

About Your LAA Coach

Mark Sharp



Mark started flying through the Air Training Corps and got involved in the PFA (now LAA, of course) by operating his father's Druine Turbulent.

His first flight in 'The Turb' was without any formal tailwheel training, ending up airborne at 45 degrees to the runway with take off speed arriving before full loss of control.

The landing, he recalls, was equally exciting. He remarks "I was lucky to get away with it. If the PCS had been in existence, that experience might've been etched in my memory for altogether better reasons!"

He joined the RAF as a pilot at 20, first qualifying on the Buccaneer and going on to enjoy 18 years of continuous flying. This included multiple tours as a Qualified Flying Instructor, teaching on the Hawk, Tornado and Harrier. On leaving the Service in 2007 he reconnected with the LAA and has owned and operated several Permit to Fly aircraft since. He continues to instruct at flying club level, chiefly on tailwheel aircraft.

Whether it's initial training, 'post graduate' skills like aerobatics ...or just confidence building, his aim is to help fellow LAA members to get the most out of their aircraft. He currently lives near Grantham.