



22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

## Stepping back in time to the golden age of travel with KLM

### Vintage KLM DC-3 flight takes off from Leeds Bradford Airport

(Leeds - 22 April, 2015) – To celebrate the successful KLM service from Leeds Bradford, lucky passengers stepped back in time today to the golden age of air travel, taking a scenic flight on an iconic KLM vintage DC-3 aircraft from Leeds Bradford Airport.

The KLM Dakota DC-3 aircraft, flown in from Amsterdam especially for the event, was originally built in 1944, and was the world's first ever commercial aircraft. Offering on board comfort, reliable flights, and routes to Europe, the Far East, and beyond for KLM leisure passengers, the plane was also used in the Second World War with the 8th Air Force, became the first official aircraft of the Dutch government, and following its retirement in 1975, formed part of the Aviodrome Museum's collection in The Netherlands.

The DC-3 was put back into service in 1998 and has been flying ever since, earning its historic KLM colour scheme in 2010, when it was christened 'Princess Amalia', after Prince Bernhard's great grandchild, the second in line of succession to the Dutch throne.

Today's guests enjoyed a champagne reception, followed by a scenic flight over Leeds on board the iconic aircraft, and had the opportunity to hear more about KLM and its worldwide network of over 200 destinations, in more than 100 countries, available to Leeds Bradford airport passengers connecting 3 times a day via Amsterdam.

**Warner Rootliep, Air France KLM UK & Ireland General Manager** said: "We were delighted to bring back our iconic Dakota DC3 aircraft to the UK, after a successful tour on the East coast last year. We were thrilled to offer a once in a lifetime opportunity for passengers from Yorkshire to experience aviation at its vintage best. As I like to say, this aircraft makes music so we looked forward to welcoming our lucky passengers on board and for them to experience this fantastic flight. The DC3 is such a unique aircraft; it was a historic moment to welcome it to Leeds Bradford. Our regional airports are incredibly important to KLM and it was fantastic to be able to showcase our heritage to the local community in Yorkshire."

**Tony Hallwood, Aviation Development Director for Leeds Bradford Airport** added: "We were very proud to welcome the iconic KLM Douglas DC3 aircraft to Yorkshire and to Leeds Bradford Airport. Regional interest has been overwhelming and the lucky passengers had a memorable flight over the city of Leeds. The sight and sounds of this magnificent aircraft evokes memories of the golden age of travel and we would like to thank KLM for bringing 'Princess Amalia' to LBA."

## **Photo Caption**

Tony Hallwood of Leeds Bradford Airport (left) and Warner Rootliep of KLM (right) prior to departure of the DC3 at LBA.

**-ENDS-**

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## **Editors' notes:**

### **About KLM:**

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines was founded in 1919 and is the oldest airline still operating under its original name. After merging with Air France in May 2004, they are a major player in the air transport industry operating the leading long-haul network on departure from Europe.

UK and Ireland passengers can conveniently depart with KLM from 18 airports to the world: Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Cork, Edinburgh, Dublin, Durham Tees Valley, Glasgow, Humberside, Inverness, Leeds Bradford, London Heathrow, London City, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich and Southampton.

KLM passengers experience hassle free travel with seamless connections via the award-winning Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, voted 2013 Skytrax Best European Airport by passengers and for the 13th consecutive time at the Business Traveller Awards.

In 2013, Air France and KLM carried 77.3 million passengers to a network of over 200 destinations in more than 100 countries.

Customer-friendly technology and innovative products are at the heart of KLM's strategy, particularly in the digital space where it has recently introduced payment for flights via social media – a world first.

Flying Blue, Air France KLM's award-winning frequent flyer programme, has over 21 million members, of which 775,000 are in the UK.

Air France KLM and their partners Delta and Alitalia offer North America-bound travellers the most extensive trans-Atlantic network with more than 250 daily flights.

Air France and KLM are members of the SkyTeam alliance which has 19 member airlines and offers customers access to a global network of over 15,500 daily flights to 1,000 destinations in 187 countries.

For more information on KLM and to book, visit [www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)

Website: [www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com)

Twitter: @KLM\_UK

### **About Leeds Bradford Airport:**

LBA is Yorkshires international gateway airport located only 8 miles from the UKs 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city – Leeds and 6<sup>th</sup> largest Bradford.

LBA serves 65 direct destinations flying to 23 countries.

LBA has been one of the fastest growing airports in the UK over the last 5 years.

LBA delivered 10% traffic growth last Winter.

KLM is one the longest established airlines flying from LBA.

KLM operate three daily services to Amsterdam from LBA connecting to over 200 destinations in 100 countries.

KLM operate the new E190 aircraft on the Amsterdam route from LBA which delivers an exceptional level of in flight comfort for both business and leisure travellers.