

# Skywritings

The Kent Strut Newsletter April 2023



[www.laakentstrut.org.uk](http://www.laakentstrut.org.uk)



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# Editors Corner

What a wonderful few days it's been and hopefully spring has finally arrived and the good flying weather is with us, I've certainly seen some of the strut airborne on my EC device.

For those who missed it we had an excellent talk by the Kent, Sussex, Surrey Air Ambulance at the golf club and there was some discussion about visiting them at Redhill by air sometime soon so watch this space on that.

This month we have an article by Ron Armitage on Nic Orchards Dawn till Dusk achievement which is some achievement and a recognition of her passion for aviation. Perhaps Nic will do a talk about her D2D adventures?

I've written a small article on the CAA Proud scheme and obtaining your 'wings' via the LAA, BMAA or AOPA and hope many of you may consider participating and gaining you wings.

Also do you have any articles for the newsletter? All articles welcome, as is constructive feedback on what you would like to see and what you don't like!

## **Our next meeting is:-**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April – RAF Manston History Museum

Mike Negus has arranged for a Talk on Airfix Kits - How they are researched and made.

Finally, if you aren't in the Strut Whatsapp and would like to be, please email us and we can add you in so you're up to date with the latest news as it happens.



Landing at Manston January 2023



# The International Dawn to Dusk Challenge

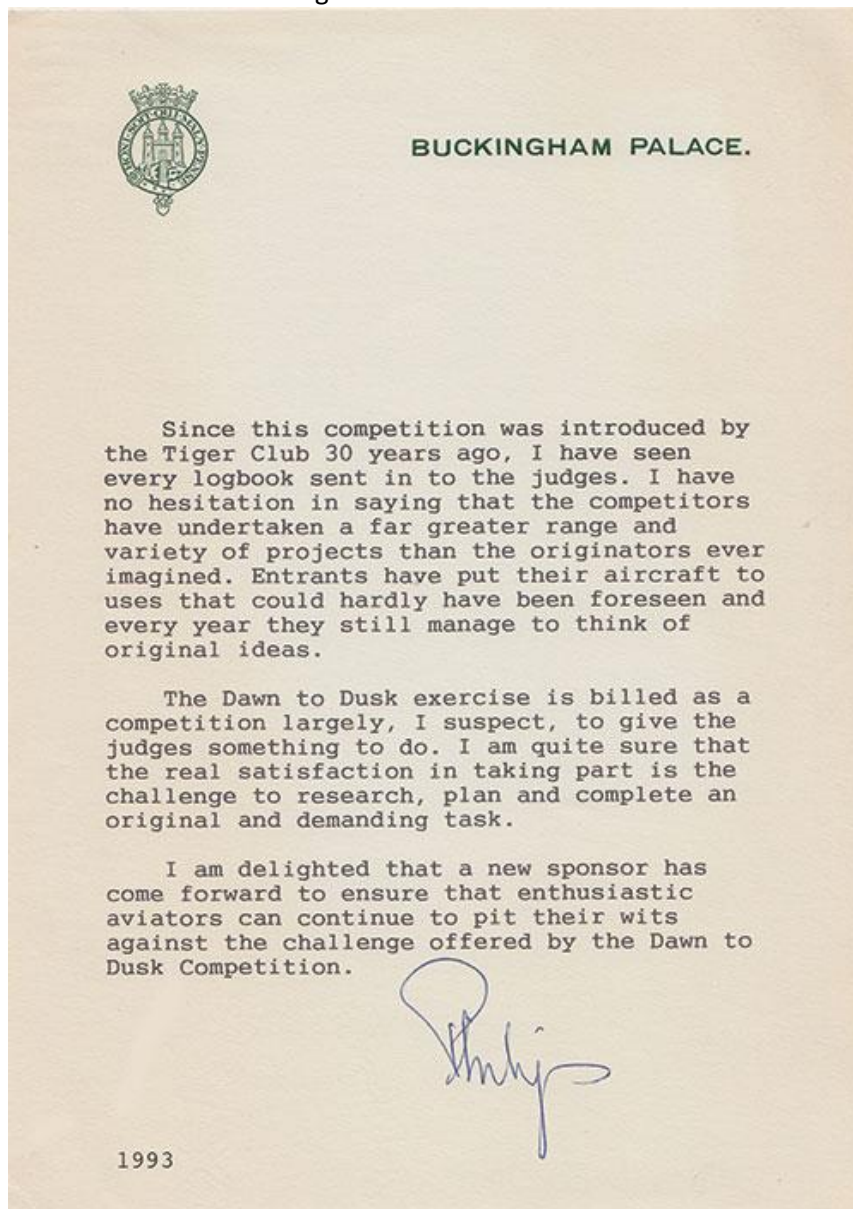
Article by Ron Armitage



The International Dawn to Dusk Challenge was established by the late Duke of Edinburgh and the Tiger Club in 1964. The objective of the Dawn to Dusk is to encourage the most interesting employment of a Flying Machine within the limits of competent airmanship and to demonstrate the capabilities of pilot and machine in a day's flying, in the hours between Dawn and Dusk, whilst undertaking an original and praiseworthy objective.

The sponsors say that all that is required is for the competitor to set themselves a challenging goal with a theme and fly it. You then need to write up a detailed log of your preparations and flight. I think that is a little bit simplistic, having seen some of the amazing entries over the last few years.

The competition is now sponsored by Pooley's, who we all know. Sponsorship has not always been easy, as can be seen by this letter from the late Duke of Edinburgh in 1993.





Having been commissioned into the Royal Air Force in 1976, I am lucky to be a member of the Royal Air Force Club and so it was an amazing privilege for Sandra and I to be invited to the 52nd presentation dinner there on 9th February this year. This was thanks to the good offices of Nic Orchard, who had the bravery to attempt the competition yet again, despite the loss of her partner and mentor, Richard Warriner, who had been a great support on previous attempts (they were all successful, and she has the certificates and silverware to prove it).

Anyway, a great time was had at the presentation, especially as Nic picked up yet another award – this time, the prestigious Bonney Trophy. Photos are here for evidence, but I am not going to give any more details as you might want to pay her to give a little talk or write an article.



*Nic receiving her award from Robin Keegan, the Master of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots*

As usual we managed to conclude the evening with a very convivial and informal get-together in the amazing Running Horse Tavern located in the Club basement.



*Nic pictured in front of the famed stained glass window*

The logo for SKYWISE, featuring the word "SKYWISE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue background with a subtle circular pattern of light blue lines.

Tailored news, notifications & alerts  
from the CAA



# Spring pre flight inspection hints and tips

We have teamed up with the Light Aircraft Association's (LAA ) Lucy Wootton, to give some hints and tips to a [pre flight inspection after a winter lay-up](#).

Don't forget to check out our other safety animations on the CAA website: [Safety Animations | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](#)

## Return to flying - pre-flight checklist

In support of you making a return to flying after the winter break and to provide an aide memoire please watch our [Return to flying -pre-flight checklist](#) animation. Highlighting those crucial checks we need to make before getting airborne.

Check out our other safety animations on the CAA website: [Safety Animations | Civil Aviation Authority \(caa.co.uk\)](#)

## GA Pilot Licensing & Training Simplification Phase 1 Consultation Response Document

Following CAP2335 – GA Pilot Licensing & Training Simplification Phase 1 Consultation, we have now published our formal [Consultation Response Document CAP2532](#). This summarises the responses we received to the consultation and the next steps for Phase 2.

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# LAA “GRASS ROOTS FLY IN” RETURNS TO POPHAM

Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August 2023.

The LAA is returning to the green grass of Popham Aerodrome in Hampshire for a repeat of its “Grass Roots Fly In” from 18th to 20th August 2023. The Fly-In will again on one hand take the Associate back to its traditional roots, while continuing to offer the first chance to see some of the latest aircraft and products in the recreational aviation market.

What was particularly notable about the 2022 Popham event was its sociality. LAA members and exhibitors alike commented on its relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with post-event comments such as “It’s a great reunion as well as a fly-in–cum trade show” and “super friendly, the event always had a good vibe”.

A joint venture with Popham Aerodrome, the LAA Grass Roots Fly In will develop its strengths as a social event bringing flyers from around the UK and Europe to meet fellow enthusiasts. The grass runways at Popham and the airfield’s famed rural ambience will mean that the event will focus on the fly-in and social element as much as on a large exhibition campus. The earlier mid-August date will also mean longer evenings, allowing more scope for flyers from further afield and hopefully, milder conditions for those who choose to ‘camp under the wing’.

Said LAA CEO designate Simon Tilling: “The LAA Grass Roots Fly In was a great success last year, with over 3,000 visitors, more than 30 exhibitors and a total of 350 visiting aircraft through the weekend. It is a different event to the past, larger scale LAA Rallies and we’re working on plans for the continuation of a larger scale LAA event in the future. For this year, we’re looking forward to another great, social and fun, LAA fly in”.

Regards

LAA



# Are you PROUD?



Some of you may have seen the scheme and have already got your 'wings' but for many they may have never heard of this initiative run by the LAA, AOPA, and BMAA supported by the CAA. That's a lot of acronyms but what does it really mean.

PROUD of Pilot Recognition for Operational Up-skilling and Development is intended as a way of encouraging pilots to continue to develop skills and acquire knowledge and experience through various 'wings schemes'. Each of the main GA organisations have their own scheme which is often free for members or available for a nominal charge.

Many of you will already be eligible for a 'wings award' just by having a PPL, for example in the AOPA scheme you obtain bronze wings just for this. Further awards require you to obtain a minimum number of hours, touring experience and different ratings, types or attendance at safety seminars.

## LAA Wings Scheme

<http://www.lightaircraftassociation.co.uk/Wings/>

It would be remiss not to discuss this scheme and this is where I started, and they offer Bronze, Silver and Gold Wings.

When I set out completing the form, I initially started by seeing which award I met the hours requirements for and discovered that I had enough hours for Gold. The next element was achievements and combined with a night rating, IMC rating, FI rating, taking part in an Air Race and Tailwheel differences trainings meant I met the gold requirements.

Like many members I've attended several Gasco safety evenings, weather classes and other safety events so again I was eligible for Gold.

The last challenge was the navigation elements, and this took some time browsing through my logbook, which was a great trip down memory lane, but found individual trips that met the requirements for all three awards.

The application is simple to complete and once you have gathered your evidence just requires you to present it to the Strut Coordinator for verification which is what I did at our last meeting.

	Total Time / PIC	Achievements	Safety Events	Navigation Challenge
Bronze	100 / 50	1	1	200nm
Silver	250 / 200	3	2	400nm or 200nm with Sea Crossing
Gold	500 / 400	5	3	600nm or 400nm with Sea Crossing

I emailed the completed form to the LAA office and a few days later my certificates and wings arrived. It's easy and free to apply so what is stopping you applying or making your flying plans this year help you achieve an award?

If you do get your 'wings' do let us know for the newsletter!

I also looked at both AOPA and BMAA wings schemes and met the requirements for some of their awards and will be looking to gain some more BMAA wings this year.



AOPA Wings Award Scheme



"Learning should be fun. If you don't have fun in aviation then you don't learn."  
— Pete Campbell, FAA





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# Manston Triumph!

Article by Nic Orchard

Thanks to some careful and clever negotiations by Steve Hoskins, the Strut was able to fly into Manston on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, when the RAF Manston History Museum had its Open cockpit Day.

Following a week of plummeting, by rain and hailstones, too many members were unable to escape soggy grass, but for those who made it – two on Saturday and fourteen on Sunday – the day was a splendid excuse to visit Manston. A straw poll suggests almost all of us have had some connection, whether based, training or landing there at some time.



The public was enjoying the event with many families taking advantage of getting to sit in many airframes and, outside, have a go at operating a digger or getting a ride in a tank, to name but two. Amongst the plethora of classic cars lined up ('I had one of those') was a splendid Merlin engine, making regular noise. 'It runs better on unleaded'. The owner was engaged in conversation and having been shown the Rans and the Tecnam, was halfway to full corruption when he left, clutching LAA leaflets and various contacts.



Polar collected £10 landing fees, all of which went to museum funds. At the end of play, the airfield manager was happy, Polar Helicopters was happy, the Museum volunteers were happy, and we were happy. The warm welcome from all made it a little more than simply an excuse to get it back in the logbook.



Photo: R Solley

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By the time you read this, we hope there will be a Strut-organised charity fly-in there that we can publicise rather more widely, so if you were grounded by the ground, or unable to find time or aircraft, all may not be lost.

A round of applause is due not just to Steve, whose negotiating skills made it all possible, but also Mike Negus, who arrived early to set up the Strut gazebo and then spent the day marshalling (we suspect Polar had a secret supply of special biscuits to go with the tea). It was as well, as otherwise one or two of us would still be wandering around miles of unmarked taxiways. Thanks Mike.



Photo: T Mills



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# Invicta Aero Club

Ron Loveday has asked me to put some details together about an exciting new Aero club based here in Kent which may be of some use to people who currently rent or may have the need of a four-seat aircraft.

[www.Invictaero.club](http://www.Invictaero.club)

The fleet at present includes a Cessna 152 Aerobat, Citabria, PA28 Archer II and PA28 Arrow IV which enables you to obtain your IR(R) (IMC Rating in old money), Aerobatics rating, complex differences training, tailwheel differences as well as the usual SEP renewals.

There is a monthly membership charge and then affordable hourly rates.



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# Dates for your Diary

Please check with event organisers in advance for any changes. Please let me know of any events you think others might be interested in.

Items in green are Kent Strut events

27 <sup>th</sup> May	Kent Strut – Airfix Talk – How the are researched and made
13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Vintage Aircraft Club Fly-In Bodmin
13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Pooleys Air Day, Compton Abbass
28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Vintage Piper Fly-in, Popham
8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> June	AeroExpo, Sywell
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Guernsey Air Rally
30 <sup>th</sup> July	Lundy Sunday Fly-In, Lundy Island

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# Member Services

Drop the editor a line if you have a service or product, you'd like to promote including any items you may have for sale.



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[sc.solley@solleysicecream.co.uk](mailto:sc.solley@solleysicecream.co.uk)



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Glen Everett 07801 639489 [office@flyingadverts.co.uk](mailto:office@flyingadverts.co.uk)



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