

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter – as sent from vacation in sunny Portugal.

The August 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 August 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, or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database members list..

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.

DEREK HARDIMAN

You will recall that last month we were told of Derek suffering from a stroke and becoming hospitalised. I understand that he has responded well to treatment and was due to be sent home today (31st July), but that he will still require constant care. We wish him well.

DENNIS JOHN BAKER

It is with sadness that I announce the death of old Biggin Hill'ite, Dennis Baker. Dennis passed away on 18th July, following an admission to hospital with a heart condition.

Dennis, who lived in Eltham, learned to fly at Biggin Hill in the early 80's. He was a member of the Alouette Flying Club, and was also a part owner of the Biggin Hill based Victa Airtourer G-AZHI. He was also well known for his expertise in WW2 Jeep restorations (indeed he was mid restoration when admitted to hospital). Dennis was disabled with Polio as a child, but was a colourful character who never allowed his disability to restrict him. He originally attended Valence School in Westerham where he would still regularly return to play cricket Sunday afternoons. He leaves behind his two daughters Raquel and Rose.

His funeral will be on Wednesday 8th August at 2pm at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tonbridge Wells. (be aware that there are major roadworks in that area, so anyone attending is recommended to allow 30-60 mins extra driving time). His family would be pleased to see any friends and colleagues from the airfield at the funeral service and afterwards at the Stanhope Arms in Westerham

LEE DEAL

Falcon Flying Services staff were shocked to hear of the death of one of their Avionics engineers, Lee Deal, in a road traffic accident in Sevenoaks on Saturday 21st July. The accident apparently happened when two cars collided outside Sainsbury's in Otford Road just before 1pm. Lee died at the scene.

Lee was 51 and had worked around the airfield for some 16 years, first with AM Avionics then Air Touring. When Air Touring closed down he worked self-employed for various clients around the airfield and also at Redhill. His first flying experience from Biggin Hill was with the Air Scouts when he used to get the occasional lesson with Scott Chard on a Sunday morning and it was this that began his complete obsession with small aircraft.

The funeral will be on 15th August 2012 at 13:15 at Eltham Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, London, SE9 2AZ - friends are welcome.. For Directions, please go to:

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/330/funeral-cremations/412/eltham_crematorium/2

If anyone wishes to send floral tributes, these should be sent to:

Co-operative Funeral Directors, 172 Well Hall Road, Eltham, London, SE9 6SR

After the service everyone will gather at:- 'Sidcup Place' Chislehurst Road, Kent, DA14 6BF (Brewers Fayre Pub) From 15:00 - 18:00.

If you intend to join the family to celebrate Lee's life at the funeral and afterwards, please email the names of those attending to eamtad@yahoo.co.uk

CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THE UK'S AIR PASSENGER TAX

The campaign, mentioned in last month's Newsletter, has gained the unqualified support of many major industry leaders, and a significant number of MP's.

If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to add your voice to the growing campaign to stop the madness that is the world's highest passenger tax here in the UK. The APD as it is known is stifling aviation at a time when it should be actively encouraged.

Adding your voice to the campaign couldn't be simpler - go to <http://www.afairtaxonflying.org/> where the simple template does the entire job for you, just by entering your postcode, and adding your name and email .

THE SMALLEST AIRPORT IN THE WORLD

The link below takes you to a video that shows an amazing working model of a major international airport. It takes quite a while, but really does warrant the time when you are otherwise bored and unable to fly because of the weather or Olympic restrictions... enjoy..

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=gn1qMYfFrro&feature=related

OLYMPIC RESTRICTIONS AND ATLAS CONTROL

Although I personally only had the opportunity of trying out the Atlas Control system for the Olympic airspace just once before leaving the UK, it did seem to me that it was working relatively OK at that time. I used the SkyDemon system for the flightplan, and that seemed to make what may have otherwise been a difficult task quite user friendly. Atlas Control themselves appeared efficient and quite helpful.

You may, of course, have had different experiences, and obviously, by the time you read this, more restrictions at Biggin and many other airports will have been introduced, and these may complicate matters a little more, but hopefully it will not mean totally the end of GA flying for the Olympic duration.

But for my part, I am very happy to be completely out of it and relaxing away from the chaos over most of Southern England!

REMOVAL OF PPR REQUIREMENTS FOR BIGGIN VFR FLIGHTS

The Olympic PPR requirement for VFR flights at Biggin Hill has been withdrawn. The following email from Bill Robinson, Airport SATCO explains why PPR is no longer required.

"This is to inform you that PPR (prior permission required) for VFR and IFR flights outside controlled airspace during the Olympic period is no longer required by Biggin Hill ATC.

Having operated the system for one week it has been decided that the demand by light aircraft for movements does not warrant the continued operation of a PPR system.

I have made this decision on the basis that a possible short delay during a detail would be more tolerable than having to contact ATC for each individual flight. Especially for the flying training establishments.

However I would advise anybody that wishes to carry out circuit details on the days near the Olympic closing ceremony (11th, 12th & 13th August 2012) to contact ATC by telephone the previous day to check on the feasibility and or timings of such details.

As you are aware the PPR system was put into operation to accommodate as many movements as safety would allow and cause minimum disruption to our regular customers .

Having carried out a detailed evaluation of the predicted traffic for the remainder of the Olympic period and observed the combined effects that ATLAS Control & ACL have had on our operation, Biggin Hill ATC considered that the continuation of PPR was no longer necessary.

With this in mind Biggin Hill ATC would ask you to be patient if there are some small delays during the remainder of the Olympic period. We will do our very best to keep any delays to the absolute minimum".

MAY AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

Well, I am somewhat relieved to be writing to report that the build-up to the Opening Ceremony, and the ensuing departures have all gone to plan. There will be further peaks before the Olympics is over - depending on which countries are in certain finals - and of course for the Closing Ceremony. However, the busiest phase is behind us and I am proud of the Airport team, who have worked extremely hard, both in planning and then in delivering a world class service to all our customers.

I realise that there are special measures in place, which add layers of complexity. It was, for instance, necessary to have PPR in place, to ensure a high standard of predictable service to everyone - but I am glad to have been able to lift this today after considering the forward plan (see the earlier item in this Newsletter from SATCO, Bill Robinson). Many of the requirements and restrictions are outside of our control; but this was one we have been able to keep to a minimum. Appreciation must also go to the students of Bromley College and the Biggin Hill Air Cadets, who are working as volunteers during the Games. Their assistance has been invaluable, and we hope that interest has been sparked in a career in aviation for some of them. I can recommend it!

The Opening Ceremony definitely raised the bar, and when I was in London over last weekend, especially at Wembley on Sunday for the football, the atmosphere was electric. The lead-up was characterised by bad press and various concerns, but it seems that the tide has turned and I have never seen displays of patriotism as I did this weekend - it is everywhere! So, from Biggin's point of view, it is great to be involved and I appreciate everyone's co-operation in making it a success.

Although there are many other things going on, I would just like to also mention the work that has gone into framing a possible Air Event for 2013. Colin Hitchins and I have been working on this, and all feedback has been most welcome. We had a constructive meeting in a full hall last week with the Biggin Hill Residents Association, and it was valuable to hear the feedback from our closest neighbours who obviously are the most affected by such an event. I don't pretend that we will be able to please everyone, but this gathering of information and building an event from scratch is a fascinating exercise and I am certain that something worthy of Biggin Hill's great name will be the result.

Jenny Munro
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

LYDD OLYMPICS PPR ALSO WITHDRAWN

Thanks to Maurice Greenaway who tells us that Tim Maskens, SATCO at Lydd Airport has emailed to say that PPR for VFR flights at Lydd has been withdrawn. A new NOTAM is already out and the website will be amended this afternoon

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you all for your continued financial support – it is appreciated..

That's it for this month..

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: A three amusing stories courtesy of members... Thanks everyone..

The first, The current banking crisis explained by an Irishman, from Harry Harris..

QUOTE.....

Young Paddy bought a donkey from a farmer for £100. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day he drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died.'
Paddy replied, 'Well then just give me my money back.'

The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I've already spent it.' Paddy said, 'OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey.'

The farmer asked, 'What are you going to do with him?' Paddy said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'

The farmer said, 'You can't raffle a dead donkey!' Paddy said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'

A month later, the farmer met up with Paddy and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?'

Paddy said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at £2 each and made a profit of £898'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?' Paddy said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his £2 back.'

Paddy now works for Barclays!!!

.....UNQUOTE

Next from Debbie Danahar – not sure of the validity of the numbers, but amusing anyway!

QUOTE.....

If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Delta Airlines one year ago, you would have £49.00 today

If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in AIG one year ago, you would have £33.00 today.

If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Lehman Brothers one year ago, you would have £0.00 today.

If you had purchased £1,000 of shares in Northern Rock three years ago, you would have £0.00 today

But, if you had purchased £1,000 worth of beer one year ago at Tesco, drank all the beer, then taken the aluminium cans to the scrap metal dealer, you would have received £214.00.

Based on the above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily & recycle.

And then.....

A recent study found that the average Briton walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that Britons drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

That means that, on average, Britons get about 41 miles to the gallon!

Makes you proud to be British.

.....UNQUOTE

And finally from Ann Greenfield.....

QUOTE.....

These are actual comments made on students' report cards by teachers in the New York City public school system. All teachers were reprimanded (but nevertheless they are funny!)

1. Since my last report, your child has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
2. I would not allow this student to breed.
3. Your child has delusions of adequacy.
4. Your son is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
5. Your son sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them.
6. The student has a 'full six-pack' but lacks the plastic thing to hold it all together.
7. This child has been working with glue too much.
8. When your daughter's IQ reaches 50, she should sell.
9. The gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
10. If this student were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week.
11. It's impossible to believe the sperm that created this child beat out 1,000,000 others.
12. The wheel is turning but the hamster is definitely dead.

.....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"...)