



# BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005

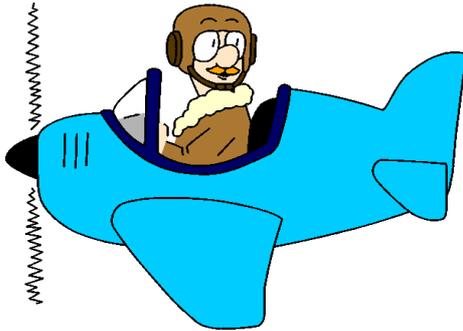


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BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD  
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## A CAREER IN AVIATION



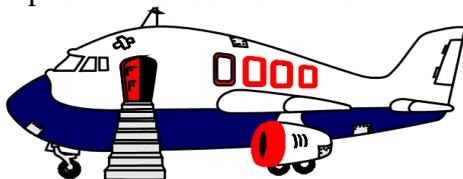
Here follows a rough guide to a career in aviation..!

The applicant should preferably be a married man, healthy, have a hefty mortgage living in a much sort after location such as Cowden, Edenbridge or Carshalton and have his and her large cars on the never, never payment scheme.

Life is good and flying is the furthestmost thing from the mind.

Over a casual drink with a business acquaintance in the pub on the way home from the days work he mentions that he is a pilot..! *You are entranced!* "Let me top you up." Over a few more drinks you find out that he, (Syd), claims he is a key member of a flying club at the local aerodrome. *You are hooked!*

Your boyhood dreams of becoming a pilot are not so distant now.



Syd, has promised to take you flying. He owes you for all the drinks you bought him, and it might be good fun.

The weekend arrives and you make an excuse to visit the DIY shop for

some bits to repair the back fence. (*You wont be missed*).

You arrive at the airfield and locate Syd's Flying Club, a dilapidated building with paint peeling off.

You are about to ***make your first mistake***, stepping inside you ask if Syd is around. *Syd? - Yeah Syd, he's a member.* Oh him.! He had a couple of trial lessons, but we haven't seen him since. Your heart sinks, you have ventured too far into the club to back out.

***BUT, WAIT A MOMENT***, this is your chance to really top Syd up.!

Without hesitation, you find yourself strapped into a rather uncomfortable aircraft and the Instructor beside you, occupying far more space than deemed necessary. The Joystick is firmly wedged between your legs and the many clocks and dials are bewildering, and *nowhere, but nowhere, to put your feet*

A man outside the aircraft shouts 'contact' whereupon he gives the propeller a mighty swing, the engine roars into life. The noise inside, and vibration, is akin to that of a Sherman tank going into battle. ***How the hell!*** can we control anything from such a cramped position, let alone fly the aircraft, we are roaring down a grass runway with much bumping and banging from underneath, the Instructor is furiously pushing the pedals left and right jamming your knees behind the Instrument Panel.

***Oh Hell, this is dangerous.*** The very next memorable moment you

can recall is back at Syd's Flying Club writing a cheque over a cup of coffee and agreeing to come back next week for another lesson. You can't wait to tell Syd of your adventure, but dare not mention anything to the wife.

The weeks pass with several false trips to the shops etc, your flying talents are beginning to indicate a future in aviation, things couldn't be better! ***How to tell the wife!*** The right moment is about to present itself, whilst out shopping with the wife, kids in the back seat, the airfield is en-route, a sudden rush of blood to the brain finds you veering off the road onto the airfield.

There is a look of extreme anxiety on her face, but wait until she learns about your flying skills and new found friends, she will be delighted! ***This is your second mistake, she is totally resentful ...why?***

Good health and a clear mental attitude is about to stand you in good stead for the next unseen crisis in your aviation career – ***Divorce.***

This whole affair is about to cause a mighty financial setback.

The large cars are repossessed, you have to buy the wife a secondhand car, you become the owner of a mini van with a mattress in the back – great for the going to the airfield at weekends as you are now living in a bed-sit with few possessions. Your flying career has suffered a major setback.

Having more free time in the evenings, you are now able to spend more time at the club bar reminiscing about your past flying skills (*of which you have little*). It isn't long before an **unsuspecting new student** offers you a drink in his quest for your apparent infinite knowledge of aerodynamics, he is a willing listener and continues to ply you with drink...*the night is young*.

You are becoming something of a legend and the **'centre of attraction'** at the evening sessions around the bar. The Flying Instructors having long since departed to their loved ones and you alone are left to deal with the young fledglings with your **'less than academic skills'**.

This is a side to aviation which seems to have been overlooked.

**'The Bar Pilot'**, you are its champion...!

A newly acquire Leather Jacket adorned with a set of Gold Braided Wings, your named emblazoned on the right side for all to see and a **'Red Arrows'** logo on the left sleeve. **You are a well established authority**, within the confines of the airfield. Any **'plane spotter'** that happens by at the weekend will spot you immediately as the airfield bum and will endeavour to avoid you, but you are not to be outwitted by his **'look the other way tactics'** you will corner him between the wingtip and tailplane as he bends down to spot the serial number of the aircraft.

He will be enthralled as you quote verb and verse of the different types visible to his gaze.

He will show an **'uncanny interest'** in your exquisite knowledge of the difficult flying characteristics of these aircraft – *truly amazing...!*

**Finally...** this casual spotter is about to floor you completely with a casual **'off the cuff remark'** as he heads for his car.

**He was an Instructor on most of these types in Canada during**

**World War II**, and doesn't recall any difficult or unusual characteristics with any of the aircraft that you claim to have unequivocal knowledge.

Aaaah..! *Must be a little more selective with my unannounced aviation proclamations ...!!!*

### **BUGLE 'FORMULA 1' CLUB**

The race season begins on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 consisting of 20 races.



If you are interested in joining our unique pre-lunch barbecue etc, please contact John Bryan or Steve Danahar a.s.a.p. Don't be left out. We need to get a plan together within the next six weeks.

First race meet barby will be at JB's on 13<sup>th</sup> March. 2011 promises to be a good year for these prestigious weekends.

### **RECENT DISMAL WEATHER**

This is a period when one should not be disappointed at being unable to fly on a chosen day, far better to go home and plan a more distant journey for when the weather improves to a more reliable status.

Check you maps are up to date, check you have the latest radio navigation charts and all the radio frequencies and plenty of printed Flight Logs, and a good mental picture of the planned journey

Start with a clean flight log sheet every time, try to leave on time and pencil in all your estimates, this relieves the in flight work load – any estimate is better than an

unsure 'standby' response, estimates can be changed.

Study your flight boundaries and radio frequencies that you will encounter during the flight.

Be prepared, *you are the pilot in charge*, busy areas require positive information to be transmitted to the controllers in time for them to react to your demands or intention.

Listen out before blocking the frequency. Listen to other transmissions and anticipate when they will end, but don't hesitate too long. Flying is easy, but don't stray into a zone because you are unable to transmit your intention, think well ahead, or turn away.

Controllers will respect common sense and often help you to recover your intended track through their area.

### **SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP OPEN**

As we go to press several people have joined for 2011, even though we still do not have any premises the membership remains open.

Please make cheques payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club, £10 single and £15 for a couple.

### **HELICOPTER CERTIFICATE**



Overheard at the bar recently is the issue of a simple certificate for anyone to be able to fly a helicopter. After a short course of instruction on a computer home video course and a few simple questions you will receive your certificate in the post within 5 days. All recipients of this certificate will be expected to buy a round of drinks for the bar before taking flight. This we feel is necessary because the new certificate holder will last only seconds on his first flight. We are talking about a radio controlled machine within the confines of the bar..!!