

## Norman Motley FI Scholarship 2024

For some years I'd been toying with the idea of being able to teach flying. A few years back I decided to take a Class Rating Instructor course as a bit of fun, to improve my own flying and to help out with revalidations for the members of my aircraft flying group. This, as my wife would attest, triggered a renewed passion for flying and many hours spent in the right-hand seat. It also precipitated a desire to do more to give back to the flying community and in particular for ab-initio tuition.



Fast forward a bit and I'm sitting in a room in central London facing a panel of three in the final interview for the Honourable Company of Air Pilots FI scholarship. Having already had to complete a paper application and a recorded video on the importance of integrating theoretical knowledge into flight training, I was worried what else they could ask me. Perversely, the interview was quite fun - I wasn't sure if this was a good sign or not! However, a few hundred refreshes of my inbox later, I got the email – I'd been accepted!

I opted for doing the course at Andrewsfield and was instructed by the amazing Paul Slater. The school have a great set of resources even before you arrive for day one, to get you thinking about the course.

From my own PPL, I had either forgotten or hadn't noticed what an art form teaching new concepts well is. Being able to fly accurately yourself was a bedrock and my own flying improved immeasurably through the course. However, the biggest takeaway for me was, firstly – how important what and how you say is, in the learning process, whether this be a ground briefing or in-air instruction. Secondly, was realising that a good briefing, leads to a good flight, and to ensure enough credence is given to former.



Working full time and having a baby meant I had to fit this around “life”. The course was demanding but super fun and Paul Slater’s teaching skills, metaphors and (bad) jokes kept me smiling throughout. Test day came and Carol Cooper was to put me through my paces in what turned out to be a full day combination of theoretical knowledge oral examination, ground briefing, waiting for the weather and then the flight itself. The words “congratulations you’ve passed” eventually came when I’d satisfied Carol that I had met the requirements and was equipped to spot and correct the multiple ways students may try and surprise you.

Without HCAP and the Norman Motley scholarship I would not have had the opportunity to do an FI course. I am grateful to them and hope through the coming years I’ll be able to inspire a new, diverse and vibrant set of people into our aviation world.