

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April edition of the Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome particularly to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

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.

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)

STORM KATIE

Easter weekend saw the arrival of Storm Katie over the UK and the Biggin Hill area was quite badly affected with roads blocked, trees down, and, unfortunately, much damage at the airport.

With winds reportedly up to 70Kts on the night of Easter Sunday/Monday, the day awoke to the signs of the destruction that such winds cause. Our sympathies go to EFG, who lost a Cessna 152 on the ramp outside the club despite it being very firmly tied down and chocked etc., and some private owners whose aircraft were damaged. A number of aircraft in East camp also suffered serious damage when tie-downs broke and allowed aircraft to move and make contact with other aircraft. (reports seem to suggest that Biggin Hill wasn't alone in suffering damage, with aircraft blown over at Popham, North Weald, Clacton, and Southend, amongst others.)

My personal thanks go to the airport staff, fire crews, security, and refuellers, who helped recover the damaged aircraft and secure others that had moved but which fortunately made no contact with other aircraft or structures.

BIGGIN HILL "FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT"

I have recently been told by Colin Hitchins that the Festival of Flight will, subject to final CAA approval of the airport's changes to satisfy all their new rules, take place as originally scheduled on Saturday 11th June 2016.

Once more is known, the airport will publish further information on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637979396466921/>) and also on the Festival of Flight website at www.bhfof.com. It is anticipated that tickets will go on sale online on 4th April and, as previously, there will be a limited number of tickets available, and there will again be no tickets for sale on the day.

MARQUEE FOR THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

I am really pleased to be able to confirm that there WILL be a Marquee again this year on the flight-line but this year it will be aimed at airport Owners and Tenants, not just Database members (who are also welcome of course), so it will be even more important to confirm your tickets early.

Full details including the final cost will follow, but anyone (whether Owners or Tenants, or Biggin Hill Reunited members, wishing to secure tickets should email me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) with the numbers required and I will put you on the list. Anyone on that list will be contacted directly once details are finalised and payment will be required within a maximum of 14 days to secure the places.

At this point it is anticipated that the cost will be similar to last year, although they may possibly be packaged with entry tickets this time. More below from Colin Hitchins on the subject...

ANOOP BAMRAH TIES THE KNOT

As many will know, Anoop has been marrying his bride, Shikha, at the time of writing this Newsletter, and they are out in Mombassa with the whole Bamrah family. I'm sure all their friends would want me to wish the happy couple our congratulations and wish them a long and happy life together.

Whilst they all enjoy the sun in beautiful Mombasa on Kenya's eastern seaboard on the Indian Ocean, Falcon, S&K, and EFG are as busy as ever and being looked after by their loyal staff and friends. All are looking forward to the onset of better flying weather on a more regular basis, rather than the occasional day. Now the clocks have "sprung forward", we can hopefully all look forward to longer evenings to take advantage of the improving weather.

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 from Kenya, firstly thank you to the whole community for your amazing support during our wedding, we are both over the moon. Secondly thank you so much for all the support during our absence with the damage to our aircraft.

Hearing of this weather which has affected not only us but aircraft owners across the country, reminds me of how we all depend on each other as one collective to ensure the survival of GA through any and all conditions be it financial or an act of God.

I would like to offer thanks from Singh, Shonu, myself and all at Falcon, S&K and EFG to all that have helped including the fire crew at Biggin, the Refuellers, Security, Ops, Rizon and of course our own guys and gals plus any and all others.

Special message from Singh: thank you G-CPFC for flying thousands of hours safely and training thousands of pilots. I am sure many instructors and students will be sad. She has been in our fleet since 1989 and we thank her for her service.

Till the next time folks. Stay safe

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MESSAGE FROM FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT OFFICE

This year's Biggin Hill Festival of Flight is the 50th annual air show to be staged at Biggin Hill, even with a 3 year break it is still a significant landmark, one made no easier this year by the CAA announcing new regulations and methods of risk assessing following the AAIB interim report into the Shoreham airshow accident in 2015. Since the show returned in 2014 safety has been at the heart of the planning process a principle that will continue to the dismay of some that would want to see the practices of years gone by continue.

The biggest change for 2016 is how do we, the event organisers, mitigate the risk to those outside of the airport boundary, principally the A233 and Milking Lane Farm land. For many years the fence along the A233 has been screened this will be the same in 2016 but with a significantly thicker material with more warning signs, fencing along the footpath on the other side of the road and security staff patrolling the area. If we do get a build-up of people in the area looking to view the air display we will have to stop the display. A similar process will be used on the Milking Lane farmland footpath. Local and social media will be used to publicise this on the lead up to the 11th June.

Enough of new regulation, this years' show has the public favorites attending, Red Arrows, Lancaster, B17, WWII fighters, Chinook, Apache, Wing Walkers and a few more to complete the 4 ½ hour display. New for this year is a 1960's area complete with stage and 60' groups. As John has said we are looking at encouraging BHAL Tenants and Users into the marquee along with members of Biggin Hill reunited, so please do not delay in getting you tickets as they are limited to 200.

Best Regards
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MESSAGE FROM BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S SATCO

Hi All,

MORE NEW VOICES ON THE RT SHORTLY ARRIVING

A further two new trainee controllers will shortly be joining our current two under training in an effort to bring to an end our current controller shortage. The first of the new arrivals will join us in mid-April and the second at the end of May. This means that we will have four trainees in the harness at the same time as we enter the busier period of the year, so your patience will be appreciated.

REVIEW OF RTF PROCEDURES.

Following the introduction of the PPR system I was asked to carry out a review of the current RTF procedures. I, with input from three other controllers have now completed this process and our findings have been handed over to the Airport Safety Manager before implementation. Following final approval I will publish these procedures that will be used in the future.

There are some minor changes but don't expect anything dramatic. It turns out that over the years between us (pilots and ATC) we have developed pretty much the most concise and compliant RTF procedures out there.

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 2016

I have now put together the first draft for this year's flying display. It will of course bear no resemblance to the final version but you have to start from somewhere.

There may be slight changes from the previous two years events regarding taxiway closures as we increase spectator capacity but as usual we will keep the disruption to a minimum. I will keep you advised.

I think that's about it for the moment. Until the next time stay safe.

Best Wishes
Bill Robinson
SATCO – Biggin Hill Airport

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

There is little to report this month. March has been steady but not exceptional from a business perspective. Sadly the Easter weekend, which could have provided a good start for the light aviation season, was a wash out all bar Good Friday.

On Monday morning the wind was gusting to 70mph and a light aircraft was blown over whilst remaining attached to its tie downs. The fact that this event made the national press and was widely reported as some kind of disaster serves to demonstrate that our activities are always under the spot light and we must therefore always pay extra attention to getting things right!

We continue moving through a lengthy process with Bromley Council as we move towards agreeing the fine detail of the implementation of the proposed Noise Action Plan. We hope that this will be completed and signed off in the coming weeks.

The UK CAA continue to deliberate the safety of UK air shows and as yet we are unable to say whether or not we will be granted a permission to hold the Festival of Flight 2016. It is incredible to me that, tragic as the Shoreham air show accident undoubtedly was, the CAA and AAIB have completely lost sight of the fact that in the previous 64 years (since 1952) there had not been a single fatality of an audience member or a bystander at a UK air show event. There are few other sectors of industry that could genuinely make that claim - certainly not rail, road, air or marine, theatre, cinema, restaurant, construction or theme park to name but few. Yet no one has curtailed their activities. When a bin lorry wiped out a number of pedestrians in Glasgow, no one questioned the need for bin lorry operators to vet their drivers more carefully or indeed the licensing of lorry drivers - at least not with any conviction. The DfT concluded that the incidence of driver incapacitation at the wheel was so low that no changes to regulations were required - just some changes to guidance material (but in any case the DfT have no "competence" over the matter because it was long ago devolved to the EU Commission who, in their infinite wisdom and outstanding munificence, now control almost every detail of your daily life having introduced some 97,000 new regulations to Britain since the year 2000 and if, perchance, there is an area they do not yet control, you may be reassured that they are working on how to control it very soon).

That having been said, we will naturally be reviewing all our arrangements for the Festival of Flight in the light of experience gained and the evidence before us - but like all competent event organisers we do that every year as a matter of course and on a very significant scale and in very great detail. Despite that, we cannot ever make an air show event (or anything else we do) entirely safe. There is always a latent risk - we can only mitigate that risk to the best of our collective ability. We will await the final output of the AAIB/CAA review and will let you know what transpires.

If you are contemplating taking advantage of a fine day to have a first flight of the season this month, may I take this opportunity to remind you that there have been some changes to local procedures over the winter, so be sure to brief properly before climbing aboard.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks for some who have already sent in their Club renewal fee, cards have been sent out. This membership really does help to cover the server costs for the two websites. (*Of course,*

membership is NOT required just to continue receiving the Newsletters!) If you have paid, but have not yet received your membership cards, please get in touch.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk - Postal address is on the website. Existing members don't need a further form on renewing, just send the appropriate fee. (If you want me to use a new photo, please send 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).

Thanks again for your support, which is much appreciated

EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

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.....

Extracts from letters written by Glasgow Council tenants:

1. It's the dogs mess that I find hard to swallow.
2. I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.
3. I wish to complain that my father twisted his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.
4. Their 18-year old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.
5. I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof I think it was bad wind the other day that blew them off.
6. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
7. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
8. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path - My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.
9. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen...

10. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are just plain filthy.
11. The next door neighbour has got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.
12. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
13. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.
- 14 Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces.
15. I want to complain about the farmer across the road. Every morning at 6am his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me.
16. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.
17. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.
18. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.
19. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife.
20. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.
21. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2.
22. My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A few thoughts on beer.....

"Sometimes when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, "It is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver." *Babe Ruth*

"If all you had to look forward to was sleeping with Lady Bird you'd stay drunk too." *Lyndon B. Johnson*

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading." *Paul Horning*

"24 hours in a day, 24 beers in a case. Coincidence? I think not." *H. L. Mencken*

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven!" *George Bernard Shaw*

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." *Benjamin Franklin*

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with Pizza." *Dave Barry*

Beer: Helping ugly people have sex since 3000 B.C.! *W. C. Fields*

Remember "I" before "E," except in Budweiser. *Professor Irwin Corey*

To some it's a six-pack, to me it's a Support Group. Salvation in a can! *Leo Durocher*

One night at Cheers (TV Sitcom), Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members! ; In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the lowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine! That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

For his birthday, little Joseph asked for a 10-speed bicycle.

His father said, 'Son, we'd give you one, but the mortgage on this house is £289,000 and your mother just lost her job. There's no way we can afford it.'

The next day the father saw little Joseph heading out the front door with a suitcase. So he asked, 'Son, where are you going?'

Little Joseph told him, 'I was walking past your room last night and heard you telling mum you were pulling out. Then I heard her tell you to wait because she was coming too. And I'll be damned if I'm staying here by myself with a £289,000 mortgage and no bike.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Bert, at 85 years old, always wanted a pair of soft spike golf shoes like Freddie Couples so, seeing some on sale after his round, he bought them.

He was so delighted with his purchase, he decided to wear them home to show the Mrs.

Walking proudly into the house, he sauntered into the kitchen and said to his wife, "Notice anything different about me?"

Margaret at age 83, looked him over and replied, "Nope."

Frustrated as all get out, Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen completely naked except for the new golf shoes. Again he asked Margaret, a little louder this time, "Notice anything different NOW?"

Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan response, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it'll be hanging down again tomorrow."

Furious, Bert yells out, "AND DO YOU KNOW WHY IT'S HANGING DOWN, MARGARET?"

"Nope. Not a clue", she replied.

"IT'S HANGING DOWN, BECAUSE IT'S LOOKING AT MY NEW GOLF SHOES!"

Without missing a beat old Margaret replies, "You should have bought a new hat!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A London lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by an Irish cop. He thinks that he is smarter than the cop because he is a lawyer from LONDON and is certain that he has a better education than any Irish cop. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the Irish cop's expense!

Irish cop says, "License and registration, please."

London Lawyer says, "What for?"

Irish cop says, "Ye didnae come to a complete stop at the stop sign."

London Lawyer says, "I slowed down, and no one was coming."

Irish cop says, "Ye still didnae come to a complete stop. License and registration, please"

London Lawyer says, "What's the difference?"

Irish cop says, "The difference is, ye huvte come to complete stop, that's the law. License and registration, please!"

London Lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my license and registration and you give me the ticket.

If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket."

Irish cop says, "Sounds fair. Exit your vehicle, sir."

The London Lawyer exits his vehicle.

The Irish cop takes out his baton and starts beating the living s**t out of the lawyer and says, "Daeye want me to stop or just slow down? "

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A judge was interviewing a South Carolina woman regarding her pending divorce and asks, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

"About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No", he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick, and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "what are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle and 12 cousins living here in town, as well as my husband's parents."

The judge took a deep breath and asked, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No, we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one 'cuz we don't have a car."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music - all that hip hop and rap tap - but we can't seem to do anything about it."

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes, he gets up every morning before I do and makes the coffee."

The judge asked, "Is your husband a nagger?"

"Oh, hell no, he's as white as you and me!"

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Lady, why in hell do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce - my husband does. The damn fool says he can't communicate with me."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

DATING IN THE 60s. Remember those days?

It was a hot Saturday evening in the summer of 1960, and James had a date with Annabella.

He arrived at her house and rang the bell...

'Oh, come on in!' Annabella's mother said as she welcomed James.

'Have a seat in the sitting room. Would you like something to drink? Lemonade? Tea?'

'Tea, please,' James said. Mum brought the tea.

'So, what are you and Annabella planning to do tonight?' she asked interestedly.

'Oh, probably go to the flicks and then maybe grab a bite to eat at the coffee bar, perhaps have a walk on the beach afterwards.'

'Annabella likes to screw, you know,' Mum informed him.

'Really?' James gasped, surprised to say the least.

'Oh yes,' mother continued, 'When she goes out with her friends, that's all they do!'

'Is that so?' asked James, incredulously.

'Oh yes,' she said.

'As a matter of fact, she'd screw all night if we let her!'

'Phew! Well, thanks for the tip!' James said as he began thinking about alternative plans for the evening.

A moment later, Annabella came down the stairs looking pretty as a picture, wearing a pink blouse and a hoop skirt and with her hair tied back in a bouncy ponytail.

She greeted James.

'Have fun, kids!' mother said as they left.

Half an hour later, a completely dishevelled Annabella burst into the house and slammed the front door behind her.

'The Twist, Mum!' she yelled angrily to her mother in the kitchen. 'The bloody dance is called the . . . Twist!'

.....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"...))