

ROCHESTER AIRPORT NEWS

MAY 2012

What can I say about May? I feel it would be wrong not to mention the rain but at the same time I don't want it to become the theme of the newsletter as despite the weather doing it's best to dampen everyone's spirits and stop flying, we've had a reasonably busy month.

Because of the runway conditions, it has been up to the rotary traffic to keep us busy and they have not let the side down. There is one particular R-44 that sticks in my mind but there is more on that later - all I will say is that it would be very fitting for the Jubilee celebrations.

We have also had a number of different military helicopters in the area, including

an army gazelle which was... I wasn't sure they had any... There's been a few visitors to... including cadets from my squad... great having the airfield as a training... it makes life so much easier for... instructor! And from the cadets point of view, it's a lot more fun getting their hands dirty than sitting in a class room.

We also made a little boy very happy but more on that later. All I will say here is that it's a great feeling to make someone that happy.

The Red Devils were in as well, before delivering the match ball for the FA Cup final, which was a bit different.

The duty crew have been put through their paces on a Fire Revalidation course.

PAFRA have also had a successful month with the Goodwood Evening Fly-out and the Round London Fly-out being well supported.



This is one of my favourite photo's taken this month and I had to include it.



JULIA CAMP

MUTTERINGS FROM THE EDITOR

What a month May had been! I can't believe how much rain we've had - personally I blame it on the hose pipe ban. Although the rain had been good for the country, it's not been so good for the airfield. We have had to restrict movements a lot this month and I shouldn't forget the different taxi briefs that we have had to come up with to get everyone to the runway. There is no doubt that a lot of effort has gone into keeping everyone flying as much as we could but sometimes it felt as if we were doing it for nothing. I can promise everyone that we do not close the field for any other reason than safety - there is no way I want to sit in the tower for a whole shift doing nothing out of choice (despite what some may think) and I think I am safe in saying that it goes for all the FISOs.

To save repeating myself too much - I just want to ask a favour of everyone. It would be really good if everyone could demonstrate their support of the airport by ensuring they are fully briefed. It might just be the runway in use, but at least you can say you are fully aware of the situation. It could save a lot of embarrassment if you just ask the question. Listening to it would also be great, for example "checks on the hard standing abeam the tower" does not mean do your run-up checks on the grass!!

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