

## **EDINBURGH AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING HELD AT THE QUALITY HOTEL EDINBURGH AIRPORT ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2004.**

**PRESENT:** Alastair S O'Neil (Chairman)  
Tom Wright (Secretary)  
Richard Jeffrey Managing Director EAL  
Rachael Cameron Public Relations Manager BAA Scotland  
Bryan Gall Passenger Interests  
Ian Dickson ABTA  
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  
Keith Meakin General Manager NATS  
Cllr Alastair Campbell Clackmannan Council  
Cllr James Dunsmuir Midlothian Council  
Cllr David Costello East Lothian Council  
Cllr Gordon Edgar Scottish Borders Council  
Cllr James Philp Fife Council  
Derek Beveridge Fife Council

**APOLOGIES:** Tom Howe Service Delivery Director EAL  
Mark Johnston Terminal Manager EAL  
Jack Munro Edinburgh & Lothians Tourist Board  
Sarah Boyack MSP The Consumers Association  
James Price Fife Chamber of Commerce  
Cllr Shami Khan City of Edinburgh Council  
Cllr John Longstaff City of Edinburgh Council  
Clive Brown City of Edinburgh Council  
Trond Haugen Fife Council

**WELCOME:** Chairman Alastair O'Neil welcomed those present and in particular Derek Beveridge of Fife Council who was deputising for Trond Haugen.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2004:**

The Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty Seventh Meeting held at the Quality Hotel Edinburgh Airport on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2004 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING:** Bob Armour raised the matter of the marker beacon but it was agreed that this matter would be covered by Keith Meakin later in the agenda. There were no other matters arising.

## **MANAGING DIRECTORS QUARTERLY REPORT:**

**Traffic Figures:** The Moving Annual Total showed an increase of 7.2% over the previous year. This is less than the full years growth in previous years but is considered to be a more sustainable long term growth figure. The low cost traffic had fallen by 4% to 34% over the same period in 2003 and there had been declines on the Edinburgh-Standed and Edinburgh-Luton routes. Over the same period traffic on the full service airlines had risen from 62% to 66%. Great disappointment was expressed at the closure of Duo Airlines but this should not detract from the underlying strength of the market at Edinburgh. It is hoped that other airlines will pick up some of Duo's routes but at this stage no great optimism could be expressed. Continental Airlines had indicated that they were pleased with the advanced bookings which they had received for their new service to New York.

### **Planning and Development:**

**Air Traffic Control Tower:** Work has now commenced on this project with completion due in September 2005

**Parallel Taxiways Extensions:** Work now well under way and due to be completed by December 2004

**Stand 7 Infill Project:** This project which provides for an extension to the baggage hall on the ground floor and additional airside retail and seating space on the first floor is due to be finished by April 2005.

**Flood Prevention Project:** Works to the Gogarburn have been completed and a scheme to prevent fluvial flooding from the River Almond is at the design stage.

**Water Quality Project:** This project which concerns the quality of the run off from the airfield into adjacent water courses and compliance with the requirements of SEPA is at the feasibility stage.

**Airfield Ground Lighting Upgrade:** This project which is linked to the ATC and Parallel Taxiways Extensions Projects will replace the existing AGL system with a modern system using touch screen technology and giving full route selectivity will be carried out in 3 phases commencing December 2004 and ending September 2005

**Slot Drain Replacement:** Work has been completed on this project which replaced the existing slot drain on the main apron (between Stands 1a-10)

**Multi Storey Car Park:** This project is well ahead of schedule and will now be in operation by the beginning of October 2004.

**White Paper:** EAL are part of the Middle Group on the West Edinburgh Planning Framework with the other parties being the Scottish Executive and the owners of the Royal Highland Showground. It is hoped that discussions within this Group will help to resolve the position.

**Route Development:** 3 new routes to Belfast City, Exeter and Stockholm commenced in March and a further 6 new routes including those to New York and Moscow are due to commence between April and June 2004.

### **Onward Travel:**

**Taxis:** The existing taxi permits for airport drivers all expire on or before December 2005 and it is hoped to make a decision by the end of this year to decide what type of operation there will be post 2005. There are currently 215 public licence taxis and public hire vehicles operating from the airport.

**Roads:** A planning application is being prepared for a new access road to serve the airport from the Gogar Roundabout.

**Rail:** The current study is progressing well. There has been some debate as to the location of the station but it will probably be situated between the East end of the terminal building and the Hilton Hotel.

**Tram:** EAL supports the principle of the tram proposals but it has concerns about certain details of the scheme. These include the location of the tram stop, the location of the tram depot at Gogar Roundabout and the proposed crossing of Eastfield Road.

**Buses:** The 100 Airport Bus provides a very good service and is well used with 17% of passengers using the service. The only other bus service to the airport is the No 35 which operates to the Ocean Terminal. Talks are ongoing with Lothian Buses regarding a service to West Lothian. There is also the possibility of opening a taxi/bus service from the Park and Ride at Inverkeithing together with a similar service from Inverkeithing Station.

**Retail:** The overall retail performance for the period is very strong and showing a good performance against last year and on budget.

**Noise Routing Complaint Analysis:** In January 2 complaints had been received compared to 3 in January 2003. February showed 2 complaints compared to 3 in the same period in 2003. March showed 9 complaints an increase of 5 on March 2003 mostly due to the night closure of Runway 6/24 which had been extended this year due to the construction of the parallel taxiway extensions.

**Customer Feedback Jan-March 2004:** The Moving Annual Total showed a ratio of compliments to complaints of 1.3% the best in the BAA Group.

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

This report was tabled and accepted by the Committee.

#### **EDINBURGH AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL:**

Keith Meakin General Manager NATS addressed the Committee on this matter. At the moment Edinburgh Airport has a 10 mile radius of airspace classified as Class D airspace which means that any aircraft which wants to fly within the airspace must obtain a clearance to do so from Edinburgh ATC. Outside of that area below 6000ft Edinburgh has Class E airspace which allows any aircraft to operate within it to do so without the need to contact ATC. It is proposed to reclassify this airspace to Class D which will make sure that ATC are aware of every aircraft within this airspace and can be separated accordingly. All aircraft flying between 3500 feet and 6000 feet must report to Edinburgh ATC. The Committee gave its unanimous approval of the proposals as outlined.

With regard to the matter of the ND Beacons raised it was explained that these beacons which are situated off airfield are nearing the end of their working lives. It is proposed to replace them with a new beacon situated on the airfield which will provide a much better service to aircraft arriving and departing from the airport.

**AOCB:**

Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees: These papers had been forwarded to Committee members with the Minutes. The Committee had no comments to make.

Youth Games: These had taken place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and had been a great success with 850 children all from City of Edinburgh schools taking part.

November Meeting: In view of all the developments taking place it was felt appropriate for members of the Committee to have the opportunity to tour the airport. It was suggested that the Committee would meet earlier than usual within the terminal and this would allow for some two hours for the tour. An itinerary will be made available at the next meeting of the Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> August.