

Website: <http://www.laahighlandstrut.org.uk>, Newsletter email: [laahighlandstrutnews@outlook.com](mailto:laahighlandstrutnews@outlook.com)

Next Strut meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7:30pm, at Highland Aviation, Inverness Airport.

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**FROM THE CHAIR – September 2024, by Paul Wayman**

It's hard to believe that another fly-in season is over, but let's hope we can look forward to some good flying days in the months ahead, until the next season starts. Our annual fly-in at Easter Airfield was pretty successful. We had reasonable weather, although it wasn't quite so good further afield which limited aircraft numbers a bit. Sunday was the better of the two days which saw 16 aircraft movements altogether, mostly from local and North East airfields.

The Sunday was also a Wings and Wheels day where we played host to Classic vehicles and their owners from the Highland Classic Motor Club. I think everyone would agree that this was a huge success and it was great to see so many enthusiastic people on the airfield from both the aviation and motoring camps. We hope it might go on to generate some interest in our aviation activities, and who knows, might even see us gain a few new members in time.



Highland Classic Car Club website: <https://www.highlandclassic.org.uk/public/home/page1.php>

Our sincere thanks go to David Munro and the Easter team for hosting us for the weekend at his excellent facility.

You can read Claudine's report below on the **Sollas fly-in**. It was a good success despite bad weather. Saturday was the best of the 3 days, but still too windy for me, so that's another year I haven't made it. Hopefully next year!

Earlier in the year, I was contacted by BBC Radio Scotland producer, Phil Sime, who was interested in doing a feature about the Highlands and Islands aviation community and our fly-ins for the "Our Story" series of programmes, hosted by Mark Stephen. They had heard about the Sollas beach fly-in and hoped to be able to get there to meet and interview some of us. Logistically, this was quite tricky to achieve and it was hoped that Mark could travel with one of us to Sollas, but we concluded that by far the most reliable option was to put him in touch with George Cormack at Cumbernauld.

George very kindly ferried Mark to Sollas on the Saturday in his Islander and I'm told that he got what he was hoping for. They will let us know when the show will be broadcast sometime in the not too distant future.

Many thanks to George and Susan for making this happen. I know it was greatly appreciated by the BBC fellows and I look forward to tuning in when the programme is broadcast.

Our September meeting, as I type this, is this evening, Friday 27<sup>th</sup>. Tim Whittome will be doing a talk on the dawn to dusk challenge he undertook in 2000, which I am looking forward to hearing all about. Hope to see you there!

That's about it from me.

Safe flying and hope to see you at an airfield soon.

## LAA Highland Strut Fly-in 2024, Easter Airfield

### Aircraft Movements:

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July
G-OBEE Boeing Stearman	G-CFUA Vans RV9
G-RDMS Zenair CH650	G-ARWR Cessna 172C
G-BHLW Cessna 120	G-CECK Savannah
G-BVVN Colibri MB2	G-BTNO Aeronca Champ
G-VALS Pietenpol Air Camper	G-NIPR Tipsey Nipper
G-AYPS Piper Super Cub	G-ROOK Cessna F172P
G-BKET Piper Super Cub	G-VIDA Eurofox
G-CECK Savannah	G-BTXD Rans S6
	G-AVSA Piper Cherokee
	G-IARC Glastar
	G-BKET Piper Super Cub
	G-EWEN Eurofox
	G-BZVA Zenair 701
	G-NCFC Piper Tomahawk
	G-BMFV
	G-BZVJ Pegasus Quantum

This year's lucky prize winners receiving their **George Cockburn & Son Haggis** awards for spectacular, unspectacular or unspecified feats of aviation at the 2024 Strut fly-in are listed below. Photos on next page.

1. Mike Wood for best VW powered aircraft on Saturday.
2. Ali Ross for best Savannah.
3. John Farquhar for best arrival from Shempston.
4. Dave Kelly for best Air Camper of the weekend.
5. Rick Philips and David Lockett for longest detour to pick someone up.
6. Andy Done for his marshalling services with his Willys Jeep all weekend.
7. Iain Macleod for most westerly departure.
8. Neil Butler for best Piper Tomahawk.
9. Allan Craig and crew for longest flight from home base.
10. And last but not least, David Munro received a Cockburns Black Pudding for generously hosting us all over the Fly-in weekend. Thanks again to David and team.

Many thanks to **George Cockburn & Son, World Champion Haggis Maker** of Dingwall for kindly donating this year's prizes.



Order on-line here: <http://www.cockburns-haggis.co.uk/>





## Sollas 2024 Fly-in Report

Another year and another Sollas Fly in has been and gone.

It is always a challenge with the weather up here but we never give up. We battled through winds gusting 40 knots and more on all three days. Thursday was bright enough and blowing half a gale. There was a thick band of rain diagonally across the country which meant that very few arrivals would come from south of the borders. But those north of Glasgow and Edinburgh would probably be OK.

There was work to do on the beach. It was not as smooth or as dry as I would have liked but we raked in the runway markings and managed about 600 metres of usable landing strip.

Paul got in from Inverness in his Jabiru and the brave duo Jim and Gordon came all the way from Winchester via Sleaf. We followed both their slow progress on FR24 nose into wind taking twice as long as they had hoped.

On Friday we woke up to a brutal day. Rain was lashing down, winds were gusting 48 kts and the visibility was poor. Needless to say no one in their right mind would have even looked out the window. We were going to have a bit of a long boring day. We drove around the roads we had yet to explore and by now we have driven all of them. We had coffee, snoozed in the car, rain beating down, and went back to the beach to check out the markings. You guessed it - all gone. There was nothing left to do but shelter in a local hotel bar, order fish and chips, and get an early night. The phone rang frequently with people very sensibly cancelling their visits the next day.

The forecast for Saturday looked a lot better - sunny intervals, lighter winds and the promise of a few arrivals. I looked out the window at 6 a.m. YESSS! it was looking good, cloud base high, visibility 10k or more, still quite breezy but it was going to get a lot better.

No it didn't: By breakfast time it looked like the weather had not talked to the forecast. Cloud and mist had descended, it was raining and the wind was still quite keen. Really? Yes really! Very depressing but we never give up!

We got to the beach, re-did the markings, put up the windsock, put on several layers of warm clothing and waited. The generator burst into life and Joan and Chrissie, started to prepare the BBQ, warm drinks and cake, inside the large Horse box they had brought to the beach and waited.

Slowly, the clouds started to lift. It was still overcast but the cloud base was now around 2000ft, with strong south westerly winds straight down the runway and no sunny spells. By 10.30 our first arrivals made it through - 10 in total. (see pictures attached).

We were happy to see them and they were welcomed with a burger and black pudding roll, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits.

BBC Radio Scotland presenters did get to do their interviews and got the story they had come for. Thank you Phil and Mark and Shona for listening. We know you enjoyed your visit. We look forward to catching the broadcast.

Your generosity meant that we have raised a total of £ 340 which will be distributed within the local North Uist Community Groups, who have been kind with the loan of chairs and tables and anything else we required. Thank you very much.

**GIFTS:** Firstly, our gratitude for the gifts of food from our visitors who brought with them home made cakes, washed salad leaves ready to go, grill ready fish, burgers and items for the BBQ. It is very kind and thoughtful of you.

**Donations:** A few of you have expressed a wish to make a donation to add to the collection this year. Please bear with us. We have been trying since May to open a Bank of Scotland account for the fly-in, specifically for donations. We have been pushed from pillar to post and have not yet achieved that. Once it is open I will give you the details so anyone can make a small contribution if they wish.

**WhatsApp:** I set up the group this year and found it very useful. I hope those who were in the group felt the same. I thought I would leave it dormant so it is ready to go next time. You can take yourselves off the group if you wish. Next year we can review it and add or take names off as appropriate.

Lastly, I cannot thank you enough for your support for this event. To those who made it through, I admire your bravery. Some of you tried so hard to get through in challenging conditions. We watched your progress on FR24 and watched as you sensibly turned back. It's disappointing for you but there is always another day. Please do not put yourselves at risk to get to Sollas. Every year I breathe a sigh of relief when everyone arrives home safely.

Until next time – Claudine.



## For Sale

Syndicated Shares or Outright of Piper PA28 Warrior or PA38 Tomahawk based at Inverness.  
Both Aircraft IFR equipped.

Managed Group with Hangarage, Fuel, Maintenance and CAMO.

For those without a licence Training and PPL or NPPL Ab initio is also possible.

For further details

Contact Neil

0793 208 9595 or email percivalp40@hotmail.com

## Highlands and Islands Airports Limited

HIAL board minutes are available to the public on their website. Many of you will know that following the controversial hike in parking and landing charges, which created a lot of noise and complaints amongst the GA community, HIAL reduced the parking fees to a more reasonable level. The landing/navigation fees still stand, but I thought the extract below from the April 2024 minutes was interesting. Perhaps they like us GA types after all?

### "Conditions of Use, Fees and Charges

*AG apologised to the Board for the changes made to the 2024/25 conditions of use, fees and charges in December in relation to parking charges by tonnage which had caused concerns to the general aviation users. He briefed the board on the new recommended daily charges for aircraft weights. **The Board discussed how to look at inducing the GA population back to using HIAL airports.**"*

## Winter Fuel

Spotted this amusing text accompanying a listing for a sheepskin flying jacket on eBay:

*"Made in high-quality sheepskin this jacket is perfect for those looking for a stylish and comfortable piece of clothing and is perfect for open cockpit flying, driving a convertible car or for pensioners who have had their winter fuel allowance cancelled."*

## Highland Strut membership renewal for 2024:

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Treasurer:- Ashley Johnston/Alister Sutherland



07836 662620

### January 2024

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

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LAA

BMA

Address:

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BGA

LAA Membership No.: -----

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Email address: -----

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Telephone: -----

Postcode:

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Mobile: -----