

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database February Newsletter....

JB's February 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 – 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 on [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) to pass on).

## **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 [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

Please remember to let me know if you ever change your email address. (Please also feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database – if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so, they are eligible to join – and it is, of course, free).

## **WEATHER AGAIN**

Immediately prior to writing this, the authorities told us all that January 2014 has been the wettest January on record – as if we hadn't noticed!

For most clubs, and private owners, 2014 certainly has not been a great flying year so far! Let's hope that we can look forward to a better February and can get considerably more flying in. At least, unlike some of the GA airports in the immediate local area, who have all suffered from significant waterlogging preventing many from even leaving the ground on the odd one or two nice days, we at Biggin Hill are at least able to fly occasionally.

## **ED FRANKLIN**

Old Biggin Hill'ite Derek White has passed us the sad news that another old friend, Ed Franklin, passed away just before Christmas. Ed and Derek were lifelong friends, having first met whilst doing their National Service in the RAF at Manby.

Ed, who would have been 81 in February, learned to fly with Alouette in the early 1960`s, and was a weekend fixture thereafter, right through to at least the end of the 1970`s. At the end of the `60s Ed started instructing with the South London Aero Club at Biggin Hill.

Ed apparently attended the Biggin Hill Reunited reunion party held in the Interflight hangar in September 2003, which was the last time that many of his airport friends saw him.

## **BRIAN AUSTIN**

I have to also report the passing of Brian Austin, the former manager of Cabair at Biggin Hill for many years. Brian died on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January and his funeral, which was attended by some of his Biggin Hill friends and colleagues, was held at Beckenham Crematorium on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

He will be fondly remembered by many that he helped during his time at Cabair.

## **HI-VISIBILITY VESTS**

Everyone is now aware of the need to wear Hi-Visibility vests within the airport 'airside' boundary, or to be escorted by someone who is wearing one.

In order to help, the airport has now purchased a supply of these and will issue one free to any aircraft owner or crew member/students on request. Just go to the Biggin Hill Airport Security Office by the main gate at the terminal, or ask any security officer you see when out and about on the airport. They are also available from Reception, Handling, or Flight Operations in the terminal.

If you need one, please just ask...

## **AIR SHOW IN 2014?**

Rumours abound about the return of air shows and Air Fair's currently. The airport has been investigating the possibility of arranging some form of "event" in 2014, but currently there are a number of issues and problems that need to be overcome before that could actually happen.

It is anticipated that these issues will be sorted out, and the airport hopes to be in a position to make a formal announcement in mid to late February. (Just don't expect it to be a reinstatement of the original Air Fair, but there is a genuine desire to have some form of event that the airport and the community would be proud of)

Watch this space!

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT MAJOR INCIDENT PRACTICE**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January saw Biggin Hill Airport's Rescue & Firefighting Service joining with other local firefighting units, police, ambulance, and Red Cross personnel in a realistic simulation of a major aviation incident involving an aircraft with 35 passengers on board.

The night-time exercise was designed to test the effectiveness of the airport's Emergency Orders and the performance of all Emergency crews involved. Also under scrutiny was the overall incident coordination between the various agencies handling their respective tasks.

The simulation, staged in real time, began at 5pm when Air Traffic Control (ATC) initiated a Full Emergency for an inbound aircraft with 35 passengers on board. The pilot had advised difficulty in deploying the main landing gear. The ATC action instantly mobilised the airport Rescue & Firefighting team and all local emergency services. The landing incident took place at 5.17 close to runway 21, by which time all external services were on the airport and ready for action.

A group of 35 volunteers from within the London Borough of Bromley, many of who were students from Bromley College, provided the simulated passenger complement. They were seated in the cabin simulator to await rescue by the emergency teams.

Under the stark lighting of the five fire tenders on site, the firefighting team quickly quenched the flames using two foam tenders, following which rescue teams with breathing apparatus entered the cabin to assist and escort the passengers to a safe area before transferring them to the airport Terminal. Injured passengers would be taken direct to hospital.

A Survivor Reception Centre had been established at the Terminal by the Red Cross. Each survivor was interviewed as if for real to establish personal details, home contacts, onward journey and medical care if required. A Red Cross blanket was provided to all 'survivors'.

Following the exercise, all personnel engaged in the exercise attended a de-briefing session to discuss reaction and points for development. At the conclusion, Andy Mellers, Biggin Hill Airport's Senior Fire Officer, said that the night exercise had been a most valuable experience for his team from the Rescue & Firefighting Centre.

Thanks to Airport PR and Marketing Simon Ames for the detailed information on this very valuable exercise. As users, it is good to hear that so much emphasis is placed on safety services that we all hope we never need, but hope will be there for us should it ever be necessary. Well done to all the airport staff for their efforts....

## **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS**

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to you all!

January has been a reasonable month for Biggin Hill Airport with movements at a level just slightly above January 2013. Unlike many of our competitors, we have remained open for business as a result of our hard runway and hill top location. High winds have damaged some buildings but, as they say, man built it so man can repair it.

Our new SMS system is now being rolled out internally to staff and training will be complete by the mid of February. We hope, in the summer, to introduce a Biggin Hill iPhone/Android App to allow you to book out for VFR non flight-plan missions and also pick up notices and airport news. This App will also allow you to access the airport Safety Management System to make reports if required. You will also be able to use the App to report general problems requiring repair or to make suggestions for change.

We will be introducing a connection to our airport LAN by micro wave link to East Camp in the spring allowing us to add CCTV and to equip each gate with a security pass activated lock. These will be linked to the central airport security system so that security passes will be active on all authorised gates as soon as they are issued. I know that this has been a problem in East Camp in the past, so we hope this will improve matters. CCTV should help us all to sleep better at night knowing that our valuables are better watched and protected and, CCTV acts as a good deterrent against thieves and trespassers.

We hope to make physical improvements to East Camp in the not too distant future. Our East Camp plans are part of a wider airfield enhancement plan and subject to local authority permissions. With a fair wind, we hope to be able to make some measured improvements our airfield infrastructure over the coming 3 years. Once we have firm proposals we will share the plan with the Biggin Hill GA community to get your input, ideas and suggestions.

Hopefully we will make it through the winter without snow. I am sure this will be the case because in December we took the decision to hire additional snow clearing equipment for the winter months - always the best insurance against a heavy dump of snow! I personally can't wait for the warm spring weather to arrive.

Until next month I wish you safe and enjoyable flying.

Will Curtis

MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

The new year is now well established and the previous club memberships have now expired. Thank you to all those who have already sent in their renewal fee – all that have done so should

already have received their new photo membership card. Your support is much appreciated. Full details can be found at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

Existing members just need to send a cheque payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd for the due fee as listed on the website, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the new card. No new membership form is needed unless you have changed address, and no photos are needed unless you want us to use a new one.

But please remember, if you are a new member applying, we need a completed application form with your contact details, a head and shoulder photo for each person the application covers, a Stamped addressed envelope so we can send back your membership photo-card – and of course your cheque for the appropriate membership fee payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (if you don't supply a photograph, we can't produce the card)...

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: as usual, a lighthearted close. (no offence to anyone intended!). Thanks, as always, to everyone for sending their contributions.... )

QUOTE.....

A young girl walks into a supermarket and on her way round she sees the bloke who had his wicked way with her the previous evening, after they had met in a pub. He was stacking washing powder boxes on the shelves.

"You lying toad" she yells" last night you told me you were a stunt pilot"

"No" he says "I told you I was a member of the Ariel display team"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Ever wonder what happens when you forget history or are nationalistically arrogant?

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JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible.

Rusk responded "Does that include those who are buried here?"

You could have heard a pin drop!

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There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the

room saying 'Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?'

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly:

'Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply Emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, They can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?'

You could have heard a pin drop!

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A Royal Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of Officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, the English learn only English. He then asked, 'Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?'

Without hesitating, the British Admiral replied, 'Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's, South Africans, and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German.'

You could have heard a pin drop!

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AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE...

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The Englishman said, 'The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it.'

"Impossible. You English always have to show your passports on arrival in France!"

The English senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained,

"Well, when I came ashore at Gold Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A new variation of an old one.

Subject: Do you know the meaning of "aplomb"? If you don't know what aplomb means, here's an example.....

### **Downton Abbey**

His Lordship was in the study at Downton Abbey when the butler approached and coughed discreetly.

May I ask you a question, My Lord?"

"Go ahead, Carson ," said His Lordship.

"I am doing the crossword in The Times and have found a word I am not too clear on."

"What word is that?" asked His Lordship.

"Aplomb, My Lord".

"Now that's a difficult one to explain. I would say it is self-assurance or complete composure."

"Thank you, My Lord, but I'm still a little confused."

"Let me give you an example to make it clearer. Do you remember a few months ago when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge arrived to spend a weekend with us?"

"I remember the occasion very well, My Lord. It gave myself and the staff much pleasure to look after them."

"Also," continued the Earl of Grantham, "do you remember when Wills plucked a rose for Kate in the rose garden?"

"I was present on that occasion, My Lord, ministering to their needs.

"While plucking the rose, a thorn embedded itself in his thumb very deeply."

"I witnessed the incident, My Lord, and saw the Duchess herself remove the thorn and bandage his thumb with her own dainty handkerchief."

"That evening the hole that the rose made on his thumb was very sore. Kate had to cut up his venison even though it was extremely tender."

"Yes, My Lord, I did see everything that transpired that evening."

"The next morning while you were pouring coffee for Her Ladyship, Kate inquired of Wills with a loud voice, 'Darling, does your prick still throb?' - And you, Carson, did not spill one drop of coffee!

Now THAT is aplomb!"

.....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"...) )