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PRESS RELEASE

FORMER BRITISH MIDLAND CHIEF LORD GLENDONBROOK AWARDED FELLOWSHIP OF AVIATION CLUB UK

Michael Bishop, Lord Glendonbrook, has been awarded the 2016 Fellowship of the Aviation Club of the UK. The Fellowship is granted by the Club in recognition of an outstanding, long-term contribution by an individual to the civil aviation industry in the UK. Lord Glendonbrook will be presented with his Fellowship at the next Aviation Club luncheon on Wednesday 9 November 2016.

Jane Johnston, Chairman of the Aviation Club said: "To be awarded the Aviation Club's Fellowship requires a profound, individually identifiable effect on the industry over a sustained period, for which Lord Glendonbrook fits the bill. His fight for greater liberalisation of the industry paved the way for today's low-cost carriers and his leadership of British Midland set the standard for today's airline leaders."

In 1963 Lord Glendonbrook's first job in aviation was to establish an aircraft handling agency at Manchester Airport for Mercury Airlines, a small scheduled airline subsequently acquired by British Midland in 1964 to which he transferred. In 1969 he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the airline at the age of 27. He subsequently raised funds in the United States to acquire the airline and became Chairman and controlling shareholder in 1978, a position he held until 2009.

The first British Midland scheduled service from Heathrow was started in 1969 and Lord Glendonbrook led the significant growth of the airline to be the second largest operator behind British Airways with a route network in the UK and Europe. The network expanded to the Middle East and Central Asia following the acquisition of British Mediterranean Airways together with services to the USA and Caribbean from Manchester. In addition to British Midland the group established Manx Airlines in the Isle of Man and acquired Loganair.

Lord Glendonbrook was in the forefront of the fight to establish greater airline competition and liberalisation through 'open skies' both in the UK and Europe. After fierce objection from established carriers the airline won the right to compete with British Airways on UK domestic trunk routes in 1982 and on European routes from 1986. As a result the momentum of deregulation moved swiftly culminating in 'open skies' throughout Europe by the early 1990's permitting the introduction of successful new budget carriers.

British Midland joined the Star Alliance in 1999 through a partnership with Lufthansa and SAS. Lord Glendonbrook progressively sold his interests in aviation companies from 2001 culminating in the sale of his 50.01% holding in British Midland in 2009 to Lufthansa.

Previous recipients of the Fellowship have included Sir Ralph Robins, former Chairman and Chief Executive of Rolls-Royce; Danny Bernstein, former Managing Director of Monarch Airlines; and Mike Ambrose who headed the European Regions Airline Association for more than a quarter of a century.

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Michael Blunt / Mike Carrivick / Nick Fadugba / Jeremy Green
Richard Greener / Scott Greig / Victoria Hartley / Richard Hedges
Jason Holt / Dale Keller / Jane Middleton / Francis Morgan / Alina Nosek
John Strickland / Nick West / Tony Whitty / Allan Winn

Notes to Editors:

The Aviation Club, which was founded 26 years ago, aims to provide a forum for its 500 members to discuss, promote and develop all aspects of civil aviation. More information and membership details for the Aviation Club of the UK can be found at www.aviationclub.org.uk

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