

Hi everyone

The August edition of the "Bugle" from JB is now available on the web site at <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Just click on the Newsletter link on the home page as normal...

I hope everyone receives this email OK as I am currently away in Portugal and have had a few email problems. This email is being sent using a different system to normal, and I am not too sure it will work OK - still, here goes.....

Not much new news to report this month after the shock of the announcement of the closure of our Pilots Pals Club at the end of August. On that front, nothing has changed, nor is likely to in the short term. So, as I said in the last email, it really is the end of an era - Joe Merchant has sold his home and will be moving to Spain to start a new life over there in the not too distant future, and I am sure we all wish him well. Many members have suggested they would be prepared to pay significantly increased membership fees if this would help to save the club - unfortunately, at this stage, it will not really help.

The airport is still assuring us that (when the South Camp development is completed) they will accept a commercial bid from interested parties to occupy the allocated Private Members Club premises, and that a consortium put together by the current club committee would be considered along with any other bids received. (Having said that, I know that other potential tenants who wish to use the space for other purposes are putting in bids to occupy the same premises, so the future existence of a "Private Members Club" at the airport is still far from certain). If any of you out there have any ideas, or would wish to come on board any proposal for the operation of a club, please email me and we can meet up once I am back in the UK after 19th August. I think most of us feel that a club could be made to work well in future new accommodation if the price, size, and location, were right, but now is the time to come forward with positive ideas to make such a venture work for the good of the membership and the airport as a whole.

In the meantime, when I am back, I will try to arrange for a suitable location nearby where we can all meet for a beer or two regularly - it is unlikely to be on the airport itself, but close enough as to make it worth us all aiming for one point to keep alive the social contact with airport people. Once again, any ideas would be really welcome. Lets not let the club die completely even if we lose the premises we have all come to love over the years.....

I will be taking the "Chalk Board" containing all the signatures of past and present members (many of whom are no longer with us, of course) and will keep it secure for any future club's use, together with any of the important photo's and memorabilia that remain at the point of close. Once a new club opens (lets think

positively!), I will loan those to the new owners, whoever they might be, for hopeful inclusion in the new premises.

JB is planning to continue to produce the Biggin Hill "Bugle" for as long as possible - items of interest will be needed regularly if JB is going to be able to do this, of course. I will take over the Pilots Pals web site from Joe and continue that, including the publication of the Bugle on there each month, and I will continue the normal monthly Database members Newsletter by email, so please keep items of interest coming. Once point, although the club premises will have closed after the end of August, your membership cards will continue to be valid for the discounts negotiated for members - the club still exists - it is just the premises that will have gone!

Finally, a note for your diaries...

25th August Pilots Pals Club closing down party

Joe is holding a closing down party (or should we call it a wake?) at the bar on 25th August – time 18:00 to 20:00 for those who are not up to a really heavy night, and just wish to meet up at the club for possibly the last time, followed by a party into the night to deplete the stocks of booze before the closure - as Joe said - everything must go..

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

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database