

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome also 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> To view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.

MARCH WEATHER

As Summer fast approaches, we should all be able to (hopefully) look forward to more pleasant and stable flying weather – something that has been distinctly lacking so far in 2017. March has been better than February, of course, but only marginally. We seem to always suffer from one element that prevents much light aircraft flying, particularly student training; Low cloud, or poor visibility/very little horizon, or crosswinds out of light aircraft limits for the one remaining runway at Biggin.

So, as we move positively into Spring and Summer, let's hope that we can all get to practice our love of flying. For the instructors out there, it will probably soon reach the point where we all pray for the odd non-flying day to get our breath back. Oh to be in that position again....

DON PERCH

The 2nd of March saw the RAF St George's Chapel filled to capacity with many old Biggin Hill'ites there to remember our friend Don Perch who's sad passing was announced in last month's Newsletter.

The service was followed by a reception for friends and family at the Biggin Hill Airport's Lookout Café, where there was much reminiscing and exchanging of faded photographs of those wonderful carefree days at Biggin Hill in the 60's and 70's.

Biggin Hill again did one of our old friends proud, and I'm sure it gave much comfort to the family.

NEW CIRCUIT RESTRICTIONS AT BIGGIN

You are reminded that, as a part of the agreement with the Council for the variation to the operating hours, it was agreed that circuit training would be banned at Biggin before 09:00 and after 17:00 (local time) throughout the period of British Summer time at Weekends, and Bank Holidays. Although the new airport operating hours will not come into force until 1st May, this restriction applies now, since the clocks have already changed...

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Last month we carried a story in this Newsletter in the section from Colin Hitchins that mentions old 101 year old Ray "Watson" who flew in the back seat of one of the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar's two seat Spitfires, in formation with one of the Zenith Lear 75's. (it was immediately corrected in the online version of the Newsletter!)

Many of you immediately contacted me to question Ray Watson's age as Ray is still very active and flying from EFG Flying School as the Head of Training! Of course, you were all correct –

Ray Watson is many, many, years short of 101 – the back-seat veteran was actually 101 year old Ray Roberts! Sorry Ray.....

CAN YOU HELP THIS JOURNALIST & AUTHOR?

I was recently contacted by an author who is in the final stages of putting together a new book to be published later this year. She is seeking the help of any Biggin Hill'ites.....

Quote.....

Does anyone have a ghost story about their time working or flying at Biggin Hill? I'm a non-fiction author. I'm writing a book called Spitfire Stories, due to be published later this year.

It's a compendium of many different stories about the iconic plane from different people from all walks of life, people whose lives were affected by the Spitfire in one way or another. Not just pilots but those who worked with the Spitfire, ie engineers, riggers, erks, factory workers in WW2 and beyond.

Given all the stories and books about haunted airfields, ie wartime Biggin Hill, I am very keen to include an original story from someone who has encountered a ghost or ghostly apparition during their time at Biggin Hill.

If you do feel you'd like to share your own story with me, please get in touch.

Thanks!

Jacky Hyams – email: jrhyams@gmail.com

.....Unquote

HURRICANE ENCLOSURE AT THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

Following on from the pressure from members and airport users, for a repeat of the availability of a private enclosure on the flight line at the 2017 Festival of Flight, we made arrangements for another one this year. This has been promoted and publicised in two previous Newsletters already.

Firstly, thanks to all who have sent in their ticket applications already. All who have sent them will have received an email acknowledgement from me, and your cheques are being held here pending release of the passes. Once the passes are released, your requested passes will be sent to you, and your cheques presented for payment.

Based on the degree of apathy we often experience, it was felt we couldn't risk taking the enclosure for both days of this year's two-day event. I am very pleased that we didn't, as the same as happened on previous years, the take up for the marquee and enclosure is very slow! Everyone said that they wanted a Marquee again, and that they would support it, but getting people to put their money where their mouth is takes a lot of effort and chasing.

I have no reason to assume that we won't fill it as always, but please don't leave it to the last minute! Firstly, the price of entry increases from the first of July, but, if it appears we will not have the numbers, then we may have to cancel it and return the cheques to those who have already taken the trouble to book places in it, or more likely, release places in the Marquee to non-tenants and non-members.

We have arranged this for you – at your request – so please don't just leave it until the week before – it may not be there at all if that happens.....

Currently available to any present or past airport users, all airport Tenants, and their friends and families, tickets for the "Hurricane" enclosure and marquee will be exclusively available via myself, and can be obtained by sending your completed application form (obtainable online at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/hurricane.pdf>) back to me as soon as possible, together with your payment and a self-addressed and stamped envelope to enable passes to be dispatched once available. Your order and payment will be acknowledged by email.

The "Hurricane" Enclosure and Marquee will again have a pay bar offering very competitive prices, will be right on the display line, and has a furnished garden area from which to watch the show.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USERS

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion.

(Please email: John Willis at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from Falcon - A very happy hello to you all.

What is that bright yellow thing you see? Well, apparently that's the start of Spring! Spirits have certainly risen with a few more sunny days over the tail end of this month.

Q1 of this year has seen a Multi Engine Rating and Commercial Pilot Licence completed in addition to a handful of PPL students passing their skill test. We have had days fraught with cloud, rain and bad vis (not to mention wind), however when the weather was within limits these guys and gals took to the skies and savoured the cold air.

EFG arranged for the NATS Secondee to Airspace Regulation to visit us from the CAA and discuss MORs and Infringements proving to be an extremely helpful session. As a training provider we are fixed firm on ensuring the best standard of training at all times.

This indeed means us having a widen our skill set and liaise with high authorities and the good and bad out there.

Our advice to you in these ever-increasing periods of activity is to be aware and plan properly. Did you know at times, due to controller workloads, one controller can actually be in charge for both Farnborough East and West!

So, do not be reliant on LARS keeping you out of trouble as they may not be looking at just you! Keep constant checks on your headings and altitudes, ensure your altimeters are configured and you are squawking the correct codes.

Singh and Shonu have been busy as ever with a steady stream of maintenance coming through the doors. For all your maintenance give them a call on 01959 572 339

April 22nd marks the first event of 2017 for Falcon. Pilot Career's Live at London Heathrow T5 Sofitel. Visit us and the other operators and see how your next career is started.

Till then, stay safe, be blessed and keep on flying.

Stay blessed
Anoop Singh Bamrah

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

This year's Festival of Flight has certainly hit the ground running with support from some old friends, including the French Air Force Patriouille De France (Sunday only), and the Belgian F16 display. Others talking to us include the Dutch, Czech and Polish air forces. If we then add the RAF contingents, the Red Arrows, BBMF and the Typhoon (Sunday only), it seems we will have quite a show.

Online tickets for both days are selling well, as is the corporate hospitality for the "Spitfire" and "Hurricane" enclosures, so I would advise that you reserve your place with John soon, as we have a number of fly in requests asking for hospitality, which I am holding off on until we have offered the facility out to our regular attendees.

We have now launched a new Community focused web site that covers more than just the air show, with the Lookout Café, job vacancies and latest news being regularly updated, and it will shortly include the noise action plan and the noise & track keeping system that is due to go live online very shortly. See www.lbhacommunity.co.uk

A final note, we are still looking produce a book as part of our 100 year celebrations, and whilst many stories have been told about the early years, very little is available about the post RAF era. If you can contribute any pictures or stories, please get in touch info@lbhacommunity.co.uk

Best wishes
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

March has been a busy month for business jets with movements above target. Light aviation has been adequate, though the weather has limited it somewhat as might be expected.

The Airport has been busy on may ongoing projects and during March it concluded an agreement with HSBC for funding of £15 million to complete its new garaging hangar to the north of the terminal and subject to renewed planning permission, the hotel project on the land near the roundabout at Churchill Way. The new 'T2' hangar should be ready by late 2017 whilst the new 4 star hotel will be open in early 2019.

The Noise and Track Keeping System has now been demonstrated to Councillors and will be launched to the public next week. New noise abatement procedures for IFR traffic and procedures for VFR traffic will be published in the AIP imminently. We will also have 'hand outs' in the terminal and will supply these s to all flying clubs in due course. Once these are available, please do take time to study them before flying.

There is quite a bit of work to so on and about the airport this summer, so you will likely see various of these works ongoing on as the months progress. Please ensure that you check NOTAMS before flying as there may be temporary changes to airport procedures as a result.

Now that the clocks have changed, we will doubtless want to be flying later in the day. However, please remember that as of this year, circuit training before 0900 or after 1700 on Saturdays, Sundays and on bank Holidays during British Summer Time is prohibited in order to better contain noise nuisance, especially during peak barbequing time!

Until next month, safe flying.

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of database 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.

Thank you very much to all of you who have generously made financial donations in support of the Newsletter and the database upkeep. Your support really is appreciated.

If anyone else would like to show their support, please make any cheques payable to “John Willis” and send them to “Biggin Hill Airport Users Database, 26 Churchside Close, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3QF”. If you would prefer not to use a cheque, but would still like to contribute, please contact me and I will give you bank details to which you can make a transfer.

All contributions will be acknowledged by email – thank you..

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.....

Job Interview – why older men don’t get hired!

H.R. Manager “What is your greatest weakness?”

Old Man “My honesty”

H.R. Manager “I don’t think honesty is a weakness”

Old Man “I don’t give a F**k what you think!”

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An elderly Italian man who lived on the outskirts of Rimini, Italy, went to the local church for confession. When the priest slid open the panel in the confessional, the man said: "Father. During World War II, a beautiful Jewish woman from our neighbourhood knocked urgently on my door and asked me to hide her from the Nazis. So, I hid her in my attic."

The priest replied: "That was a wonderful thing you did, and you have no need to confess that."

"There is more to tell, Father. She started to repay me with sexual favours. This happened several times a week, and sometimes twice on Sundays."

The priest said, "That was a long time ago and by doing what you did, you placed the two of you in great danger, but two people under those circumstances can easily succumb to the weakness of the flesh. However, if you are truly sorry for your actions, you are indeed forgiven."

"Thank you, Father. That's a great load off my mind. I do have one more question."

"And what is that?" asked the priest.

"Should I tell her the war is over?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.'

The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop came in for a haircut, and when he tried to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.'

The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen donuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Politician came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you; I'm doing community service this week.'

The Politician was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Politicians lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

As someone once said:-

BOTH POLITICIANS AND NAPPIES NEED TO BE CHANGED OFTEN - AND FOR THE SAME REASON!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was, "Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk." The question was worth 70 points or none at all.

One student was hard put to think of seven advantages. He wrote:

- 1) It is perfect formula for the child.
- 2) It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 3) It is always the right temperature.
- 4) It is inexpensive.
- 5) It bonds the child to mother and vice versa.
- 6) It is always available as needed.

And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test he wrote:

- 7) It comes in two attractive containers and its high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it.

He got an A.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Bob walked into a sports bar around 9:58 PM. He sat down next to a blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV. The 10 PM news was coming on. The news crew was covering the story of a man on the ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Bob and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"

Bob said, "You know, I bet he'll jump."

The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't."

Bob placed a £20 note on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy on the ledge did a swan dive off the building, falling to his death.

The blonde was very upset, but willingly handed her £20 to Bob. "Fair's fair. Here's your money."

Bob replied, "I can't take your money. I saw this earlier on the 5 PM news, so I knew he would jump."

The blonde replied, "I did, too, but I didn't think he'd do it again."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A lovely and very sexy blonde goes into her local pet shop in search of an exotic pet. As she looks about the store, she notices a box full of frogs. The sign says: "Sex Frogs! Only £20 each! Comes with complete instructions."

The blonde excitedly looks around to see if anybody's watching her. She whispers softly to the man behind the counter, "I'll take one."

As the man packages the frog, he quietly says to her, "Just follow the instructions." The blonde nods, grabs the box, and is quickly on her way home.

As soon as she closes the door to her apartment, she opens the instructions and reads them very carefully. She does exactly what is specified:

1. Put some nice satin sheets on your bed.
2. Take a nice warm bubble bath.
3. Splash on some nice perfume.
4. Slip into a very sexy nightie.
5. Light a pair of candles by the bed.
6. Put on a CD with some very soft classical music playing quietly in the background.
7. Slip into bed and place the frog beside you. The frog will do what he has been trained to do.

She quickly gets into bed with the frog and to her surprise, nothing happens. The blonde is very disappointed and quite upset at this point. She rereads the instructions and notices at the bottom of the paper it says, "If you have any problems or questions, please call the pet store and speak to the man that sold the frog to you." So the blonde calls the pet shop.

The man says, "I'll be right over." Within minutes, the man is ringing her doorbell. The blonde welcomes him in and says, "See, I've done everything according to the instructions. The damn frog just sits there."

The man, looking very concerned, picks up the frog, stares into its eyes and says very sternly: "Look, I'm only going to show you how to do this one more time!"

.....UNQUOTE

.....QUOTE

A crusty old Marine Sergeant Major found himself at a gala event hosted by a local liberal arts college. There was no shortage of extremely young idealistic ladies in attendance, one of whom approached the Sergeant Major for conversation.

"Excuse me, Sergeant Major, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?"

"Negative, ma'am. Just serious by nature."

The young lady looked at his awards and decorations and said, "It looks like you have seen a lot of action."

"Yes, ma'am, a lot of action."

The young lady, trying to start up a conversation, said, "You know, you should lighten up. Relax and enjoy yourself."

The Sergeant Major just stared at her in his serious manner.

Finally the young lady said, "You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you had sex"

"1955, ma'am."

"Well, there you are. No wonder you're so serious. You really need to chill out! I mean, no sex since 1955!" She took his hand and led him to a private room where she proceeded to "relax" him several times.

Afterwards, panting for breath, she leaned against his bare chest and said, "Wow, you sure didn't forget much since 1955."

The Sergeant Major said, after glancing at his watch, "I hope not; it's only 2130 now."
(Gotta love military time)

.....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"...)