

Website: <http://www.laahighlandstrut.org.uk>, Newsletter email: laahighlandstrutnews@outlook.com

Strut meeting on Friday 31st March 2023, 7:30pm, at Highland Aviation, Inverness Airport.

This issue:-

From the chair	1
CAA Rebate Ending	2
Event & Fly-in Diary	2
Easter Airfield News	3
Droning On	4
Membership renewal	4

FROM THE CHAIR – March 2023, by Paul Wayman

Well, it's all change in the Strut after the last meeting in early February, which was the first after nearly 3 years, and was well attended. Some members ended up going home with perhaps more than they bargained for in the shape of new positions of office! Hence, this is the committee for the following year:

Chairman	-	Paul Wayman
Vice Chairman	-	Paul Gibbs
Strut Co-ordinator	-	Brian Spence
Safety Officer	-	Darren MacLeod
Newsletter Editor	-	Bill Ritchie
Treasurer	-	Chris Haycock
Airspace & Interface	-	Paul Jenkins

It goes without saying that our sincere thanks must be extended to our outgoing Chairman of the last 7 years, **Nigel Campbell**; Vice Chairman, **Duncan Sutherland**; and Treasurer, **Alister Sutherland** for their commitment and sterling work in the Strut and it's committee over many years. In Alister's case, as an original founder of the Highland Strut in the 1970's.

Some of you might know me from Strut meetings, the odd fly-in and having done the newsletter for the last few years. But if not, as a short introduction, I've been flying, mostly out of Inverness airport, for a bit more than 20 years as a PPL. I joined the Strut and the LAA in about 2010, but became embroiled in aircraft ownership and operation a little before that after a friend and I bought a Piper Tomahawk, by mistake. After a couple of years of flying fun and ground arguments (mostly the latter), we sold it to Highland Aviation, where it still lives. I was also part of a small group operating a C-172 from Inverness for a while (which later became subject of a Channel 4 documentary concerning an incapacitated pilot at Humberside Airport). For about the last 10 years, I have co-owned and operated ex-French Army Piper L18C Cub G-AYPS - a standard LAA vintage type - which is based in the hangar at Inverness. I think it's fair to say vintage machines are my main interest, but building something is definitely on my bucket list.

As far as this year is concerned, we already have our two fly-ins more or less confirmed, those being Sollas on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June and our annual fly-in at Easter Airfield on Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July. All being well with the old weather thing, I have no doubt these will be excellent events and we look forward to seeing you at both.

In addition, I've been thinking there might perhaps be scope for the Strut to organise some other stuff this year. In particular, it's been quite a while since we've had a locally hosted GASCO safety evening (I think the last was in 2016). These are always well worthwhile in my experience. Last time it was hosted in the Inverness Airport Terminal, but my understanding is that HIAL are no longer willing to accommodate it. That being the case, if anyone has any suggestions for a different venue, a hotel function room, or community hall perhaps, please let us know.

If you have any suggestions for other events or activities, or if you hear of any fly-ins or events that are not already in the diary, please get in touch.

That's about all I can string together this time. I'm not going to be able to attend the forthcoming meeting on Friday due to a family event, but hopefully another committee member will stand in as chair.

Safe flying and see you at an airfield soon.

CAA Electronic Conspicuity Rebate



Still a chance to take advantage of this CAA scheme to provide a £250 rebate on electronic conspicuity devices, such as the SkyEcho ADS-B Transceiver. But you'll have to be quick, it comes to an end on Friday 31st March. You can find out all about it here:

<https://www.caa.co.uk/general-aviation/aircraft-ownership-and-maintenance/electronic-conspicuity-devices/>

Event and Fly-in Diary 2023

David Hart - For those who knew David and shared his love of Aviation, there will be a celebration of his life on Friday 31st March, 14:00, at Fortrose Golf Club. David's son, Nic, has said that any old photos and memories would be appreciated. For catering numbers to be estimated, it would be useful to know who intends coming via email to: bernyandcleo.welsh@btinternet.com

Strut Meeting – Friday 31st March, Highland Aviation, Inverness Airport.

Easter Airfield

Spring Fly-in – Sunday 30th April
Summer Fly-in – Saturday 24th June
LAA Highland & Islands Strut Fly-in - Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th July

Glenforsa

51st Mull Annual Fly-in, Glenforsa – Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th & Monday 29th May

Sollas

LAA Highlands & Islands Strut Sollas Beach Landing Fly-in – Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th June

Lamb Holm

Lamb Holm Fly-in, Orkney – Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd July

Perth

Scottish Aero Club Annual Fly-in - Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th August

Montrose

Pop-Up Airfield Fly-In – Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th August

Please email details of any fly-ins or events you know of to: laahighlandstrutnews@outlook.com

Easter Airfield News

From David Edes.

Due to weather it's been quite quiet at Easter. We have had occasional visits from the Easterton Squadron and Highland Aviation's gyrocopters have been dropping in. We have managed to fly G-AVSA most weeks .

We had an issue with our Sky echo:-

We have had a Sky Echo for a couple of years now and kept it in the plane plugged in & powered whilst flying, but last week it would not turn on!

I contacted UAAvionics and their helpline called me the following day.

The first question was: "Do you keep it in the aircraft and plugged in?" My reply was yes.

"That's the problem. The aircraft doesn't supply enough power to keep the battery charged up. It uses more power than it can accept whilst flying."

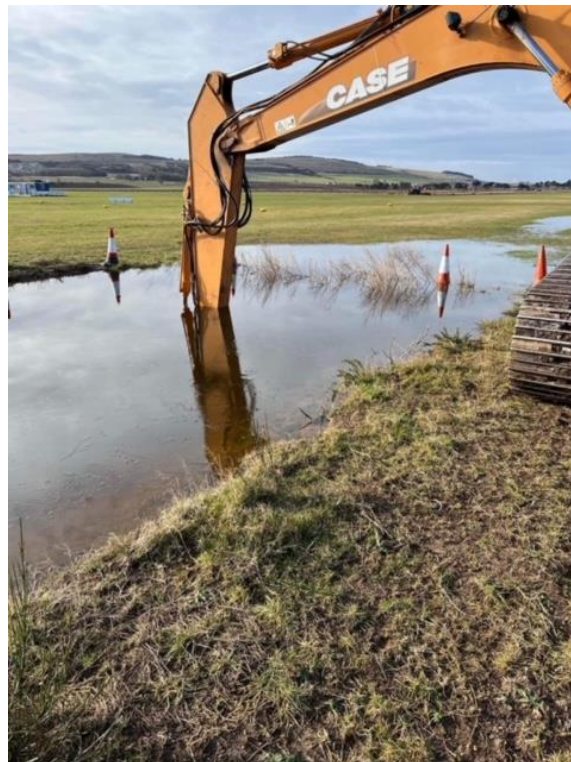
Apparently this is clearly stated on page 18 of the manual that it should be taken home at least once a month and fully charged for at least 12 hours. I've done this and it's fixed it.

I happened to mention that to Aitken Paton and his has done the same, so perhaps others may have the same problem . Simply take it home, put it on a proper charger for a minimum of 12 hours once a month.

G-BEZC currently in Inverness for annual.

Even with all the rain the runway has been usable .

This shows how much water can flow down the ditch at the side of the runway:



The ongoing battle with Acorn & the Biodigester is still at planning, with no date set yet for it to go to committee. The CAA have been extremely supportive of us in objecting to the proposal.

Droning On

Here is a link to an article in the Metro concerning drone incidents in the UK:



<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/pilot-finds-drone-flying-at-20-000ft-near-uk-military-base/ar-AA195BA2?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=fedbe108124b430a9c39065a96b76a68&ei=23>

Highland Strut membership renewal for 2023:

Treasurer's Address:- Alister Sutherland, 'Kylarrick', Lower Bogrow, Edderton, Tain, Ross-shire, IV19 1LT.



07836 662660

January 2023

We have once again been able to maintain membership to the paltry level of only £5:00 for the year. Subscriptions due by 28th February.

To maintain your membership, please complete and return this form with payment to the treasurer at the address shown above. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Highland Strut'.

Payments may also be made by BACS. Sort Code: **83-27-35**, Account No: **00665726**, Account Name: **Highlands & Islands Strut of the LAA**

Please use your name or other suitable ID (e.g. Aircraft reg for landing card) in the reference field. Payees' must send an E mail to janimar.50@btinternet.com confirming details of the payment made. This is to ensure your payment is recorded accurately against individual members.

Alternatively, come along to the next meeting and pay in person, but please complete the details below which will form the basis of our membership list.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

LAA

BMA

BGA

LAA Membership No.: -----

Email address: -----

Telephone: -----

Mobile: -----