

Hi everyone

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

Welcome particularly to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

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.

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

NEW FORMAT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Regular readers will note that this Newsletter is being sent in a different format to usual.

Basically a large number of members have not actually been getting their monthly Newsletters as many Internet Service Provider's (ISP's) servers seem to be applying overly sensitive spam filtering and have blocked them from getting through. I appreciate that some content, in particular the end section, may contain words that could appear to indicate 'Spam' or what they term 'inappropriate content'. But, rather than change the content, as I have so many people saying they enjoy it (and in particular the bit in the "and finally" section), I ran some tests and it would appear that sending the content as an attached PDF file seems to avoid this problem.

So, from this edition forward, the Newsletter will be sent out to database members as an attachment to your email, which you will need to open using Adobe Reader or any other software programme that handles Portable Document Format (PDF) files. In the unlikely event you can't open the file, you can download a free Adobe Reader programme here:

<https://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>

Let's hope this will prevent many of you from failing to receive the Newsletter when it is published. (of course, the PDF version will continue to be available online, along with all previous editions, via the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

JANUARY WEATHER

After the appalling weather for light aviation during November and December, things have been a little better during January. Still clearly not wonderful, but with considerably more flyable days than the last couple of months, and seemingly slightly better for us than January 2015. All I can say, is that daylight hours are obviously getting slowly longer and we are moving steadily towards, we hope, the start of Spring the better weather...

BIGGIN HILL FINALLY GETS THE COUNCIL GO AHEAD

As Will Curtis reported last month, the "call in" challenge by a few councillors in the pocket of the airport opposition group formally known as BRAAD, was finally dismissed by Bromley Council on 5th January.

As Will explained, the constitution has in place this “call in” procedure where five or more Councillors can challenge a decision made by the Council Executive, and have that decision reviewed. The only basis for allowing that review is if it appears the Council Executive made a decision that goes against the way the whole Council voted on the issue, and not just because a small group of fanatical opposition to the decision hasn’t got their own way!

Clearly there was no justification in such a “call in” as the whole council voted in favour of the proposal 29 to 19, and this was simply echoed by the full Executive when they voted for the proposal.

Rumour now has it that the opposition group are now frantically fund raising to try to get a Judicial Review into the Council’s decision. As the only basis in law for such a review is if the Council had not followed the correct procedure in arriving at the decision, it is clearly a waste of time – but if they want to waste their money trying, we should not seek to deny them that pleasure. I feel sure that their lawyers will be very pleased to take their money. More from Will Curtis in his regular column below on the panic-stricken NIMBY’s desperate actions to try to get their own way!

In the meantime, the Council has approved the airport’s proposals and the detail of the contract is now being negotiated within the terms of the decision and will come into force in due course. Clearly, the airport needs to staff up to cover these increased hours, and there is still much to do with regard to the introduction of the instrument approach for runway 03, and the introduction of the Noise Monitoring system, but all is moving forward in the right direction finally.

Biggin Hill Airport can continue to moving towards becoming THE Executive Airport for London, and the fear we (as residents and users) have of airline operations by the likes of Ryanair, EasyJet, and Flybe, etc., can be finally eliminated for good...

Well done to everyone who provided their time and support to the airport with this project.

BIGGIN HILL “FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT”

Once again, that date for your diaries – Saturday 11th June 2016

As previously, this looks as if it should be a great day out and a great opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues too.

Obviously everyone will appreciate how difficult it has been for the organisers of air shows following the tragic accident at Shoreham last year. The CAA has only recently published the guidelines that will affect show organisers going forward, and it is necessary for them to assess any changes that may have to be made to events in the future. Once that impact has been assessed, more information will be made available when the Festival of Flight website becomes active for this year (www.bhfof.com) and you can also follow news on the event on Facebook under “Biggin Hill Festival of Flight” (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1637979396466921/>)

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT MARQUEE

In order for the show to try to reduce the marquee numbers blocking the public view on the flight line, it would seem unlikely at this stage that we will have our own dedicated marquee this year. It is possible that there will be spaces available for individual purchase in a larger general marquee, but there are no details available about this as we go to press. If this situation changes, or more information becomes available about shared spaces, I will let you all know.

BIGGIN NOW PPR

In the unlikely event that you don't already know, Biggin Hill is now Prior Permission Only. It is also NOTAM'ed as such.

The introduction of this at the beginning of January, although not well received by some old die-hards, was introduced and seemingly runs very smoothly. Its introduction has had a remarkable reduction in the volume of R/T chatter and certainly seems to have made it easier to get those calls in at critical moments.

Well done to all involved in its introduction.

If you haven't used it yet, just go to www.bigginbooking.com and register for an account (it's free, of course), store your pilot details and aircraft you regularly fly, and you're off...

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

Happy January to all you lovely people!

So as I write this I look outside at a beautiful clear sky. How long it will last for I'm not sure but all the folks over at Falcon, EFG and S&K are making the most of it. Today we find there is not an airplane on the ground as we prepare to end those January blues and welcome February.

Valentine's day is around the corner, and frankly whether your loved one is a strapping 6ft hunk, drop dead gorgeous jewel of Biggin, or your Cessna 182 we all know a bit of TLC goes a long way!

Get you vouchers to help them towards some dual training, or book in the old girl's next 50hr inspection with Singh on 01959 572 339.

Falcon welcomes another new customer as the year starts with promise, have you seen Singh yet?

EFG and S&K have plenty of De-ice ready so you can keep on flying, why not call us and book in! IMC Ratings are going strong so please give us a call to book your first flight in on 01959 540 400 / 57 22 55

Till the next time - Wishing you clear skies and blessed days,

Singh, Shonu, Anoop and all the team!

MESSAGE FROM BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S SATCO

Hi All,

Obviously the number one subject to discuss is how the new PPR system has performed.

I have to say that it has started off far better than I was expecting. I would like to thank those of you that took the time to call me to make positive comments about the system. The main theme was that after initial registration how quick and easy the system was to use.

One or two people have had problems receiving their confirmation e-mails, but this has normally been rectified by asking them to look into their spam folders and on most occasions the offending e-mails have been found there.

Don't forget, if you have problems with the automated system you are able to contact ATC for assistance on telephone number 01959 578522. If ATC is unable to assist with the problem using the automated system pilots can make their booking over the phone on that number.

The Managing Director has given ATC a lead in time for the new system until the end of March. This means that pilots who have not used the PPR system or filed a flight plan will be allowed to pass their details over the radio and book out using the old method.

From the 1st of April 2016 pilots who have not communicated their intention to fly (either by flight plan or online PPR request) will not be permitted to fly until they have done so.

As I write this it is approaching the end of January and the system would have been in operation for one month and we (the Biggin Hill Airport management team) have scheduled a meeting in the first week of February to review the progress of the new system.

We will take this opportunity to assess the procedures and take into account any constructive comments ATC have logged from pilots and observations from ATC staff to establish if any changes are needed. If there are any changes to be made I will of course inform everyone in good time.

For those of you that have not seen the user guide that was in last month's newsletter you can also view it again here <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/bhbookingguide.pdf> .

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation and patience during the past month.

Until next time, stay safe.

Best Wishes
Bill Robinson
SATCO – Biggin Hill Airport

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

The weather has been the main feature of January and it has kept the light aviation at bay. However, we have been above target with business jets due to a lack of snow and north easterly winds.

As many of you will already know the Council rejected the call in of the decision to extend our operating hours at a meeting held at Civic Centre on 5th January 2016. This ends the political process and the decision has now been "actioned" by the Council. After two full Council meetings and around 18 months of consultations, discussions and democracy at work, one would think that the small minority who oppose our plans would now accept they have been outvoted.

Not a bit of it – they are now claiming that:

1. The Council has acted inappropriately;

2. that the Council consultation was flawed; and
3. that their views have not been taken onto account.

This is completely inaccurate because:

1. No Council decision in the history of Bromley has been the subject of so much discussion and/or public consultation, nor has any decision taken quite so long to arrive at. Three separate surveys were undertaken, one by the Airport in the Autumn of 2014, one independent survey by the polling company Populus and one survey by the Council in spring of 2015. All three surveys showed in excess of 75% public support for the Airport's proposals and results in all three surveys mirrored each other to within a 3% spread. With a total of around 55,000 public responses across the three surveys, public opinion could not be in any real doubt.

However, anti-airport pressure group, Flightpath Watch decided, in the face of all common sense, that public opinion had been misrepresented and subsequently itself undertook a fourth "survey" of some 3,000 people that (shock horror) showed that 97% of residents were fundamentally opposed to the Airport's plans. FPW now insists that it is their survey alone that can be relied upon. Not since the days of Idi Armin have such decisive results been achieved in a public vote.

2. A complaint made by Flightpath Watch to the Council regarding the conduct of Council survey was duly investigated by Council officers and found to be invalid, a matter that was subsequently fed back to Councillors in the officer reports prior to the meeting of 25th November 2015. It was disappointing that so few of the minority of Councillors opposed to our plans appeared to have actually read and understood the reports with which they were provided. Had they actually done so, they might perhaps have been less inclined to publicly slur the good name of the Airport and might have been better informed as to the actual position relating to noise controls.
3. Flight path Watch insists that residents views have not been properly taken into account, despite the enormous weight that has actually been placed on the views of residents by the Council. What they mean by this is that, for the first time they can remember, the Council has not supported their minority position. They have publicly rubbished the thousands of hours of work by Council appointed noise consultants and by Council officers. They have publicly accused the Council and the Leader of failing to be even handed in approaching the matter. They claim that the Council has adopted a cosy relationship with the Airport and that the entire matter has been agreed in a series of just three meetings. If only this were the case! Quite to the contrary, I can assure all that the Council has been and continues to be, extremely (and sometimes frustratingly) robust with the Airport over this matter. Lengthy negotiations over many months involving expert consultants and lawyers have taken place in order to reach the present position relating to the conditions under which our application could be approved. As a result, we will have to invest some £3.1 million in noise mitigation measures in order to take advantage of an additional 11.5 operating hours per week. For objectors to suggest that their views and concerns have not been taken into account is perverse and simply does not stand scrutiny.

Over the coming months, we will be turning our attention to installing and commissioning the requisite Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System and other noise mitigation measures contained in the Noise Action Plan and when the time comes, to recruiting training additional staff in preparation for the adoption of the new operating hours. We have to make a significant

investment in infrastructure over the coming years but this will ultimately be to the benefit of all. Biggin Hill Airport will certainly continue its long and distinguished history as an important strategic aerodrome for London by adapting to the latest challenges as it has always done.

Finally, those that have been night flying will have seen the new taxiway lighting now adorning taxiway Hotel and runway 29/11. We have received many favourable comments from airport users who are pleasantly surprised by this enhanced night time environment! We hope to enhance and expand the lighting before too long.

Until February, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

If you wish to show your continuing support of the efforts to keep things alive for current and old airport users, please help to pay for the servers etc. for the two websites by renewing or applying for membership of the Biggin Hill Airport Social Club. Of course, membership is NOT required just to continue receiving the Newsletters!

Thanks for some who have already sent in their renewal fee, cards have been sent out. If you have paid, but have not yet received your membership cards, please get in touch.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk - When sending anything to us by post, the address is on the website. 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 the photo 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)).

Thanks again for your support, which is much appreciated

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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 database members but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month.....

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.....

THESE ARE APPARENTLY ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY "THOMAS COOK" FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

There was this Chinese girl at a travel agency when I was in Shanghai.

I asked her if she could escort me for a city tour and asked for her mobile number,so I could call her to make arrangements.

She got excited and said:

"Sex sex sex, wan free sex for tonigh"

Wow, I was guessing this is how Chinese women express their hospitality.

But then, my friend interpreted it for me and told me what she really said was.....

666136429

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Jack and his date, Blossom were parked on a back road some distance from Brisbane, doing what boys and girls do on back roads some distance from Brisbane.

Things were getting hot and heavy when Blossom stopped Jack.

"I really should have mentioned this earlier, but I'm actually a hooker and I charge \$120 for sex," she said.

Jack just looked at her for a couple of seconds, but then reluctantly paid her, and they went on to have mind blowing sex for the next hour.

After they were done, and had smoked a cigarette, Jack just sat in the driver's seat looking out the window.

"Why aren't we going anywhere?" asked Blossom.

"Well.....", Jack replied with a grin on his face, "I should have mentioned this before, but I'm actually a taxi driver and the fare back to Brisbane is \$130 "

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Derek was about to marry Jill and his father took him to one side

'When I married your mother, the first thing I did when we got home was take off my trousers,' he said. 'I gave them to your mother and told her to put them on.'

When she did, they were enormous on her and she said to me that she couldn't possibly wear them, as they were too large...

'I told her, 'of course they're too big. I wear the trousers in this family and I always will. 'Ever since that day, we have never had a single problem.'

Derek took his father's advice and as soon as he got Jill alone after the wedding, he did the same thing; took off his trousers, gave them to Jill and told her to put them on.

Jill said that the trousers were too big and she couldn't possibly wear them.

'Exactly,' replied Derek. 'I wear the trousers in this relationship and I always will. I don't want you to forget that.'

Jill paused and removed her knickers and gave them to Derek. 'Try these on,' she said.

So he tried them on but they were too small.

'I can't possibly get into your knickers,' said Derek.

'Exactly,' replied Jill. 'And if you don't change your bloody attitude, you never will.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Monica Lewinsky released the following statement on Hilary Clinton's run for President:

"I will not vote for Hilary Clinton. The last Clinton presidency left a bad taste in my mouth. As we get closer to the 2016 election year, citizens must remember that they cannot even trust Hillary Clinton to create American jobs. The last time she had a meaningful job, she outsourced it to me and I simply blew it".

Monica

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A priest and a rabbi were sitting in adjacent seats on an airplane.

After a while the priest turned to the rabbi and asked, "Is it still a requirement of your faith that you not eat pork?"

The rabbi responded, "Yes, that is still one of our laws."

The priest then asked, "Have you ever eaten pork?"

"Yes, on one occasion I did succumb to temptation and ate a bacon sandwich."

The priest nodded in understanding and went on with his reading.

A while later the rabbi spoke up and asked, "Father, is it still a requirement of your church that you remain celibate?"

The priest replied, "Yes, that is still very much a part of our faith."

The rabbi then asked him, "Father, have you ever fallen to the temptations of the flesh?"

The priest replied, "Yes, Rabbi, on one occasion I was weak and broke the pledge of my faith."

The rabbi nodded understandingly and remained silent for several minutes.

Finally, the rabbi quietly observed, "Beats the shit out of a bacon sandwich doesn't it?"

.....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"...)