

Dear all

### **SOLLAS FLY IN - 24TH AND 25TH JUNE 2023**

I promised to write to you all as Sollas is fast approaching. In the last few weeks we have had the most perfect weather you could wish for to land at Sollas. A few of you have taken the opportunity and visited so well done. I just pray we get a bit of the same in 3 weeks time.

Well, I am very pleased to tell you that the beach is perfect. The reports I am getting is that it is smooth at the moment.

For those first timers I shall set out the format of the event here.

This is a sandy beach. It is not a manicured grass strip or tarmac runway so everything will be at your discretion. It is a very remote location and we want you to be as safe as possible so - We have chosen the dates to coincide with the best tidal range so the beach will be dry even at high tide so there is no danger of your wheels getting wet when parked up if you are camping. Even in damp sections (which is unlikely) it should still be quite firm underneath. We shall have a windsock erected on the dunes to the west of the landing bay. If there are any obstacles they will be clearly marked out with some bunting or streamers but we don't expect any to be on the landing area itself. If you have any queries or are not confident of landing on the beach please call me beforehand for more instructions and of course on the day we will be on the **safety com frequency** to guide you to the threshold should you need it.

Most, but not all of you, will know the drill for landing on the beach - However, we shall rake a "runway" in the sand on the best landing area with numbers (04 and 22) at each end which will make it a lot easier for everyone. The numbers will be quite visible from the air. The landing area is at least 1600 metres long and wide enough for most types, from Islanders and Cessna Caravans to weight shift microlights and Girocopters. Cars, Tractors, diggers and even livestock use the beach. There will be no livestock on the beach that weekend- the local Crofter will make sure of that!

Expect to see a tent and some cars on the grass above the landing area at the southern end - so easy to identify the bay itself. Do not even think of landing on the sandy beach to the west of the peninsula- that is the Atlantic coast and the sand is very soft! You have been warned!

This year I have had an unprecedented number of enquiries for the fly-in because it has reached a lot of aviators far and wide across Europe through social media, word of mouth, and the flying magazines.

**ALL ARE WELCOME BUT FOR CATERING PURPOSES WE DO NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY ARE INTENDING TO ATTEND (even if you have registered your intention please write to me again to confirm). I SHALL ALSO NEED YOUR REGISTRATION AND YOUR FULL NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS, TOGETHER WITH YOUR HOME BASE. I AM REQUIRED TO SEND THE LIST TO SCOTTISH INFORMATION THE DAY BEFORE.**

**PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT WE DO NOT CHARGE LANDING FEES OR FOR ANY FOOD AND DRINKS. ALL WE ASK IS A DONATION WHICH GOES TO LOCAL CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS MANY OF WHICH HELP WITH THE FREE LOAN OF TENTS, CHAIRS, AND A WHOLE HOST OF OTHER THINGS. THE ISLANDERS WELCOME US WITH OPEN ARMS SO WE LIKE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK. REMEMBER ALSO THAT THIS IS ALWAYS HELD IN JOHN MACLEOD'S MEMORY AND WITHOUT HIS FAMILY'S HELP THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.**

#### **FREQUENCIES -**

**BENBECULA (EGPL):** ATIS: **113.950** VOR BEN  
APP/TWR/FIS : **119.205**

**Please check notams:** **PPR 3 days** + and no AVGAS

**STORNOWAY:(EGPO)** ATIS: **115.100** VOR STN  
APP/TWR/FIS: **119.480**

**Please check notams:** **PPR 48 hours** - Avgas available by arrangement

**SCOTTISH:** 127.275-

**SOLLAS:** Safety Com: 135.480

**Plates are available on AFE, and Pooleys and of course Sky Demon  
PLEASE CHECK NOTAMS CAREFULLY FOR ANY DANGER AREAS ACTIVE  
ON THE WEEKEND**

### **FUEL**

We may be able to supply Mogas but if you think you will need some **please let us know in advance**. We have 3 or 4 20 litre cans which we can fill for you . There is also a petrol station nearby which we can drive you to but this is only open on Saturday, so we need to know any fuel requirements in advance. If you need AVGAS this is difficult to ship in. I will not make any promises but shall see what we can do to purchase it in advance in 20 litre cans **BUT IT WILL BE VERY LIMITED.**

**PLEASE NOTE BENBECULA HAS NO AVGAS AND WILL NOT PROVIDE MOGAS.**

**STORNOWAY: FUEL WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH THEM IN ADVANCE.**

Please note the beach is in a remote area. Mobile phone signals on the beach are average and of course there is no wifi. If you are planning to camp overnight - the nearest CO-OP is a mile away and only open on Saturday. We shall hopefully be able to set up a camping toilet and tent should any of you wish to stay overnight. There are a few B&Bs and hotels dotted around and we are happy to ferry you to them as long as they are not at the bottom end of South Uist.

I should remind you also to pack your sunglasses, sun hats, and do not forget your mosie repellent and ANTI MIDGE NETS! Whatever the weather midges could be around and could drive us all to insanity if not well protected. **ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CAMERAS AND GO-PROS**

I will be writing to you again at the beginning of the week of the fly-in when I shall have a better idea of what weather we might expect. We shall be on the beach to set up from Friday 23rd and until Monday 26th in case of late departures. Last year the weather was a complete washout on the weekend so at the last minute 6 of you arrived on the Friday which is absolutely fine.

WE CANNOT WAIT TO SEE YOU AND TO WELCOME YOU TO SOLLAS 2023. If you cannot fly in, come by car, boat, bike, walk, or any other method of transport you chose. Everyone is welcome.

We have set up a facebook group page - SOLLAS BEACH FLY IN (LINK BELOW)- This is useful for last minute updates when we are on the beach if we need to send out any last minute alerts. So please join the group. You will find some great clips and pictures.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/890662185224470>

Regards

Claudine

tel: 07860461645

[claudinebloom@gmail.com](mailto:claudinebloom@gmail.com)