

# About Your LAA Coach

## Neil Oakman



Neil's passion for flying started while living near to the old RAF Sawbridgeworth airfield. During the early summer he used to cycle to the edge of the old perimeter track to watch the Piper Pawnee crop sprayers take off and land, as well as the crop spraying helicopters later.

Neil started flying in Cork Ireland after buying a trial lesson at the Hibernian flying club while on holiday and from that moment on was hooked! Once back in Essex he quickly got his PPL, CPL and instructor rating. once he had built up sufficient hours, he then got his IR and the following winter passed the ATPL exams and then became a CAA examiner for SEP, MEP, TMG and also started flying helicopters as well!

After a chance meeting with a family friend who said Air UK are after pilots with hours, he then got a job in the airline industry where he is now as a senior training captain with a major Irish Airline. Not wanting to stop instructing he carried on flying at local airfields with his longest trip flying a PA28 to the Canary Islands and back over four days! He currently is Head of Training of an ATO which specialises in vintage and classic aircraft, in 2010 with two work collages he purchased his first T6 Harvard and is currently operating this at Duxford. In 2015 he fulfilled his dream by flying the Hurricane and Mark 9 Spitfire solo and is now Chief Pilot for Hurricane 501 LLP operating the Mk1 Hurricane V7497.