

TAKE OFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB



SINGAPORE YOUTH
FLYING CLUB

Takes You To Greater Heights

SINCE 1971

JAN-JUN 2025

MCI(P) 30/11/2017



03 Introducing the Aviation
Exploration Programme



05 Tengah Community Outreach
Programme @ Tengah CC



12 Recollections from an SYFC
Alumnus

Contents

Editorial Advisor

COL (RET) Foo Yang Ge
General Manager

Editors

Mr Daniel Tan
Operations Manager

Ms Pang Mee Ling
Corporate Support Manager

Mr Kevin Su
Deputy CCA Manager

Mr Cheang Mun Joon
*Deputy Operations Manager /
Chief Flying Instructor*

Members

Mr David Su
Chief Aeromodelling Instructor

Mr Francis Chia
Aeromodelling Instructor

Ms Lynda Yap
Finance Executive Officer

Ms Rilvia Lim
Air Operations Supervisor

Take Off is the official newsletter of the Singapore Youth Flying Club. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, the Editor, the SYFC and its Committee do not accept liability for any damage, personal or material, arising whether directly or indirectly from any article published in this newsletter. Views or opinions expressed here are entirely the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Editorial Committee.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise - without prior written permission from the SYFC. Copyright 2001 by Singapore Youth Flying Club. All rights reserved.



**SINGAPORE YOUTH
FLYING CLUB**
Takes You To Greater Heights

Singapore Youth Flying Club
515 West Camp Road
Singapore 797695.
Tel: 6298 3093
Website: www.syfc.sg
Email: info_flying@syfc.sg

Pg 3	Introducing the Aviation Exploration Programme
Pg 4	Outreach to Polytechnics
Pg 4	Tengah Community Outreach Programme @ Tengah CC
Pg 5	SYFC Wings and Aviation Awards 2025 @ Air Force Training Command
Pg 5	Elementary Fighter Manoeuvre Course
Pg 6	SWIFT Course 32-25
Pg 6	Navigation Trip to Hat Yai
Pg 7	Visit to 130 SQN
Pg 8	First Solo
Pg 9-10	Final Handling Test
Pg 11	SYFC Workplan Retreat @ LYF Hotel Farrer Park
Pg 12	815 SQN Family Day @ SYFC
Pg 12	Recollections from an SYFC Alumnus

GM's Foreword

A great start to 2025, as we ramped up engagements at the Polytechnics and Junior Colleges. The effect was necessary because of the new SYFC flying training modality, which would see more than 500 students experiencing our flying programme annually. Kudos to our Recruitment team for making this happen! The team was also privileged to participate in the Tengah Community Club outreach event and had a close-up engagement with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong and Minister of State for Transport Dr Amy Khor.

The 2025 Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings & Aviation Awards Ceremony was graced by the Chief of Air Force and Chairman of the SYFC Board of Governors, MG Kelvin Fan. Congratulations to our 29 newly minted pilots for joining our flying alumni family!

On the CCA front, we conducted the SYFC Workup & Introduction to Flying Training (SWIFT) course and the Elementary Fighter Manoeuvre course. These courses provided our young aviator-enthusiasts with some insights into flying the DA40 and F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Other significant activities for the first half of 2025 included the inaugural navigation trip to Hat Yai, a real eye-opener for our students to experience the flight planning as well as the long navigation operations beyond the typical flying training within Singapore airspace.

I wish all a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

Warmest regards

COL (RET) Foo Yang Ge
General Manager
Singapore Youth Flying Club

INTRODUCING THE AVIATION EXPLORATION PROGRAMME



First PPL Batch, PPL 304

A New Flying Pathway Takes Off

In 2025, SYFC introduced the Aviation Exploration Programme (AEP), with the first batch welcomed in May.

The AEP is now the first step in SYFC's flying pathway, allowing students to explore aviation through basic aviation knowledge and flight simulator training. Students who show aptitude and potential may progress to the Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Course, which comprises the Ab-Initio, Solo and Wings phases of training.

This new training pathway replaces the previous Basic Flying Course (BFC) system. The first PPL batch under the new pathway, PPL 304, commenced in June 2025.



SYFC COURSE JOURNEY



OUTREACH TO POLYTECHNICS

[8 Jan to 9 Jan 2025]

As part of SYFC's increased outreach efforts, the Recruitment team engaged prospective students at the open houses held by Temasek Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic from 8 to 9 January 2025, sharing more about SYFC's flying course and aviation pathways.

The booths drew encouraging interest, with many students stopping by to ask questions and find out how they could begin their flying journey.



TENGAH COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME @ TENGAH CC (PARC RESIDENCES)

[12 Apr 2025]

SYFC participated in the Tengah Community Outreach Programme at Tengah CC (Parc Residences) on 12 April 2025. The event gave SYFC an opportunity to engage residents and share more about its flying programmes with the community.

During the event, SYFC also met Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong and then Minister of State for Transport Dr Amy Khor, both of whom expressed support for SYFC's flying programmes. Dr Amy Khor also tried the flight simulator. The strong response from residents made it a positive outreach for SYFC.



SYFC WINGS AND AVIATION AWARDS 2025 @ AIR FORCE TRAINING COMMAND [17 May 2025]



The SYFC Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings & Aviation Awards Ceremony 2025 was held on 17 May 2025 at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC). A total of 29 graduands received their PPL Wings.

The event was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Chief of Air Force and Chairman of the SYFC Board of Governors, MG Kelvin Fan. The Best-in-Flying Award was presented to Zaqeerul Iman Bin Shamshul Qamar, while the Best-in-Ground School Award was presented to Gerrard Chng Kia Nuo.

In recognition of the schools' contribution to the SYFC CCA programme, the SYFC CCA Excellence Awards were presented to Bedok Green Secondary School, Changkat Changi Secondary School and Hwa Chong Institution.

ELEMENTARY FIGHTER MANOEUVRE COURSE [19-21 Mar 2025]

I had the opportunity to attend the Elementary Fighter Manoeuvre Course conducted by SYFC. During the course, I had the opportunity to experience formation flying, aerobatics, air-to-air dogfights and air-to-ground bombing in the F-16 fighter aircraft using a flight simulation software.

The course was both challenging and rewarding. My favourite part of the course was the air-to-air dogfighting segment, where I tried to outmanoeuvre my opponents and shoot them down.

Joasiah Tang [Falcon 2025]



SWIFT COURSE 32-25

[17-20 Jun 2025]

The SYFC Work-up & Introduction to Flying Training (SWIFT) Course 32-25 brought together students from six schools: School of Science and Technology, Woodlands Ring Secondary School, Bukit View Secondary School, St Andrew's Secondary School, Northbrooks Secondary School and SOU Falcon.

Over the course, students learnt about basic aircraft systems, carried out aircraft checks on the DA40 aircraft and practised radiotelephony communications. They also had the opportunity to try basic flying manoeuvres on the DA40 flight simulator, giving them a hands-on introduction to flying training and a stronger foundation should they go on to apply for SYFC's flying programmes.



NAVIGATION TRIP TO HAT YAI

[25 - 27 Jun 2025]



The Hat Yai navigation trip gave SYFC students a chance to learn beyond the usual training environment. For many, it was their first experience of international flight operations and of planning and carrying out a navigation flight. With guidance from the Flying Instructors, students learnt about route planning, airspace coordination and emergency procedures.

Some of the strongest lessons came when things did not go exactly to plan. Weather diversions, coordinated radio communication and situation-based decision-making showed students why good pre-flight planning matters and to always clarify when in doubt.

The trip also brought instructors and students closer together. Away from the usual pace of training, there was more room for conversation and shared experiences. From dim sum breakfasts to exploring the street markets, these moments brought instructors and students closer together and made the trip memorable in a different way.

VISIT TO 130 SQN

[9 - 15 Mar 2025]

My visit to RSAF 130 SQN at Pearce Air Force Base (AFB) was a surreal and deeply meaningful experience. Although I did not get the chance to fly the PC-21, my time on the Orbital Flight Simulator (OFS) was incredibly insightful. The simulator was highly immersive, featuring a 270-degree field of view and a fully modelled cockpit that made it feel as though I was truly in the aircraft. Practising basic handling and running through procedures in such a realistic environment gave me a deeper appreciation of the complexity of the PC-21 systems and the rigour of training for Basic Wing Course (BWC) trainees.

A memorable part of the trip was meeting the Qualified Flying Instructors (QFIs) and current BWC trainees. Listening to them speak about the demands of training, the routines they keep, and the setbacks they have had to overcome gave me a clearer picture of life in BWC. I came away with the sense that doing well in BWC takes more than flying ability. It also takes the discipline to keep to a routine and the resilience to recover from setbacks.

What stood out to me was that prior flying experience only gives you a head start. What matters more is attitude, the willingness to learn, and the ability to keep going when things get difficult. The visit left me even more motivated to work towards the high standards set by the RSAF.



[15 - 20 Jun 2025]

Lai Jr, BFC 288



FIRST SOLO



I would like to thank SYFC for giving me the opportunity to fly an aircraft on my own and for helping me reach greater heights in my flying journey. This experience has deepened my passion for flying and made me even more excited for the road ahead.

Ng JE, BFC 297 [1 Feb 2025]



After struggling through four solo checks, finally being cleared for my first solo felt surreal. Sitting alone in the cockpit, I was nervous at first, but once I took off, something just clicked. The silence made everything feel so much more real. It was just me and the aircraft.

I am really grateful to my instructors, who never gave up on me and gave me the confidence I could not yet find in myself. That landing was not perfect, but the feeling afterwards was something I will never forget.

Chan XY, BFC 297 [15 Mar 2025]



In the days leading up to my first solo, I wrestled with nerves and self-doubt, made worse by two cancellations caused by the inter-monsoon storms. But when the time finally came and I got airborne, something changed.

With only the sound of the engine and the empty seat beside me, all the nervous energy, the checklists and the what-ifs melted away into calm focus. That was the moment it hit me: I was flying solo. I will never forget how free I felt.

Ang YY, BFC 298 [21 Mar 2025]

Completing my first solo flight was more than just a checkbox. It was a defining moment in my flying journey. Sitting alone in the cockpit for the first time, I felt a wave of nervousness, but as the wheels lifted off the runway, it gave way to excitement and a deep sense of accomplishment.

As I transition from the Basic Flying Course (BFC) to the Private Pilot Licence (PPL) phase, I have taken time to reflect on how far I have come. BFC taught me more than just flying. It shaped how I think ahead, manage time, stay calm under pressure, and recover quickly from mistakes.

With these skills in hand, I am ready and eager to take on the next phase of training.

Wibowo, BFC 302 [22 Jun 2025]



FINAL HANDLING TEST

A year ago, I was just a wide-eyed student pilot, sitting in a four-seater aircraft for the first time, flying over Singapore and pointing out shopping malls and MRT stations from the sky. More than 50 flights later, I had completed my Final Handling Test (FHT) and officially earned my Private Pilot Licence (PPL).

The FHT was no joyride. At 2.1 hours, it was the longest flight I had ever flown, and the first time I was fully in control from start-up to shut-down. Midway through, dark clouds rolled in during a forced landing practice. I had to make a quick decision and work around the weather while staying within limits. There was no time to hesitate. I just had to keep flying the aircraft.

To top it off, I had to share the circuit with a helicopter and multiple fixed-wing aircraft. I reminded myself to stay calm and focus on the next thing I needed to do.

I cannot thank my instructors, Mr Cheang MJ, Mr Teo MT and Mr Preetwant, as well as the flight ops and ground crew, enough. They made this journey possible.

Earning my PPL showed me how much I had grown over the course of training. Looking back, I am proud of how far I have come. My biggest lesson learnt was this: stay grounded in your purpose, even when things get turbulent. That is what keeps you flying.



FINAL HANDLING TEST

I am incredibly proud to share that I have officially passed my Final Handling Test (FHT) and am now a licensed private pilot. The FHT was the final assessment in my journey at the Singapore Youth Flying Club, and a culmination of the skills, knowledge and discipline I developed over months of flying training.

The test itself was intense and rewarding. It challenged me to demonstrate a full range of handling skills, including general flying, emergency procedures and situational awareness, while maintaining a high standard of airmanship. Despite the pressure, I stayed focused and calm, relying on the solid foundation built through every sortie leading up to this point.

None of this would have been possible without the support and mentorship of Mr Lee SL, my primary flight instructor. His dedication, detailed instruction and constant encouragement played a major role in preparing me for the FHT and shaping me as a pilot. Thank you, Sir, for believing in me and pushing me to meet the required standards.

I would also like to thank the hardworking operations staff at SYFC. Their efforts behind the scenes, from scheduling flights and arranging aircraft to keeping everything running smoothly, allowed me to concentrate fully on my training. Their support truly made a difference throughout this journey.

Achieving my PPL is a huge milestone, and I look forward to what comes next, continuing to grow as an aviator, taking on more responsibilities, and giving back where I can.



Lim WJ, BFC 298 [13 Apr 2025]



I arrived at SYFC at 7.00 am on 28 May 2025 for my Final Handling Test (FHT), the last flight before I could become a private pilot. The nerves were definitely there, but having my friend Joven (Lim WJ) around that morning helped to ease them a little. We had both been through the same training journey, and it was comforting to have someone to talk to before the flight. His encouragement reminded me that I had prepared for this and just needed to trust my training. The hour before I met my tester was spent checking documents, running through procedures and mentally flying the sortie profile.

As I taxied out to the runway, the butterflies in my stomach started to fade. My hands and feet moved instinctively, and every radio call, control input and check felt familiar. The muscle memory built up over months of flying kicked in, and with that came a quiet confidence. By then, flying had become second nature, so it was really about staying calm and consistent. The weather was clear, and once I was airborne, everything I had been practising over the

past few months began to fall into place: general handling, circuits and precautionary forced landings. It was not perfect, but I got through it without any major issues, sticking closely to what I had rehearsed so many times before.

Before I knew it, I had landed and shut down the aircraft, feeling more relieved than anything else. After finishing my oral quiz, I waited anxiously. At around 12.30 pm, I was finally told that I had passed my FHT. A big smile instantly appeared on my face as I thanked my tester.

My FHT marked the end of a significant chapter. The journey was long and definitely not easy, but I would do it all over again. It taught me discipline, resilience and how to perform under pressure, qualities I know will matter as I take the next step towards signing on and eventually becoming a pilot in the RSAF.

Yew K, BFC 297 [28 May 2025]

SYFC WORKPLAN RETREAT @ LYF HOTEL FARRER PARK [29 Mar 2025]



SYFC held its Workplan Retreat at LYF Farrer Park Hotel on 29 March 2025. During the retreat, SYFC Management reviewed the achievements of the WY24/25 workplan and shared the key milestones for WY25/26.

SYFC Management also commended staff for their efforts in strengthening internal controls and achieving an 'A' grading in the WY24/25 MMAF audit. The retreat was followed by a visit to the Indian Heritage Centre, where staff learnt more about Singapore's Indian cultural history and heritage.



815 SQN FAMILY DAY @ SYFC

[20 Jun 2025]

SYFC welcomed families from 815 SQN on 20 Jun 2025. With about 220 visitors at SYFC throughout the day, the event brought together servicemen and their families for a lively programme of hands-on activities.

From building and flying Launch Gliders to learning about the DA40 aircraft, families had the chance to experience aviation in a fun and approachable way. Presentation sessions were also conducted throughout the day, giving visitors the opportunity to learn more about SYFC and its programmes. The visit gave 815 SQN families a chance to experience SYFC up close, while introducing many of their children to aviation activities for the first time.



RECOLLECTIONS FROM AN SYFC ALUMNUS

To my friends and relatives, I am the “puay kee kia” (Hokkien for “airplane kid”). Watching airplanes at the airport was a treat, and many of my childhood memories revolved around drawing, reading and watching clips about flying and aviation. Becoming a pilot was a childhood dream.

SYFC made those dreams come true. I joined SYFC in Secondary 2 and built my first flying model airplane under the guidance of expert aeromodelling instructors. I also took the controls of an airplane for the first time during the Flying Experience Programme. The freedom and exhilaration of weaving through and soaring among the clouds got me hooked, and I subsequently went on to complete the Basic Flying Course and Private Pilot Licence (PPL) course while in junior college. In the words of the great inventor Leonardo da Vinci:

“Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.”

I went on to serve for 21 years as a pilot in the RSAF in various operational and leadership roles, before transitioning to commercial flying. The skills and experiences gained throughout my SYFC journey laid a firm foundation for a deeply fulfilling career in aviation.



Contributed by **Song Chun Keet, 15th YFC**