

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 keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk, or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses, and suggested new members, and of course, welcome also 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..

Last month I published a list of quite a few Database members whose email addresses bounce and have obviously changed. Only a couple of you sent in corrections. Please review the list below and, if you have contact with any of these, please drop me a note with their up to date email address, so they can start to get their newsletters again. (Please don't assume someone else will let me know – they often won't! – I would prefer to have several emails for one person's change of address, rather than none..)

The following is a list of failed emails:-

Alan Cornwell, Allan Smallman, Andrew McGill, Audrey Suter, Bernard Cheong, Bill Lowry, Brian & Pauline Cox, Carole & Del Whitehead, Charles Read, Chris Fletcher, Chris Little, Clare Moore, Craig Sargeant, Damian Cross, Daniel Francis, Darren Tilley, David Cole, Don Daines, Duncan Staines, Francis Turner, Frank Garland, Gareth Leese, Gary Strong, Graham Waddington, Ian Cranfield, Ian Sheeley, Jackie Gardiner, Jean-Pierre Landuyt, Jennifer Powell, John Chester, Kathy Nuttall, Keith Mouque, Keith Sissons, Lindsay Ford, Marcus Bass, Martyn West, Michael Slater, Mick Dryden, Mike Pearce, Paul Bunker, Paul Hammond, Paul Stacey, Peter Mahoney, Ron Phillips, Simon Howell, Stephen McNulty, Steve Foulsham, Steve Lamb, Steven Porteus, Tim Martin, Tony King, William Milne.

Thanks for your help.

SYNERGY EVENTS

Still awaiting news of confirmation of a new UK air show from the newly formed Synergy Events that started up following the forced closure of Air Displays International this year. Expect announcement soon. For future details and updates see <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com>

In the meantime, today (30th November) saw the keys of the old "Steel House" (ideal club building) handed back – should we take bets on how long before the airport demolishes it?

MICHAEL WENNINK

We were all very shocked to hear of the death of Michael Wennink on Saturday 13th November 2010, as announced earlier by special Newsletter.

His funeral was held on Wednesday 24th November at St Swithun's Church in East Grinstead. It was attended by an estimated 200 or so people from all walks of life including, of course, aviation. A very sad and moving occasion.

After the funeral his many friends and family gathered at the Alexander House Hotel in Turners Hill. Unfortunately, as is often the case in such situations, this was almost a reunion, as many attending went back for some 40 or so years to Mike's earliest days at Biggin Hill

Rest in Peace Michael. (See the Obituary in this month's Biggin Hill Bugle)

THE 2010 AVIATOR'S BALL

Congratulations to Jon Windover for this year's Aviators Ball – by all accounts it was a fantastic evening and raised some £80,000 for charity – full report in a future Bugle – well done Jon..

Put the date for next year's event in your diaries – it has apparently been set as Saturday 26th November 2011 – obviously a date not to be missed..

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

I had hoped that it would be unnecessary for us to consider renewing membership for the club at the end of the year. It seemed likely that one of the businesses at the airport would have a club up and running to which we could all switch our support and alliance. These negotiations have apparently come to nothing unfortunately, as the airport (or at least one of the airport's management team) seem determined to ensure that no social focus point be permitted at the airport. Maybe this will change at some point, but it seems unlikely in the short term at least until this person ceases to be an influence. (wishful thinking??).

So, it seems that we will continue, for the time being to be destined to run the club with no premises. Members are therefore invited to renew their membership by sending in the appropriate fee (same as last year, and published on the club site) to the club's address. If there should ever be a change of heart at the airport and a social club is permitted, we would work with that club to do our best to enable a transfer of membership on advantageous terms if this is deemed possible. In the meantime, all we really offer is the discounts if the businesses concerned decide to continue to offer them.

New members are welcome to apply for membership – forms and details on the club site – open to anyone who has a current or past link with the airport, whether an existing or past employee of an airport business, present or past club member, present or past private owner, etc.

THE AIRPORT

Announced this month was the award to Biggin Hill Airport as "Best Aviation Airport of the year" at a Gala Dinner following the annual conference of the Airport Operators Association (AOA) at the Hilton Metropole in London recently, which was attended by 200 delegates from across the UK industry.

For the Business Aviation Airport award, judging was carried out independently by the British Business & General Aviation Association (BBGA) whose members are regular users and customers of airports such as Biggin Hill.

Full details can be seen at

<http://www.abtn.co.uk/press-releases/1514937-biggin-hill-voted-best-aviation-airport-year>

Congratulations to all concerned in winning this prestigious award.

AIR PROX AT BIGGIN

This month saw the publication by the UK Airprox Board of the report on the near miss at Biggin Hill in January between a departing Citation and a joining Cessna 172. The incident was reported in the local press (http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/8682173.BIGGIN_HILL_Aircraft_near_miss_leaves_pilot_shaken/) and was accompanied by the usual stupid comment from Bromley Friends of the Earth! Fortunately, as you will see in the Press Article (just after the end of the piece), it was also accompanied by an excellent response by a Bromley resident that put him firmly in his place!

For those that are more interested in the facts, the actual report can be seen in full on our site at:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/bigginairprox.pdf>

AIRPORT THEFTS

There have been several serious thefts from aircraft on the South and Eastern side of the airport. This includes loss of fuel, some avionics equipment, and in one case theft of the entire IFR avionics package from one aircraft!

Everyone is advised to be very vigilant and report anything suspicious.

The Airport's answer to this is to man the security gate at the "Old Armoury" 24 hours a day, but they seem to think the cost should be directly recouped by charging owners and tenants – this would amount to something like an additional £460 per annum for each owner – as if the airport doesn't charge enough already. Biggin Hill Airport Ltd choose to set themselves up as airport operators, surely the provision of suitably secure parking/hangarage for the aircraft that pay their fees is a fundamental part of providing such a service, otherwise I feel sure it could be deemed they are charging for something that could be described as unfit for purpose. I am not a lawyer, but I would have thought that the airport authority should at least demonstrate a duty of care to it's tenants, and to my untrained mind that must surely be keeping the area for which they are responsible secure?

If you have any strong views on the subject, make sure you make them known to Maurice Greenaway (The Private Owners secretary) on email mauricegreenaway@btinternet.com in order that he may represent your views at the next Tenants and Users Meeting to be held on the 9th December 2010. (Maurice has already indicated that his personal view is that such an airport plan to charge extra for this proper security should be strongly opposed!)

DATABASE MEMBER SEEKS INFORMATION

One of our members, Anna Greenfield, who used to work in the Terminal Building at Biggin, is seeking information about her father's activities at Biggin Hill during the Battle of Britain whilst in the army. I have not found anything about this, but if anyone does know anything, Anna would love to hear from you. She has produced an open note about her father, which can be viewed at: <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/annagreenfield.pdf>

That's about it for this month... Except of course to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year..

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

Thanks this month to Neil Jensen for this amusing but so true take on life in 2010....

QUOTE.....

A farmer named Sid is overseeing his stock in a remote moorland pasture in North Yorkshire when suddenly a brand-new BMW advances towards him out of a cloud of dust.

The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the farmer, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?"

Sid looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looked at his peacefully grazing stock and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?"

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location, which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-

resolution photo.

The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg , Germany .

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response.

Finally, he prints out a full-colour, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the farmer and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves."

"That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Sid.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the back of his car.

Then Sid says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?"

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?"

"You're a Member of Parliament for our Government", says Sid.

"Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answers Sid. "You show up here even though nobody's called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already know, to a question I haven't asked. You use millions of pounds worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter. This is a flock of sheep....!"

"Now give me back my dog."

.....UNQUOTE

Also, I really couldn't resist passing on this apparently genuine German TV advert extolling the virtues of the V.W. Polo – thanks to Tony Machin for this.....

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/muslimvw.wmv>

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"...))