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RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
May 17, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May 2005

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

c/o Ryanair Ltd Corporate Head Office
Dublin Airport
County Dublin Ireland
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X.. Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- _____

RYANAIR AWARDS 3% PAY INCREASE TO EMPLOYEES
ONE OF THE HIGHEST PAY EU AIRLINES JUST GOT BETTER

Ryanair today (Tuesday, 17th May 2005) confirmed that following a round of direct negotiations with its staff in the month of April, it had implemented a 3% pay increase backdated to 1st April 2005.

This 3% increase will apply to all staff groups across Europe who participated in the direct negotiations with the Company. Only the Dublin based pilots chose not to negotiate directly with the Company and as a result they have not at this time enjoyed a pay increase, however the door remains open to this group should they choose to avail of it. All of Ryanair's other people will benefit.

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Ryanair's Director of Personnel, Eddie Wilson said:

"This salary increase is a reward for the productivity and the dedication of our people who continue to work hard to make Ryanair Europe's No 1 low fares airline. While traffic growth remains strong, higher oil prices mean that cost control remains vital.

"Despite high oil prices and over capacity in many European markets, Ryanair will again be one of the few airlines in Europe to award salary increases and secure careers for our people. This pay increase reinforces the strength of Ryanair's model whereby people negotiate directly with the Company and as a result enjoy better pay and conditions than our low pay unionised competitors".

| Airline | Average Salary* |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ryanair | EUR49,992 |
| Easyjet | EUR46,901 |
| Lufthansa | EUR41,912 |
| British Airways | EUR41,423 |

*Average salary per employee based on information from last available annual reports.

Ends. Tuesday, 17th May 2005

For further information:

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC

Date: 17 May 2005

By:___/s/ Howard Millar___

H Millar
Company Secretary & Finance Director