



PRESS RELEASE – 4th July 2010

Record-breaking Airport Charity Open Day

Blue skies and warm weather gave the perfect backdrop for the Gloucestershire Airport Charity Open Day at Staverton on Sunday. Several thousand visitors flocked to event, raising over £3000 in the process for the Airport's chosen charities, Help for Heroes, the Jet Age Museum and the two local Air Ambulance charities.

In addition to pleasure flights, trial flying lessons, static aircraft displays, bouncy castles, classic cars and an army paintball range the crowds were treated to an RAF Hercules flypast. Unfortunately, the planned Spitfire display was cancelled when the aircraft developed a technical problem at its RAF Coningsby base.

The Airport's Fire Crew and Ground Operations staff also set what they believe to be a world record, claiming Gloucestershire Airport to be 'the fastest airport in the world.' The team unloaded nineteen pieces of baggage from a fully loaded, 19-seater Dornier 228 - as used on the scheduled services to Jersey and the Isle of Man, provided by Manx2.com - in an incredible one minute and fourteen seconds. Before the last of the passengers had left their aircraft, all the bags were in the arrivals hall.

Head of Operations, Darren Lewington said: - "The guys did an amazing job and were cheered on by the crowds as they raced across the tarmac. Our regular passengers are used to their bags being waiting for them as they walk into the Terminal, but we've thrown down the gauntlet for other Airports now and we think we'll be hard to beat."

The record attempt was verified by 90-year old, former Wellington bomber pilot Les Matthews, who with his wife Jeanette were the Airport's VIP guests, enjoying a scenic flight over the Cotswolds and a visit to the control tower during the day.

Business development manager, Kim Davenport said: - "It's been an amazing day. It's great to see so many of the local community supporting their local airport and we hope they'll come back and use our services soon."

