

Scottish Travel Professional

informing travel professionals – developing the travel profession

In the news ...

It's only just February yet the travel news columns are full.....

By all accounts, January was a refreshingly busy month for Scotland's travel professionals – and it certainly does seem to have flown past. Of course, the travel sector news has been mixed, and it's evident that American Airlines' campaign – which I wrote about in the last edition of STP – is still rumbling on. Meanwhile, of course, bmi British Midland International have announced their coming withdrawal from the Glasgow-Heathrow route – very unwelcome news for TMCs and leisure agents alike (see In the lobby, elsewhere in this edition).

AMERICAN AIRLINES 'PREPARING ADMs' It's reported that AA are in the midst of preparing ADMs - charging travel agents a fee for making AA bookings on GDS – for despatch in the coming weeks. It'll be very interesting to see just how hard-line the resistance to paying these becomes, and how much switch selling away from AA will grow. It's to be hoped, very hard-line and very effective – respectively - are the answers. American Airlines' policy doesn't make long term sense for anyone – least of all the airline itself!

RYANAIR PREDICTS AIRLINE FAILURES TO COME If reported correctly, Ryanair's latest prediction - that airlines will fail, this year, should the price of oil stay around, or exceed, \$100 per barrel – must be in line for 'ironic comment of the week'. On the one hand, the airlines don't believe they should have to acquire ATOL licences, and protect the travelling public against their potential failure, and on the other, some of them must be feeling very fragile in the current world situation.

TRAVEL COUNSELLORS BREAK RECORDS Higher than ever monthly sales, and reported success in selling through Facebook and Twitter. Few would argue that home-based travel professionals have really come of age!

PASSENGERS LOOK FOR 'ADULT-ONLY' CABINS There's innovation and innovation. Easyjet now offers a fully-flexible ticket at a premium fare (for them), including changeability, a checked baggage allowance and pre-boarding – who'd have thought of bundling those services together?! Meanwhile, business class passengers are apparently keen to have access to an 'adults-only' cabin, so that if they want peace and quiet in which to work, they don't have to sit beside kids. Seems reasonable to me!