

 <p><b>BARUK</b> BOARD OF AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UK</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER</b> Edition 3    MAY 2007 In association with </p>
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### 1. Gatwick Express

**SUCCESS!**

After a campaign of two and a half years, it's a real pleasure to announce that the plans to discontinue the Gatwick Express train service have now been abandoned.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the efforts of BAR UK, several UK and international airlines, and other international pressures played a major part in this success. The thanks of BAR UK go to all those who contributed to our own efforts.

**We can add value and benefits for airlines and their customers.**

		
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or call David Maddison on: 0208 750 6676

## **2. Air Passenger Duty (APD)**

The previous edition of the BAR UK Newsletter also featured Air Passenger Duty, but this time it is for a different reason.

During the debate held with them about the retrospective nature of the increase to APD, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) were made aware of the inconsistencies that exist within their current charging structure. These are based around the definition of class of travel.

The market and types of airlines have all changed over the years, but the APD charging structure has not. As a result, competitive disadvantage is being experienced by many airlines.

HMRC have listened to the concerns expressed, and have now published a consultation document to assess what changes may be appropriate.

A response by BAR UK will be provided by the deadline of 31 July.

## **3. Membership changes - welcomes and farewells**

### **(a) Thanks to BAR UK Director**

A new role away from the UK means that Vincent Knoops of KLM/North West has to retire as BAR UK Director.

Vincent had been a Director since October 2004. The Board and the secretariat extend their thanks to him for the valuable contribution he has made to BAR UK since then. Please see item 4 below for news of his replacement, and other Board issues.

### **(b) New BAR UK Members and Associate Member**

Three new airlines have very recently joined BAR UK. They are, in order of joining, **Oasis Hong Kong Airlines (Gerard Clarke)**, **Silverjet (Paul Moore)**, and **Belavia (Alexandr Gutovets)**. A very warm welcome to them all.

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**Gatwick EXPRESS** **Heathrow express** **airportexpress**

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It is also a pleasure to advise that **Thomas Eggar**, a large legal practice in London and Sussex, has joined as an Associate member. Their delegate is **Dawn Stallwood**, a partner in the practice.

### (c) People on the move

We say farewell to some delegates, but are pleased to welcome their successors:

<u>Airline member</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Farewell</u>
Air Malta	Leslie Muscat	Ray Borg
Alitalia	Maurizio Dello Monaco	Antonio Sgro
Czech Airlines	Roman Orlik	Vendula Raymova
Gulf Air	James Harrison	Clive Wratten
IcelandAir	Helgi Mar Bjorvinsson	Stephen Brown
Thai Airways Intl.	M.L. Bhudhisarn Varavarn	Somchai Sukkkhasantikul

### 4. AGM and General Meeting 23 May

#### **AGM**

BAR UK's Annual General Meeting was sponsored by, and held at, the Eye For Travel Exhibition in Islington on Wednesday 23 May. It was immediately followed by the second general meeting of the year.

The main items of the AGM were the Chairman's report, the acceptance of the Report and Accounts for 2006, and the election of Councillors.

There were six positions open to election, of which five were unopposed. **Mrs Christine Ourmieres** (AF/KL/NW) who was elected to replace Vincent Knoop, and the remaining four were already Board members who were re-elected.

For the one remaining position, there were two candidates, of whom **Doros Theodorou** of Malev Hungarian Airlines was elected.

#### **General meeting**

For the general meeting that followed, the keynote speaker was **Jonathan Moor**, Director of Airports Strategy at the Department for Transport.

The advertisement features a blue background with white text. At the top, it reads "We can add value and benefits for airlines and their customers." Below this, there are three logos: Gatwick Express (in a red box), Heathrow Express (in a dark blue box with a white 'X' icon), and Airport Express (in a light blue box). At the bottom, there is a line of text: "Click here to find out more: [www.airportexpressalliance.com/baruk](http://www.airportexpressalliance.com/baruk) or call David Maddison on: 0208 750 6676".

He outlined the Government's aviation policy towards 2030, and the challenges to be faced in implementing it.

Two presentations were then received from IATA. The UK country manager, [Noel Gilmartin](#) discussed the criteria that apply to IATA agents and the procedures that apply in monitoring them and the funds due to airlines from ticket sales. The meeting also learnt of the processes by which the criteria could be changed.

[Victor De Barrena Sarobe](#), Regional Programme Manager in Geneva, then highlighted the many efficiencies and process changes that are being provided by IATA's 'Simplifying the Business' project. At the same time as efficiencies are increased, savings of over USD6.5 billion per year!

The final guest speaker of the morning was [Peter Graham](#) of the Home Office, concerning biometrics in travel documents. Reference was made to the positive experiences of the UK's IRIS system <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/iris/> and the positive experience gained through the trialling of the 'miSense' system on certain routes in recent months.

## **5. Opening of the new Heathrow control tower**

Congratulations to all involved with the extremely smooth opening of the new control tower at Heathrow on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

With the need for assimilation to the new surroundings, and move over to new work methods, using electronic flight strips, it was expected that a considerable reduction in flow control rates would be felt in the first few weeks. This had the potential effect of delays and some cancellations.

To minimise disruption, National Air Traffic Services (NATS) consulted with the Airport Operator and airline operators at Heathrow to develop a Service Delivery Plan that would operate for no longer than four weeks - week one being the most critical - with expected improvement in the ensuing weeks.

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The planning by NATS, in association with BAA, the Heathrow AOC, the Department for Transport, and Airport Coordination Ltd (who handle slots), proved so good that no major disruption did occur.

## 6. e-Borders

In brief, the e-Borders team is in the final stages of assessing the offerings from the short-listed companies bidding to be appointed as the e-Borders supplier. Once announced, during the summer of 2007, it will then be a lot clearer as to how carriers will be expected to comply with e-Borders requirements.

## 7. Industry consultations

Responses already made to consultations made by BAR UK include:

- Competition Commission - regulated pricing for Heathrow and Gatwick Airports 2008-13
- Competition Commission - BAA market domination (submitted by IATA on our behalf)
- CAA - Manchester Airport price control review (2009-14)
- DfT - De-designation of Manchester and Stansted Airports

Responses due to be made shortly are for:

- DfT - UK Implementation Law re EU PRM Regulation
- DfT - EU Emissions Trading
- CAA - ATOL Bonding
- Treasury - Structure re Air Passenger Duty
- DEFRA - Public Health Control (aviation related)

## 8. Next General Meeting

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY NOW!

The next general meeting will take place at 10.00 on 12 October at the Institute of Directors in London.

The keynote speaker is **Geoff Muirhead CBE**, Chief Executive of the Manchester Airport Group, who are generously sponsoring the venue and meeting facilities.

THE NEXT BAR UK NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED BY 31 JULY

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Gatwick EXPRESS Heathrow express X airportexpress

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