

Castle Hotel, Huntly, Grampian

All in the family

A new helipad has been installed at the Castle Hotel in Huntly, in Grampian, a favourite of Club members Tony and Angela Marmont. Previously when they have visited the area – the Marmonts have a piece of forestry nearby and often fly to the Highlands – Tony has parked their Twin Squirrel in some less-than totally secure sites, but the Castle Hotel’s new helipad has solved all difficulties.

Tony and Angela say the four-star Castle Hotel is a fabulous place to stay, with fine food, comfortable rooms and a congenial atmosphere. It is run by the Meiklejohn family, Andrew, Linda, Nicky and Stuart, whom Angela says make the place seem like a family home. “They could not be more welcoming and helpful,” says Tony. Andrew Meiklejohn spent a lifetime in shipping before taking over the Castle Hotel ten years ago, and the family lived a peripatetic existence in places like Cape Town,

Singapore and Dubai.

The Castle Hotel is a centre for shooting and fishing, but the Marmonts go walking in the hills, borrowing a car from the Meiklejohns when they need to range further afield.

The helipad can accommodate three Robinsons or two Squirrels or 109s, and the approach is good, over a meadow with a few trees around it. There is talk of a Jet-A1 bowser being put in, but the helipad at Culter Aviation, a few miles to the south east, has fuel, and Dundee Airport is 30 minutes to the south. Culter is strictly PPO. Tony says: “Aberdeen ATC are most helpful as well for lowish cloud entry from VRP Stonehaven, AQ 336 and then via Inch VRP and the railway line to Huntly town.”

The hotel lies 19 nm bearing 308 from the AND beacon, north of the town of Huntly, north of the River Devron, west of the railway line and



north of the castle ruins. The lat/long co ordinates are N57.27.59 (this is expressed as decimal minutes) or N57.27.33 (expressed as minutes and seconds) W 002.46.89/W002.46.52 (following the same format

Tony Marmont says: “Happy trips to members, and good fishin’ and huntin’.

Tel: 01466 792696, website [www. castlehotel. uk.com](http://www.castlehotel.uk.com)



Do you have a hotel or restaurant to recommend to Club members? Email: editor@rotor torque.com