

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February 2013 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

JB's February edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> It is NOT included here - to view it, go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – once in the Bugle section, click on the appropriate month's link – this will open it in a new browser window so you can read it or print it.

As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is [johnbryan13@sky.com](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. Current member names can be seen at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) using the link to the database members list. If you ever change your email address, please remember to let us know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

Whilst on this subject, thanks to everyone who responded regarding the missing and incorrect email addresses published last month. As a result of your help, I have managed to reconnect with a few names again. Please keep the corrections coming..

## **JANUARY WEATHER**

Once again January has not been that great for flying, or anything else for that matter, with major snow causing chaos everywhere for a major portion of the month. But then I guess it is January!

Congratulations to everyone at Biggin Hill Airport for their fantastic efforts to keep the airport useable, under such adverse conditions. Biggin Hill Airport must surely be gaining a reputation for being one of the first to open in the London area – no mean feat with such heavy falls of snow.. Well done everyone..

## **SPORTAIR GATHERING**

Following a brief discussion during Biggin Hill'ite, Bob Graves', funeral back in October 2012, between 4 of us, it was decided to have a dinner at the Old Jail on 8<sup>th</sup> January for the old Sportair Flying Club members. Initially it was expected that there would be just half a dozen of us. In fact, on the day, there were 15 of us who made it.. Thanks to Arthur & Val Hill, Diana Franks, Gavin Dix, Graham & Dee Wrightson, Ian Franks, John & Lesley Percy, Mike Hogan, Richard (Dick) Hasler, and Roger & Jane Goodger, who joined myself and wife Christina.

It was a great evening, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the dinner and agreed we would try to arrange another get together, perhaps in the summer somewhere, so – Sportair members, watch this space

## **ROGER (The Dog) TAYLOR**

Many of us were shocked to hear on 20<sup>th</sup> January of the passing of another Biggin Hill'ite, Roger (the Dog) Taylor. Roger had apparently been ill over Christmas and after the New Year, his condition deteriorated, developing pneumonia, and he was admitted to hospital, where he was kept in an induced coma to help control the condition. Sadly he never recovered.

Roger was a permanent fixture at Biggin Hill for many, many, years and originally learnt to fly at Surrey & Kent on Tomahawks. He was a general handyman and there are very many of us who

have used Roger's skills for household building and repair works. A lovely guy, Roger was always the first person to help out with anything.

He became a kind of resident caretaker and security at Joe's Pilots Pals bar, and could be seen virtually daily propping up the bar with his dog (Max first, and subsequently Otto) in residence in the corner.

Roger's funeral will be held on Friday 8th February at 1.00pm at Walton Lea Crematorium, Chester Road, Warrington, WA4 6TB

Followed by a Reception/wake at Appleton Thorn Village Hall, Stretton Road, Appleton Thorn, Warrington, WA4 4RT (Tel: 01925 261187)

His family request no flowers but donations are welcome for The Warrington Intensive Care Unit, or Air Ambulance Service, and can be sent to the funeral directors - marked 'Ref: Roger Taylor' at A. Maddock & Son, 73 London Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington, WA4 6SG (Tel: 01925 652819)

I am aware of quite a large group who are intending to travel up to the funeral to show their respects to this lovely guy. For those that can't make it, but who would like to celebrate Roger's life, Jenny Smith is arranging for a get together at the Crown pub in Leaves Green on 3<sup>rd</sup> March (time to be confirmed in the next Newsletter). I hope many will want to join us on that day, so please put the date in your diaries.

#### **LONDON HELICOPTER ACCIDENT**

As everyone will of course be aware, an Augusta A109E twin engine helicopter suffered a collision with a crane close to Vauxhall in Central London on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families, friends, and loved ones of the pilot and the pedestrian both of whom lost their lives in this tragic accident.

I am sure that most of you, like me, will have been alarmed by some of the press and TV reports immediately following the accident, many of which certainly appeared to be unnecessarily speculating on what happened, and seeming even reaching conclusions about what should now be done. Clearly such speculation is damaging to the aviation industry in general. (it was clear, in some cases, that so called 'experts' interviewed knew little more than the average man in the street).

For those that are interested, the AAIB have released their preliminary report describing the full facts and circumstances of the accident itself, without of course, at this early stage, making any attempt to speculate on the actual cause. The full report is available on the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch website as AAIB Bulletin S1/2013 Special, but if you have difficulty viewing it, you can find a copy here - [http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/augusta\\_report.pdf](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/augusta_report.pdf)

#### **JANUARY AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

Well, January has been a month of rather varied conditions – many of the BHA team have worked long, bleak nights and indeed days trying to stay ahead of the snowfall and thus keep the Airport open for business. Yet today it is positively spring-like, albeit with rather sporting wind conditions! I would like to thank the team for their dedication, which went way beyond the call of duty, as it often does.

We have started 2013 on a heart-warming note, glad to be part of the Nick Davidson Memorial Flying Scholarship. I didn't know Nick but I am sure many of you did during his days at Surrey and Kent, and I can only admire his courage and generosity in thinking of giving this chance to a young person he had never even met, in order to help them take the first and often least accessible step

towards a flying career. Gary Merchant has been a true friend in ensuring that Nick's wishes are followed through, and I am glad that we are able to help make this happen at Biggin Hill. All the details are on our website, and here is the link <http://www.bigginhillairport.com/2013/01/nick-davidson-memorial-funds-a-flying-scholarship-at-biggin-hill/> . There have been press releases about it and the various Clubs and youth groups around the Airport have been advised. It would be a shame if someone didn't know about it to apply, so your help in telling your family and friends is much appreciated.

You will recall that we have had some difficulties related to Airside access – something which many airports similar to ours are also facing challenges with at the moment. I offered to waive landing fees as a gesture of good will, following some unnecessary security clearance and training requests. I have just issued the process for this through Surrey & Kent, Alouette, and Maurice Greenaway, who will be passing it on to those concerned. Any further enquiries can be made to our Accounts department during office hours, via the main switchboard on 01959 578500.

Exact requirements for Airside access are still being discussed with the Department for Transport, and this will be advised as soon as it is finalised. John Dugdale, our Safety and Security Manager, retired on 31<sup>st</sup> December so we currently have the very welcome services of a security consultant, supporting the Security team. We all wish John a long and relaxing retirement.

Another significant change at the beginning of 2013, is that Jet Aviation's business has been taken over by Jets (Biggin Hill) Ltd. This company is owned by Quest, who also own Jets at Bournemouth and 328 Support Services in Germany. Jets is a relatively small, energetic organisation, which specialises in engineering and has some exciting plans for growing the business here at Biggin. They are still in set-up mode, but I am sure will very quickly become a valuable asset for the Airport.

As ever, thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you all via your Newsletter.

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

*(if anyone has any difficulty obtaining the information on the Nick Davidson Flying Scholarship, on the above link, details can also be found here: <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/davidson.pdf> – Ed.)*

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Thanks so much for those who have sent in their renewal fees for 2013 for the club, your continued financial support is very much appreciated. It helps to pay for the running costs of the server space etc for the two websites at BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub..

If you have yet to renew, please send your renewal fees (£10 for single, £15 for a couple, and £20 for a family) together with a Stamped Self Addressed envelope for the return of the membership card(s) – Please also send a new photograph if you wish to have this changed on your new card (with your name on the reverse) otherwise I will continue to use the one I hold on file for you. Renewal fees should be sent to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (to whom the cheques should also be payable), at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS.

That's it for this month

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: a few funnies to finish with – thanks to those who contributed them.....

The first one is for our current batch of Politicians - (ALL Parties!)

QUOTE.....

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero , 55 BC

So, evidently we've learned nothing in the past 2,067 years.

.....UNQUOTE

This amused me....

QUOTE.....

English Stiff Upper Lip

On a train from London to Manchester, a New Zealander was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

"You English are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us. Look at me... I'm ME! I have Italian blood, Greek blood, a little Irish blood, and some Maori blood. What do you say to that ?"

The Englishman replied, "Awfully sporting of your mother, old chap!"

.....UNQUOTE

These were supposedly posted on an Australian Tourism Website and the answers are reputed to be the actual responses by the website officials, who obviously must have a great sense of humour (not to mention a low tolerance threshold for cretins!) - whether it is true or not, it amused me.....

QUOTE.....

Q: Does it ever get windy in Australia ? I have never seen it rain on TV, how do the plants grow? ( UK ).

A: We import all plants fully grown and then just sit around watching them die.

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Q: Will I be able to see kangaroos in the street?  
( USA )

A: Depends how much you've been drinking.

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Q:I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks?  
(Sweden)

A: Sure, it's only three thousand miles, take lots of water.

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Q: Are there any ATMs (cash machines) in Australia ? Can you send me a list of them in Brisbane, Cairns , Townsville and Hervey Bay ?  
(UK)

A: What did your last slave die of?

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Q: Can you give me some information about hippo racing in Australia ?  
( USA)

A: A-Fri-ca is the big triangle shaped continent south of Europe .  
Aus-tra-lia is that big island in the middle of the Pacific which does not ... Oh forget it.  
Sure, the hippo racing is every Tuesday night in Kings Cross. Come naked.

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Q: Which direction is North in Australia ?  
( USA )

A: Face south and then turn 180 degrees. Contact us when you get here and we'll send the rest of the directions.

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Q: Can I bring cutlery into Australia ?  
( UK )

A: Why? Just use your fingers like we do...

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Q: Can you send me the Vienna Boys' Choir schedule?  
( USA )

A: Aus-tri-a is that quaint little country bordering Ger-man-y, which is Oh forget it...  
Sure, the Vienna Boys Choir plays every Tuesday night in Kings Cross, straight after the hippo races. Come naked.

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Q: Can I wear high heels in Australia ?  
( UK)

A: You are a British politician, right?

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Q: Are there supermarkets in Sydney and is milk available all year round?  
(Germany)

A: No, we are a peaceful civilization of vegan hunter/gatherers. Milk is illegal.

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Q: Please send a list of all doctors in Australia who can dispense rattlesnake serum.  
( USA)

A: Rattlesnakes live in A-meri-ca which is where YOU come from. All Australian snakes are perfectly harmless, can be safely handled and make good pets.

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Q:I have a question about a famous animal in Australia , but I forget its name. It's a kind of bear and lives in trees.

( USA)

A: It's called a Drop Bear. They are so called because they drop out of Gum trees and eat the brains of anyone walking underneath them. You can scare them off by spraying yourself with human urine before you go out walking.

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Q: I have developed a new product that is the fountain of youth. Can you tell me where I can sell it in Australia ?

( USA )

A: Anywhere significant numbers of Americans gather.

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Q: Do you celebrate Christmas in Australia ?

( France)

A: Only at Christmas.

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Q: Will I be able to speak English most places I go?

( USA)

A: Yes, but you'll have to learn it first.

.....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 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"...)