

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 2018 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.

You can always view back copies of this Newsletter as well as past copies of JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle" by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk (On the subject of the Bugle, JB, who is now back home from hospital following his fall, tells me he has printed copies of every Biggin Hill Bugle going back to the beginning that he no longer wishes to keep - he has digital copies on CD as well as access to the online PDF versions, so he no longer needs them. If anyone would like all these printed copies, please let JB know – 07867 544142.)

BIGGIN WEATHER IN JULY

Probably the best weather many of us has experienced for several decades! After "Flaming June", July has been amongst the hottest, clearest and consistently good weather that I think we have experienced for as far back as I can remember. In fact, as I write this on the 27th, we are just experiencing some very dramatic thunderstorms with the first rain for several weeks. Let's hope that these, with the further forecast of possible isolated heavy rain storms, will give the very parched ground some desperately needed moisture. Other than that, we have had nothing but clear blue skies and sunshine virtually non-stop since well back into early to mid June.

I know us oldies always say we remember the non-stop summers of our youth, but for the first time for some years, we are again getting a glimpse of what it always seemed to be!

As would be expected, everyone has been trying to take maximum advantage of the wonderful weather and aircraft utilisation must surely have soared at last.

Let's hope August continues on the same basis....

BAD MONTH FOR OLD FRIENDS

July has been an awful month for old Biggin Hill'ites –

DOUGLAS FIELD

As I am sure many will already know, Biggin Hill'ite, Doug Field had a serious accident whilst flying into Dunkeswell in his Rutan VariEze from Biggin Hill recently.

Doug, we understand, suffered an engine issue whilst approaching the airfield and made a forced landing in a field nearby.

His wife, who was in the back of the aircraft suffered only minor injuries, but Doug received quite serious back and neck injuries and was airlifted to a local hospital, where he is being treated for those injuries. We are told that he is expected to be moved soon to a specialist unit closer to his home, which is quite close to Biggin Hill Airport.

I'm sure you would all like to wish him well and wish him a speedy recovery

WE ALSO LOST SEVERAL OLD FRIENDS THIS MONTH.....

GEOFF NEWNES

We have just heard that former Alouette Flying Club member, and subsequently instructor, passed away quite recently. Geoff Newnes subsequently left Alouette several years ago and moved away from the area. No details are known regarding funeral arrangements or similar. R.I.P. Geoff...

BRIAN PICKARD

Old Biggin Hill'ite, Brian Pickard, a former renowned ENT surgeon, and Past Master of The Guild Of Air Pilots And Navigators, regrettably passed away peacefully on 13th July aged 96.

Brian, who also was awarded The Legion Of Honour, was an active member of Surrey and Kent Flying Club in the sixties having originally learnt to fly on Tiger Moths when he did his national service in the RAF at the end of the war.

Brian also subsequently bought the De Havilland DHC-1 Chipmunk, registration GAPTS, from the club in around 1964 and for around 20 odd years, he flew it around Europe extensively on business and pleasure despite its limited range. He sold that is around 1985 and became a part owner of a Piper Cherokee (G-AVRU) for a number of years with fellow ENT Consultant Harry Holden. He was also a member of the King Air Flying Club (which eventually became Cabair) at Biggin Hill.

The family informed me that there will be a private family funeral, but there will be a celebration of Brian's life held at 11am on September 11th, 2018 at the Regent Street Cinema, 309 Regent Street, W1B 2UW. In lieu of flowers, donations to ETAT - Encouragement Though The Arts and Talking - www.justgiving.com/etat Absolutely everyone welcome, please RSVP to lucypickardsullivan@gmail.com indicating if you plan to attend.

Always an absolute gentleman, and someone I am proud to have known as a personal friend. R.I.P. Brian, you will be missed by many....

DARRYL HICKMAN

One of Biggin Hill's longest serving employees, Darryl Hickman, who worked tirelessly in the Biggin Hill Airport Operations for many, many, years, sadly passed away unexpectedly at home just a few days ago. His passing, at so young an age, has shocked so many of us to the core..

Darryl has been virtually a permanent fixture in the airport's ops and flight planning service for more years than most can remember. (See Will Curtis' section below for funeral details)

Darryl, with his unique sense of humour, and almost encyclopaedic knowledge of all things operational, will be missed by so many people at the airport. Rest in Peace Darryl...

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Following on from the piece above regarding Douglas Field's accident - Doug has been one of the based owners serving on the Airport's Consultative Committee with the local councils and the airport management for several years – I also serve on that committee....

Doug has decided that, because of his injuries, he wishes to resign his post on that Committee and has asked Father Stephen Niechcial, another Biggin Hill private owner, to take on the roll on his behalf. Stephen is happy to undertake the roll.

However on discussion, Stephen and I felt that it would be appropriate for other based Private Owners to have the opportunity of replacing Doug on the Committee in that post if they so wish, so we invite other owners to put their names forward if they wish to be considered. The closing date to do this is 14th August.

The position on the Committee is a voluntary, unpaid, one, and the representative should expect to attend a quarterly meeting at Biggin Hill in the afternoons, and make themselves available to other owners to take any concerns to the Committee on their behalf, and report back where appropriate.

If no one else wishes to put themselves forward for the position, then it will be assumed that you are all happy to be represented by Stephen on this Committee.

(Stephen provides here a little information about himself:-

“I learnt to fly at Biggin in 1995 and have been flying AA5s recreationally in a group from here ever since. Over the past 22 years my wife and I have had enormous pleasure flying regularly all over Europe and beyond. I think it's a great shame that many PPLs never progress beyond the '£100 hamburger' so have always tried to support pilots in getting the confidence and competence to do more. In wanting to give something back to the flying community I trained as an AOPA Mentor, then as a CRI and IRI(A) and have written articles for Pilot and Flyer magazines. I hold the AOPA 'Platinum Wings' award. I am very much a PPL, but the fact I hold an Instrument Rating as well as instructors' ratings does also give me a good deal of useful insight into commercial operations from Biggin. My full time job is as Vicar of Petts Wood. I have no commercial or business interests at the airport and my sole motivation in offering to be your representative is to promote flourishing affordable GA at Biggin. Happy flying!”)

WINGLY AND OTHER COST SHARING PLATFORMS

Last month we included a section about Biggin Hill Airport not permitting aircraft to cost share where that has come from publicly available cost sharing platforms like Wingly and Coamvi etc. It is stressed that this does not affect non-advertised sharing of costs between personal friends, or fellow club members, only those that are advertised on such public platforms.

The ban applies, not only to Biggin Hill based aircraft, but also non-based aircraft using Biggin Hill. To reinforce that ban, the airport is to include details of that restriction in the UK AIP (Air Pilot) entry for the airport at the next opportunity.

STEAM LOCOMOTIVE “RAF BIGGIN HILL”

50 years ago David Porter, who ran the Flairavia Flying Club at Biggin Hill, attempted to save the locomotive 'Biggin Hill' but it had already gone to the breaker's yard. However on the last days of August 1968 he watched a Stanier Class 5 locomotive pulling the last BR steam passenger train, then followed a frantic week of negotiations and he acquired the locomotive with the intention of naming it 'RAF BIGGIN HILL'. This was done in the presence of 50 members of the RAF together with Battle of Britain pilots and trumpeters of the Royal Air Force, and spectators exceeding 1000. As the loco drew into Bridgnorth station the Red Arrows provided a display. The locomotive is currently awaiting overhaul before returning to haul trains on main line excursions.

On Saturday 4th August, she is to go on display at Kidderminster Severn Valley Railway Station. The locomotive has the distinction of hauling BRs last steam train on the 11th August 1968 which historically is known as the '15 Guinea Special', which concluded the end of steam on British Rail.

David was always surprised how many steam enthusiasts there were among the flying fraternity and if any reader wishes to see '45110' in the flesh, take a trip to Kidderminster on Saturday 4th August 2018, which is a visitors open day to the railway.

David now spends his retirement as Vice-Chairman of a railway cultural group and lives in the same town where the first successful steam locomotive 'Locomotion' is on display, which first ran almost 200 years ago, and began the railways as we know it today.

David now 86, can be contacted on email at djp5@btinternet.com and will be happy to chat to any old Flairavians.

BRONZE HOSPITALITY ENCLOSURE

The "Bronze" Hospitality Marquee and Enclosure at the 2018 Festival of Flight, located on the flight line on the Sunday 19th August has been completely sold out as predicted for some time. But, as the last Newsletter mentioned, if you have purchased tickets, but no longer need them, I do have a waiting list of persons who would be pleased to buy them off you. Please just let me know and we will arrange for you to be able to sell to the persons on that list.

So far I have been able to dispose of five unwanted Enclosure tickets for the benefit of other people on the list.

Either way, please email me - john@bigginHillreunited.co.uk

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 18th & 19th AUGUST 2018

The 2018 Festival of Flight, celebrating 100 years of the Royal Air Force, is fast approaching.

As previously pointed out in the past newsletters, the Hospitality enclosures have all fully sold out, but normal tickets for the event, which will not be available at all on the day, are still available online - see: <https://lbhacommunity.ticketsrv.co.uk/>

(For bona fide Biggin Hill residents, who are not seeking space in a Hospitality Enclosure, special residents "walk in" tickets can be obtained at the same price as last year, from the Lookout Café on the airport, and the Spitfire Café in Biggin Hill village. Remember though they are "walk-in" only – cars will not be permitted entry with these special tickets!)

PILOTS AFTER PARTY (PRIVATE PARTY) – AIR SHOW WEEKEND

Date: Saturday 18 August 2018 – 18:30 – Midnight

Location: The Crown Inn, Leaves Green Road, Leaves Green, BR2 6DQ

£10.00 per ticket in advance – Guest List/Present on the door – Tickets can be purchased from Sharon Millar (sharon@deskteam.co.uk) or John Willis (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

Ticket provides Live band, DJ, Hot/Cold Food, Vodka Luge Ice fun (Party is run for getting people together - not for profit)

Registered security on the door - No drama - Safety first

General public out of the pub at 18:00 for clean up - Party starts 18:30 until midnight (Extended licence)

Strictly no children – Adults only (300 tickets) - Private party – Guest List – Please do not advertise on Facebook

Any queries, please email to: sharon@deskteam.co.uk

Last year was great fun, with a packed pub still at midnight! What goes on Air Show Weekend/Stays on Air Show Weekend!

Remember, these sold out last year very quickly – don't lose out!! Order and pay for your tickets NOW.....

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)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

Greetings from Alouette,

Well the July weather has been very considerate, clear skies and plenty of sunshine has boosted trial flight sales to an all-time high for July.

The club is pleased to say that the airport has offered Alouette a new lease on our existing building [from 16th September 2018](#) (the date of the termination of our original lease). The new lease offers us security in the current building through until at least March 2019, at which time they hope to be able to formulate a new plan for the location of any training facilities/clubs, which of course Alouette would hope to be a part of. They have also confirmed that the operational proposal the Club submitted to the airport is acceptable for the time being – and this will apply until any new arrangements may be agreed between the club and the airport at some later stage.

Some congratulations this month are in order;

Gordon Hill and Viktor Varchola both flew flawless first solo circuits under the watchful eyes of our resident flying instructor John Willis. A big thank you to Biggin ATC for allowing Gordon to achieve his ambition of flying his first solo from Biggin Hill. In Viktor's case, our thanks to Headcorn aerodrome for accommodating us so well....

Alouette's spur of the moment 4th of July BBQ was very popular with members, old and new. The weather kindly cooperated, laughs and stories went on long into the night. So a resounding success all round.

Alouette would like to make the most of the weather by hosting another BBQ on Saturday 4th August 4pm onwards. We would like to extend an invitation, not only to members and their families, but also to friends of Alouette, and all Biggin Hill Airport staff and workers for Biggin based companies (bring your own families too). All are most welcome.

Hope to see you there. Until next time, safe flying

Regards
Josh Reeves
Alouette Chairman

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from all at Falcon Camp

Despite the rain it's been a tremendous summer of flying, skills tests and happy faces all round.

Our new Archer is on the fleet and a huge hit with everyone here.

Roger and Judy have made a fantastic transition to EFG and the members have carried on their training seamlessly.

Alan, Ben and Laura all continue the Nick Davidson Scholarship and EGKB Scholarship with great pace. As Ben prepares for test we wish him luck!

As for everyone else we're smiling wishing you clear skies as always.

Stay blessed

Anoop Singh Bamrah
Falcon and EFG

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

July has been another record month for business aviation with growth of 11% year on year and jet fuel sales peaking above 1.7 million litres in a month for the first time in the airport's history. Throughout the month the weather has been perfect for flying and many have taken advantage of this with private owners being especially busy.

As many club members will be aware, by agreement with clubs and schools, we have extended the notice periods for flying schools until 31st March 2019 in order to give more time to find a suitable solution for the future of the existing flight training organisations on the aerodrome.

In terms of airfield facilities, there is little of significance to report this month other than to mention that our runway 03 GPS approach is still with the CAA awaiting determination. The former runway 29/11 has now been officially designated as a taxiway and marked up accordingly. Please see the UK AIP and associated pilot's flight guides for details.

This month, we were saddened to lose a long standing and very knowledgeable member of our team, Darryl Hickman, who died at home, unexpectedly, earlier this month. Darryl, who worked in the flight planning and operations office, was widely known for his dry sense of humour and his extensive knowledge of all matters 'flight planning'. It is very sad that, having spent so many years as part of the team that built the airport up to its current level of success, he will not be with us to see Biggin Hill reach its full potential. For those who would like to attend, the funeral service will take place at Hither Green Crematorium on Thursday 9 August at 10.45hrs. The family have requested family flowers only, with donations to Darryl's favourite charity, the RNLI. We are, of course, thinking of his friends and family at this difficult time.

We also wish Biggin based pilot Doug Field a speedy recovery following his recent accident.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we had missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 1959/60 and who has passed away, should ideally be included on there. If you know of someone whose name belongs on the Roll, please email me with their names, and details at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

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.

Thanks to those who have contributed to our costs this year - your help is much appreciated.

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.....

Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky-maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist-camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A retired sailor puts on his old uniform and heads for the docks once more, for old times sake.

He engages a prostitute and takes her up to a room.

He's soon going at it as well as he can for a guy his age, but needing some reassurance, he asks, 'How am I doing?'

The prostitute replies, 'Well, old sailor, you're doing about three knots'

'Three knots?' he asks. 'What's that supposed to mean??'

She says, 'You're knot hard, you're knot in, and you're knot getting your money back.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man walks into a bar and sees a very attractive woman sitting by herself and asks, "May I buy you a cocktail?"

"No thank you," she replies, "alcohol is bad for my legs."

"Sorry to hear that. Do they swell?"

"No, they spread."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Grandma is eighty-eight years old and still drives her own car. She writes a letter to her granddaughter:

Dear Victoria,

The other day I went up to our local Christian book store and saw a 'Honk if you love Jesus' bumper sticker."

I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting. So, I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper. Boy, am I glad I did; what an uplifting experience that followed.

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is, and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed. I found that lots of people love Jesus!

While I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, 'For the love of God!' 'Go! Go! Go! Jesus Christ GO!' What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus!

Everyone started honking!

I just leaned out my window and started waving and smiling at all those loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a sunny beach.

I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air.

I asked my teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant. He said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something.

Well, I have never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign right back. My grandson burst out laughing. Why even he was enjoying this religious experience!!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed.

So, grinning, I waved at all my brothers and sisters, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed that I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared. So, I slowed the car down, leaned out the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!! Will write again soon,

Love, Grandma
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on vacation.

They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their 'tourist' garb. They were sitting on beach chairs enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a 'drop dead gorgeous' blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them.

They couldn't help but stare.

As the blonde passed them she smiled and said 'Good Morning, Father ~ Good Morning, Father,' nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she passed on by.

They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests?

So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them! Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.

After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different coloured topless bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them, said 'Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father' and started to walk away.

One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, 'Just a minute, young lady.'

'Yes, Father?'

'We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?'

She replied, 'Father, it's me, Sister Kathleen !!!'
.....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"...))