

*East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association
April 2024 Newsletter*



Photo David Johnstone

Chairman's bit

Hi All,

Winter clings on with lashing rain. All the rivers look about to break their banks and the golf course is awash. I do hope the Atlantic weather does its Spring thing and gives us a dry spell towards the end of April beginning of May.

We have an interesting talk for the next meeting with some pictures from the Reno races and a series on attack aircraft in America presented by David Johnstone.

Still nothing from the Museum on our proposal for a joint fly-in but we can still put on a good event at East Fortune East if they don't play ball.

Simon Tilling has summoned me to appear at Turweston for a meeting to discuss LAA Strategy which presumably means thoughts on how to get younger people involved. I will be attending so if anyone has any helpful suggestions please let me know.

It's getting near time to pull out your machines and prepare them for the season.

See you all on April 8th which is the new date for the next meeting.

Fly safe,

Justin.

Cover photo



Monday's meeting has David Johnstone coming to show us the fruits of his visit last year to the Reno Races and a gathering of firefighting water bombers.

Same time, same place. Upstairs at the Harrow on Monday. See next page for details.

Subs!

Not paid them yet? Surely not. Bring cash or a cheque! Save Duncan the misery of endlessly chasing people up to pay their subs.

Subscription is still a miserly £25.00. If you don't know how to get the money to Duncan just email him to find out. duncanrobertson807@gmail.com

The next meeting is on...

**Monday 8th April
at the Harrow Hotel
Eskbank Road, Dalkeith
at 8.00pm**

**Reno Races
and more**



About the Light Aircraft Association:
www.laa.uk.com

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of around 8,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the build of another 1,700, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.

**This newsletter can also be viewed on
the Strut website:**
eos-strut.org

Monday's meeting

David Johnstone took some amazing photographs when he was in America last year and will share some with us in the Harrow at 8.00 on Monday. Photos will include the last Air Races to be held at Reno, Nevada (see cover photo), and a meeting of water bombers in California such as this magnificent Martin Mars. Not to be missed, should be good!



The Strut's AGM

This was held on the 4th March 2024 at the Harrow Hotel, Eskbank Road, Dalkeith. In attendance were Ed Lyon, Keith Griggs, John Wheeler, Jim Oliver, Duncan Robertson, Alex McClintock, Gerry Robertson, Charles Scott, Justin Kennedy, Steven Borthwick and Andrew Macleod.

The Committee were re-elected unanimously.

All the following items on the Agenda were voted on and confirmed unanimously;

The Subscription was kept at £25.00, the same amount as last year.

Duncan Robertson presented the accounts which show a small increase on last year's funds.

A cheque for £100.00 was presented during the meeting to the charity that the Harrow Hotel supports, the Roy Castle Fund, as thanks for the Harrow allowing us to use their upstairs room (see photo alongside).

Steven Borthwick presented the Nick Wales Shield to Keith Griggs because of all the work he has done to promote the Strut and the LAA, and his many charitable ventures (see also alongside).

It was noted that after Iain Gibson died last year, much of the Strut's belongings had to be retrieved from his garage and this has now been done. The main items were six two way radios and the Strut's tent/ Fly-in Control Room.

There was a discussion about encouraging new membership and it was agreed we should be more active in encouraging interested parties to our events, possibly promoting these through articles in the local Press.

It was agreed we should hold a Fly-in at East Fortune East in August. More about this to follow.



Mosquito first flight

From what we can now call a proper production line at Ardfern in New Zealand, comes another Mosquito, with more on their way to fill the moulds at Avspecs.

John Mounce sends these photos taken by Mike Condon and adds; 'NX2308 is a Mosquito T Mk43, formerly A52-1054, NZ2308 (RNZAF). It took to the air on the evening of March 19th flown by Steve Hinton and Warren Denholm and is registered ZK-PWL after Glynn Powell, the visionary who built the jigs here in his shed! It will go to the Lewis Air Legends museum in San Antonio, Texas, after a display at Wanaka over Easter.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xqnywtncpxu>



And this magnificent photo was taken, from the ground no less, by Aaron Murphy





Mike Condon

Dreams may come true?

Want to actually fly in a Mosquito? Hang on because in a couple of years it looks as if you will be able to do that. This came from Roger de Mercado by way of Jim Prettyman.

<https://www.europeanairshows.co.uk/news/de-havilland-mosquito-coming-to-biggin-hill#:~:text=Once%20the%20Mosquito%20is%20airworthy,from%20Biggin%20Hill%20from%202026>

... and these as well

From car worker in Luton in the 1970s to being a leading rescuer of Spitfires and Seafires, here are two TV programmes, 50 years apart, about the remarkable Peter Arnold.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=bbc+peter+arnold+spitfire&&mid=1C0F7EEFE68A8D8518121C0F7EEFE68A8D851812&&FORM=VRDGR>

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2022-02-15/meet-mr-spitfire-the-man-who-helped-save-the-iconic-warplane>



Big trouble for a Minisport

Here is the sad story of the end of SK1 'Mike Whiskey' but by great good fortune not of its builder and pilot Mike Wood, though it could easily have been so. We've all enjoyed Mike's films taken by him around Easterton airfield and it just so happens that he was filming this day with a new camera, so the whole process is covered from engine stop to coping with problems as they arose as if from nowhere, changing the situation from 'just do-able' to... well, you will see what happened next.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QISKFadEnMk>

Mike says 'I might produce a sequel to the latest Youtube offering to discuss those aspects, so if anyone on your team wants to contribute observations and opinion, please encourage them, and I don't care if they're critical either'.

Below is a photo of G-SJMW in happier times, coming in to land at East Fortune East. Meantime he has a stopgap Colibri to keep him going.



More from John Whitfield



John Whitfield has been taking to the air with his enquiring mind again and took this image while on a test flight last month. He also found these two interesting programmes.

Top photo is a spinning sphere of molten sodium, (you don't want this on your kitchen table) used in exploring the earth's magnetism and polarity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAYW9n8i-C4>

Next is an investigation into the hijacking of GPS to give false information. You don't want this either!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbd9eSw6Gfi>



From the LAA

Dear Struts / Clubs, could you please forward these course details onto your members in case any of them are interested in attending?

We have availability on the courses below. If interested in attending, please contact Cheryl at LAA HQ (**01280 846 786**) to get booked in!

Working with Aluminium - Basic Course

This course involves building a Van's toolbox. The build process is specifically designed to teach you drilling, de-burring, dimpling and riveting by various methods. Also, you get to take your toolbox home with you!

Caring for your Gipsy Major

Caring for your Gipsy Major course presented by acknowledged DH Gipsy engine aficionado, Dennis Neville. Dennis will explain the ins and outs of these vintage aircraft engines and solve those starting difficulties.

Permit Electrics Advance Course

The premise of this course is that it will help the owner/builder create the system design and circuit diagram, including covering electrical theory, failure modes, reliability issues and planning an installation.

Aircraft Carpentry

A perfect course for the would-be aircraft builder, who may be nervous about cutting the first piece of spruce, or anyone contemplating repairing a classic wooden aircraft.

Regards, Penny

Fly-ins new

9th, 10th and 11th of August

Fly-in at East Fortune East. It's early days yet but book those dates in your diary. More information in the near future.



Fly-ins old

We found this display board at the back of Iain Gibson's garage and we think it is about 20 years old.

That's a fine collection of aircraft and projects, it would be interesting to track them all down.



Stop Press

This came in from Keith Griggs just before I put the Newsletter out. There is a highlighted hyperlink you can follow.

Your Pilots' Licence is Changing!

"Change is the only constant." [Attributed to Heraclitus of Ephesus, 535-475 BCE]

The CAA is looking at rationalising the administrative and legal pig's ear that is the current state of pilot licencing. ANO UK-PPL, Part-FCL, NPPL(A) and LAPL(A), all with different revalidation requirements, aircraft that can be flown, privileges and possible ratings.

Sounds good, but some changes might not be so for individual licence holders; the devil is in the detail. Flyer magazine have summarised the proposal here:

flyer.co.uk/what-the-cao-is-proposing-in-its-pilot-licensing-consultation/

and the CAA documentation can be downloaded as pdf's here: CAP 2974C Executive Summary and CAP 2974A Detailed Proposals

If you have concerns, there is a CAA portal for feed-back on the consultation, URL in the document..

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