

BRITISH UNITED AIRWAYS

LIMITED

Recd 18th June

I have craft in flight
+ then plane
ground.

HEAD OFFICE · 35 PICCADILLY · LONDON
TELEPHONE: REGENT 8494 · TELEX: 24137
GRAMS & CABLES: BRITUNITED LONDON W.1
8th June 1962.

Dear Sir,

Before starting to issue invitations to the inauguration of our proposed Hovercraft service across the Dee Estuary next month I am writing to ask your co-operation.

As you may know, we propose to start this service on July 20, and for various reasons it will only be possible to make the craft available for Press facilities for two days prior to that. The days will probably be the 17th and 18th and all stories and pictures will have, of course, to be embargoed for the 20th.

The press facilities will have to be based at the Rhyl end of the service, and the round trip across the Estuary takes approximately 40 minutes. Another 20 minutes must be allowed between trips for refuelling, etc., so six trips on each day is the maximum number that it is practical to schedule. With 24 passengers per round trip, that means that with the best will in the world we can only accommodate 280-odd press representatives during the two days.

We are planning to have an aircraft available from which photographers and cameramen can shoot the Hovercraft in action, and since most of the photographic and film coverage inside the craft itself can be done while it is stationary, most of the 280 seats can thus be made available for reporters.

But even so, with requests for facilities pouring in daily from all parts of the world, it is going to be a tight squeeze to fit everyone in. I would, therefore, appreciate advance notice of the numbers of people likely to be attending.

Perhaps you would be kind enough to let us know as soon as possible, on the enclosed card, what your minimum requirements are? Could you also please indicate from where your representative would be travelling, and if under his own steam or to be transported by us (this particularly applies to people coming from London)?

With many thanks for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

Elisabeth de Stroumillo

Elisabeth de Stroumillo,
Public Relations Officer.



BRITISH UNITED AIRWAYS

HOVERCRAFT SERVICE PLANS ADVANCE

London: 26th June 1962: Now that Wallasey has given its wholehearted approval to being the Wirral terminal of the hovercraft service to be operated with the VA3 by British United Airways in conjunction with Vickers-Armstrongs and BP., final plans are being made for the service this summer.

(The service across the Dee Estuary was originally to have connected Rhyl and Hoylake, but it was decided subsequently to apply to Wallasey Borough Council, four miles beyond Hoylake, to use a site adjoining Leasowe Common instead of Hoylake because, despite co-operation from the Hoylake authorities, some residents made objections which British United were unwilling to ignore).

Schedules have now been prepared (copy attached for information), over 2,000 bookings have already been taken and tickets are being printed now for the service which will start on 20th July and will finish on 16th September. At both Rhyl and Wallasey control-centres/booking-offices will be established. The VA3 will be based and serviced at Rhyl, but will be refuelled at Wallasey between trips.

ends

HOVERCRAFT SCHEDULE

Friday July 20th - Sunday September 16th

VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	HOVERCOACH TYPE	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3	VA 3
DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAYS OF OPERATION	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY	DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAY
0930 am	1100 am	1230 pm	3.00 pm	4.30 pm	6.00 pm	DEP. RHYL ARR.	10.40am	1210pm	1.40pm	4.10pm	5.40pm	7.10pm
0955 am	1125 am	1255 pm	3.25 pm	4.55 pm	6.25 pm	ARR. WALLASEY DEP. (Leasowe Common)	10.15am	1145am	1.15pm	3.45pm	5.15pm	6.45pm

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