

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April 2013 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

JB's April edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> As always it is NOT included here - to view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's 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 on [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

Current member names can be seen at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) using the link to the database members list. If you ever change your email address, please remember to let me know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

## **MARCH WEATHER**

Once again, this past month has been less than Spring-like, with much snow and poor flying weather, which has made it a difficult month for clubs and private owners. Fortunately, in the main, the airport has continued to receive a steady stream of corporate traffic in spite of the poor conditions. Once again, club and small GA traffic has inevitably been hit, but with Easter now passing (at the time of writing, expected to be less than favourable for club and private light aircraft traffic) we can all hope for a dramatic improvement in conditions that might enable us to partake of our favourite pastime.

As I said last month, I'm sure we would all like to get back in the air and enjoy our flying again..

## **ROGER (The Dog) TAYLOR**

The gathering of Roger's friends on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Crown public house in Leaves Green was exceptionally well attended. It was good to see so many of Roger's friends taking the trouble to brave the weather to see him off in true Biggin Hill style.

## **BIGGIN HILL'S MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO "THE FEW"**

Friday 22nd March 2013 saw the concept launch to the media of a unique new event at Biggin Hill Airport.

For those of you that have enjoyed the Aviation Proms at Chartwell and Loseley Park in Guildford in the last three years, there is a real treat for you. Organised by Synergy Events UK (Colin Hitchins) on behalf of the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, and in association with Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, 17th August 2013 will see Biggin Hill Airport transformed into a specialist aviation Prom venue.

In addition to the huge stage with its massive sound system, located between Interflight and RAS Completions hangars, and flanked by huge TV screens, that part of the airfield will become a full "Musical Tribute to the Few" for a day. This day will commemorate "The Few" and the role of RAF Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain on the anniversary of what became known as "The Hardest

Day" when the Luftwaffe attempted to finally destroy the Royal Air Force.

Music will be provided by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force supported by actors and singers, including the famous "West End Kids" and soprano, Fiona Howell. (more than 150 performers in all will appear on stage). The musical event will include video and still archive material, re-enactors and special effects that, together with narration from actor Martin Shaw, will tell the story of "The Few". (Martin Shaw, who many will remember for his roles in the Professionals, and Judge Dread, to name but a few is himself a pilot and keen enthusiast of the period).

On the ground, and in the air, supporting the event are expected to be up to 8 Spitfires, 2 Hurricanes, an ME108, and a Lancaster bomber. These will be provided from the fleet of aircraft owned and operated by the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, other private owners, and the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (who of course were originally formed at Biggin Hill).

The event is held in support of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, and the Chartwell Cancer Trust.

This is not, nor is it intended to be, a new "Air Fair", rather a unique specialist musical extravaganza featuring aircraft that have played such an important part in Biggin Hill's history. As those who attended the previous Proms organised by Synergy will undoubtedly agree, you will not be disappointed - make sure you put the date in your diaries, and do book early - there will be a finite number, so you really won't want to miss out on this first ever open air musical event at Biggin Hill Airport..

**STOP PRESS:** Tickets have now just been released (over this Easter weekend), and they are available for purchase online at: <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com/tickets/buy-online>

### **NICK DAVIDSON MEMORIAL FLYING SCHOLARSHIP**

As previously announced, the Nick Davidson Flying Scholarship interviews have been being carried out over the last weeks, and the large number of applicants being whittled down to a few finalists. As you read this, the final interviews and discussions are taking place.

Former British Airways Airbus Captain, Nick, originally learnt to fly at Surrey & Kent Flying Club, where he subsequently instructed, before moving on into the commercial flying world. During his difficult illness that subsequently claimed his life, Nick discussed with Gary Merchant, his long-term friend and now Easyjet Training Captain, the setting aside of a fund to enable a local person to learn to fly. In conjunction with Biggin Hill Airport, and Surrey & Kent Flying Club, this bequest is close to being awarded.

A difficult decision, I'm sure, for Gary and his colleagues, but I'm sure we all wish them well in this final stage in their deliberations, and of course, wish the ultimate winner of this scholarship a Biggin Hill welcome into our world of aviation.

### **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

Thank you once again for the opportunity to update you all from the Airport's perspective.

As March draws to a close, so does the end of our financial year 2012-2013. Although not disastrous, it certainly did not materialise as the bumper year everyone expected, due to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is a shame, as I would have relished ploughing record profits into my infrastructure wish list! However, on the upside, Biggin continues to hold its position in the London business and general aviation market extremely well. We have seen a slight rise in market share of business aviation, and this can only be good for everyone,

keeping our future as secure as it can be in this rather challenging economy. We continue to make measured investments in the field, and the new Fire Station is the latest example of that. Thank you to everyone who continues to bring their custom to Biggin Hill Airport. We do appreciate it, and we do realise that you have a choice.

On a local level, and crucial to the continued and increased success for the small and large businesses on the Airport, is the current Consultation phase of the Bromley Draft Local Plan. There is greater support than ever from the Council, and Biggin Hill along with two other areas in Bromley (Town Centre and the Crays) has been identified as an area that, with support, could generate significantly more jobs and economic value locally.

We are obviously really encouraged by this and I would ask as many of you as possible to respond to the Consultation (soon, before you forget and the deadline of mid- passes!), supporting the Preferred Options which relate to us. We especially like Preferred Options 91 and 92 – just in case you don't fancy reading through the entire document and prefer to skip directly to them. These Preferred Options talk about enhancing employment and business opportunities at the Airport, whilst balancing these with environmental quality – something that we entirely support. An online response is preferred, but if for any reason this isn't possible or practical, they will accept emails to:

[ldf@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@bromley.gov.uk)

and their postal address and online instructions are to be found here:

[http://bromley.objective.co.uk/portal/o\\_and\\_p\\_document?pointId=2195561](http://bromley.objective.co.uk/portal/o_and_p_document?pointId=2195561)

Human nature means that many people do not respond if they agree with something or support it, and the real effort is made by objectors. Personally, I can't see how generating jobs and business prosperity whilst balancing this with the environment can be argued with, but I am sure some will find a way! So, if you feel minded, all the businesses on the Airport (and the 1,000 or so current employees) would be grateful for your support. You simply need to say whether you agree or disagree with any of the Options in the document, and you will find the ones relevant to us at numbers 91 – 93 (including a positive statement on West Camp).

On a national level, the UK Aviation Policy Framework was published last week, which we found to be in line with our objectives and more encouraging for our sector (business and general aviation) than the 2003 Aviation White Paper which it replaces. Anyone wishing to read it can access it here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/aviation-policy-framework>

I have probably taken far too much space in the newsletter this month, so I had better stop there. These are important matters for the survival and growth of livelihoods here, and thank you for the opportunity to bring them to your attention.

Jenny Munro

MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

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

Thanks so much for your renewals for 2013 for the club, which continue to trickle in. I appreciate that there are still no club premises, but your continued financial support does help to pay for the running costs of the server space etc for the two websites at BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub

If you have yet to renew, please send your renewal fees (£10 for single, £15 for a couple, and £20 for a family) together with a Stamped Self Addressed envelope for the return of the membership card(s) – Please also send a new photograph if you wish to have this changed on your new card (with your name on the reverse) otherwise I will continue to use the one I hold on file for you. Renewal fees should be sent to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (to whom the cheques should also be payable), at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS.

That's it for this month

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: a few funnies to finish with – thanks to Dudley Clarke for these this month.....

QUOTE.....

Requirement for a potential Political Candidate...!

A man walks into the Election office and says to the receptionist:

"I would like to put my name forward for the forthcoming elections to be an Independent candidate."

The receptionist replied: "Certainly sir. Please fill in this form."

He was filling the form until he came to the question -

"Are you circumcised?"

So he asked the receptionist, "Is this question necessary?"

She replied: "Sir, I'm sorry, but, if you are circumcised, you aren't eligible to run for election".

He asked, "What possible difference would it make if I were circumcised?"

She replied...."It's quite simple, sir - To become a politician, you have to be a complete prick"!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

This would be an acceptable reason to laugh at a funeral...!

A very prestigious cardiologist died, and was given a very elaborate funeral by the hospital he worked for most of his life...

A huge heart... covered in flowers stood behind the casket during the service as all the doctors from the hospital sat in awe. Following the eulogy, the heart opened, and the casket rolled inside. The heart then closed, sealing the doctor in the beautiful heart forever.

At that point, one of the mourners just burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him, he said, 'I'm so sorry... I was just thinking of my own funeral...I'm a gynaecologist!'

The priest fainted.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Jack, age 92, and Gill, age 89, living in Nelson, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a chemist shop and Jack suggests they go in.

Jack addresses the man behind the counter: "Are you the owner?"

The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jack: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do."

Jack: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds"

Jack: "Medicine for rheumatism?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jack: "How about suppositories?"

Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jack: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis, and Alzheimer's?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety. The works."

Jack: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jack: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jack: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes..."

Jack: "Adult incontinence pants?"

Pharmacist: "Sure."

Jack: "Then we'd like to use this store for our wedding presents list."

.....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"...) )