carry water ballast.

2. Schempp-Hirth Discus B – a German built, 15 metre, retractable gear Sailplane with water ballast and winglets, which allow for smoother airflow over the tips of the wing.



Centrair Pegase 101a



Schempp-Hirth Discus B

My roles in the Cloud Rally

- Flying – I took part in the Tyro class, flying 3 days of the competition.
- Ground support – Launching gliders, managing ground movements of vehicles and aircraft, and being able to occasionally pick up a glider out of a field, it having not made it back to the airfield.
- Supporting staff on site – helping keep logs and times of competition gliders.



Glider having landed in a field because it could not make it back to the airfield

My Flying

Not being able to go cross country during the amazing weather meant I had to find something else fun to do with my time in the sky. So, a few times I managed to meet up with one of my friends and practice some formation flying.



How the Henry Morris funding made this possible

There are many things during the cloud rally that require funding:

- Launch fees
- Competition entry fees
- Soaring fees
- Food & camping fees

I am hugely appreciative of the funding which allowed me to compete in the 2026 CGC Cloud Rally and further my flying experience and ambitions toward becoming a pilot.



Conclusions

Flying has been a lifelong ambition of mine, and I am working towards being a pilot. I started gliding when I was 12, went solo at 14 and gained my SPL (Sail Plane License) at 16. I have just started an Extended Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at Stansted Airport College. Over the next couple of years I hope to acquire my PPL (Private Pilots License) and have begun lessons this summer.

I am very grateful for the opportunities I've had and the support form the Henry Morris Memorial Fund and the Cambridge Gliding Centre.

@olliessoaring