

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

The April edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ... It is not included here - to view the Bugle you need to go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – when you get to the Bugle section, you need to then click on the April 2012 edition link – this will open it in a new browser window so you can read it or print it..

As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is [johnbryan13@sky.com](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who should be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and go to the link to the database membership..

Please let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know anyone else who has been involved on the airport, please pass me their details so they can be added to the database.

## **ALBERT HUNT**

Old Biggin Hill'ite Albert Hunt died peacefully after a short illness on the 25th March 2012 aged 84 years. He learned to fly with Experimental Flying Group (EFG) during the 1960s and flew regularly 60s & 70s. During this period he was a car dealer and would frequently fly to Southampton Car Auctions to get his stock.

In the late 70s he moved to "the country" where he found he was next to a small, disused, landing strip which he and the late Gordon Jones landed on a couple of times, all highly unofficial it would seem. But in the early 80s the cost of annual medicals and the vastly increased cost of flying compared with the early days caused him to cease flyings and allow his PPL to lapse. At that time, he turned to his other passion - boats - owning several day boats over the years which he'd cruise up and down the river or take to sea when he was feeling more adventurous.

Albert always retained very fond memories of his Biggin Hill days and the many friends he had made there, with whom he always tried to maintain contact. A real gentleman who will be missed by those who knew him in those early days of Biggin Hill.

Albert's funeral will take place at Medway Crematorium, Bluebell Hill (near Rochester airport) at 11:40am on Thursday 5th April, with drinks & sandwiches afterwards at the nearby Robin Hood pub. The family would welcome any old friends at both the service and afterwards.

Should anyone wish to send flowers or donations, these can be arranged via his son Nevil who is contactable via myself. (Nevil also mentioned that if anyone is out flying that morning and fancies diverting via Rochester as a fly-past while they are gathering prior to the service – between 11:20 and 11:40am that would be welcomed!)

## **PETER SMITH**

Many of us will be sad to hear that old Biggin Hill'ite, Peter (Pete) Smith passed away on 8th March. Pete was a very jovial character and a lovely man. He was an engineer with Fairflight for many years, before moving to work in Bahrein. On his return, he was again a Biggin based

engineer, working for Avtech. Pete married a Sri Lankan, Pushpa, who worked in the airport's cafe for some time, and he was living in Sri Lanka when he died. He is also survived by his mother, who is well into her eighties, and who lives close by in Cudham. He will be missed by many of us at the airport who worked with him over the years..

### **Sqd Ldr J R (JOCK) MAITLAND**

For the many friends and colleagues of Jock Maitland who will wish to show their respects, an update..

The family are unable currently to confirm the date of any funeral or memorial service at the time of going to press – We hope to have that information within a few days. (Please ignore any dates that are going around at present, and wait until it is officially announced, as Jim Maitland would not want anyone to make plans until the date is firmed up.)

If you wish to attend any service for Jock, subject to the eventual date, of course, please email me at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and I will add your details to a list for the family, and will email you specifically once the final date is known, rather than send out another general Newsletter mid-month.

### **FLYING FROM BIGGIN HILL DURING THE 2012 OLYMPICS**

As published in the last Newsletter, the Secretary of the Biggin Hill Airport Private Owners group, Maurice Greenaway, attended a meeting at which the airspace plans for the period of the Olympics were discussed. His report on that meeting can be read by following the link below:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/olympicsbriefing.pdf>

Thanks for all that, Maurice.

### **BIGGIN HILL'S OWN ARTIST**

Biggin Hill Airport has its very own artist, Ben Holmes. Ben has amazed everyone with his original oil paintings on a variety of subjects, but specialising in aviation, his first love.

He is prepared to take commissions from clients, based upon supplied photographs, Ben will quote you for any subject matter and size of painting. Whilst only currently a demo website, you can see some of his early work at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/ben](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/ben) - we will improve that site over the next few weeks..

Is this another major artist in the making? Your chance to get in at the start of his career...

### **MARCH AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

March has been a month of mixed emotions.

We were deeply saddened to hear the news of the passing of one of Biggin Hill Airport's greatest guardians - Jock Maitland. This is a man about whom I have heard so many respectful things said; and from whom I am certain I could have learned many valuable lessons about Biggin Hill and its challenges. I wish I had known Jock during his long and distinguished life, but hope that I will have the opportunity, along with everyone else at or connected with the Airport, to play a part in giving him a fitting send-off.

Also during March, I was thrilled, excited and proud of the work carried out on our Airport, which enabled the Spitfire Mk I to fly for the first time since 1941. That was definitely something to

behold, and I am not ashamed to say that our based Spitfires bring the office to a virtual halt every time they take to the sky. There is no doubt that Biggin Hill is rather special and I frequently find myself saying that I have the best job in the industry! In fact, the last time was to the Board of the Civil Aviation Authority, who chose to hold their Board Meeting at Biggin Hill a couple of weeks ago. It took hours and hours of preparation, but was worth it as they all left with such a strong impression of our Airport and its range of businesses and activities.

I will leave it there for this month. As ever, thank you for allowing me to contribute to your Newsletter. Should there be anything airport related that you feel passionately about, please feel free to make contact with me. I do feel it is important that all users views are listened to and taken account of when decisions are taken.

I wish you and your families a very peaceful, enjoyable and hopefully sunny Easter. I am thoroughly enjoying seeing daffodils everywhere - not a feature of the Middle East - and I am appreciating seasons again!

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Thanks again to everyone who has sent in their club renewal fees for 2012. Apologies for the delay in sending your membership cards – I have now done the outstanding ones, and you should shortly receive yours if you hadn't got them already – if you haven't received yours within a week, please let me know.

Renewal by previous members is simply done by sending the appropriate payment with a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of the card – please remember this last bit!

Applications for new memberships should follow the instructions on the Club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) , where the application form and full instructions can be found.

Thank you all for your support..

That's it for this month..

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Two amusing stories again this month to lighten the end of the Newsletter. For the first - My thanks to Ralph Scott (our regular source for "and finally")...

QUOTE.....

12 of the finest (unintentional) double-entendres ever aired on TV and radio:

1. Ted Walsh - Horse Racing Commentator - 'This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother.'

2. New Zealand Rugby Commentator - 'Andrew Mehrstens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him.'

3. Pat Glenn, weightlifting commentator - 'And this is Gregoriava from Bulgaria . I saw her snatch this morning and it was amazing!'

4. Harry Carpenter at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race 1977 - 'Ah, isn't that nice. The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the Cox of the Oxford crew.'
5. US PGA Commentator - 'One of the reasons Arnie (Arnold Palmer) is playing so well is that, before each tee shot, his wife takes out his balls and kisses them. Oh my god !! What have I just said??'
6. Carenza Lewis about finding food in the Middle Ages on 'Time Team Live' said: 'You'd eat beaver if you could get it.'
7. A female news anchor who, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked, 'So Bob, where's that eight inches you promised me last night?' Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too, because they were laughing so hard!
8. Steve Ryder covering the US Masters: 'Ballesteros felt much better today after a 69 yesterday.'
9. Clair Frisby talking about a jumbo hot dog on 'Look North' said: 'There's nothing like a big hot sausage inside you on a cold night like this.'
- 10 Mike Hallett discussing missed snooker shots on 'Sky Sports': 'Stephen Hendry jumps on Steve Davis's misses every chance he gets.'
11. Michael Buerk on watching Philippa Forrester cuddle up to a male astronomer for warmth during BBC1 's UK eclipse coverage remarked: 'They seem cold out there. They're rubbing each other and he's only come in his shorts.'
- 12.. Ken Brown commentating on golfer Nick Faldo and his caddie Fanny Sunneson lining-up shots at the Scottish Open: 'Some weeks Nick likes to use Fanny; other weeks he prefers to do it by himself.'

.....UNQUOTE

and the second – Thanks to Dudley Clarke for this one.....

QUOTE.....

A man feared his wife wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid.

Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem.

The Doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss.

Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you.

If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens."

Then in a normal tone he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?'

No response..

So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again no response.

So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away.. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again there is no response.

So he walks right up behind her... "Honey, what's for dinner?"

(I just love this)

"Ralph, for THE FIFTH TIME, ----- "CHICKEN!"

.....UNQUOTE

If anyone else has good examples of, for example: - Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or simply any unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...)