

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Users Database. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

You are reminded that, even if you ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and also all the original Biggin Hill "Bugles" written by our own John Bryan (JB), by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

JULY WEATHER

What a great month July has been – with absolutely record temperatures and brilliant flying weather for much of the month.

Obviously it was not all good, but in the main, apart from a few non-flyable days, it has been one of the best months ever for private flying.. Long may it continue

JOHN FREEMAN

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of friend of Biggin Hill and one of the family of owners of Headcorn Aerodrome, John Freeman.

As well as the owner of Headcorn, John was a frequent visitor to Pilots Pals bar in the years up to its closure in 2007 with wife, Jo, and was a friend to many at Biggin.

In more recent times, John was often to be seen on the Control office at Headcorn in the chair in the corner. His funeral was on 24th July and attended by many friends and colleagues.

A true gentleman, he will be missed by many in aviation as a whole, not just at Biggin and Headcorn. Our condolences to Jo and all the family – R.I.P. John

ROY (THE PIPE) TAYLOR

As reported in a special Newsletter in early July, former airport manager at Biggin Hill, Roy (the Pipe) Taylor, sadly passed away.

The original Biggin Hill Airport manager working with Sqd Ldr J R "Jock" Maitland, Roy was well known to all who flew and operated at Biggin Hill from the outset in 1959, when everyone moved to the airport from Croydon.

An engineer by profession and a former Royal Navy man, Roy was one of the architects and designers of the original International Air Travel Fairs, which preceded the Air Fair's put on by Jock until relatively recently, and became the largest and most well known privately run air shows in the UK and Europe.

After leaving Biggin Hill, Roy moved to Field Aircraft as an engineer and remained until his retirement. After retirement, Roy subsequently lived close to Lee on Solent.

Roy's funeral, held on the 24th July, was attended by Jim Maitland, Phil Johnson, and Jean Moore, all of whom worked with him in the Biggin Hill days and had remained in contact with him.

A good man who will be missed by his many friends – R.I.P. Roy .

COLIN CADLE

For those who were around in the 60's and in Surrey & Kent Flying Club in the days of Peter Chinn, "Tiny" Marshall, and Harry Croft, some will remember my very close friend, Colin Cadle, who did his PPL there and subsequently attended RAF Cranwell, where he graduated as a pilot.

Colin sadly passed away on Saturday 13th July after a short battle with the return of a serious condition for which he had previously been successfully treated around three years ago.

For me personally, a big shock as Colin and I have been very close friends for over 60 years, having attended secondary school together, and shared a bachelor house in the 70's, and even been in business together. A very entrepreneurial character, he successfully ran several restaurants, a video production company, and a photographic business during his life after the Royal Air Force.

In recent years Colin, who was Godfather to my daughter, Joanna, had been living in the "English Riviera" in Torquay with his wife Janet of some 20 years.

Colin's funeral is being held on 2nd August in Brixham

God bless you my oldest friend – R.I.P.

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

In case anyone has forgotten – 17th and 18th August are the dates for the 2019 Biggin Hill Festival of Flight.

If you haven't yet bought your show entry tickets, don't delay as I understand tickets are not available on the day

Just a reminder, this year we have not got our own Marquee for the first time in several years, and I believe the publicly available hospitality enclosures are apparently sold out.

I hope to be around on Sunday and can be seen on the Alouette Flying Club stand in the main showground – pop in and say hello

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

Still working hard through this summer we have decided to give our members a little surprise.

We now have a complete new fleet of aircraft with two Cessna 172's and a PA28 Archer just becoming available! All are significantly smarter and much better equipped with very tidy interiors.

Our members are now able to enjoy more ease of booking a flight and able to go further before the next pilot wants the aircraft.

We also allow overnight and longer flights so our members can tour the UK or abroad.

Our Bar remains popular with like-minded people for a chat and drink.

"Come and have a look" night - Wednesday 7th August from 7:30pm for 8pm. All are welcome to have a look at us and talk through any questions you may have.

See you there.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Firstly, my apologies for the absence of 'news for the CEO' last month, the shock and disappointment from my regular readers was palpable!

The past 2 months have seen a steady decline in Business traffic across the UK, with Biggin Hill holding its own in what is a highly competitive market. The closure of RAF Northolt has not generated the traffic increase the Airport was expecting and this might also be a result of the continuing concerns over Brexit. That said, the Airport continues to invest in our infrastructure and welcome new operators.

The Airport remains keen to clarify the future strategy for light/general aviation and I hope to hold the first meeting of the Light/General aviation steering group in late August. We will need to address several key areas including flying training, hangers, location and operating procedures. Whilst a few individuals have approached me expressing interest in being involved in the group, I would still welcome approaches for anyone else keen to engage.

Turning to development news, you will all have seen that the work on Charlie taxiway was completed earlier this month and you will also have seen that the resurfacing works on Hotel taxiway are well underway. I would like to thank all our partners for their cooperation and patience whilst we improve our Airport infrastructure. Work continues to deliver the GPS approach for Rwy 03 and now that the NATS hazard analysis is complete, we will be able to submit our safety case to the CAA within the next fortnight.

As many of you might be aware, the Aerospace Technology college received its planning approval last week and we look forward to working with the College to progress this development as soon as practicable. This great news will allow the Airport to progress the Hotel development in parallel with the College subject to any final planning approvals.

As always, I remain committed to meeting as many of our tenants, partners and users as possible; however, if our paths have not crossed yet then please get in touch.

Cheers
David Winstanley

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.

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.....
Daddy's fat

Mummy, what were you doing bouncing on Daddy's stomach last night?

I have to do that, or Daddy's belly gets very fat. Bouncing keeps him skinny

That's not going to work

Why not?

Because the babysitter keeps blowing him back up again
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The mother-in-law arrives home from shopping to find her son-in-law, Paddy, in a steaming rage and hurriedly packing his suitcase.

"What happened Paddy?" she asks anxiously.

"What happened? I'll tell you what happened! I sent an email to my wife telling her I was coming home today from my fishing trip. I get home ... and guess what I found? Your daughter, my wife, Jean, naked with Joe Murphy in our marital bed! This is unforgivable! The end of our marriage. I'm done. I'm leaving forever!"

"Ah now, calm down, calm down Paddy!" says his mother-in-law.

"There is something very odd going on here. Jean would never do such a thing! There must be a simple explanation. I'll go speak to her immediately and find out what happened."

Moments later, the mother-in-law comes back with a big smile.

"Paddy, there, I told you it must be a simple explanation. She never got your email!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Yesterday my daughter e-mailed me asking why I didn't do something useful with my time, like sitting around the pool, drinking wine isn't a good thing.

Talking about my "doing-something-useful" seems to be her favourite topic of conversation.

She is "only thinking of me," she said, and suggested I go down to the Senior Centre and hang out with the fellas.

So, I did and when I got home, decided to play a prank on her.?? I sent her an e-mail saying that I had joined the Senior Parachute Club.??

She replied, "Are you nuts??? You're 73 years-old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?"

I told her that I even had a Membership Card and e-mailed a copy to her .

Immediately, she telephoned me and yelled, "Good grief, Dad, where are your glasses??? This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club.

"Oh man, am I in trouble," I said, "I signed up for five jumps a week!"??

The line went dead.

Life as a Senior Citizen isn't getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A fighter airfield somewhere in England in WW2 (could have been Biggin)!

It had been 'Harry Clampers' for days. Low cloud, pouring with rain, mud everywhere and no flying; even the birds were walking. The chaps were getting really brassed-off. Morale was at an all-time low. The CO (Commanding Officer) realised that something had to be done to cheer the lads up so he approached Flying Officer Kite from admin and asked him to gather the chaps together in 'A' Hangar and give them a lively cheerful lecture.

'But sir, I'm not a flying type so what subject should I choose'?

'Anything you like Kite as long as it cheers them up, they're really down in the dumps'

So he thought about it for a minute and decided to give them a lecture on sex. It went down extremely well and he was given a standing ovation afterwards.

When he arrived back at the married quarters his wife asked him what he did today. He said, 'I gave all the chaps a lecture to cheer them up and it went down very well'.

'What was the lecture about?' she asked.

'He said 'Oh err um flying'... he stumbled.

'But you don't know anything about flying, you're an admin type'.

'Well you know how it is, one picks up bits and pieces from chats in the officer's mess and I just enlarged on it a bit and turned it into a lecture... Anyway the lads seem to like it'.

Next morning turned out bright and sunny and everywhere was a hive of activity with aircraft engines being run-up ready for take off before roaring off into the wild blue yonder.

Spirits were high again.

Whilst Mrs Kite was cycling round the peritrack on her way to the coffee morning meeting with the other officers wives she came across the CO cycling from the opposite direction. They stopped and had a short chat.

'Morning Mrs Kite – wonderful lecture your husband gave yesterday. The lads really enjoyed it'.

'Yes' she said 'I don't understand it. He's only been up twice – first time he was sick and second time he fell out!'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital.

She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood test just came back normal and her Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. The staff tell me F*** ALL".

.....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"...)