



NEWSLETTER

Edition 2/06 - April 2006

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1. Membership - welcome to new members and delegates

It's a great pleasure to welcome two new members to BAR UK:

- Air Europa, (Off-line Member) whose delegate is Frank Millard, *and*
- ADP Clearing, (Associate Member), whose main delegate is Graeme Lloyd. He is known to many of you as he was most recently with SN Brussels Airlines.

We also say farewell to one delegate, but are pleased to welcome his replacement:

- Austrian Airlines - Mr Alexander Schnecke in place of Mr Jose Luis Gilabert

2. BAR UK Meetings 2006



Next General Meeting - 18 May

The Annual General Meeting, and the next General Meeting will take place on 18 May. The venue is the Four Seasons Hotel near Park Lane, and the formal announcements and draft agenda have already been circulated.

It will then be immediately followed by an E Borders seminar (1100-1600).

The seminar is being arranged by the Home Office and being held as a joint event with BAR UK. With our agreement, it is being held as a wider airline community event, so invitations will be extended to other aviation organisations, and airlines.

This is a major event, and a keynote speech is being made by Andy Burnham M.P., the Home Office minister with specific responsibilities for E Borders.

BAR UK is very grateful to the Home Office who are providing and making the arrangements for the entire day.

12 October 2006

The details for the third and final meeting are currently being finalised with the sponsor. However, it can be confirmed that the venue will be the Institute of Directors, in Pall Mall, London.

3. Air Transport Consultations

Stansted 2nd Runway (SG2)

BAR UK has submitted its response to BAA, and has posted it on our website.

In brief, it says that the decision to build a second runway is for BAA to make, but must not include any cross-subsidy from any of its other airports, or impinge on the airspace requirements for Heathrow.

It is further stated that main priorities of BAR UK members are, subject to the requisite approvals, mixed mode operations at Heathrow, a third runway at Heathrow, and a second runway at Gatwick.

Consultation updates

- **Night Flying Restrictions for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted**

As reported in the last newsletter, the DfT is still considering all of the various responses it received last autumn. Its response needs to be known soon if schedules for the winter 2006/7 season are to be confirmed.

- **Consumer protection**

The CAA has very recently published a new document called 'Consultation on the Replenishment of the Air Travel Trust Fund and the proposed reform of ATOL Bonding'. This is an informal consultation, to help develop policy, prior to a more formal one being issued later in the year.

Unlike the previous CAA intentions, there are no proposals to extend mandatory consumer protection to airline-sold seat-only flights.

A response by BAR UK to the CAA will be provided by 19 May.

- **Copying of Documents**

BAR UK recently met with the Home Office to discuss various issues and has since distributed Home Office information to its members.

Members seemed satisfied with what is proposed, and that message has been passed back to the Home Office. Further proposed developments are now expected from them in due course.

- **E Borders**

Operating ahead of E Borders has been Operation Semaphore. This tests some of the processes and systems expected to be required in sending Advanced Passenger Information (API) to the UK Immigration authorities.

Having been tested on a small selection of routes, it has now been heard informally that Operation Semaphore will be required on all flights to and from the Far East, Middle East, N. Africa and Turkey.

More information will be obtained, and advised, as soon as possible.

4. Gatwick Express - the latest!



Despite letters to the Secretary of State, and to senior civil servants, there has been no official feedback as to when a decision might be made.

This is very frustrating, but also intriguing.

A decision had been expected in February so that adequate preparation could be made for any new timetables in 2007. As a decision has not apparently been taken, has it to be assumed that the Gatwick Express service is still to operate for possibly at least another year?

BAR UK will continue to make enquiries, and establish what the Department for Transport is planning.

5. Airport Slots

Discussions have recently taken place on two aspects of slots:

- **Slot Abuse**

The EU is concerned that some airlines persistently, and intentionally, misuse the slots provided to them. Such abuse can include not using them at short notice, so depriving the use of them to other carriers, or operating at different times to the slots, thereby causing congestion in terminals as well as on runways.

A consultation paper was issued by the DfT, to which BAR UK responded.

To follow up all the responses it received, the DfT is holding an afternoon seminar on 27 April to discuss the findings, and what sanctions and processes should be adopted.

- **Handling new runway capacity**

Whilst slot allocation mechanisms generally work well using the current runway capacities in the UK and other EU countries, how they would work when large amounts of new capacity becomes available is unclear.

This particularly applies when a heavily congested airport opens a new runway adding, for example, 25% more capacity.

Studies are currently taking place to examine the issues that would apply to slot trading, the grey market that currently exists between airlines who sell and buy slots, and to the prospects concerning auctions.

An independent team of consultants has been employed to seek industry views, and BAR UK has been visited by them.

Members will be informed as, and when, any developments are reported.

6. Mixed Mode

Mixed mode is the term used for the operation of both runways at Heathrow to each handle arriving and departure flights, rather than arriving OR departing flights only.

Mixed mode operations permit more flights to be handled, thereby increasing the airport's capacity, and offering more slots than currently available.

For various reasons, the Government has delayed the start by some months until at least the autumn of 2006.

7. Future Heathrow



BAR UK members will shortly receive an information pack from Future Heathrow, including a covering letter from campaign Director, Lord Clive Soley.

Members are encouraged to respond to the pre-paid cards inside, and to distribute the information to their staff.

8. Metal Cutlery

The Department for Transport have consulted with the EU, and ICAO, over the specifications currently used. They have been advised they are correct in their interpretation, and no changes will now be sought. Members need to be guided by the Heightened Security Measures issued to them in April 2005.

***THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED
AT THE END OF JUNE 2006***