

Hi everyone

Welcome again to the Biggin Hill Users Database April Newsletter....

JB's April edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also 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.*** As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan13@sky.com, or you can send items directly to me to pass on: john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. A full and current list of member names can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to tell us if you change your email address. If you know others who are not members but are eligible to join (ie. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – it is, of course, free.

CAPTAIN ERIC (WINKLE) BROWN

We recently had our attention drawn to a petition to the Government to show recognition of this great man's achievements. Eric Brown is an outstanding individual who fought in WW2 with the Fleet Air Arm. He subsequently assisted with making the UK the foremost developer of fighter aircraft and air power technology.

Captain Eric Melrose "Winkle" Brown, RN, CBE, DSC, AFC, Hon FRAeS (born 21 January 1919) is a former former Royal Navy officer and Test Pilot who, in testing 487 different types of aircraft, is reputed to have flown more types than anyone else in history. He also holds the world record for most aircraft carrier landings performed (2,407) and is the Fleet Air Arm's most decorated living pilot.

https://www.change.org/p/david-cameron-honour-capt-eric-winkle-brown-with-a-knighthood?recruiter=97412525&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

Surely it is time his achievements were recognised? Please take the time to sign the above..

AIRPORT EXTENDED HOURS PROPOSALS SUCCESS

The Council's report of the results of their public consultation was published recently – see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/consultationresults.pdf>

With 31,500 votes (76%) in favour of the proposals, out of a total of 41,711 votes polled, it was an excellent result for our airport.

We all awaited with interest the Council's actual vote as to whether to accept or reject the plans. That vote was conducted, in front of several hundred members of the public, the majority of whom were loyal airport supporters and local Biggin Hill residents, on Wednesday 25th March. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of the airport, with some 36 Councillors voting in the Council Chamber in favour with only 10 against. The proceedings then moved from the Council Chamber into the Great Hall, where the Council Executive again considered the matter, still voting after their deliberations 4 to 2 in favour, agreeing to move into negotiations to allow an extension of airport hours within the lease (an overall vote of 40 against 12).

Biggin Hill's team must be congratulated on their campaign, and we await with interest the next stage.

The airport's success was in no doubt enhanced by the tremendous support given by the members of Biggin Hill Reunited and the airport Tenants, who also turned out in force on the night to lend support to Andrew, Robert, and Will. I know they would want me to express their appreciation to all who gave up their time to help during the Council meeting.

Indeed Andrew Walters has sent out the following letter expressing his thanks to everyone who helped:

www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/thanks.pdf

From my own personal point of view, thank you sincerely for responding to my requests for your support. You turned out in your dozens. Thank you so much...

HEADSETS - PASSIVE OR ACTIVE

Do you have your own headset? Is it a "Passive" model, like the very much used David Clark H10-13.4, or is it an "Active" or "ANR" model?

If, like me, you have the former, and have grown to like what you have, but would also quite like to have the more modern Active Noise Reduction (ANR) type. But maybe you can't really justify giving up on a perfectly good headset and spending anything up to £800 or more on a new replacement, this idea may work for you.

After much research I have had my standard DC H10-13.4 upgraded with a great ANR conversion kit produced by Headsets Inc, of Texas. Slightly dubious at first, I didn't want to change headsets as I like the ruggedness of mine when compared with the top of the range Bose. I also had heard less favourable reviews on the newer David Clarke headsets ANR performance. It was good to see that Flyer carried out some tests a few years back that really scored this conversion very highly, placing its performance up there with the less rugged and very expensive Bose models.

(see: http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/flyer_headset_survey.pdf)

I must say that the performance is excellent and a relatively inexpensive way to get the advantages that ANR offers. Whilst the kit can be self installed, I didn't feel that confident in my own ability, so I went to Dave Lewis of Flackwell Electronics, near Aylesbury, who specialises in such conversions. He knows exactly what kit is required for each headset type (there are several different versions and accessories) and has converted loads of

different ones to ANR. Personally, I would prefer to get it done by someone who knows, rather than attempt it myself. Dave charges around £225 + VAT for the full conversion including the Kit, replacement cables and the optional Auto Battery Shut Off box (essential if you, like me, are likely to forget to turn the power off).

For information and availability, give Dave Lewis a call on 01296 682126 or visit his website at <http://www.flackwellelectronics.co.uk/>

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 2015

75 years ago the RAF airfield at Biggin Hill was in the front line in the defence of Britain, in what was to be called by Winston Churchill "The Battle of Britain". This year's Festival of Flight on 13th June commemorates the turning point of WWII on the actual ground from which "The Few" flew their Hurricanes and Spitfires.

The highlight of the extensive flying display will be a tribute to the "Few" by the Royal Air Force which is to be staged at only one or two venues and includes the Red Arrows, BBMF Spitfire/RAF Typhoon syncro display, and multiple BBMF fighters. The Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar will re-enact a Battle of Britain scramble which will include large scale pyrotechnics and a special appearance of a ME109G from the Flugmuseum in Germany and the Duxford based MkI Bristol Blenheim. Other favourites include the Brietling Wingwalkers, RAF Chinook and Yakovlev's aerobatic team, see the website for an up to date list of participating aircraft.

The show returns to the usual format of gates opening at 9:30 AM with the closing flying display at 5:30 PM. In the morning our arena events will keep you entertained with a line-up that includes the IMPS motorcycle display team, Metropolitan Police Dog display team, Gymnasts and a classic car Rally. On stage we will have the vintage singing group Puttin on the Blitz, The Patriot Girls, West End Kidz and other acts.

Arena - Stage - 1940's Village - Model Zone - Fun Fair - Children's Amusements - Catering Areas - Crafts - Exhibitors - Static Aircraft - Simulators - Military Careers

As in 2014 the tickets will be sold in advance only and limited to 18,000 people. Tickets are on sale from the 1st April see WWW.BHFOF.COM for full details and prices or call the Festival of Flight information line 01959 578571.

THE AIR SHOW MARQUEE

Thank you to everyone who has reserved their places in the Biggin Hill Reunited Marquee at the 2014 Festival of Flight show on 13th June. All reservations are now available to purchase under a priority arrangement until 15th April. (At that time, any unpurchased reservations will be put back in the pot for general purchasers who had not got reservations. Subsequent places will be sold on a totally first come, first served basis.)

Those people holding reserved places should already have received a direct email inviting them to make their payment and receive their tickets. If you haven't yet sent in your payment, please don't delay – at the time of writing almost half of the available places have already been claimed.

On or after 15th April those not holding reservations may purchase places in the BigginHillReunited Marquee by sending their payment (£18 per place) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Ltd", with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Marquee Tickets
26 Churchside Close
Biggin Hill
Kent
TN16 3QF

If you have any queries, please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Actual Air Show entry tickets will be required in addition to Marquee tickets, and these will be available from the beginning of April from www.bhfof.com/tickets or telephone the booking line on 01689 300005 M – F 09:30 to 17:00)

The Marquee (with a prominent display line position with a furnished garden area looking over the airport from which to watch the display, and a licenced bar) is available to anyone who is, or ever has been, a Biggin Hill Airport user and of course all airport tenants, plus any guests of those persons. So, if you work there, or run a business there, or fly there, or even did in the past, you are welcome to buy tickets to use the Marquee once released on 15th April.

OLD HAY AVIATION BOOGIE 2015

This year the event will once again take place over the course of three days - Friday 7th August from 5pm for the Boogie warm up party. Full size air show on Saturday 8th August and dedicated Model Aircraft display on Sunday 9th August. Camping is definitely recommended - plenty of room for tents, caravans or motorhomes.

This year will also bring brilliant bands playing rock, soul, blues and live dance performances in the evenings. There will be more great food & drink options this year and the return of the hog roast.

The website (<http://www.oldhayairfield.co.uk/>) will be updated soon and tickets will go on sale from 1st April. Tickets once again limited to 499 and we need to sell them all to keep the event viable. We are actively encouraging you, our loyal supporters to help us grow the event the right way by inviting at least 5 of your good aviation fun loving friends to experience the Boogie for the first time.

Save the dates in your diaries so as not to miss out on yet another superb event!

THE 2003 BUMP REUNION – BIG SCREEN – NEXT VIDEO

This month's video from the Big Screen presentation at the 2003 Bump Reunion has now been published. This month features a short film taken on an 8mm silent cine camera by Nick Lilley, who owned a PA23-250 Aztec "A" G-ARHL with British Airways pilot, John Richardson. Nick asked someone to do a bit of flying in his aircraft to order around Biggin Hill back in the mid-60's so he could capture it on film.

Obviously the Health and Safety brigade hadn't been invented back then... I'm sure the pilot would deny all knowledge of it now (in fact, if employed as the pilot then, I suspect unemployment would have beckoned!) - HaHa...

Click on the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser) to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtuOb9IbVRw>

Please don't judge because it was very different back then! Enjoy.....

I think that is the last of the old video's that I have at present, unless further ones are located elsewhere.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS & BUSINESSES

If you would like me to include your business in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and I'll be in touch directly. (John Willis - john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings on this beautiful sun filled morning! As the days get longer and warmer, all here in the Falcon Camp look forward to another great season of flying.

For those that don't know, Saturday July 4th we are hosting a Cirrus Open day at EFG. Here you will have a chance to fly the latest Cirrus incarnation!

PPL training is still happening both here at EFG and with Surrey and Kent.

As the night draw out remember that if you need any after-hours flight training just drop us a line on 01959 540 400 or ops@flyefg.co.uk.

So, here's to the start of a lovely flying season ahead! Till next time.... Be safe, Flight Straight, Stay Blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

I am extremely pleased to report that the Council, for the first time in 21 years, have approved an application by Biggin Hill Airport Limited to vary the operating criteria for the airport. We will need to agree with the Council how we are going to deliver the noise control measures required to ensure that we can reduce our agreed noise footprint to 50% of its previously agreed, so do not expect anything to change for a few months at least. I will keep you all posted.

A massive thank you is due to the many Biggin Hill based pilots and staff showed up at the Civic Centre on 25th March for the Full Council meeting held in the Council chamber. Airport supporters filled the public gallery and gave support to those Councillors speaking in favour of our proposals.

The Council voted 36/10 in favour and the matter was then referred to the Executive who met in the Great Hall immediately after the Council meeting. The Executive, which voted 4/2 in favour, was addressed by Council noise consultant Vernon Cole who reassured Councillors and local residents regarding the effectiveness of the noise control measures proposed. It was vital to have our many supporters present as this definitely helped Councillors to arrive at the right decision as they felt empowered by the very visible and audible public support. The usual anti-airport campaigners were out in force complaining that life in their gated communities might be adversely affected by aircraft noise. Bromley Friends of the Earth were present but were slightly put out when I revealed that their "transport correspondent", an aggressive anti-airport campaigner, had in fact made his living (and a considerable amount of money) by publishing in-flight magazines for airlines based at Gatwick! This seemed to confuse them somewhat and I daresay there is now a heated discussion ongoing within Bromley Friends of the Earth!

We are approaching the spring again and the Easter weekend is almost upon us. I am sure that many will be out enjoying a first flight of the season. You will find that we will shortly launch our new booking out system. There will be iPhone and Android Apps available and a web portal. You will need to book out before calling for start. For many years, we have been one of the only UK airfields not to operate a booking out system and this has caused a lot of radio congestion at busy times, so we were keen to find a way to remove the booking out process from the airwaves. The App will also record your fuel endurance, your destination if applicable, the POB and contact details for the pilot in command. This will allow for better overdue action and will also allow us to keep the requisite aerodrome records more easily. Noise will be a big issue this summer and we now have the Safety And Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB) up and running. The SANARB will review all noise complaints and safety reports and will take action where pilots have failed to observe our agreed noise abatement procedures. If you are going flying please take a little time to review the noise abatement procedures applicable to the runway you are using. We really do have to be better neighbours so, please, ensure that you are familiar with the noise abatement procedures because, just like the national speed limit, ignorance is no excuse! If we can observe these simple measures, we will be able to enjoy a thriving General Aviation sector at Biggin Hill for years to come.

Work will begin this year on improvements to East Camp. We are drawing up plans for the area and we hope to address matters such as car parking and the landside access during the coming 12 months. We are looking at how we might improve the services to the site (gas, electricity & sewage) as well as options for GA in that area. I will share the plans with you when we have them a little more developed.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again for your support for the club and database so far this year – your financial support is very much appreciated and is used to fund the costs of servers for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site. Existing members renewing do not need a further form, so just send the appropriate fee. (if you need to replace the existing photo, please include a new head and shoulder shot with your name on the reverse – or you can email the photo to me). If you are a new member, please send both the fee, head and shoulder photo, and a completed application form.

(In all cases, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the membership card(s)).

That's it for this month.....

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: as usual, a few amusing stories that, according to the many comments I receive about this section, is very popular amongst the membership. (As always, no offence to anyone is intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions....)

QUOTE.....

Upon arriving home, a husband was met at the door by his sobbing wife.

Tearfully she explained, "It's the pharmacist. He insulted me terribly this morning on the phone. I had to call multiple times before he would even answer the phone."

Immediately, the husband drove down town to confront the chemist, and demand an apology.

Before he could say more than a word or two, the chemist told him,

"Now, just a minute, listen to my side of it!

This morning the alarm failed to go off, so I was late getting up.

I went without breakfast and hurried out to the car, just to realise that I'd locked the house with both house and car keys inside and had to break a window to get my keys.

Then, driving a little too fast, I got a speeding ticket. Later, when I was about three blocks from the store, I had a flat tyre.

When I finally got to the store a bunch of people were waiting for me to open up. I got the store opened and started waiting on these people, all the time the darn phone was ringing."

He continued -

"Then I had to break a roll of 10p coins against the cash register drawer to make change, and they spilled all over the floor. I had to get down on my hands and knees to pick up the coins and the phone was still ringing. When I came up I cracked my head on the open cash drawer, which made me stagger back against a showcase with a bunch of perfume bottles on it. Half of them hit the floor and broke.

Meanwhile, the phone is still ringing with no let up, and I finally got back to answer it. It was your wife. She wanted to know how to use a Rectal Thermometer

And believe me Mr, as God is my witness.....

ALL I DID WAS TELL HER!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

This is a classic example of lateral thinking....

* * * * *

An elderly woman walked into the Royal Bank of Ireland one morning with a purse full of money. She wanted to open a savings account and insisted on talking to the president of the Bank because, she said, she had a lot of money.

After many lengthy discussions (after all, the client is always right) an employee took the elderly woman to the president's office.

The president of the Bank asked her how much she wanted to deposit. She placed her purse on his desk and replied, '£165,000'.

The president was curious and asked her how she had been able to save so much money. The elderly woman replied that she made bets.

The president was surprised and asked, 'What kind of bets?'

The elderly woman replied, 'Well, I bet you £25,000 that your testicles are square.'
The president started to laugh and told the woman that it was impossible to win a bet like that.

The woman never batted an eye. She just looked at the president and said, 'Would you like to take my bet?'

'Certainly', replied the president. 'I bet you £25,000 that my testicles are not square.'

'Done', the elderly woman answered. 'But given the amount of money involved, if you don't mind I would like to come back at 10 ' clock tomorrow morning with my lawyer as a witness.'

'No problem', said the president of the Bank confidently.

That night, the president became very nervous about the bet and spent a long time in front of the mirror examining his testicles, turning them this way and that, checking them over again and again until he was positive that no one could consider his testicles as square and reassuring himself that there was no way he could lose the bet.

The next morning at exactly 10 o'clock the elderly woman arrived at the president's office with her lawyer and acknowledged the £25,000 bet made the day before that the president's testicles were square.

The president confirmed that the bet was the same as the one made the day before. Then the elderly woman asked him to drop his pants etc. so that she and her lawyer could see clearly.

The president was happy to oblige.

The elderly woman came closer so she could see better and asked the president if she could touch them. 'Of course', said the president. 'Given the amount of money involved, you should be 100% sure.'

The elderly woman did so with a little smile. Suddenly the president noticed that the lawyer was banging his head against the wall. He asked the elderly woman why he was doing that and she replied, 'Oh, it's probably because I bet him £100,000 that around 10 o'clock in the morning I would be holding the balls of the President of the Royal Bank of Ireland in my hand.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Life just gets better as you get older, doesn't it?

I was in a coffee shop recently when my stomach started rumbling and I realised that I desperately needed to pass wind. The place was packed but the music was really loud so, to get relief and reduce embarrassment, I timed my farts to the beat of the music. After a couple of songs I started to feel much better.

I finished my coffee and noticed that everyone was staring at me.

Then I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod.

This is what happens when senior citizens use technology!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

For those who do not listen to the 'Today' programme on Radio 4, this is English humour at its best.

Right at the end of a programme recently, there was a discussion about the obscene cost of

entry into Premiership football games, the cheapest price of between £60 and £100 per game is not uncommon.

An older chap being interviewed said he could recall many years ago arriving at the turnstiles (it was probably West Ham United) and being told: "That will be ten quid, mate".

"What?!" the old chap said "I could get a woman for that!"

The guy on the turnstile retorted, "Not for 45 minutes each way with a brass band and a meat pie in the interval, you wouldn't!"

.....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 funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...))