

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

Next Strut meeting on Friday 24th November 2023, 7:30pm, at Highland Aviation, Inverness Airport.

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FROM THE CHAIR – October 2023, by Paul Wayman

September Strut Meeting

We had a reasonable turnout at the last meeting on Friday 29th September. A last minute addition to the agenda was a presentation by Tom Hardie of the General Aviation Alliance on airspace matters. This was a very interesting overview, regardless of which side of the airspace fence you sit on, with some good discussion points. Our thanks to Tom for giving up his time for this. For those that missed it, hopefully we can revisit the subject again in the future.

Dornoch Airfield

Those of us in attendance at the September meeting also discussed the possibility of the Strut putting forward a proposal to Highland Council to take on the lease of Dornoch airfield. The conclusion reached was that it was not a viable proposition for us at this time. The closing date (13th October) has now passed and we wait to see what the outcome will be, which may take some time.

It has also been reported that the windsock we installed at Dornoch last year has disappeared, possibly blown away in the high winds. Please be aware if you intend to visit. Our understanding is that the Council will replace it in due course.

GASCo Safety Evening

Still no feedback from the GASCo representative for our area. I think this is unlikely to happen before the end of the year now.

New Strut Website

We now have a new, revamped Strut website: <https://www.laahighlandstrut.org.uk/>



Welcome To Our Website

Many thanks to Aitken Paton for putting this together and agreeing to take over the Webmaster role. Our sincere thanks also go to Allan Gilmour for his services to the Strut in running the website for goodness knows how many years previously. It is hugely appreciated by all.

We now need you, the members, to provide some content. So if you have anything you'd like to contribute (e.g. Projects underway, Technical info, Fly-ins, Airmanship, Airfields to visit, photos, videos, etc) please send them to us. If anyone has any copies of photos or videos of previous fly-ins from the old site, we would be pleased to receive these as well.

Safe flying and see you at an airfield soon.

September in the Channel Islands

I've never understood Classic Car clubs. What makes (mostly late middle aged, mostly blokes) want to get together with other, mostly blokes, who also own an Austin 1300GT, escapes me. Its for the same reason that I don't really understand the need for the same age group who possess a Private Pilots Licence, to get together at a 'fly-in' to compare the size of Lycoming engines which have been around since their planes were built when Elton and Freddie Mercury were hitting the charts. Anyway, after some discussion with Ashley about the need to get out and about, to stick one up the stern faced folk of the Scottish Parliament, to stick one up the 20mph speed limits and redress the net zero balance, the trip to the Alderney fly-in was on.

I had been at the fly-in once before in 2002, but memories of the weekend were hazy, so it would be great to re-live the experience. It was well organised the last time, and the format was updated, but largely the same. A combination of fly and après-fly.

So, the intrepid Grumman-north gang set out on a southerly track. G-BEZC (Aitken & Mary) visiting his sister in Blackpool for a couple of nights before a rendezvous with G-JUDY (Ash & Donna) at Sleaf (pronounced Shlep, Sleep... who knows) on Friday, 1st September. Bit of a splash in the tanks and we were off to Alderney, with a diversion around the Red Arrows at Bournemouth. Never saw them yet. G-JUDY did a bit of a dog leg and landing at Guernsey for the tax free fuel before landing at Alderney. SkyDemon makes all the admin really easy these days and there is plenty of it at Alderney. The extra local GAR isn't on SkyDemon.

The weekend accommodation was at La Ville and was very friendly, flexible and great value. Free Ice Creams... never seen that before. The organisers also laid on transport to and from the airport which made the transfers easy. We opted for the organised barbecue on the Friday night and the main event on the Saturday night. The barbecue at The Moorings was a definite après-fly event (!) and the weather was just fab. Great chance to meet and socialise with some of the other crews from the 30-ish aircraft attending.

Saturday was free to do whatever takes your fancy. The organisers had given some options of boat trips and wildlife watching. Ash & Donna had their bikes, so toured the island by pedal. The weather was perfect, so Mary & I just walked around, lunch, museum and a wee shot on the Island railway.

The dinner event was very well organised at the Alderney Government building with a local Hotel (The Blond Hedgehog) doing the catering and a local covers band doing their stuff. Great fun, but the impending flights the next day meant that we couldn't drink wine until it came out of our ears. We didn't really expect to win any awards, but G-BEZC won the furthest travelled award and G-JUDY won the prize for the 'Best Modern Aircraft'. The judges were obviously swayed by the snazzy BLUE colour scheme. Anyway, nice to take back some silverware to the Highlands.

On the Sunday, the usual Channel Islands mist and fog eventually cleared and both aircraft got Special VFR clearance out of the Jersey Zone.

Great weekend. Long flights, but we were up for the challenge. Where to next?





Easter Update

The beginning of September saw a visit from the Europa club 10 Europa's a Jabaru and an R44 helicopter



Freedom Aviation (Kemble) have been up twice recently on hour building trips .

We are still in limbo with the Biodigester planning application. Apparently, it's due to go to committee at the November meeting.

The recent explosion of the AD plant in Oxfordshire is giving us serious cause for concern.



[Oxford explosion: Fireball erupts leaving sky 'pulsating with flames & smoke'](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)
[youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Regards,
David M Edes,
44,Brudes Hill,
Inverness
IV3 8AG
07860-524394



What is this?

The + signs are ground features, near Helmsdale River source.
George Mair.

Highland Strut membership renewal for 2023:

Treasurer:- Chris Haycock.

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: