

Lee on Solent is open – come and visit!

*At the end of a long, hard battle Lee has been saved for GA and the future is bright, says AOPA airfield representative **Robert Hill***



*Above: joining right hand downwind for 23 at Lee on Solent
Right: call for a briefing before you come because operations can be complicated*

As of 1st April 2011, Britten-Norman (BN) have become responsible for the management of Daedalus Airfield – also known as Lee on Solent – under a two-year agreement. The airfield manager is Mr Peter Dalby, who managed Bembridge aerodrome from 2002 to 2010.

Peter (a PPL) and his team are easing themselves into the position of running the airfield and will be promulgating arrangements for visiting pilots when those have been finalised. The team are keen to make a success of the airfield and will be welcoming visiting pilots.

The airfield borders the Solent opposite the Isle of Wight and has a slipway into the sea. It was established in 1917 as a naval seaplane training school and came under RAF control the following year when the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal

Flying Corps merged to form the RAF.

In 1939 the creation of the Fleet Air Arm ended a period of wrangling as to who should control naval aviation and the airfield became a Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS), HMS Daedalus. Later its wartime operational flying gave way to a developing role as a centre of air engineering training, before it was finally decommissioned in March 1996 as a victim of national economies in defence spending.

Since then it has been through various iterations but always remained an airfield. AOPA members Malcolm Barton, Mike Cross, Jon Butts, Frank Thompson, Steve Cockshott and many others have worked tirelessly under the umbrella of the Lee Flying Association (www.eghf.co.uk) to save the airfield for aviation use. Mike Cross received an AOPA award for his work.

Everyone else has received the award of the airfield remaining operational.

Before you come you must get a briefing on circuit procedures because the airfield is shared with gliders, search and rescue helicopters and a flying school.

Southampton Zone – know your procedures and do not infringe the zone. You can use the listening squawk 0011 and tune to 120.225 for Solent Radar.

Landing fees: 0 – 750kgs £7.50; 751 – 1500kgs £15; 1501 – 2000kgs £20

You can also get a dual landing card for unlimited landings Sandown/Lee on Solent at £75/month for single owners and £150/month for multiple pilots. For more details contact peter.dalby@flybn.com. Their new website is www.eghf.com.

This is positive news for the airfield, creating as it does a very pro-aviation operational management.

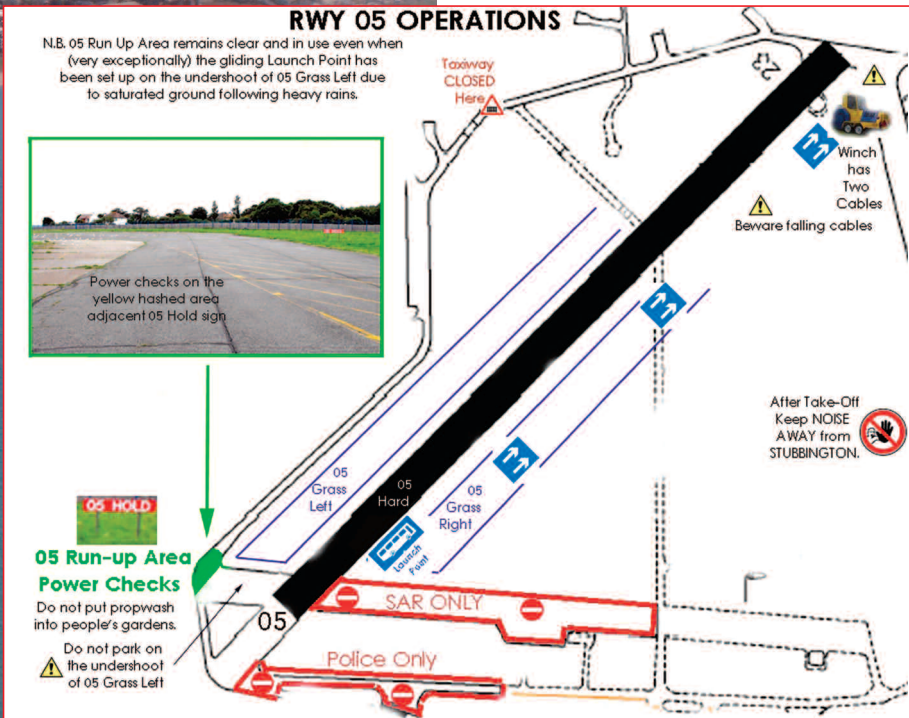


Left: Twin Squirrel operated by Atlas Helicopters, whose offer includes aerial tours of Portsmouth

Above left: Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club has been flying for more than 60 years

Above: Phoenix Aviation, run by flying enthusiasts for flying enthusiasts

Bottom: credit for saving Lee on Solent goes to the indefatigable Lee Flying Association



and aircraft hire in a friendly and professional environment.

- Solent Microlight Flying Group.
 - Atlas Helicopters.
 - Portsmouth Naval Gliding Club.
- PNGC celebrated their 60th anniversary on May 31st 2009.

Fuel

AVGAS 100LL is available on site by prior arrangement with Daedalus Aviation Fuelling Services (DAFS). Bowser is located near G Hangar but we will come to you if required. Contact Paul Coppin, Tel or Text: 07990 511200 or e-mail lee.fuel@ntlworld.com

JET A1 is available on site by prior arrangement with Atlas Helicopters. Call 02392 556688 or 02392 556644.

The Sandown connection

Britten-Norman are also taking on the management of the very popular grass airfield Sandown on the Isle of Wight, which offers plenty of hangarage. Peter says don't forget - they will be offering a dual landing card covering fees for both Lee and Sandown. See the fees earlier in the article.

Daedalus Airport (EGHF) eghf.com
118.925 MHz ats@eghf.com
+44 2392 551714

Sandown Airfield (EGHN) eghn.com
119.275 MHz ats@eghn.com
+44 1983 405125

Happy flying in 2011 – make it the year you visit us at Lee on Solent. ■

BN will publish a new airfield manual in April. Please read it thoroughly because there will be some changes to current operating procedures. If in doubt, phone the tower on 02392 551714.

Lee Radio Air-Ground Communication Service will operate from the control tower building seven days a week Mon-Fri 0900 – 1700 and Sat-Sun 1000 -1600 local time from 1st April.

Visiting pilots will need a briefing – they must be aware of the local procedures applicable in the Fleetlands ATZ. It is BN's intention to phase out the need for PPR.

The current Pooleys plate for the airfield, instigated by founding LFA Chairman Malcolm Barton and created with the assistance of the LFA's Mike Cross, is to be updated. Jeppesen will feature the airfield for the first time in their guide, and perhaps others will follow suit.

Airfield Users

- LFA – Lee Flying Association
Lee Flying Association is dedicated to current and future aviation use of the airfield at Lee-On-Solent. LFA has a hangar and clubhouse, complete with refreshment and internet briefing facilities. Join us – visit www.eghf.co.uk. Watch out for details of fly-ins.
- Phoenix Aviation is a CAA Registered Training Facility and can offer flying tuition, ground school and ground exams for the Private Pilots Licence (PPL) and National Private Pilots Licence (NPPL). Additionally, Phoenix instructors can provide biannual check rides and Cross Channel Check Flights. Based at Lee-on-Solent airfield, run by flying enthusiasts for flying enthusiasts. The Club offers affordable flying tuition

