

Hi everyone

Welcome to the December Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter... The December edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

Please remember to send JB any stories of interest, and photos, for inclusion in future issues. It's your newsletter so please help JB to keep it coming... (his direct email address is [johnbryan@jbplstdemon.co.uk](mailto:johnbryan@jbplstdemon.co.uk), or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

#### EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Keep passing those new and amended email addresses to me. Welcome to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

#### BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

Thanks to those of you who responded last month regarding JB and I seeking comments from the existing membership about continuing "the club" for a further year. Of those that did respond, the result was very positive, but probably not sufficient support to justify keeping it going and issuing new cards etc....

Unless the degree of support is significantly greater, then I think we will probably not continue after the end of 2009. So, if you want to keep it running and haven't yet responded, now is the time... just drop me an email ( [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

For the time being, we will keep the existing website running at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> as well as the <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> site for the database itself, but the club site may cease in the future...

Those that do wish to renew (on the assumption we continue with it, of course), please send your renewal fee (£10 for single, £15 for a couple, and £20 for a family) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd" to the postal address on the website, please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope (SAE) for return of the card(s). If it is decided not to proceed with the club, your cheque will not be banked, and will be returned in the SAE.

#### THE AIRPORT

##### Hospicecare Charity Event

Andrew Walters, the Chairman of Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, has volunteered to help raise money for Harris HospisCare in Bromley by being 'arrested' at the Airport on 10 December and taken into custody by local Police. To get him out of jail, he needs to raise at least £1,000 and would really like the help of all Biggin Hill users and supporters.

Any sum is greatly appreciated and, if you feel you would like to contribute to Andrew's 'bail', please complete the sponsorship form at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/arrest.pdf> and return it to Andrew's PA, Sally Powell, at Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3BN, along with your cheque made payable to 'HarrisHospisCare'.

##### New Airport Bylaws

Biggin Hill Airport's new Bylaws come into force on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009. All airport users, not just owners, should familiarise themselves with these. They can be seen by visiting: <http://www.bigginhillairport.com/byelaws.pdf>

In general, these are not onerous, but simply reflect the changing nature of the way that airports are required to operate in these difficult times. Clearly, whilst many Bylaws seem on the face of

it to be written for much larger, scheduled service style, airports, the concept still applies to airports like ours, and must be taken seriously.

Really, the specific points that some may need to heed (as resistance has been seen to some of these rules by some people!) are:

3.11 Wearing of appropriate Health and Safety gear – make sure you have, and wear, your Hi Vis jackets at all times “airside”.

3.17 and 5.1C refer to drunkenness – including whilst driving on airport roads that some believe are outside the “public roads area” but where normal rules will still apply

4.14 refers to the wearing of appropriate ID passes “airside” – if you don’t have yours already, contact the airport.

4.1 refers to vehicles in hangars, and 5.8 the use of unroadworthy vehicles anywhere on the airport.

## CONTACT WITH OLD BIGGIN HILL’ITES

As a result of running the bigginhillreunited website, I often receive emails from people who either were once Airport users, or their parents, or friends, were, and have found the reunion website via one of the search engines....

This month I received a request asking if I knew the deceased father of the contact, who had an involvement at the airport back in the late 60’s. Ironically, this old Biggin Hill’ite was one of the first pilots I ever employed, when I started my first Air Taxi company, at Southern Air Charter.. We exchanged a number of interesting emails.

This exchange prompted me to search the internet for a particular issue of “Flight International” in which I had advertised for freelance pilots for the new business. (The ad came out just a week or so before British Eagle International Airways went bust on 6th November 1968, and most of the several hundred responses were from the recently redundant crews from there).

The issue also allowed me to view a number of aircraft for sale ads, and it was quite stunning to see, for example, brand new Cessna 150’s being advertised at under £6,000.... Some of the articles were also quite amazing – including, references to the soon to fly Concorde, and the new Boeing 747 that had still not flown at that point. There was also an article about the new Cessna Fanjet 500, proposed new jet to be built by them to fly in a future year – this eventually did fly, and was renamed as the Cessna Citation, probably one of the most successful GA ranges of aircraft of all time, plus a report on the AOPA show in Las Vegas..

If you are interested in seeing this issue for yourself, I have uploaded it to the reunion site at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/flight.pdf>

The file is a large PDF, needing Adobe Acrobat, to view it, but most of you should have this available on your computers – enjoy.....

## BIGGIN HILL REUNITED ON FACEBOOK

If you would like to view the bigginhillreunited Facebook page (you will need to sign up for Facebook to do this, but you can do that from the page, I believe) just go to

[www.facebook.com/bigginhillreunited](http://www.facebook.com/bigginhillreunited)

I am hoping that Facebook may make changes eventually so that you can easily view only “aviation” friends, without seeing personal or non-aviation ones. At the moment though, all are viewable - sorry.

That’s about it for this month... Except to wish you all a very special Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year from both JB and I....

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database