

*East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association  
March 2023 Newsletter*



*Photo John Whitfield*

## Chairman's bit

*Hi All, Spring is about to spring and I for one am looking forward to some good aviation weather.*

*After Tim Rayner's excellent talk at the last meeting I have been sorting out my aircraft's paperwork. The old blue Permit form we know so well is being replaced by more extensive requirements. I think I have everything but I have to have it ready to present. Just a heads up.*

*News from APSS. I hear the One and a Half Strutter is being dismantled to move it to Kirknewton for test flying. Exciting stuff. Good luck guys.*

*Fly safe. Justin.*

## Cover photo

*Another of John Whitfield's beautiful images, taken recently over East Lothian. More on pages 5 and 6.*



## Co-ordinator's bit

*Spring is around the corner. If you look outside there are green shoots everywhere so nature is gearing up to bloom. Wish the weather would follow the lead!*

*In reality while the flyable days are few and far between most owners are addressing maintenance issues and getting ready to aviate. As an inspector, I see the issues some have for not looking after their engine and airframe over the long layoff of winter. They will not forget that in a hurry! So let's get ready for those spring days of gin clear skies and fair winds (from the right direction) and make plans to go places.*

*One group looking at big steps forward are APSS as they move their Sopwith Strutter to the airfield to rig her and start test flying - a big step after 23 years building the aircraft.*

*There is a lot to look forward to, calm winds and clear skies.*

*Tim Rayner*

## Subs are due

*Once again, please save Duncan the misery of endlessly chasing people up to pay their subs.*

*It only costs a very modest £25.00. If you are not going to be at the next meeting, email him to find out the easiest way to make your payment. [duncanrobertson807@gmail.com](mailto:duncanrobertson807@gmail.com)*

## The next meeting is on...

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
at the Harrow Hotel  
Eskbank Road, Dalkeith  
at 8.00pm**

**(Nothing planned at present)**



**About the Light Aircraft Association:**  
[www.laa.uk.com](http://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](http://eos-strut.org)**

## 2023 Strut AGM

**Monday 6th March at the Harrow Hotel, Dalkeith**

There was a decent turnout of the following members on the night; Justin Kennedy, Tim Rayner, Iain Gibson, Ian Astley, John Wheeler, Alex McClintock, Jim Oliver, Gerry Robertson, Keith Griggs, Duncan Robertson, Ed Lyon, Colin Rodger, David Archibald and Andrew Macleod.

Strut stalwart Iain Gibson has performed heroically for many years as Co-ordinator and Secretary but stood down this year. His efforts were warmly appreciated and applauded by the members and it was unanimously agreed that he be made a Life Member of the Strut because of all the work he has done for us in the past.

Tim Rayner was put forward as the new Co-ordinator and Secretary, proposed Keith Griggs and Alex McClintock and approved unanimously. The rest of the Committee were reinstated, again approved unanimously.

A motion was put forward by Duncan Robertson that our bank account should be changed to an interest bearing account with the Skipton Building Society. This account is designed for unincorporated organisations like us and will require two signatures to withdraw cash. Andrew Macleod proposed the motion and it was seconded by Iain Gibson. The motion was then put to the vote and carried. Duncan was instructed to organise the account.

The Nick Wales shield was won last year by Keith Griggs and he nominated Steven Borthwick as this year's winner. Steven was working overseas that night so it will be passed on to him later. The Airbus hinge, awarded to the winner of our annual quiz, is in Tim's workshop, ready to be competed for again now that Covid and Lockdown are almost things of the past.

A mystery donor provided free drinks behind the bar and a welcome tray of hot food half way through.

## Youth and Education Support (YES)

Sue and Jim Oliver put a lot of effort into this organisation, but Sue has this to add; 'They really need someone from each Strut to keep in touch with them, to highlight whatever is happening that might draw in young people. To some extent Jim and I can job-share on this but I'm not even a member of the LAA, let alone the Strut, so really I'm looking for someone to take over from me, if anyone would. I'm very happy to do education-based activities such as Jim and I have done at the Museum of Flight and report back to YES, but it would be nice if someone else would come on board to be part of the YES committee.'

YES is a UK-wide group and the Youth Education branch of the Light Aircraft Association. Working together with other LAA, Struts, Type Clubs, leading industry companies, local education authorities, schools and universities and many others to educate, encourage and inspire young people to take part in all sorts of activities connected with aviation.

YES runs aircraft building projects, training in meteorology, navigation and airmanship, exhibits at aviation shows, and arranges talks and practical activity sessions for schools and youth groups as well as activity days for Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Girl Guides and others when possible. Member organisations of YES also dedicate time to flying and giving aeronautical experiences to disabled and disadvantaged young people and supporting disabled veterans. It maintains an independent web-based aviation information centre for youngsters and provides guidance on future careers in the varied world of aviation.

## Gigha anyone?

**More about 'God's Island'**

Gigha, 'God's Island', is off the West Coast of Scotland, and as many of you will know it has a grass airstrip. Jill Douglas of East of Scotland Microlights found the following information.

'Gigha Heritage Trust say that they hope that the airstrip will be ready earlier this year and that they have now set up an Aerops payment facility, so you can pay your landing fee from your phone without having to walk up to the village. Here is the link, which you may want to copy to your phone for the next time you go:

<https://gat.aerops.com/prices/calculator/GB-0068>

'May is in the pre-midge period and hopefully pre-full tourist season. It's also the most beautiful time to be on Gigha, with the bluebells out and the rhododendrons and azaleas coming out in Achamore gardens.'



## Low level flypast

Ed Lyon saw this fine machine going past Keith Griggs' airstrip. 'On Saturday 25th March the preserved locomotive 'Scots Guardsman' is seen here passing the threshold of Rwy 24 at East Fortune East on a 'flying visit' to Edinburgh from York. It passed again about three hours later on the return journey to York.'

It put me in mind of that 1930s film 'Night Mail' with the famous poetic narration by WH Auden. I couldn't find the whole film, but here is a clip from it.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=night+mail+film&&view=detail&mid=D2F8FDDCB616BDDFF48B7D2F8FDDCB616BDDFF48B7&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dnight%2Bmail%2Bfilm%26FORM%3DHDRSC4>



# Brocken Spectre

I confess I had to look this up. This, the cover photo and the image on the next page were all taken by John Whitfield over East Lothian last month. To put you out of your misery, here is an explanation;

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brocken\\_spectre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brocken_spectre)







## More Skyrora

Colin Lourie writes, 'Prompted by Keith and Ed's photo of the Skyrora installation in the Moorfoots, I took a wee drive out to see what I could do with a drone at 400ft.'





## More from Colin



An RAF Turnhouse Pembroke about to cross the railway line and land on Runway 26 in 1962 on a typically murky winter day. The other photograph (top right), was taken from virtually the same spot 61 years later - the landing lights are long gone and the field hasn't been cultivated for a number of years (and Runway 26 is also long gone). And it's not going to look like that for much longer either, as the new West Craigs housing development is working its way west and, soon, houses will fill this spot.

If you haven't been out on the old Turnhouse Road for a while, you might not recognise the scene alongside. Wide pavements, lamp posts, new dykes, a fancy new junction with a connecting road to Craigs Road and children's playparks.

That's the Lennie Cottages just right of centre. And at one time in the distance, in the space between the two lamp posts, would have been RAF Turnhouse - but there is absolutely nothing is left of that.





## A newly minted Rapide...

... 'and unfortunately another export!' says John Mounce, who sends this in from New Zealand. This and the main photo overleaf were taken recently by his friend Wayne Grant at Ardmore where the restoration was completed. The aircraft was disassembled after the flight (s?) and has been shipped to the USA. Also on the next page are three photos from earlier days that John has added from his own collection.











From Steven Borthwick. Remember, if you have a Fly-in or similar to promote, feel free to send details in to me.

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