

Hi everyone

Merry Christmas and all that and Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database December Newsletter....

JB's December edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ***As always it is NOT included here - to view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.*** As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan13@sky.com, or you can send items directly to me to pass on: john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. A full and current list of member names can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to tell us if you change your email address. If you know others who are not members but are eligible to join (ie. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – it is, of course, free.

POTENTIALLY MAJOR ACCIDENT WELL HANDLED BY THE AIRPORT

At around 20:30 on Monday 24th November a Gulfstream III, en-route to Canada, was involved in an accident during an aborted take-off from runway 03. The aircraft came to rest (half on the grass to the right of the runway) on its nose a short distance from the displaced threshold of 03. Fortunately there were no injuries. A full emergency was declared and both the airport fire service and several Fire Brigade appliances and ambulances attended the scene.

The airport remained closed until late afternoon the following day when it became possible to remove the aircraft from its resulting location on the runway following release by the AAIB. Clearly there is the inevitable speculation as to the reason for the incident. It is best we all leave that to the experts and don't join in the speculation...

Our congratulations to all staff involved – Biggin Hill's emergency plan worked exceptionally efficiently, and everyone concerned should be very pleased with way all procedures operated. As pilots, we could all find ourselves dependent upon these personnel and their procedures to protect us if we have a problem at some point, and it is good to see that everything works so well....

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY FLYPAST

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November, saw the magnificent sight of six Supermarine Spitfires and a single Hawker Hurricane start up outside the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, and taxi out for a stream take off on Runway 29 at Biggin. After a short time, during which the aircraft got into position, the formation returned just after 11:02am for a mass flypast over the RAF St George's Chapel, where a Remembrance Service had just held their 2 minute silence.

What an amazing sight and magnificent sound of all those Merlin engines together again over the main Battle of Britain airfield for the defence of London and the Home Counties (Biggin Hill – Motto "The Strongest Link") – thanks to everyone at the Heritage Hangar who made this possible.

Following that service, there was the customary Remembrance Service held at the War Memorial in Biggin Hill Town at midday. (Unlike the normal 11am services everywhere else, Biggin Hill Town has always held its own service exactly one hour later. This was historically designed to allow Officers and Aircrew from the airfield to attend after their own formal service at the RAF Chapel first joining the residents at their service). This service is massively well attended and gets bigger

each year. It is good to see so many young people from the town showing their respects to those who gave so much for our freedom.

TENANTS MARQUEE IN JUNE 2015

Following the great success of our Tenants and Users Marquee at the 2014 Festival of Flight show, and the many requests for a similar facility for the 2015 show, I am now in initial discussions with Colin to see what we can arrange again for us all.

If we are able to offer a similar facility, please let me know if you would intend to make use of it, and roughly how many places you would require. It is likely that the price would work out at around the same as last year. Please also let me know what you thought of the marquee last year. Do you have any suggestions to improve what we had (bearing in mind that any increased costs must be recovered via the marquee entry price). Please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

The show date will be 13th June 2015, so do put that in your diaries. I would hope to be able to announce something firm for a facility in the end of year (next) Newsletter, and that tickets will be bookable (and payable) from the beginning of February (to be confirmed in the February Newsletter).

REX NICHOLLS FUNERAL

Friday 14th November saw around 120 Biggin Hill'ites joining Rex's family at a funeral service in Beckenham to show their respects for a very special person who sadly passed away after a lengthy illness.

Unfortunately the weather was not good enough for the planned fly-by of the Crematorium by an Auster, which represented an aircraft type in which so many of us learnt to fly with Rex in the 1960's. After the service most of the mourners retired to the Kelsey Park Club where much reminiscing and sharing of photographs from the early days at Biggin Hill took place over a beer (or two). All in all, and excellent Biggin Hill style send off.

His widow, Janet, and children, Ivor, Clive, Laura, and Gemma, asked me to pass on their grateful thanks to everyone for their support at this difficult time.

THE 2003 BUMP REUNION – BIG SCREEN PHOTO ALBUM

Judging by the number of views and comments, the recent publication of the 1998 and the 2003 Bump Reunion videos, I have been asked if I can include any more of the footage displayed on the big screens during the latter.

Rather than simply uploading everything in one go, I have decided to slowly release the various videos, one each month. (This will at least give me something each month to write about!)

So, for this month, another much requested video. The "Big Wall" Photo Album that features many old Biggin Hill'ites. If you have 54 minutes available, sit back with a beer or glass of wine, and go back in time... (in some countries the video may be blocked or the sound muted for possible music copyright reasons. The video's are produced for private consumption, so popular sound tracks have been incorporated by the video producers to enhance the visuals.)

Click on the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser) to view:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRA2BR4mrHI>

Enjoy.....

COMPUTERISED FLYING LOGBOOKS

As everyone who knows me is aware, I am a bit of a gadget person, and I have, for about 2 years, been keeping my flying logbook in electronic format. It worked so well that I took several months entering all back entries so that I now have all my flying from day one stored in the electronic format. I must say, for the first time ever since pretty much when I started flying in the early 60's, I can actually analyse everything across types, categories, and types of flights, etc., at the touch of a button.

Before doing this, I did quite a bit of research, before committing myself to a particular package. The one I chose was called Safelog, which has programmes for PC, Mac, iOS devices (iPad and iPhone), and Android devices. The programme is subscription based, and a single subscription allows the use of the single licence across all your devices, so you will always be able to enter your flights wherever you are and whichever device is to hand. Synchronising between the devices is carried out via their SafeLogWeb internet based server, which also keeps an offsite backup of your data. (if you have no device available, you can also log in via the internet to enter new flights or view your logbook from anywhere in the world. I am very impressed with the system, and their ongoing service. All programme updates (quite regular) during the validity of the licence are, of course, free.

To get the software, you can initially get a demo version (which allows a maximum of 10 flights to be entered) for free and then, once happy, you can buy a subscription to remove the restrictions on the demo version.

The reason I am including this in the newsletter is that they have just introduced a recommendation system for existing clients, and that system benefits both the person making the recommendation AND the person buying into the system for the first time. To view the offer and even make a purchase, use the link below. (If you don't buy initially, but want to come back later to do it – please make sure you do so via the link again so that you will be able to benefit from the bonus months available under the system..

To view the software, and the bonus offer, click on the following link (or copy and paste it directly into your browser):

<http://www.safelogweb.com/PilotTellAPilot/Default.aspx?it=aW52aXRlcj00OTk2MQ-1-1>

CLASSIC QUOTES THROUGH THE AGES

Over the years there have been some fantastic quotes by some people who were considered to be very influential and knowledgeable...

Rather than include them here, I have put up a web page for you to access these. Click here:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/classicquotes.html>

I particularly like the ones at positions 20 and 14, particularly bearing in mind how you are receiving and viewing this very newsletter..... Enjoy.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS & BUSINESSES

If you would like me to include your business in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and I'll be in touch directly. (John Willis - john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Well it has been a bit foggy hasn't it!

Good day to all of you from the Falcon Camp. Wet, windy, sunny, frosty seems like we've had it all. Nonetheless we have been flying high at every available opportunity.

The recent EFG Open Day was unfortunately rained off but we still had a few people come and visit us. There still seems to be some good interest in learning to fly, but perhaps an Open Day in Spring is a better idea - so watch this space!

Falcon is pleased to announce that its first Instrument Rating Course flew through with a first time pass, and currently as I write this I see a CPL student preparing for test. Funnily enough both courses were bespoke and specially tailored. If they can do it, you can do it too!

As we approach the festive season, I can't help but think how lucky we at Biggin truly are. With friends old and new, past and present we have shared many memories both on the ground and near the heavens. Let us give thanks for this and offer a thought for those less fortunate.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Till next time folks, stay blessed, keep cruising, and be happy!

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

Wow! What a busy month!

As you will all be aware the airport has been consulting with local residents over our plans to extend the airport operating hours, create 2,300 more jobs, reduce the UDP agreed noise footprint by 50% and open an aviation training college to make sure the new jobs go to local people and not to incomers. We received over 15,000 responses and I am pleased to say that 80% of respondents supported our proposals. Pleasingly the vast majority of respondents came from the wards close to the airport and under the 21 approach. Even in the most critical ward with least support there was still 60% support for our proposals. Our own survey was backed up by an independent survey conducted by Populus, a renowned and respected independent pollster whose result concurred with ours to within just 1%. That's pretty overwhelming support by any standards and should assist the Council in reaching the right decision when the time comes. Let's see. Full results, including the independent survey results, can be found on our consultation web site at www.bigginhillfuture.co.uk. Thank you all for your personal support in our campaign - especially to those who helped throughout the three week consultation period.

We have also been in the High Court this month pursuing justice over RAF Northolt and its failure to set safety standards which are comparable with civil standards as they are required to do under EU regulations. Since around 85% of aircraft using Northolt are civil registered and many are operating public transport flights, it seems incredible that the CAA believe that they can absolve themselves of all responsibility whilst RAF Northolt and the MOD market themselves as London's Premier Business Aviation Airport, all the time applying military operating standards and exemptions that no civil airport would ever get away with. The case has been heard and we await the judgement which will be handed down in due course.

I am sure all of you will have read the recent newspaper report regarding the incident on Monday involving a Gulfstream III, which left the paved surface and got itself bogged down in soft ground, successfully snapping off its noseleg. Our airport fire service dealt with the occurrence with absolute professionalism. There was no harm done, other than to the aircraft and the pride of the

pilots. Press reports were typically inaccurate (why let facts spoil a good story) and London Fire Brigade, who attend all incidents as a back-up in case needed, have evidently decided to double up as reporters and tweeted some complete rubbish, which got picked up by the newspapers. Such is life. Facts: 2 crew, 4 passengers, no injuries but one was taken to hospital as a precaution. The AAIB will determine the exact cause.

Many airport staff worked through Monday night to remove the aircraft from its resting place so that the runway could be reopened as soon as practically possible. It was a massive task which was superbly managed by BHAL Ground Ops Manager, Barry Sergeant. Well done Barry and team!

All it remains for me to do, on behalf of all the staff at Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, is to wish you all a great Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Until next time - safe flying - and thank you all again for your continued support.

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to all those who continue to support the club, it is much appreciated. Full details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site... New annual memberships from 1st January may be applied for now – go to the website for details.

I recently went to the Napoli Italian Restaurant in Westerham and enjoyed an excellent meal. On receiving the bill, I presented my Biggin Hill Airport Social Club photo membership card to claim the club discount. The owner came over and immediately deducted the agreed 15% from my table's bill (a saving in this case of about £15, which is more than the £10 cost of an individual annual membership!).

The owner was very happy with the arrangement we have with him, and suggested that we may care to publicise the discount more widely. Being a photo membership card, he believes this allows him to offer a generous discount without fear of anyone abusing the system by attempting to get discounts that they are not entitled to. So there you are – if you are a club member – and you want to enjoy an excellent Italian meal and benefit from a 15% discount, simply present your card with your payment after being presented with your bill.

Whilst on the subject of discounts for members, check out the website page for the currently agreed discounts – obtain discounts on aircraft components and aviation gifts, discounted aircraft maintenance, discounted aircraft hire and memberships, plus several restaurants offering members discounts - see:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/concessions.html>

Don't waste the chance of supporting local businesses and simultaneously benefiting from a useful discount whilst doing that...

CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2015

Existing members renewing do not need a further form, so just send the appropriate fee. (if you need to replace the existing photo, please include a new head and shoulder shot with your name on the reverse – or you can email them to me). If you are a new member, please send both the

fee, head and shoulder photo, and a completed application form. In all cases, please include a self addressed stamped envelope for the return of the membership card(s).

All that remains for me to do is to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year from John Bryan and I – and Happy Flying....!

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That's it for 2014.....

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.....

Extracts from letters written by council tenants to their local Council:

1. Its the dogs mess that I find hard to swallow.
2. I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.
3. I wish to complain that my father twisted his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.
4. Their 18 year old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.
5. I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other day that blew them off.
6. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
7. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
8. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.
9. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.
10. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are just plain filthy.
11. The next door neighbour has got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.
12. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
13. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink..
14. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces..
15. I want to complain about the farmer across the road. Every morning at 6am his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me.
16. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.
17. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.
18. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.

19. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife..
20. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.
- 21.. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC2.
22. My bush is really overgrown round the front and my back passage has fungus growing in it.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A lawyer boarded an airplane in New Orleans with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde flight attendant to take care of them for him.

She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer, and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out.

Needless to say, she was annoyed by his behaviour.

Shortly before landing in New York, she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in New Orleans please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up, so she took them home and ate them.

Two lessons here:

1. Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are.
2. Blondes aren't as dumb as most folk think.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

"Viagra" is now available in tea bags.

It doesn't enhance your sexual performance, but it does stop your biscuit going soft.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Farm Life in Australia

A little boy comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores.

"Not yet", said the little boy.

His mother tells him no breakfast until he does his chores.

Well, he's a little teed off, so he goes to feed the chickens, and he kicks a chicken. He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs, and he kicks a pig.

He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal.

"How come I don't get any eggs and bacon ? Why don't I have any milk in my cereal?", he asks.

"Well", his mother says, "I saw you kick a chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon for a week either. I saw you kick the cow so for a week you aren't getting any milk."

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the pussy cat halfway across the kitchen.

The little boy looks up at his mother with a smile, and says, "You gonna tell him or should I?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Miracle

According to the Bible, Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Palestine. A Country where people are called: Mohammed, Abdul, Mounir, Aziz , Ahmed, Farid, Omar, Youssouf, Mouloud, etc.

And he managed to find 12 friends called: John, Peter, Paul, Phillip, Mark, Thomas, Luke, Matthew, Andrew and Simon who all drank wine.

That's what I call a Miracle.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blonde heard that baths in milk would make her beautiful. She left a note for her milkman to leave 25 gallons of milk.

When the milkman read the note, he felt there must be a mistake. He thought she probably meant 2.5 gallons.

So he knocked on the door to clarify the point.

The blonde came to the door and the milkman said, "I found your note asking me to leave 25 gallons of milk. Did you mean 2.5 gallons?"

The blonde said, "No, I want 25 gallons. I'm going to fill my bathtub up with milk and take a milk bath so I can look young and beautiful again."

The milkman asked, "Do you want it pasteurized?"

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Wait for it

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The blonde said, "No, just up to my tits ... I can splash it on my eyes if I need to!".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Over five thousand years ago Moses said to the children of Israel, "Pick up your shovel, mount your asses and camels, and I will lead you to the promised land."

Nearly 50 years ago, Harold Wilson said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, and light up a Camel, this is the promised land."

Then Gordon Brown stole your shovel, taxed your asses, raised the price of camels, and mortgaged the promised land.

Now David Cameron has loaned my shovel to a third World country, raised my fuel bills, lent my money to a crowd of incompetent, greedy "merchant bankers" and increased VAT to 20%.

I got so depressed last night I called the Samaritans. They diverted my call to a call centre in Pakistan. I told them I was suicidal; they got all excited and asked if I could fly a plane

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Actually aimed at Americans by an American, but equally valid here in the UK.....

Carl Marx said: "Remove one freedom per generation and soon you will have no freedom and no one would have noticed."

There was a chemistry professor in a large college that had some exchange students in the class.

One day while the class was in the lab, the professor noticed one young man, an exchange student, who kept rubbing his back and stretching as if his back hurt. The professor asked the young man what was the matter.

The student told him he had a bullet lodged in his back. He had been shot while fighting communists in his native country who were trying to overthrow his country's government and install a new communist regime. In the midst of his story, he looked at the professor and asked a strange question.

He asked: "Do you know how to catch wild pigs?"

The professor thought it was a joke and asked for the punch line. The young man said that it was no joke. "You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to eat the free food.

"When they are used to coming every day, you put a fence down one side of the place where they are used to coming. When they get used to the fence, they begin to eat the corn again and you put up another side of the fence.

"They get used to that and start to eat again. You continue until you have all four sides of the fence up with a gate in the last side.

"The pigs, which are now used to the free corn, start to come through the gate to eat that free corn again. You then slam the gate on them and catch the whole herd.

"Suddenly the wild pigs have lost their freedom. They run around and around inside the fence, but they are caught! Soon they go back to eating the free corn. They are so used to it that they have forgotten how to forage in the woods for themselves, so they accept their captivity."

The young man then told the professor that is exactly what he sees happening in America . The government keeps pushing us toward Communism/Socialism and keeps spreading the free corn out in the form of programs such as supplemental income, tax credit for unearned income, tax exemptions, tobacco subsidies, dairy subsidies, payments not to plant crops (CRP), welfare entitlements, medicine, drugs, etc., while we continually lose our freedoms, just a little at a time.

One should always remember two truths: There is no such thing as a free lunch, and you can never hire someone to provide a service for you cheaper than you can do it yourself.

If you see that all of this wonderful government "help" is a problem confronting the future of democracy in America or elsewhere, you might want to share this with your friends. If you think the free ride is essential to your way of life, then of course you will probably not share this.

BUT, God help us all when the gate slams shut!

Relevant Quote for today:

"The problems we face today are there because the people who work for a living are now outnumbered by those who don't."

.....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"...))