



**Captain Chris J Spurrier BSc(Eng)**  
**Master Air Pilot 2017 - 18**

Born in 1944, Chris joined his school ATC Squadron, where his interest in aviation became a passion, leading to a degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial College, London and thence to the Royal Air Force.

After training on Chipmunks, Jet Provosts and Varsitys Chris was posted to one of the early Hercules courses at Thorney Island. He became a co-pilot on 47 Sqn, based at RAF Fairford and living in the mess at South Cerney near Cirencester. The Hercules operated in both the tactical and strategic roles, flying at low-level round the UK dropping paratroops and supplies one day and the next, perhaps, leaving on a long-range route anywhere in the world. After one tour as a co-pilot Chris was sent back to Thorney Island for a Captain's course. During this time he married Paula. On completion of his captaincy course Chris was posted to 36 Sqn at Lyneham.

The Air Force, though, was contracting and BOAC recruiting so Chris left the Service after eight years and joined the civil world to fly the VC10. In the late 1970s the fuel crisis and the restructuring of BOAC and BEA into British Airways meant that BA had a surplus of pilots so many junior ones were temporarily stood down. Chris spent some time teaching and then two years as a computer programmer for the BA Operations Research Department before returning to flying on the 737. He became the Flight Technical Officer of that fleet, where he assisted in writing the BA versions of the Flying and Technical Manuals and other diverse tasks including assisting in the specifying, accepting and delivering new 737-400 aircraft from Seattle. Chris finished his time with BA as a DC-10 captain, on reaching the BA retirement age, flew for a further five years on the 737 with GB Airways. He eventually retired in 2004.

Within the Honourable Company he was a member of the Technical and Air Safety Committee for some years. He chaired the group which produced the Company's paper on aircraft security following the events of 9/11. He became a trustee and secretary of the Benevolent Fund and then took over as chairman. Elected as an Assistant to the Court in 2011 he became a Warden in 2013.

He and Paula had two sons. The elder died from melanoma cancer aged 20. The younger, Edward, is an RAF Surgeon. Married to Olivia, who is also a surgeon, Ed has a PPL and is a Liveryman of the Company. Chris and Paula both play golf and enjoy fly fishing. They often holiday on self-drive river cruisers or narrow boats, where Chris can play at being a captain again.