

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

No Strut meeting until further notice due to Covid-19 situation

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FROM THE CHAIR – September 2022, by Nigel Campbell

CONGRATULATIONS TO BILLY AND MARY GRANT

Both were stalwarts of our Strut since the beginning in 1973 and have just celebrated 60 years of marriage. Billy now in his 90th year was our treasurer along with Mary who did a huge amount of work every year for our annual fly-ins, maintained membership lists and recorded receipt of membership and landing card payments. All this work carried out with total commitment throughout the decades until they retired recently. The Strut recognised their celebration by giving a beautiful bouquet of flowers. A well-deserved recognition for their endless work.

ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO AN END

The Fly-in season in our neck of the woods has sadly come to an end but as usual, as optimists, we always look forward to the next season with great anticipation.

Several disappointing outcomes to our fly-ins due to weather related cancellations (Easter Airfield) and those that did go ahead suffered from low visitor numbers mostly due to our standard unpredictable weather (Easter Airfield and Lamb Holm). Our Sollas fly-in was forecast to be a washout however, the unexpected silver lining on the Friday was a positive outcome for Claudine, Joan and team. Our annual fly-in kindly hosted by David Munro at Easter Airfield was the exception as it got off to a slow start on the Saturday but was thankfully blessed with excellent weather on the Sunday recording 52 aircraft over the weekend which was a most successful outcome.

This is the quietest period with reference to aviation newsworthy items I have ever experienced. As a consequence I have absolutely no stuff whatsoever to comment on except another year is relentlessly flying by entering its fourth quarter.

YOUR STRUT/CLUB NEEDS YOU - POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

The below positions are up for "grabs" (except as I suggest below) and therefore we ask that our members step up to the plate to reinvigorate and improve our Strut/Club's outlook. The only requirement is that those interested are LAA members. Any individual is able to join the LAA for a modest sum.



POSITION	2021 – 2022	2022 - 2023
Chairman	Nigel Campbell	
Vice Chairman	Duncan Sutherland	
Strut Coordinator	Brian Spence	
Safety Officer	Darren MacLeod	
Treasurer	Alister Sutherland	No Change Recommended
Newsletter Editor	Paul Wayman	No Change Recommended
Airspace & Interface	Paul Jenkins	No Change Recommended

Only with commitment and enthusiasm can such new blood continue to maintain and hopefully add a few members maintaining the history of our Strut that was started by a few committed enthusiasts in 1973.

From the chair continued...

INVERNESS AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL

Repeat as last Newsletter: Nothing has changed in that the issue is no longer a talking point for now as all seems to be closed out. Be assured the Light Aircraft Association (LAA), General Aviation Alliance (GAA) as a gathering of all the other numerous flying organisations are maintaining a constant vigilance on a daily basis throughout the UK endeavouring to protect our free airspace whether it is against further expansion of existing or new demands by airfield operators.

HANGAR CHAT

- The Knockbain Dingwall group has changed out its wood and fabric Jodel for an all aluminium, go places Vans RV6 G-BZOZ and deserves a well done from all of us.
- The old Cessna 150 is approaching the stage where base and top coat application has commenced and continues near completion. The engine is now under inspection and corrective maintenance is ongoing.
- The new railway station under construction to serve Dalcross Airport, Inverness, is indicated by artist's impression to be very basic affair. As the old bridge was recently demolished the below images were taken from the new bridge on the main airport road. Visible progress is very impressive including access and car park construction. I wonder if the cost of construction shall ever be recovered if one considers it shall most likely have a detrimental effect on the number of taxi drivers and coach passenger numbers.



Looking East towards ATC Tower



Looking West towards Inverness

Thanks from Billy and Mary

Billy & Mary Grant would like to thank the members of the Highland Strut for the beautiful flowers they so kindly sent to them on the recent occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 20th September.



GASCo Webinar

GASCo are holding an Airspace Infringement Avoidance Webinar at 19:00 - 2030 hours - Monday 10th October 2022. Click below to register:



Webinars - GASCo

To improve your experience, we and selected third parties, use cookies to provide embedded content from social media, analyse traffic on our website and provide secure access to our site.

www.gasco.org.uk

<https://www.gasco.org.uk/events/webinars>

Safety Evening - We hope to arrange a GASCo safety evening sometime in the near future when a suitable venue can be identified. Please watch this space for details.

In the meantime, keep an eye on your email inbox for CAA/GASCo communications on virtual safety evenings. Although perhaps not quite as good as the real thing, these are well worth taking the time to attend. You will even receive a digital Safety Endorsement for your trouble, which you can print out and paste into your log book.



Vortices

From Donald McNicholl

With the proliferation of wind turbines I'm sure you have all considered wake vortex turbulence from these things. I know I have.

Some years ago driving North over the Black Isle I saw a long bank of lenticular cloud North of the Cromarty Firth. Smooth, as they typically are, for the most part except for the eastern end which had a very distinct and regular swirled pattern. The only explanation I could arrive at was that this was downwind turbulence from a wind farm. It was too extensive to have been from a single turbine. Wind was from the South East and as there is no wind farm on the Black Isle I had to assume that it must have been from the one near Dallas 40 miles away! Unfortunately I did not have a camera with me to get a photo.

Rather more recently I had another vortex turbulence surprise.

Sunday 7th August this year I was around 7,000 ft trying to exploit the wave over the Kyle of Sutherland. Wind was from the West, the air was silky smooth, typical of wave, and while the main lenticulars were above me by many thousands of feet a smaller lenticular formed at about my level. But it wasn't quite the typical smooth 'flying saucer' for the top had a distinctly swirled pattern that one could easily imagine as coming off a wind turbine.

I snapped a photo on my phone and here it is, edited a little to try to make the pattern more readily apparent. The vortex runs horizontally across the middle of the photo.



While the surrounding air was typically 'wave smooth' close to that trail it was really quite turbulent. Lenticular clouds form only in smooth, steady airflow which I suppose is how such vortices can remain and sustain over long distances but I cannot imagine where that one originated, and how did it get to 7,000 ft?

Knockbain News

The former G-ARNY group have acquired a very nice 22 year old, low hours Vans RV6, G-BZOZ, which is now resident at Knockbain. David Lockett collected it from Sussex and made the return journey in 4 hours against a 30 knot headwind. He reports that it is very much "plain vanilla" with no fancy toys, manual flaps and trim and an O-320 engine.

Something to celebrate, it looks very at home at Knockbain already. We look forward to seeing it up close soon.



Drone News

A couple of links on drone activities, the first, sent in by **Bill Ritchie**, reports on a medical samples collection and delivery trial:



Medical supplies drone trial takes off in Tayside - BBC News

A drone collection and delivery service transporting medical samples and equipment between health centres is being trialled in Tayside.

www.bbc.co.uk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-63075005>

This one, sent by **George Mair**, mentions the Schiebel CAMCOPTER S-100 Unmanned Air System (UAS) which Bristow will be using under the new 10 year SAR contract they were recently awarded by the MCA:

Bristow to Expand UK Maritime Search & Rescue Operations | Aero-News Network - Headline News

Schiebel CAMCOPTER S-100 Again Proves Capable SAR Platform Bristow Helicopters Limited—the British civil helicopter operator and subsidia| Published: Mon, Aug 15, 2022 | Aero-News Network

www.aero-news.net

<http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?do=main.textpost&id=10d3792e-aca9-407a-b6af-5007bf3043d2>

Highland Strut membership renewal for 2022:

Treasurer's Address:-

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



07836 662660

January 2022

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:

BGA

LAA Membership No.: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

Postcode:

Mobile: _____