Bizzav prepares for London 2012 Olympics

by Ian Sheppard

The UK’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has launched a campaign to educate those operating to and from the 2012 London Olympic Games this summer about the airspace restrictions to be imposed and how to handle them. Major restrictions will be in place centered over London and the Olympic Park from July 14 to August 15, with lesser restrictions for the Paralympic Games from August 16 to September 2.

Still to come from the CAA are details of plans for dedicated airspace arrangements for business aircraft operators that were promised last year. These plans and the final complete airspace guide are awaiting further input from Britain’s Ministry of Defence (MoD) and some final legislative arrangements. What is already settled is that there will be restrictions around other Olympic sites for shorter periods of time, for example at the athletes’ village at Egham (just south of Heathrow Air- port) and rowing site at nearby Eton Dorney. There will also be temporary restrictions in place around other Olympic events elsewhere in the UK, including those in Newcastle, Coventry, Glasgow and Cardiff.

Another restricted site will be Weymouth, where Olympic sailing will be held on the south coast of England. These will apply from sea level to 3,000 feet. Details of all restrictions will be available via Notams and through a series of procedures. The London Heliport at Battersea, on the south bank of the River Thames, has also been afforded a special exemption. The MoD and Air Traffic Control (ATC) will have a suite of procedures to help pilots to avoid inadvertent infringement of the zones.

Learn More About London’s Olympic Flight Plan

The UK CAA will be holding a briefing on Olympic Airship Flight planning on Saturday, March 10 in London, in conjunction with the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN). The event, the ‘Learn more about London’s Olympic Flight Plan’ website (www.caa.co.uk) will be held at the Royal Geographical Society, where the RIN is based. It will feature presentations and a question-and-answer session with participants including representatives from the CAA, NATS and the UK Ministry of Defence. Specifically, the website will address issues related to the CAA's control of the Restricted Zone, flight planning and intervention procedures. A series of live navigation techniques will be provided to help pilots to avoid inadvertent infringements of the zones.

Airport Options Abound for London Olympics

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Airport Operators Approaches for London Olympics

Airports in the scheduled 2012 schedule–By Airport

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