

KIM SHARMAN TALK (continued)

The authorities had a window of just seven hours to transfer the loads. Although many pieces of equipment were later moved, essential items could not be taken until Kai Tak had seen its last landings and take-offs. Large sections of Hong Kong were closed to normal traffic.

The first commercial plane landed at Hong Kong's brand new £12bn Chep Lak Kok international airport which opened in place of the old airport some 18 miles away. The new airport cost £4bn to build - another £8bn was needed to construct a giant bridge connecting it to the rest of Hong Kong. The new airport's eight-storey terminal, designed by British architect Norman Foster, is one of the largest enclosed spaces in the world.

Under a giant metal roof is six million square feet (557,413 square metres) of glass-walled space. The first commercial plane, Cathay Pacific flight CX889 from New York, touched down on Monday at around 0620 local time.

His next visit to the site of the old Kai Tak Airport was 16 years later, arriving at the Hong Kong Cruise Terminal - which is built on the threshold of the old runway 31 at Kai Tak where he took off on that last flight on July 6th 1998. Stepping off from the RMS Queen Mary 2 was a strange moment, standing where he took off on his last flight before retirement!

JULY TALK CHANGE OF VENUE

For our July talk we will be using the Linden Hall (the big hall) as there is a 40th party booked and this gives us a bit of a sound break from across the corridor.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A thank you to members who have recently updated their details, especially email addresses. Contact information is now stored electronically in a spreadsheet and circulated to Committee members primarily for use in the event of emergency or important short notice changes. If you object to your details being held this way please let a Committee member know and your contact details will be removed from the electronic file.

TRIO OF "SMOKERS" AT RIAT

The Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-29 fighter was a formidable foe when the aircraft, first flown in 1977, initially appeared. This tactical fighter, codenamed 'Fulcrum' by NATO, was rugged yet very agile, and would have been more than a match for its Western opponents in the latter years of the Cold War.

This year at RIAT, Fairford, additions to the already amazing line-up come in the form of a flying display by a Polish Air Force MiG-29A and a rare return for the Slovakian Air Force with a flying display from a MiG-29AS with a second on static display. It will be great to once again see these "smokers" leaving their characteristic black smoky trails across the sky.



2016 AIRSHOW DATES

18-19th June - Weston Super Mare airshow
2nd July - RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset Air day
2nd-3rd July - Chalke Valley Festival air display, Ebbesbourne Wake, Wiltshire
8th - 10th July - Royal international Air Tattoo (RIAT), RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire
9th - 10th July - Flying Legends, IWM Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire
28th July - RNAS Culdrose Air Day, Helston, Cornwall
11th - 14th August - Bristol hot air Balloon Festival
18th-21st August - Bournemouth Air Festival
27th -28th August - wings & Wheels, Dunsfold, Surrey

Any newsletter contributions, ideas or comments to:

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