

Monarch Airlines assist DAS with Britannia repair

A team from Monarch Airlines has been helping DAS with an important repair operation on the Society's Series 312 Bristol Britannia, G-AOVT. A broken torque link on the port main undercarriage leg necessitated replacement of the whole leg. A replacement leg had been obtained from the Gatwick Aviation Museum at Charlwood in exchange for a Bristol Proteus engine. The Monarch team, led by Jeff Brewer, was at Duxford in August to carry out the tricky operation of replacing the leg, which involved jacking the aircraft and the use of specialised tools.

This aircraft was originally donated to DAS by Monarch Airlines in 1975, and made its final flight to Duxford on 29th June of that year. Prior to Monarch, 'VT had been the last of BOAC's Britannia 312 fleet to be delivered, arriving at Heathrow on 1st January 1959 and operated on BOAC's long-range routes for more than four and a half years. In 1959 BOAC introduced the world's first round-the-world service and 'VT operated the first of those westwards flights, flying via New York, San Francisco, Honolulu and Wake Island to Tokyo, where a Comet 4 took over to complete the service to London with stops at Rangoon, Delhi and Rome. After BOAC retired its Britannia 312s, 'VT was operated by British Eagle International Airlines until the airline ceased operations in 1968, when it was acquired by newly-formed Monarch Airlines in May 1969 and based at Luton Airport.

DAS has had a long-standing relationship with Monarch, and has recently donated a HS 748 propeller to the airline's Training School as an instructional aid.



The Monarch Team at Duxford

