

About your LAA Coach

Derren Francis



Derren started gliding aged 14 and went solo on his 16th birthday at Lee-on-Solent. He joined the RAF in 1989 and in 1997 became a pilot flying helicopters for the Army Air Corps.

Derren left the Army in 2002 and became a commercial pilot and today flies the new A350 and A330 for Virgin Atlantic.

Outside work he is a CRI and LAA coach based out of Bicester, he is also member of the British Gliding Team where he has competed in World and European Gliding Championships.

Derren is the current British Gliding Association Senior Tug Pilot, Bicester Gliding Centre Chief Tug Pilot and instructs in both Aeroplanes and Gliders. Other than this period he has flown over 15,000 hrs and is always willing to travel coaching for the LAA on types 1,2.