

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



Chairman's bit

Spring is in the air though I gather there will be a cold spell before the good weather arrives again.

We will be doing a round robin at the next meeting to hear how everyone's machines are doing and how they are going to be flying this year?

The next meeting is the AGM so members please come along. We will be electing the committee members and talking about the plans for next year.

On that subject Iain Gibson is to stand down from the co-ordinators post after what can only be described as a long and distinguished tenure. Iain has held the fort at our fly-ins and bore the brunt of some of the worst weather cancellations. Always staying to help organise the clear up until everything is done.

He has represented us at the LAA and in 2017 he received a Merit Award for his contribution from the Royal Aero-Club.

He also has an encyclopaedic knowledge of aircraft types through the ages. Although a little eccentric Iain is a really worthwhile member of the Strut. Then we are all a bit like that.

Tim Rayner will also give us the low down on changes forthcoming to the Permit Requirements. I understand that the paperwork attached to Permit Renewal is also about to increase exponentially. What fun!

See you at the AGM,

Cheers, Justin

Co-ordinator's bit

Hi everyone.

The March meeting is our AGM on Monday March 6th at the Harrow so I hope you are all able to attend and make your views known as well as an outline of what events we may have this year.

The weather is still cold and miserable so I hope we get more clement weather shortly so that we can all commit aviation in whatever form we wish. Iain

The AGM

Bring cash or a cheque! Save Duncan the misery of endlessly chasing people up to pay their subs. I don't know what they will be this year but think £25.00 and maybe a bit more.

Cover photo

A Tiger Moth flying beside Aaron Murphy in New Zealand. Another photo and story on page 6.



The next meeting is on...

**Monday 6th March
at the Harrow Hotel
Eskbank Road, Dalkeith
at 8.00pm**

**This is our AGM
so please come**



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

The Annual General Meeting of the East of Scotland Strut

The Annual General Meeting of the East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association will be held at the Harrow Hotel, Eskbank Road, Dalkeith at 8.00pm on Monday 6th of March 2023 Please make every effort to attend this important event.

Provisional agenda

This can be added to if you have any points you want to bring up. Please contact Iain Gibson, Justin Kennedy or Duncan Robertson beforehand.

Accounts
Subscriptions
Election of Office Bearers
Fly-ins or Doths
Other events
Dirleton update
Presentation of awards
Any other Business

Election of Office Bearers

If you would like to be an Office Bearer of the Strut in any capacity, please put yourself forward.

Chairman

The function is to provide guidance and direction to the rest of the Committee and oversee that their functions are carried out correctly.

The Chairman also has an additional casting vote where a committee vote is deadlocked. ***This position must be held by a full LAA member.*** Justin Kennedy is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you must nominate a new Chairman or re-elect Justin Kennedy.

Secretary and Co-ordinator

The Secretary/Co-ordinator's function is to arrange Strut meetings and events in conjunction with other committee members as required and act as main point of contact for the Strut. ***This position must be held by a full LAA member.*** Iain Gibson is standing down from this position and Tim Rayner has put his name forward.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Secretary/Co-ordinator or elect Tim Rayner.

Treasurer

The function of Treasurer is to record and oversee the financial position of the Strut, provide a budget as required to the Committee and identify any areas of concern. ***This position must be held by a full LAA member.*** Duncan Robertson is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Treasurer or re-elect Duncan Robertson.

Membership Secretary

The function is to maintain a record of Strut members, to liaise with the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, and to identify opportunities for recruiting new members. Duncan Robertson is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Membership Secretary or re-elect Duncan Robertson.

Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor's function is to produce and distribute the monthly Strut Newsletter. Andrew Macleod is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Newsletter Editor or re-elect Andrew Macleod.

Safety Officer

The function of the Safety Officer is to ensure that Strut events comply with LAA procedures and provide Risk Assessments as required. ***This position must be held by a full LAA member.*** The position must be held by a current LAA member to enable us to hold events under the auspices of the LAA. The postholder will be supported by other Strut members. Steven Borthwick is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Safety Officer or re-elect Steven Borthwick.

Committee Member

The position of a Committee Member without Portfolio is to add breadth and balance to the Committee's discussions and to observe the way the Committee works. As positions fall vacant more members of the Strut will be familiar with what goes on and feel confident about taking on those duties in the future. Ed Lyon is prepared to continue in this position.

At the AGM you may nominate a new Committee Member or re-elect Ed Lyon

Skyrora's visit in February

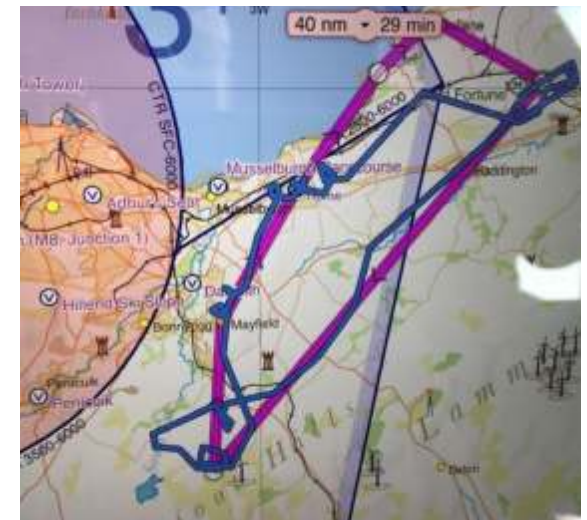
That was such a good talk given by Derek at the last Strut meeting. Skyrora are building a range of rockets in their factory near Edinburgh. The company will not only launch satellites but will also safely retrieve them from space for repair, repositioning or just clearing the void of the space rubbish that is accumulating, all while using their own rocket fuel made from otherwise unrecyclable plastic waste.

As for their technology, the 3D printing of their rocket motors has to be seen to be believed.

Engine testing happens nearby and Keith Griggs and Ed Lyon flew over to have a look at the site. Ed says; 'At our February Strut Meeting we had a superb presentation by Derek Harris of the Skyrora rocket launching system in development to launch low-orbit small satellites. The rocket launcher, Skyrora XL, is being developed in Scotland and testing of the main rocket engine is being done in a quarry to the south of Edinburgh. Towards the end of the presentation he said there was no objection to us flying over to take a look.

On Sunday 12th February weather was good so I went flying with Keith to have a look-see at the quarry. Keith had got the co-ordinates of N554643 and W0030250 which he entered on his SkyDemon so we headed straight there, staying below 2000ft as it's below the Edinburgh CTA. We did a false orbit around an industrial site near Gorebridge which had a stack of containers but then carried on until Keith suddenly spotted the quarry at Broad Law on a north-facing slope of the Moorfoot Hills. It really is quite impressive as it's so isolated yet behind us was the ever-growing urban sprawl of Edinburgh.

A couple of orbits for photographs then back home to East Fortune East. If you plan to also make a flying visit it's due south of Gorebridge then look out for the group of three wind turbines just to the south-east and to the west you can see Gladhouse reservoir.'



Visiting hour in Haddington

Ed Lyon has just sent this in. 'On the afternoon of Friday the 3rd of March, Keith Griggs, Tim Rayner and Jim Oliver each did a fly-by over Haddington Community Hospital where Iain Govan, one of our members, is presently receiving treatment. I just managed to catch Jim as he passed over. Iain is on the top floor facing so saw all three aircraft. Apparently it went down well with the hospital staff.'

Iain is in Ward 5 room 24 if Strut friends would like to visit, and Keith Griggs is putting together a file of photos for him. So sift through those old fly-in images of Iain or Jodel G-BJOE, (don't worry, they are not for publication or anything) and send them to keithgriggs@rocketmail.com



What Aaron Murphy does on his day off

John Mounce in New Zealand sent us these lovely photos on the cover and below, taken by his friend Aaron a week ago. They were shot over the Canterbury plains around Cust and a few days before the remnants of the recent cyclone got down to those parts. Aaron says;

'I was asked at 0830 this day if I had time to jump in Tiger BAH, which after arranging a few things around, I managed to do. We left West Melton to Loburn Abbey and on the return to West Melton, Des Lines happened to fly past us in BCO from his Swannanoa strip. We arranged to formate on each other for some shots, and it turns out the English fellow in the front seat was Des's 700th passenger (he doesn't count those that have been up more than once with him!).



The Imperial War Museum, London

I liked the old Imperial War Museum, in London, better when I was there 10 plus years ago. Then it was crammed with artefacts and a big selection of paintings by the war artists commissioned by the government of the time. These have always been of special interest to me.

Now, however, it has gone the way of so many other museums and feels more like a cafe and gift shop with a few decorative pieces on display, so slim pickings for the person interested in the objects I'm afraid.

However, enough of my grumbling. I was there in early January. The paintings are long gone, scattered to storerooms around the country, but there are still some (though just a few) interesting aircraft on show. Probably the most poignant was the Lancaster front half whose darkened interior gave a hint of the danger those young men were in and the anxiety they must have felt.

More overleaf. A general view and the remains of a Mitsubishi Zero.







More about flying

John Whitfield took advantage of some clear days last week and enjoyed some crisp weather flying, (alongside), though that included a go-around because of an unexpected strong gust. He also passes on a couple of interesting links. The first is about a piece of satellite hitting weaponry developed in the 1980s. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-satellite_weapon

Next, some pilots assess the Ercoupe with its unusual control setup. None of them feel comfortable landing a plane with no rudder pedals. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LcnRnhDx2M>

Moving wind turbine blades

This was sparked by an amazing video I was shown of a transporter doing a three point turn on a hairpin bend on a mountain but unfortunately I couldn't find that one, so here are some others. Very tricky stuff.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aPXuap0LZw>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=transporting+wind+turbine+blades+by+truck&view=detail&mid=3E89EBB5766790A0B1FF3E89EBB5766790A0B1FF&FORM=VDRVRV&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtransporting%2Bwind%2Bturbine%2Bblades%2Bby%2Btruck%26FORM%3DHDRSC4&ajaxhist=0>

Finally, see if you can spot a tiny health and safety issue in this one...

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=transporting+wind+turbine+blades+by+truck&view=detail&mid=6CFC836084B92B8384D66CFC836084B92B8384D6&FORM=VRD GAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3Dtransporting%2Bwind%2Bturbine%2Bblades%2Bby%2Btruck%26FORM%3DHDRSC4>





AGM
Don't
forget

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