Your airport



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Issue 6 > Summer 2013

New services provide public transport boost

New bus and coach services providing a direct link to Bristol Airport from Bath, North Bristol and South Wales have further boosted public transport options for passengers. With public transport use by passengers already at an all time high, the new services keep the Airport on course to achieve its ambitious target – 15 per cent take up at 10 million passengers per annum.

The latest figures show that over 750,000 passengers used public transport to get to or from the Airport in 2012. Planning permission for development of facilities over the next decade includes a commitment to a direct bus link to Bath, but the launch of the Air Decker service by the Bath Bus Company makes this a reality several years ahead of schedule. At the same time, the new Greyhound coach operation has improved accessibility from north Bristol and South Wales.

The AirDecker, which operates hourly and includes stops in Saltford, Keynsham,

Hengrove and Bishopsworth, has been warmly welcomed by business and tourism chiefs in Bath. It provides a quick and easy route to the World Heritage City which will particularly appeal to overseas visitors. Greyhound's service from Swansea calls at Cardiff, Newport and the University of the West of England, with an end-to-end journey time of two hours and 45 minutes. Vehicles operating both services will drop off on the terminal forecourt just metres away from check-in.

www.bathbuscompany.com/airport-service www.greyhounduk.com





Six of the best for business



Representatives from tourist boards in Germany helped launch bmi regional's latest routes from Bristol Airport.

The latest airline to launch flights from Bristol Airport, bmi regional, is going from strength to strength with six routes operating this summer. After the initial announcement of a double-daily service to Aberdeen last October, the newly independent airline quickly followed up with flights to Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover, Milan and Munich — all much sought after destinations for businesses in the South West and South Wales.

The four new flights to Germany help fill a gap in the route network available from Bristol Airport - previously only Berlin could be reached directly (served by a daily easyJet service). Just as importantly, the timetable – with at least one flight every weekday to each of the six destinations – is designed with business passengers in mind.

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Sustainability

Energy Saving Week generates surge of interest

January saw the first ever Bristol Airport Energy Saving Week, with staff across the site challenged to come up with energy saving ideas, conduct an energy 'health check' of their working environment, and test their knowledge in an energy themed quiz.

The week-long programme aimed to highlight how everyone can play a part in keeping energy use to a minimum. To add an element of competition, different areas of the business were pitted against each other in an energy saving challenge. The terminal came out on top, despite the activity coinciding with a cold spell of weather, demonstrating that the building's systems and controls are effective in consistently managing energy use.

Up for grabs for those taking part were a selection of energy saving lamps (kindly provided by Specialist Lighting) and a Kindle Fire (donated by SSE Contracting). As a result, more than 40 quiz entries were received, with an encouraging 50 per cent achieving top marks! More than 30 energy saving ideas were submitted, all of which are being reviewed by the Airport's team of environmental champions.

Lighting the way

Energy Saving Week shone a light on areas of the business where big strides have been made. For example, lighting in airport buildings is now motion sensitive, resulting in a 50 per cent reduction in electricity use. There have also been



changes to the way the airfield is lit, with the LED lights installed in the taxiway stop bars delivering a remarkable 75 per cent saving.

Thinning down electricity use

IT systems are at the heart of modern airport operations, and the equipment required can consume a significant amount of power. That is why Bristol Airport's in-house IT team has worked hard to reduce the number of servers used



and made changes to the way flight information displays in the terminal operate. The latter now use a 'thin' client machine with no hard drive, reducing electricity use by about 85 per cent. Screens are also being replaced with the latest LED energy efficient versions, delivering further reductions.

Green Travel Plan helps staff get on their bikes



Bristol Airport scooped silver in the West of England Sustainable Business Travel Awards. Director of Planning and Environment, Alan Davies, is pictured receiving the reward from TV presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff.

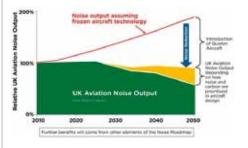
New facilities are encouraging Bristol Airport staff to consider alternatives to the car when planning their journey to work. Lockers, showers and a dedicated secure cycle shelter have been installed for staff looking to trade in four wheels for two. And a similar storage facility at Bristol Temple Meads is in the pipeline for those travelling from further afield but keen to complete the last leg of their commute by bike.

Noise Road-Map points way to quieter future

Sustainable Aviation, a unique alliance of the UK's airlines, airports, aerospace manufacturers and air navigation service providers, has unveiled its blueprint for managing and reducing noise from aviation. The Noise Road-Map sets out how noise can be reduced between now and 2050, focusing on aircraft and engine technology, operational improvements and land use planning.

Technological improvements have already made today's aircraft 75 per cent quieter than they were 50 years ago, and new aircraft types such as the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 787 offer significant noise reductions compared to their predecessors. Further design improvements such as blended wing body and engine shielding by fuselage and tail plane offer the potential to reduce perceived noise from aircraft by 65 per cent by 2050.

For more information on the Noise Road-Map, visit www.sustainableaviation.co.uk.



Air Quality Report published

The Section 106 agreement which forms part of the planning permission for development over the next decade, commits Bristol Airport to a range of monitoring and control measures, including specific requirements relating to air quality. Full details of air quality monitoring on and around the Airport site can be found in the 2012 Air Quality Report, which is available at www.bristolairport.co.uk/about-us/environment.aspx.

Passenger experience

New lounge open for business

The latest addition to Bristol Airport's passenger facilities has opened its doors following completion of work on the new £600,000 Aspire Lounge. The new facility has replaced the old executive lounge, increasing the space available by 50 per cent and introducing a range of product improvements for passengers wanting to relax in style before boarding a flight.

Designed for both business and leisure travellers, the Aspire Lounge is operated by long-standing Bristol Airport business partner, Servisair, which runs more than 20 other airport lounges across the UK and Europe. The new facility offers greater levels of comfort in a stylish environment, including a kitchen which enables hot food to be provided for the first time, alongside snacks and premium brand drinks.

A series of distinct zones cater for the differing requirements of business and leisure passengers, depending on whether they want to do some last minute work before boarding or relax ahead of a holiday flight. Families are also welcome, with a new entertainment area complete with personal televisions.



Brand new additions to duty free

For those who like to shop, the choice of products available at Bristol Airport just got bigger. As a result of a major investment to improve the retail experience, a new display area in the World Duty Free store now showcases names such as Givenchy, Balenciaga and Bare Minerals in addition to the wide range of premium brands already available.



E-passport gates prove popular

The number of passengers using automated 'e-passport gates' at Bristol Airport continues to increase, with measures in place to make them available for the majority of arriving flights this summer. By the end of February 2013, 30 per cent of eligible passengers were using the self-service gates, which provide a safe, secure and convenient alternative to the conventional border control process for legitimate passengers entering the UK. Eligible passengers are those aged 18 or over holding biometric passports from countries in the European Economic Area or Switzerland. Biometric passports carry the distinctive e-passport logo featuring a circle with lines on either side.

Bristol is one of ten UK airports where e-passport gates are installed, with three machines in operation. In a process which takes just a few seconds, passengers' faces are scanned and checked against their passport photos. Unlike some technology previously trialled at other UK airports, such as iris scanning, passengers are not required to pre-register to use e-passport gates.



Although e-passport gates are automated, they do need to be monitored by Border Force officers, and new users can also find it helpful to be guided through the relatively straightforward process. Working in partnership with the Border Force, Bristol Airport has committed to staffing the gates at fixed opening times during which passengers can always expect e-passport gates to be available. These run from 11:00 until midnight in May and opening hours extend to 20 hours a day between July and September.

The Border Force also opened an additional border control facility last summer to accommodate increased passengers volumes in line with forecast growth at Bristol. Selected flights can be processed through the additional facility, reducing wait times during busy periods.

Training helps Airport team provide world class welcome

Airports are often the first point of contact for international tourists when visiting the UK and play a big part in creating a positive first impression. That is why Bristol Airport has demonstrated its commitment to welcoming visitors to the South West and Wales by becoming the first Airport in Britain to gain WorldHost Recognised Business status.

WorldHost is a world-class customer service training programme that has already been used to train nearly one million people worldwide, including tens of thousands of staff and volunteers at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The programme has been endorsed by Visit England and covers customer service skills and awareness of different cultures with the aim of ensuring visitors to the UK receive a warm and friendly welcome.

Recognised Business status is awarded to businesses that have trained 50 per cent or more of their front line staff using any of the WorldHost training programmes and signed a commitment to delivering excellent customer service.



Sarah Greenwell, Tom Drake, John Ayres and Debbie Hastings from the Airport's customer services team accept the WorldHost award.

Bristol became the first airport in Britain to achieve that target after hundreds of staff completed the training course over recent months, spanning roles in customer services, security and ground transportation. The ultimate aim is for all customer-facing employees to undergo WorldHost training.

Serving our region

Corporate charters take-off at Flying Centre

The main passenger terminal will be familiar to most frequent fliers, but there is another side to Bristol Airport seldom seen by those travelling on scheduled services.

The Bristol Flying Centre (BFC) is the Airport's resident 'fixed base operator', providing a range of general aviation services from engineering and handling to award winning private jet charter and aircraft management as Centreline Air Charter.

Located to the south of the runway, adjacent to the Silver Zone car park, BFC operates from modern, purpose-built facilities with an experienced management team at the helm. Amenities include two private passenger lounges with complimentary refreshments, showers, meeting rooms and wifi access.

The BFC team will also help passengers on private charters navigate the strict customs and immigration clearances required in advance, ensuring the correct documentation is provided in order to enable a smooth entry to the UK for visitors. For the aircraft, BFC offers hard parking, hangar space and ground power supply as required. Systems replenishment, toilet servicing and de-icing are also available, as well as BFC's own dedicated fuel bowsers and cavernous hangar.

But this already successful general aviation operation recently experienced a step change that has seen it become the centre for vital charter services linking global companies based in the South West with



other sites across the UK and Europe. BFC is now handling bmi regional's corporate shuttle service for Airbus, operating daily between Bristol, Toulouse and Chester, alongside similar flights serving other organisations.

Coupled with its support for aircraft owned and operated by several high profile business leaders, BFC is developing a specialist service for corporate customers which complements Bristol Airport's focus on business passengers. Together with improvements to the main terminal's business lounge and other facilities, Bristol Airport can increasingly offer services to meet the needs of businesses of all sizes across the South West and Wales.

Ryanair scores with Szczecin

At the end of April, Ryanair commenced a new route to Szczecin in Poland. Passengers on the first flight were welcomed at check-in with an eye-catching word search board visually linking Bristol Airport with the Polish port.



Bristol Airport's Head of Sales and Marketing, Jason Wescott teams up with David Chester of Servisair to celebrate the launch of Ryanair's Szczecin flight.

The introduction of this new route brings the number of Polish destinations served from Bristol Airport to nine, with a total of 23 departing flights each week. This is the largest number of direct Polish routes operated by Ryanair from any British airport outside London.

Szczecin is an energetic and enthralling city, located where the River Oder flows into the Baltic Sea. It is the capital of the province of Western Pomerania, and full of character and charm. Poland's seventh largest city is also a major seaport with a strong maritime industry.

Ryanair also launched another new destination for summer 2012 – Chania, on the holiday island of Crete. This takes the total number of routes served by the Irish airline from Bristol Airport to 32, with destinations to suit leisure and business passengers.

Bristol-based agency to help shape Airport's digital future

Bristol-based agency, e3, has been appointed Bristol Airport's digital partner to help shape and support its future online strategy. As well as being responsible for web site design and build, e3 will provide strategic expertise to help the Airport maximize awareness of destinations served and to ensure all digital activity complements the customer service experience and brand over the next three years.

Based at the Paintworks in Bristol, e3 is one of the UK's largest independent digital agencies, specialising in strategy, web site design and development, online advertising, usability and social media. Other clients include KIA, Orange, Land Rover and the National Trust.

Nkomazi meets N-Somerset!



Portishead based charity, the Za Foundation, has once again helped to bring the Zakehle drama group from Nkomazi in South Africa to North Somerset. The group educate and inspire children and young people in both countries and will visit 15 local schools over five weeks, using drama and music to raise awareness of South African culture.

The group's journey from Nkomazi involved a five hour drive to Johannesburg, before boarding a flight to Bristol Airport via Amsterdam. Representatives of the Za Foundation were on hand in arrivals to welcome the tired but excited visitors.

For more information visit www.zafoundation.org.

Flights link South West with Scotland

Data from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has shown that more passengers fly from Bristol to Scotland than from any other UK airport outside London. Analysis of CAA figures for domestic scheduled flights shows that nearly 630,000 journeys were made between Bristol Airport and Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness in 2012 – a 4.5 per cent increase over the previous year.

Bristol Airport's biggest carrier, easyJet, operates 22 flights per week from Bristol to Edinburgh, 19 per week to Glasgow, and a daily flight to Inverness. Just under 300,000 passengers used the Bristol-Edinburgh service alone last year, benefiting from a schedule which includes four flights per day on a Friday, with three per day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

The Aberdeen service operates twice daily with a direct jet service by bmi regional using an Embraer 145. Passengers can check-in up to 30 minutes prior to departure and enjoy a free hold baggage allowance of 20kg, as well as complimentary onboard catering.

Flight times to Scotland compare favourably against train journeys (1 hr 15 mins compared to over 6hrs to Edinburgh, for example), making a round trip possible in a day for business passengers. Improvements to Bristol Airport's Fast Track security product also help to keep waiting times to a minimum.

Bigger aircraft introduced on Bristol-Jersey route

Regular travellers between Bristol Airport and Jersey could be forgiven for doing double takes when boarding their flights this spring after Blue Islands, which operates two daily flights on the popular route, increased the size of its aircraft to cope with demand.

A 48-seat ATR-42 has replaced the 19 seat Jetstream, which had operated the service since its launch in April 2011, resulting in a 140 per cent increase in the number of seats available.



New flight strengthens twin city links

The organisation behind one of Bristol's oldest twinning links has welcomed the impact a new flight from Bristol Airport will have on its activities. The Bristol-Hannover Council was founded in 1947 and remains active in promoting links between the two cities. The Council has welcomed the news that bmi regional will operate six flights a week from Bristol Airport to Hannover, and believes this direct service will encourage even stronger relations by making it more convenient for families, groups and businesses from Bristol to visit the German city, and vice versa.

Bristol's Lord Mayor, Councillor Peter Main, was on hand at Bristol Airport to welcome his Hannover counterpart, Frau Regine Kramarek, when she flew in on the inaugural flight in May. Frau Kramarek was accompanied by a business delegation including representatives from the renewable energy sector who met with Bristol-based businesses and academics working in the same field.

The Bristol-Hannover Council organises an exchange every 12 months, with the venue alternating between the two cities, and a group from Hannover is due to visit Bristol later this year. Twinning activity is expected to step up a level in 2014 with celebrations planned to mark the 300th anniversary of the House of Hanover's accession to the British throne.



Cllr Peter Main, Lord Mayor of Bristol (left) and Cllr Alan McMurray, Chairman of North Somerset Council (right), welcome Frau Regine Kramarek to Bristol Airport.

Overseas passengers soar above one million

The number of foreign residents using Bristol Airport has almost trebled in the last decade, with over a million journeys made by overseas visitors in 2012. Analysis of the latest data from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Passenger Survey shows that 18 per cent of the Airport's 5.9 million passengers last year were resident outside the UK, indicating an upsurge in visits to the South West and Wales.

One fifth of foreign residents were travelling on business, while over half were visiting friends and family. When domestic flights are included, a quarter of all passengers using the Airport can be classified as inbound. Overall, visitors from 82 different countries flew into Bristol in 2012.

The increase is driven by a combination of an extended route network and the Airport's proximity to high profile visitor attractions. The presence at Bristol of airlines with strong brand awareness in

continental Europe and beyond means this trend looks likely to continue – which is great news for the local tourism sector.



Picture courtesy of Destination Bristol

Business routes connect West of England

The CAA data also demonstrates the role Bristol Airport plays in connecting businesses in the region. Just under one in five passengers travelling to or from the West of England were on business.

Our community

Community Fund takes off

A fund set up to benefit the local community around Bristol Airport has donated over £88,000 to a variety of projects and initiatives in its first 12 months.



Backwell residents celebrate the opening of the new puffin crossing over the A370.

The Airport Environmental Improvement Fund was set up in 2012 as one of the commitments the Airport agreed to provide in connection with its planning permission for development over the next decade. Each year Bristol Airport contributes £100,000 to the Fund, with the figure increasing in line with future growth in passenger numbers. The Fund's management committee includes representatives from both the Airport and North Somerset Council and is independently chaired.

During 2012 a total of 19 projects received contributions ranging from £500 to

£25,000. A variety of local initiatives were supported including an improved footpath in Winford, play equipment for Cleeve Kids' Corner, a Diamond Jubilee Tree Planting project in Felton, a farm project at Court de Wyck Primary School and a puffin crossing on the A370 in Backwell.

Projects completed so far in 2013 include a new footpath on a section of the A38 by Barrow Gurney providing local residents with pedestrian access to a newly created Flyer bus stop. The Flyer is the frequent dedicated bus service for journeys between Bristol city centre and the Airport. The route includes stops in South Bristol, Temple Meads railway station and Marlborough Street bus station.

Another project to benefit is the Countryside Day organised by the North Somerset Agricultural Society. The event involves over 2,500 local schoolchildren in a range of country activities in order to raise awareness and understanding of where food comes from. According to the Society's secretary, Tim Ledbury, the event would not be possible without support from the Fund.

The Fund's purpose is to help to mitigate the impact of the Airport's operations and

to give something back to surrounding communities who are situated in close proximity to the site. Projects which could be eligible for support include initiatives to mitigate the impact of aircraft and ground noise, improvements to transport infrastructure, measures to reduce community severance, nature conservation, educational projects and local sustainability initiatives. The Fund's core area of benefit includes the parishes of Winford, Wrington, Backwell, Brockley, Cleeve and Barrow Gurney.

Further information is available from the Fund Administrator by emailing communityfund@bristolairport.com.

A sad farewell to Peter Lacey

It was with deepest regret and sadness that we heard the news that Peter Lacey, Chairman of both the Local Community Fund Management Committee and the Airport Consultative Committee, passed away over Easter. Peter made a substantial contribution to the Airport and the local community and was an excellent Chairman of both Committees. He will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues at Bristol Airport.

Private pilots visit control tower

NATS at Bristol Airport once again participated in the annual 'Visit Air Traffic Control' event organised by the Aviation Safety Initiative (ASI) earlier this year. The event aims to encourage light aircraft pilots to visit their local air traffic control tower, and 36 pilots took the opportunity this time around.

Hosted by Ian Beadle, Steve Quinton and Watch Manager, Sid Michelmore, the pilots enjoyed an informal discussion and a guided tour of the tower and radar room, with plenty of time for questions and a cup of tea! Visitors included half a dozen hot air balloonists, four glider pilots and a couple of helicopter pilots, from as far afield as Shoreham, Exeter and Swansea.

Ian Beadle commented: "We have an enviable relationship with pilots in the area and events such as this greatly assist in maintaining our standing as a professional and friendly light aircraft base."

Job fairs showcase world of opportunities

In recent months various members of the Bristol Airport team have attended jobs fairs around the region to highlight the range of employment opportunities available across the site. From the University of the West of England to Weston-super-Mare, the Airport team have been spreading the word about the wide range of career options on offer, spanning areas as diverse as security, catering, retail and customer service.

Almost 3,000 people are employed by 45 different organisations across a wide variety of roles, from baristas preparing top quality coffee in the terminal's cafes and restaurants, to engineers maintaining the complex infrastructure required to keep an airport operating 24/7.

All the latest information on opportunities at Bristol Airport can be found in the careers section at www.bristolairport.co.uk.



Bristol Airport's Chloe Mountford on the Bristol Airport stand.

Airport people

Meet the team – Martin Donnan, General Manager, NATS

As the General Manager of NATS at Bristol Airport, Martin Donnan is responsible for the safe, effective and efficient delivery of air navigation services to aircraft on the ground and in the air. He tells *Your Airport* about the challenges involved, what it takes to become an air traffic controller, and some of the technological innovations which could change the way they work.

I have been based at Bristol Airport for just under a year, heading up a team of 38 people. Prior to that I worked at Edinburgh Airport, having joined NATS – or National Air Traffic Services as it was then known – 12 years ago.

But I haven't always worked in air traffic control. On leaving school I joined the Royal Navy and served in the Fleet Air Arm. After a very enjoyable ten years as a Sea King Observer, including tours on aircraft carriers, search and rescue, and instructional duties, I decided to make the transition to civilian life as an Air Traffic Control Officer (ATCO).

People often ask me what makes a good ATCO and how you go about applying for the role. First of all, you need at least five GCSEs, at grade C or above, including English and Maths. You also need to be over the age of 18. If you can tick those boxes, then the ability to assimilate large volumes of technical information will help during and after your training. Throw in lateral thinking, problem solving, spatial awareness and the ability to work as part of a team and you have the makings of a good ATCO.

My current role also requires the ability to engage with others, as I am the liaison between NATS and the operations team at Bristol Airport, the airlines, and the regulator (the Civil Aviation Authority). Every airport is different, and Bristol brings specific challenges related to a relatively short runway and higher than average occurrence of low visibility operations. But technology has made both factors far less restricting than they might have been in the past. For example, a CAT3 instrument landing system (ILS) is in place on runway 27, which permits suitably equipped aircraft to land despite reduced visibility. And it's not just about commercial airline traffic – at Bristol we also work with a strong general aviation sector, as well as a thriving ballooning community. Along with activity from several military airfields across the South West, you can see that we deal with a diverse range of aircraft types.

The world of air traffic control never stands still, and there are plenty of interesting technological developments in the pipeline. For example, area navigation – or RNAV –



uses satellite navigation systems to ensure more reliable, repeatable and predictable flight paths. This in turn can deliver improved efficiency for airlines, as well as potential environmental and noise benefits. We are currently working with Bristol Airport to replicate some existing flight tracks as RNAV routes, and will be consulting with stakeholders on the procedural changes required later this year.

Through all of this activity, safety remains a constant theme. As passenger numbers at Bristol Airport grow in future, our job is to ensure that flights continue to operate efficiently but, above all, safely.

From the air to the sea

Recently NATS and Bristol Airport said goodbye to husband and wife team, Steve and Ann Quinton when they both retired after a combined 46 years of service. They will be swapping the air for the sea, with more free time to make use of their Falmouth moored boat.

OCS' Anthony heads 'Down Under'

OCS, the organization which gives assistance for passengers with reduced mobility (PRM) when using Bristol Airport, recently won the contract to provide similar services at Sydney Airport in Australia. As a result, PRM Mobilisation Manager, Anthony Wilson, will be relocating Down Under on a three month secondment to help set up the Sydney operation.

Last year Anthony fulfilled a similar role when OCS added Berlin Airport to its portfolio. Once again, he will be recruiting staff and putting in place procedures and processes to ensure a smooth journey for all passengers requiring assistance – and this time he may even come back with a sun tan!

MBE for Airport's Eileen

Margaret Jackson (better known as Eileen) was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours.

Eileen was honoured for her services to charity and for her work in helping launch and run the North Somerset Masonic Widows Association. In 1981 Eileen was widowed with three young sons and this spurred her to help other young mums in similar circumstances. The Association she founded organizes talks, outings and holidays for widows and their families, as well as raising money for other charities.

Eileen works for ICTS at Bristol Airport as a part-time supervisor and has worked at the Airport for 16 years.



News round-up

Veterans enjoy VIP send-off



When five veterans of the World War Two Russian Arctic convoy flew from Bristol to Inverness en route to a reunion and medal ceremony at Loch Ewe, the last thing they expected was a watery welcome at the Airport. But that is exactly what they received when the easyJet aircraft flying them north received a spectacular 'water arch' in their honour, courtesy of the Airport fire service.

The Arctic convoys played a vital role in supplying Northern Russia with supplies and war materials. Protected by Royal Navy warships, merchant vessels sailed from British ports to Murmansk and Archangel, described by Churchill as "the worst journey in the world". Between 1941 and 1945 over 3,000 men lost their lives and 104 ships were sunk.

Airport hosts Ghanaian guest

Earlier this year Bristol Airport hosted a visit from the Safety Manager of Ghana Airport Group, Benjamin Ahlijah.

The Airport has a long-standing link with Ghana having previously shared expertise with counterparts in the fire department. This time it was the turn of the airside operations team, with Bristol Airport's Gareth Coe discussing best practice and training with Benjamin.



Tall order for basketball conference



In May, Bristol Airport welcomed hundreds of delegates from over 30 countries en route to the FIBA European Basketball General Assembly meeting being held at Celtic Manor Resort near Newport.

One of the first delegates to arrive was 7'4" Arvydas Sabonis (pictured with Darren Oakley of Basketball Wales), who flew in from Kaunas in Lithuania. Recognised as one of the greats of his era in European basketball, he won a gold medal at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul when competing for the Soviet Union. He also later earned bronze medals in '92 and '96 as part of the Lithuanian team.

Ornithologist flies in to boost bird collection



Bird-strike can be a serious threat to aircraft, so the team at Bristol Airport carefully manage the length of grass on the airfield to minimise bird activity in close proximity to the runway. However, the Airport's rural setting

means that some less sensitive areas of the site are home to a wide range of resident and migratory species.

It is this rich bird-life that caught the interest of ornithologist, Paul Sweet, whose brother, Jeremy, is a Terminal Duty Manager at Bristol Airport. Paul runs the ornithology collection at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, home to the largest research collection in the world, numbering some 900,000 specimens. While museums have

traditionally kept study skins, the advent of DNA sequencing means tissue samples have become increasingly important. Salvaging dead birds is one way in which ornithologists can obtain genetic samples, and Paul approached Jeremy to see if Bristol Airport could help. As a result, Paul made the trip back to his home town to collect carcasses of dead birds found on the site which have been stored by the Airport team.

Common species here in the UK can be rare in the US so, with Bristol Airport's help, Paul is expanding his collection of tissue samples, as well as skeletons and spread wing preparations where possible. All remains are handed over and transported in accordance with strict rules and regulations, and the genetic samples are then stored in ultra-cold liquid nitrogen tanks and are made available to researchers worldwide.

KLM adds capacity

Bristol Airport's link with award winning European hub, Amsterdam Schiphol Airport, was strengthened earlier this year when Dutch airline, KLM, introduced additional capacity on the route. Twelve per cent more seats are now available as a result of the introduction of an Embraer 190 on two of the four daily flights.

The additional capacity follows the launch of a fourth daily flight in spring 2011, increasing flexibility for passengers and making more onward connections accessible from Schiphol. The Embraer 190 aircraft offers increased capacity thanks to its stretched fuselage fitted with a new engine and wing design. This means that it is not just a stretch version with better performance, but a totally optimized aircraft. It is more fuel efficient and is configured with two seats on each side of the aisle, meaning no middle seats.

Downside Road book competition winners

In the last edition of Your Airport, two copies of Downside Road by local author, Jerry Turner, were up for grabs. The lucky winners were Julia Scarth of Wookey Hole, Somerset, and Anna Harrison from Torquay.

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