

# ATCOs' Branch

*The newsletter of the Prospect ATCOs' Branch*

MARCH 2009

## Special Delegates Conference

The ATCOs' Branch Executive met recently and made the decision to call a special delegates conference following recent meetings with the NSL Executive.

The SDC will discuss potential proposals that NATS have for airport contracts and changes to terms and conditions.

The conference will be held on 21st & 22nd April at the Holiday Inn Fareham. Delegates from the recent Annual Delegates Conference should now be in receipt of the calling notice. If for any reason they are unable to attend then replacement delegates **must** be sent from your unit. If any delegate is having problems regarding release for the SDC then please contact your section chair ASAP. Delegates should confirm their attendance to Kevin Malam, Chair SOC, [atcosoc@gmail.com](mailto:atcosoc@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

The motions to be debated at conference will be notified at a later date. It is important to note that the ATCOs' BEC feel the matters to be discussed at the SDC are of concern to ALL members of the ATCOs' Branch .



## ATCOs' Branch Website Re-launch

The ATCOs' Branch website will be re-launched on 1st April. This key tool for communicating with the wider membership will contain meeting reports, latest news, profiles of Branch Officers, details of Prospect Education Courses and contact information to get in touch with your BEC.

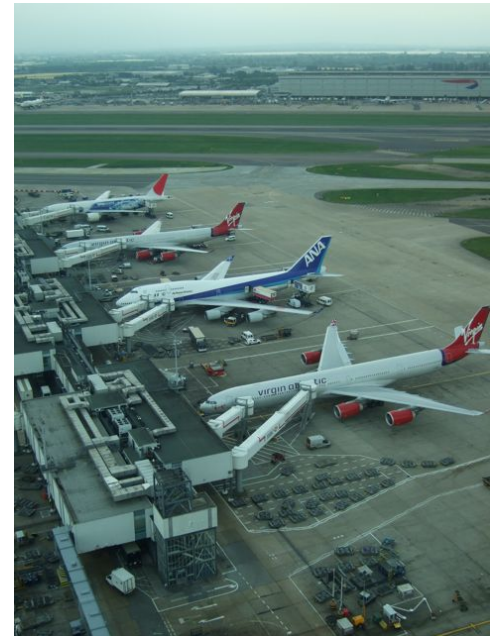
[www.atcos.co.uk](http://www.atcos.co.uk)

## PAY 2009

The ATCOs Branch met management (as part of the NTUS) on the 6th March. This was the first meeting for some time, the delay was due to management waiting for the NATS board to approve a mandate for a pay package. As indicated in a recent NTUS circular the branch have been frustrated with the lack of progress that has been achieved thus far.

We were expecting an offer from NATS on the 6th however that was not forthcoming as they wished all trade groups to explore some possible changes within the business in conjunction with a pay award.

The most recent meeting occurred on the 16th of March. As was indicated in the most recent NTUS circular, management finally submitted a pay



offer that they described as "modest". This offer, in the opinion of the NTUS, was derisory and coupled with the numerous strings attached it was rejected out of hand. Whilst the meeting on the 16th has given the NTUS a clearer picture of the way management wish to proceed on pay it is currently not in our members' interests to proceed with a pay deal along the lines of that currently on the table.

We are hoping to have a resolution as soon as is practicable as we are acutely aware that the pay award which members have been expecting is now 3 months overdue.

We will be making all efforts to negotiate a suitable deal which we think will be acceptable to us all in the shortest time possible. We will update you as soon as any further information is available and, as usual, any pay offers will be subject to a full ballot of the membership.

## ID Cards for Airport Workers

Prospect is writing to MPs encouraging them to oppose Government plans to introduce compulsory ID cards for all airside workers. Prospect has responded to two rounds of formal consultation on the ID proposals and issued statements to the press opposing the introduction.

Prospect is working alongside BALPA and other unions on this issue. Meetings have taken place with the Home Secretary and we are co-ordinating our work through the TUC. The Government initially proposes rolling out their ID Card scheme at Manchester and London City Airports (for new employees and those who do not already have airside passes) later this year, with other airports following in 2011 with the proposed arrangements eventually covering all airside workers.

Prospect has consistently argued that the proposals will do nothing to enhance safety and security at airports. We are concerned that the Government's approach has more to do with seeking to grab news headlines rather than a cool and calm appraisal as to



what steps need to be taken to enhance aviation safety.

We are also concerned that aviation workers are being singled out by the Government as guinea pigs for the wider introduction of compulsory ID Cards. The required regulations are yet to be put before Parliament. Beyond the work which Prospect will be doing at a national level, members are encouraged to contact their MP raising their concerns with regard to the introduction of these measures.

From an employment law perspective, should the plans become law, Prospect will have to advise members to comply with the requirements. Against that backdrop we need to concentrate our efforts on influencing the Parliamentary debate with regard to this legislation. A

fuller briefing with regard to this issue will be shortly provided to members.

### **Branch Executive to hold meeting at ScOACC**

Following feedback received from members about the need for the BEC to be more visible at ScOACC, the BEC will hold its May meeting at ScOACC. From the 5th – 7th May the BEC will visit ScOACC. Members are invited to meet with the BEC on the evenings of the 5th and 6th, the venue will be publicised by local reps in the near future.

[www.atcos.co.uk](http://www.atcos.co.uk)