



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS	BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD	In Ass. with BigginHillReunited.co.uk
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THE BEST WAY TO CELEBRATE THE COMING NEW YEAR

Is to be a resident in a hot country close to the Tropic of Capricorn with blue skies for 90% of the time and 100% ability to fly. Having made your journey to the airfield and a large country with a far reaching horizon, which takes forever to reach and equally forever to return, I think I'll wait here for someone to celebrate the coming year with a nice cold Fosters!! A crate of coldies wouldn't go astray whilst I wait for your return, from that far horizon. Gripping a cold Foster, I started to have a sneaky look around this immaculate looking old Hurricane and spotted Bob Needham old Biggin Hill'ite in the perfect surroundings to celebrate the coming year 2018 **SUNSHINE!**



..On closer scrutiny, Bob's big grin is hiding some deception, so I took a look on the other side of this picture, it was nothing more than a skilled, camouflaged plywood cut out !!

Why not follow the Bugles Ed., around some sunny sights of Dubai, where the sun shines all year round and doesn't rain either, BUT, when it does, don't get caught in a Whadi.

1978 THE EDITOR MOVES

to the UAE and Aero Gulf flying School with training toward UK PPL I personally did 1,000 hours in one year. Whilst we trained to the British PPL standards we advised those who trained in the desert, it was advisable to have some cross country training in the UK with an Instructor as our Navigation Charts (UK) are rather crowded with so much more restricted areas.

FLYING AROUND DUBAI



Was quite comfortable with an outside temperature of 46.C our aircraft were fitted with Air Con which just about coped. JB with student Abdulla Al Swiedi.

The minute you stepped outside the aircraft, perspiration ensued until you walked into the Air Con of the Flying Club and a cooled bottle of water from the fridge.

CLOCK TOWER TO DUBAI



This roundabout went to all directions, particularly if you asked an Indian for directions.

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL



The team at Dubai Alistair Beaton Ed. John Bryan ,Mohamed Al Khajha Mohamed Ali Ernie Kidd. The two Arabs foiled a serious Hijacking at Dubai later on in their aviation careers, they were just the right people for the job.

CAMEL HIGH JACKING



Whilst viewing the local sights, this Camel stuck his head inside our car.

DHOW BUILDERS OF DUBAI



Entirely built from the mind, nothing is wasted.

They start with a large piece of hardwood with a suitable curve for the proposed keel shape which requires a lot of sawing because this section is a wonderment in the art of ship building, some of these Dhows are quite large when they are finished, right down to a kettle over an open flame for tea making.

SANITARY ARRANGMENTS



are not forgotten on these sea going vessels being positioned rearmost hidden behind a curved screen with relevant aiming holes for ejection of unsanitary waste.

Careful where you tread when exiting this luxury suite !!

NORTHERN OMAN MUSCAT



The Northern part of Oman is quite small, whereas the remainder is quite barren all the way to Salahla where the RAF had a distant base.

THE ROAD TO MUSCAT



This is a stark land, devoid of vegetation, the Jebels, ahead rise to about 9,000ft a.m.s.l. Flying over this land at night is very dark indeed, coupled with density altitude and engine power deficiency, be careful in the dark.

OLD FORT ACCOMODATION



How many people live behind its walls are a mystery, but a whadi runs nearby in the foreground, providing fresh water for drinking.

TYPICAL FORT & DWELLING



Most of these villages follow a simple design, mud and straw brick

OLD SHARJAH AIRPORT



IMPERIAL AIRWAYS DAYS



The beginning of the luxury of flight to those wonderful far off foreign lands and adventures all made possible by some early pioneers of aviation.

Their journeys were over 4 to 7 days, where as today's aircraft will only take a few hours and transport 300 to 400 passengers, in just one go alone.

Multiply these figures by 50 aircraft and already my small calculator has gone into melt down

The halcyon days have faded into eternity, no more wicker seats.

BIGGIN HILL TO MALTA



I was walking across the apron at Biggin and approached by a pilot friend if I could go to The Malta Rallye because another pilots mate, had dropped out without warning.

A QUICK MALTA BRIEFING

Following a couple of questions I realised he was not prepared for this cross country, it seemed his friend just deserted him completely.

Equipment : 1: x 1,000,000 chart of mainly water, no flight planning.

I told him to file a Flight Plan, whilst I went home and got Charts etc., for the journey, and we can leave in 30 minutes.

The Rallye coincides with Malta's 'festival of fireworks' – hand-made fireworks and wall decorations with flowers, which the Maltese can produce instantly

ANTI SUBMARINE NETTING



This structure was the anchor point for raising a huge steel Anti Submarine Net across Valletta Harbour.

IT IS FESTIVAL FIREWORKS



It seems we have arrived in time.

MALTESE FIREWORKS



These fire works are genuinely explosive emitting a lot of smoke and hot debris scattered in all directions, be-warned.

DECORATED CHURCHES

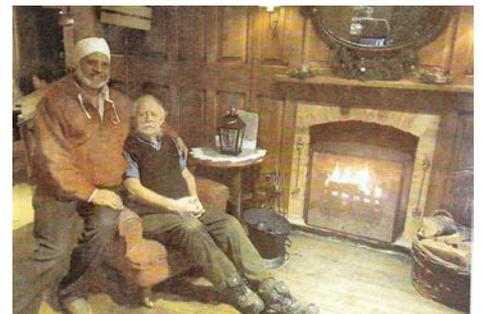


GEORGE CROSS MEMORIAL



I happened to be in Malta a couple of weeks after and wondered where it was?

PARCHMENT DISCOVERED



Huge treasure found also.