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Thanks to Gary Hill (<http://www.garyhill-photography.com>) for this great photograph, taken in Los Abrigos Harbour this week.

Not sure whether the boys were re-enacting a scene from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, or it was simply a case of 'oops, forgot the handbrake', but whatever the reason, this Peugeot took the plunge....

Air Seaplanes

High flyers

Hydroplane delays

- The new hydroplane service linking Tenerife and Gran Canaria will be delayed for a few months and will probably now come into operation in the summer.

The Canadian company, Harbour Air Seaplanes, who are heading up the service, were due to begin flights at the start of this year, but there have been, they say, some administrative hold ups in Madrid which have forced the delay in inaugurating the link. "it's out of our hands", explained Gerardo Morales, responsible for the project in the Canaries. However he did qualify this by stating that the problems were linked to the fact that this is, in effect, a novel service in Spain, and there were no legal impediments to the flights.

Morales said that the company behind the project was, in effect, Spanish, with over 51 per cent of funding from local construction and tourism sources. This was important to have the company operate under EU regulations.

Once in operation, the flights will operate between the two provincial capitals, Santa Cruz and Las Palmas, with a flying time of approximately 30 minutes and a price of about €40 one way. Once up and running the company behind the project will examine the possibility of extending the service to other islands. They say that the Canaries, given the geography of the archipelago and the relatively short distance between islands, is ideal for this kind of service. It should also assist in inter-island tourism, as well as facilitating business and health transfers.

Kerstin Heyfron & Sevda Guvener

REMAND RAGE

MP interest in Londoners' case

□ By Karl McLaughlin

The case of three young London men on remand in Tenerife since early August has been taken up by a group of MPs in Britain.

As reported here in our last edition, brothers John and David Heyfron and their friend Cagkan Guvener were arrested while on holiday in Playa de Las Américas in connection with the late-night stabbing of a Belfast youth in the resort. Their mothers, Kerstin Heyfron and Sevda Guvener, have been on the island permanently since then, battling through their lawyer with Arona Court No. 6 to have the charges dropped entirely or to secure their release on bail if the prosecution decides to continue with the case.

The two families are leaving no stone unturned in their bid to clarify what they believe is a case of mistaken identity which has turned into a gross miscarriage of justice that is having devastating physical and psychological effects on all concerned. Although their position was strengthened considerably by forensic tests which have shown that blood on a beach towel carried by John Heyfron when stopped by police was his own and did not belong to the victim, a solution seems no nearer. Moreover, the situation has not been helped by the recent transfer to another part of the country of the Arona judge who was in charge of the investigation.

The case has been brought to the attention of three



highly-respected MPs in the United Kingdom, including former cabinet minister Michael Meacher, who met with the families' local MP Simon Hughes last week to discuss ways they might help at diplomatic level. Kerstin Heyfron and her husband Ron also met with Hughes, who offered to take the matter up with the Spanish Ambassador in London and with contacts in Madrid.

Meanwhile, the families have begun a concerted campaign on Tenerife to raise awareness of the plight of their sons. "There is absolutely no evidence connecting them with the incident and the only reason they are in prison is because they were picked out by some, but not all, witnesses in an identification procedure which was highly irregular and conducted without a lawyer" say

the families, who have offered cast-iron guarantees that the three will remain in Tenerife with relatives if bailed. Detailed letters have also been sent to the mayors of Adeje and Arona, as well as to the President of the island's Cabildo, to draw attention to the chaotic investigation (crucial papers have been lost by the court on several occasions) and the unnecessary delays in resolving the case. "We are hoping to contact Spain's King Juan Carlos also; we are so desperate for someone outside the local court system to intervene and pressure the justice authorities here to get to the bottom of this so our boys can go home as soon as possible" said Kerstin.

Meanwhile, Sevda Guvener has been forced to return to England in order to save her job after almost six months away from home and also to

KERSTIN HEYFRON AND SEVDA GUVENER HAVE MP SUPPORT IN BATTLE TO CLEAR THEIR BOYS

be closer to a sick relative. However, she hopes to fly to Tenerife every week-end to fulfil her vow to visit her son in the local prison once a week until his release.

Figures published in the Spanish media recently reveal that just over 20 per cent of remand prisoners are subsequently cleared of the charges which led to them being sent to prison. Depending on the seriousness of the offence, prisoners can be held for up to two years before their case comes to trial. A Briton in Tenerife II jail was released just before Christmas after spending almost exactly two years on remand on drug-related charges.

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