

UK's first Seaplane Class Rating Instructor

FTN has been told that following a course conducted by On-Track Aviation, the only FTO in the UK who offer seaplane instructor courses, one Jamie Furnell now holds the distinction of being the first ever Class Rating Instructor (CRI) qualified to teach on both land aeroplanes and seaplanes.

The training was carried out by On-Track head of training, Alan Newton. The course took place in Scotland at Loch Earn using an Aviate Husky A1 Amphibious Seaplane and was conducted in two sessions of 4 days training which included both ground and air tuition. The course was divided into 12 hours of flying training and 33 hours of ground tuition that included Teaching and Learning as well as seaplane operations.

When asked why they chose Loch Earn, Alan said, "Seaplane flying in England is very much restricted to only a couple of locations which involve long transit flights. Loch Earn and the surrounding water are only a few minutes flying apart and give the student a variety of water conditions to use." When asked about the notorious weather conditions in Scotland, Alan commented, "Yes the weather can be a problem but the

course is not all airborne instruction. Seaplane training is mainly concerned with water operations and this can generally be carried out even if when the weather prevents us actually getting airborne."

Jamie Furnell, who is a PPL holder, has been flying seaplanes since 1997 in both the UK and USA. "He is a really enthusiastic person who is always keen to learn," said Alan. "He has a great manner and good handling skills which made him an ideal candidate for the CRI course."

Jamie says he intends to use his new found qualification with Neil's Seaplanes, also based at Loch Earn, who offer seaplane training and class ratings. Neil Gregory, owner of the school, says, "He will be a great asset to the school and I'm sure he will enjoy teaching the variety of students who come to learn the skills of seaplane flying."





Aviate Huskey A1 demonstrating the single float take off



From left to right: Alan Newton FI, Jamie Furnell, Iain McClelland CAA FE