

# The Liaison Council Report

Autumn/Winter 2011

by Robert James

## Touchdown

The new Touchdown website has been launched and can be found on

[www.ba-touchdown.com](http://www.ba-touchdown.com)

or you can get to it from within the BA Clubs site on

[www.baclubs.com](http://www.baclubs.com)

The Council met with BA's Head of Internal Communications at the end of last year and discussed how a stripped down version of the Touchdown paper, without pages of advertising, could continue in some form.

We suggested that routine information, such as 'Absent Friends', could be transferred to the BA intranet/FAQs and the last, Spring '11, issue showed, to a certain extent, what could be done.

Since then and at our request, BA are talking with BA Pensions about the possibility of some sort of joint publication, for all retirees, that could be sent out from time to time.

## FAQs

The upgrade to the software behind the FAQs has allowed the Council to recover the ability to write and enter its own questions and answers.

Our handful of 'Liaison Council' FAQs is owned by us and I apologise for the information not being updated earlier on this year.

## Pensioner Contact vacancies

A master list of all the vacancies in the PC scheme is held by the Council.

If you are interested in becoming a PC please tell us what your County, Town or Borough is and we'll let you know what's available near you.

Please be aware that you don't necessarily have to live in an area to be its PC and we are always interested in volunteers who could support and then take over from retiring Contacts in the future.

A shortened version of the list is attached to an updated Liaison Council FAQ and more information will be available on the Touchdown site soon.

## Hotline

Discussions with BA about access to 'Hotline' for retirees whose staff travel 'runs out' in 2014 continue.

We are well aware of the 5-year 'run down' in ST 2009 and need to push BA to bid for IT resources to make this happen.

## Staff Travel

The staff travel Policy Guide is being revised and re-written and the 'Retired Staff' half of it will be published on the Touchdown website.

Although discussions on ST2009 have been closed for some time, we continue to raise current issues of concern about staff travel with BA.

Our list of Travel Insurance companies was updated in August and is available, on request.

## Last Meeting

Peter Sweet, Chairman of the staff side of BATUC, came to our last meeting in September and briefed us about BA, ST2009 and the current IR environment from the TU side point of view.

We will continue to liaise with BATUC.

## Keith Williams, CEO British Airways

Later on at our last meeting, we welcomed Keith Williams, CEO of BA, who spoke to us at some length and then answered our questions in a general discussion afterwards.

We thank Keith for his time with us, his briefing on the business, his answers to our questions and for listening to some of our concerns.

## Pensions

From a recent briefing from BA Pensions to a Pensioner Contact group, we learnt that:-

the latest actuarial tables show that BA pensioners, on average, live to nearly 90 years for women and nearly 87 years for men

the expectation for next April's pension increase will be based on just over 5% with NAPS being capped at 5%, a very rare event

## Next Meeting

Teresa Suriyae, Secretary to the BA Pension Schemes, will attend our next meeting in December to give us her regular briefing about BA Pensions and the Pension Schemes.

At that same meeting, but at a different time, we will also be briefed by Mike Post, the former Pensioner Trustee.

## Information bits

- The next Reunion Day will be on 10 March 2012
- 'Absent Friends' will be shown on the Touchdown website
- RSS or RS now calls itself the 'Touchdown Team'
- The Touchdown Team e-mail is [batouchdown@baclubs.com](mailto:batouchdown@baclubs.com)

## Happy Christmas

Finally, a "Happy Christmas" from the members of the Liaison Council to all retirees.

The British Airways Retired Staff Liaison Council

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