

## The Noise Management Board

As a result of intense opposition to new flight paths, Gatwick Airport set up an Arrivals Review, headed by the independent air traffic expert Bo Redeborn. GACC's response to the Review is at [www.gacc.org.uk/flight-paths](http://www.gacc.org.uk/flight-paths). Gatwick have said that they will accept all the recommendations of the review.

A new Noise Management Board (NMB) has been set up, and its first meeting was on 21 June. For its first year the Board will concentrate on the implementation of the Arrivals Review. The Board will not have power to take decisions but it is hoped that it will provide an authoritative voice in making recommendations to the DfT, CAA, NATS or GAL.

There seems some risk of confusion with the existing Gatwick noise committee (NATMAG), on which GACC sits, although it is envisaged that the NMB will take a strategic view while NATMAG will continue to monitor the factual impact of noise on local communities. GATCOM, the airport consultative committee set up by statute, on which GACC also has a seat, will continue to have a wider role covering all aspects of the airport.

The chairman of the NMB is Bo Redeborn. There is one member from each of the following: Gatwick Airport, Gatwick airlines, Gatwick local air traffic control, NATS (national air traffic control), CAA, DfT and the chair of GATCOM. Plus two county councillors. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed that the District Councils, which have a responsibility for noise and planning, are excluded.

During the past three years 16 different local community groups have been formed to protest against flight paths over their area (details are given in a *Guide to Community Groups* on <http://www.gacc.org.uk/flight-paths>). These groups have been given four seats on the NMB plus four alternates who can attend meetings but not speak.

The community groups have agreed to work in pairs, one at the table, one as alternate, switching at each meeting.

HWCAAG/ APCAG	Richard Streatfield /Peter Drummond
CAGNE/Plane Wrong	Sally Pavey/Mike Ward
ESCCAN/TWAANG	Dominic Nevill/Irene Fairbairn
GON/PAGNE	Martin Barraud/Ian Hare

If the NMB cannot reach consensus on a matter, it can be agreed by 75% of those attending. The community groups make up under 30%, or with the county council representatives 43%.

GACC found itself in a curious situation. Although we have as paid-up members over 50 councils and over 40 community groups, we are not on the NMB. We were originally asked by Bo Redeborn to be the sole and only environmental member on Board representing all the local protest groups. We declined because we knew that all the local groups had such strong views on their own local areas that we did not feel they would trust us to speak for them. Instead the decision was taken that there would be two 'community' representatives from the east and two from the west. Because GACC represents the whole area around the airport it would have been inappropriate for us to seek nomination for either east or for the west.

**GACC will take a strategic overview of the work of the NMB, and report to the airport consultative committee. We will also of course continue our traditional role of leading the opposition to a second runway and seeking general improvement in all aspects of the environment around Gatwick.**

GACC  
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