

## **EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SEVENTH MEETING HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2004.**

**PRESENT:** Alastair S O'Neil (Chairman)  
Tom Wright (Secretary)  
Richard Jeffrey Managing Director EAL  
Mark Johnston Terminal Manager EAL  
Rachael Cameron Public Relations Manager BAA Scotland  
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests  
Ian Dickson ABTA  
Jack Munro Edinburgh & Lothians Tourist Board  
John Pennycook Community Police Officer  
Bob Armour Edinburgh Airport Amenities Group  
Hamish Stears Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Joe Henderson Kirkliston & Ratho Districts Community Council  
John Henry Scottish Trade Union Council  
James Price Fife Chamber of Commerce  
Cllr David Costello East Lothian Council  
Cllr James Dunsmuir Midlothian Council  
Cllr James Philip Fife Council  
Trond Haugen Fife Council  
Clive Brown City of Edinburgh Council

**APOLOGIES:** Donal Dowds Managing Director Scottish Airports Ltd  
Keith Meakin General Manager NATS  
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannan Council  
Cllr Shami Khan City of Edinburgh Council  
Cllr Gordon Edgar Scottish Borders Council

**WELCOME:** Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed those present and in particular Rachael Cameron who was attending her first meeting of the Committee.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2003:**

The name of Frank McCrorie Airfield Manager EAL had been omitted from the list of those present. With this alteration the Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty Sixth Meeting held at the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2003 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:** The Secretary advised that the Web Site had been set up and would be further developed. It can be found on [www.ukaccs.info/edinburgh](http://www.ukaccs.info/edinburgh) and the views of members of the Committee would be welcomed. Hamish Stears and Bob Armour had taken the opportunity to view the new Noise Monitoring and Tracking System in operation and had been impressed by what they had seen..

**WHITE PAPER THE FUTURE OF AIR TRANSPORT:** Maps of the White Paper Base Plan for Edinburgh Airport were shown to the Committee. It was emphasised that the White Paper did nothing to alter BAA's plans for Edinburgh Airport during the next 15 years. Part of the Highland Showground 's North Car Park could by 2009 be required for additional aircraft stands. The Highland Showground authorities have advised that they do not wish to move and the City of Edinburgh Council had indicated that they wished the Showground to remain within their limits. The Scottish Executive has called a meeting involving, EAL, The Highland Showground, The City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Enterprise to discuss the situation.

There has been strong representations from the residents of Lennymuir 20 ex MOD houses on the Turnhouse side of the airport. A public meeting is to be held shortly when BAA will set out its principles with regard to these properties.

Joe Henderson raised concerns from the Kirkliston area where he advised that the house market had slowed down following upon the publication of the White Paper due to the proximity to the proposed new runway. At this time it is not known where the runway will go or how long it will be. Richard Jeffrey agreed to meet with the Community Councils of Kirkliston, Ratho and Newbridge to discuss matters.

The Chairman stated that the views of local Council representatives on the White Paper would be welcomed.

### **MANAGING DIRECTORS QUARTERLY REPORT:**

Traffic Figures : The rate of growth slowed during the quarter compared to the previous quarter. International traffic grew faster than domestic and traditional carriers grew faster than low cost carriers. The traffic mix for the period was 33% low cost scheduled (same period last year 36%), 62% full service scheduled (last year 60%) and 5% charter (last year 4%)

Planning and Development: Work will commence in June 2004 on the new Air Traffic Control Tower. It is due to be completed and operational by September 2005. Two new aircraft stands 22 & 23 have been constructed and work has commenced to create a full length parallel taxiway to the main runway. This will be finished by December 2004. Work started in November 2003 on the Stand 7 Infill Project. This comprises an extension, over two floors, to the airside face of the terminal adjacent to Stand 7. This will provide an extension to the baggage hall on the ground floor and additional airside retail and seating space on the first floor. It will also increase the provision of airside catering. The Flood Prevention Project at the Gogarburn has been completed and a scheme to prevent fluvial flooding from the River Almond is at the design stage. A project will commence in June to replace the existing Airfield Ground Lighting system. This is linked to the ATC Tower and Parallel Taxiway Extensions Projects. New aircraft stands and then gates are the next priorities for the airport. At present there are 26 stands and 14 boarding gates.

New Routes. Details were given of the existing routes flown during the period October to December 2003 and new routes commenced during the same period. A further 11 routes have been announced but not yet started. The Committee requested that further breakdown of scheduled and charter operations together with information on frequency be included in the next report.

Taxis: All going well at present. The airport driver permits expire in December 2005 and EAL could make changes at that time should they choose to do so. A Workshop is to take place involving the considerable number of interested parties to consider the way forward after 2005. An additional 28 one year permits for hackney vehicles have been granted.

Roads: Following the publication of the White Paper a full review of the external road system serving the airport will be undertaken in conjunction with the Scottish Executive and the City of Edinburgh Council. EAL would wish to see an access road from the Gogar Roundabout to the airport and it is the intention to submit a planning application for this project. They would also be proposing a direct link into the airport from the M8.

Rail: TIE is making good progress with the proposed rail link.

Tram: EAL are keen to adopt the Tram Project but has reservations on three points. It does not allow access off Gogar Roundabout, the crossing of Eastfield Road is unavoidable and the position of the proposed tram station. The site of the proposed rail station will need to be fixed before the site of the tram station can be established.

Buses: 16% of passengers use the Air Bus Service. The 35 route bus now runs between the airport and Edinburgh Park Station.

Customer Feedback: The MAT ratio of complaints is 3:1 the best in BAA.

The Committee expressed their satisfaction with the new layout of the Managing Directors Review and the Chairman thanked Rachael Cameron for her work in this respect.

### **VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT ON AIR PASSENGER SERVICE:**

Mark Johnston advised on the following:

New Telephone Number: The new telephone number for the airport is 0870 040 0007

Night Closure: The Spring night closure of the 06/24 runway will take place from March 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April a total of 35 consecutive nights.

Wayfinding: New plasma information screens have been installed at the exit from the security search area.

French Rugby Weekend:20/21 March : Detailed planning has been completed in order to minimize disruption.

QSM Cleaning: Following problems with the spreading of salt during recent bad weather new barrier matting has been trialed and an alternative de-icer to salt is being considered.

QSM Smoking: A new tornex unit has been installed in the international arrivals hall.

QSM Public Address System: Further training for staff has been arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February.

A new capture report showing correlations to improvements to QSM now show that the 5 important areas are now, Wayfinding, Departure Lounge Overall, Shopping Facilities, Cleanliness of Departure Lounge and Eating and Drinking Facilities.

Wheelchair Service: A third wheelchair service PAL is now operating for KLM within the terminal. Comment was passed on the recent Ryanair case at Stansted . It had long been recognised that it was the responsibility of the airport to assist the passenger to check-in and that it was the airlines responsibility to take the passenger from check-in to boarding.

**AOCB:** Bob Armour asked that consideration be given to install a marker beacon to assist aircraft departing from runway 24. Cllr Dunsmuir raised the matter of Air Scotland advertising flights departing from Edinburgh and then busing passengers to Glasgow. EAL had no knowledge of such practices but Cllr Dunsmuir to provide dates and the matter will be investigated. The Edinburgh Youth Games will take place at Meadowbank Stadium on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

The Secretary advised that he had been in contact with the Edinburgh Coalition of Disabled People regarding their provision of a representative to the Committee. They had undertaken to respond to him but to date had not done so.

The next meeting will be held in the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 10th May 2004.