

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

Next Strut meeting on Friday 27th September 2024, 7:30pm, at Highland Aviation, Inverness Airport (provisionally).

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FROM THE CHAIR – June 2024, by Paul Wayman

As most of you will already know, it has been a sad time for the Highland Strut so far this year, with two key members passing away. Our Treasurer, Chris Haycock, was involved in a road traffic accident on the A96 in February and later died in hospital from his injuries, aged just 53. Chris was an Air Traffic Controller at Dalcross having moved from Prestwick about 5 years ago. He was a keen GA pilot, a really nice, friendly guy who joined the Strut fairly recently and had only been Treasurer for a few months. We wish we'd been able to get to know him better, but his enthusiasm for flying was obvious to all. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife, Anushka, his two teenage children and family and friends.

Then, on the 6th May, we lost Duncan Sutherland, LAA Inspector and former Strut Vice Chairman after a short, but bravely fought illness. The incredible number of people who attended Duncans funeral on the 23rd May spoke volumes about how highly he was thought of. Nigel, who knew him best amongst us, has sent a little eulogy which you will find below and which captures our sentiments.

May 31st Strut Meeting

There was quite a good turnout this time with some interesting discussion. Dave Brown showed us a video of a dramatic arrival at East Fortune in G-KEVI and gave us some commentary.

The decision was taken to hold our annual fly-in at Easter Airfield this year over the usual last weekend of July, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th. There is still an appetite to return to Dornoch, but we did not receive necessary permissions from Highland Council in time, although they were keen on the idea in principle. Since we needed to start getting organised in earnest, Easter was the better option, this time.

Sollas 2024 Beach Fly-in is still set for Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th August.

Dornoch

I believe there might be some news on a lease being taken on the airfield at some point soon. No other details at the moment, but in the meantime, it's still business as usual with Highland Council.

The old Fire Engine shed and office has been leased to a local Dornoch business for storage.

Airspace

Paul Jenkins has provided the following on airspace:

Really not much to report on the airspace front. Of the two drone corridors, the Grampian one is at Stage 5, which is the CAA decision making stage. The Orkney one has not got beyond Stage 1.

For neither of the Clash Gour windfarm nor the Dalcross Class D is the CAA airspace portal showing any information. As before, this could well be because they have not been updating the portal timeously.

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

THE SAD PASSING OF OUR DEAR FRIEND & COLLEAGUE DUNCAN SUTHERLAND on 6th MAY 2024

Even by writing many pages to describe Duncan's life would not adequately describe his achievements or his demonstrated skills in navigating through life's trials and tribulations to finally emerge successful in whatever he undertook. Motor Mechanic; Pilot rising to become Squadron Leader in charge of VGS teenager motor glider flight training operations at Kinloss; Business Director and Co-owner of Duncan Sutherland Diagnostics; Light Aircraft Association Inspector.

Such pages of text would also not convey a sense of who Duncan really was or convey the sadness of all those he interacted with upon hearing of his passing. I am sure all will agree that the feelings of deep sadness were more than demonstrated by the huge turnout attending his funeral service, all taking the time just to say farewell to a dear friend and colleague. We therefore can but conclude that Duncan was truly "A Man for All Seasons" and shall be sadly missed.

The Highland & Islands Strut / Club extend our heartfelt condolences to Duncan's widow Margaret.

Extract from the funeral service a poem by John Gillespie Magee, Flight Lieutenant, Royal Canadian Airforce:

HIGH FLIGHT

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung.*

*High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.*

*And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of god.*



Easter News

From David Edes.

The weather in May has been slightly kinder to us although not brilliant for the Fly in at the beginning of the month. We only managed 10 visiting aircraft.

Freedom Aviation from Kemble brought three Warriors up on an hour building trip.



I actually think we had more photographers than pilots that day, but those who attended and enjoyed themselves. Here's a link to the gallery of images of all the visiting aircraft. <https://www.easterairfield.co.uk/gallery>



We have had several other visitors during the month including a couple of Yaks , sadly I didn't manage to get a photograph of the five seater version.



Fresson DH Dragon Visit

The Fresson Trust celebrated the **90th Anniversary of the UK's first internal Air Mail service** on the weekend of Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June by hosting the only remaining airworthy De Havilland Dragon which belonged to Highland Airways.

The Dragon arrived at Dalcross Airport on Friday 31st and flew to Kirkwall on Saturday 1st, overflying Wick en-route, to commemorate the pioneering flight Captain Fresson made on 29th May 1934 from Longman Aerodrome, Inverness, bound for Orkney with the Royal Mail.

DH Dragon G-ACET belongs to and was flown by Strut member George Cormack. It is based at Cumbernauld and was restored some years ago to a very, very high standard. It is operated on an LAA Permit to Fly.



Ted Fresson giving his pre-flight address in 1934



RPM and Oil gauges are located in the engine nacelles.

Fly-in Diary

Newhall Mains Summer Fly-in

15 June 2024, Newhall Mains, Balblair, By Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV7 8LQ. Calling all pilots, aeroplane enthusiasts and anyone interested in a day of aeroplane-fuelled fun! Bring your families to marvel at the aircraft on display at the Newhall Mains Summer Fly-in on Saturday 15 June 2024. There is a set lunch cooked outside on the Asado.

Pilots – PPRs are essential. Please email info@newhallmains.com

Locals – reservations are welcomed in advance.

Schedule – Aircraft arriving: 1100, BBQ lunch from: 1300-1500



Easter

Summer Solstice 22nd/23rd June 2024

LAA Highland Strut Annual Fly-in

Easter Airfield - Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July 2024.

Sollas

Beach Fly-in Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th August 2024

Please let us know of any fly-ins or other interesting events at laahighlandstrutnews@outlook.com

Highland Strut membership renewal for 2024:

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 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:

LAA

BMA

Address:

Postcode:

BGA

LAA Membership No.: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____