

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

Welcome to the January 2011 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. The January edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at 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 www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database membership..

Over the last two Newsletters I published a list of quite a few Database members whose email addresses bounce and have obviously changed. Please don't forget to check your friends are not on the list, and let me have new email addresses if you have them.

The following is the current 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 again for your help.

DEREK ACCA

It is with regret that I report the passing of another Biggin Hill'ite, Derek Acca, who died on 1st December aged 72. Whilst not really a "flyer", Derek was a long term feature of Biggin Hill Airport, having owned and run Surex Ltd. (Swimming pool chemicals suppliers) for 38 years on the airport Industrial Estate, and a regular visitor to the Pilots Pals club bar. (especially at air shows, where he always wandered about wearing a black flying suit, which he claimed gained him access to the special marquees and a front line view of the shows)

He was devoted to his business and responsible for many new water treatment products for swimming pools, both for private individuals and local authorities. When it came to financial dealings he was as sharp as a needle but very honest. It was always a pleasure doing business with him once you filtered out his rather colourful version of the English language. Rest in peace Derek....

THE AIRPORT

Congratulations to all concerned at Biggin Hill Airport for putting Heathrow to shame during the appallingly heavy snow during December. Clearly it was impossible to keep the runways and taxiways clear during the heaviest falls, but Biggin Hill did at least return to a useable state faster than most airports that were similarly affected, and considerably quicker than the massively funded London Heathrow. The problems at Heathrow were little less than a National disgrace...

Well done to all the staff at Biggin who worked so hard through terrible conditions..

During December the airport announced the replacement for Airport Director, Peter Lonergan, who is retiring at the end of March 2011 (hooray, at last!) – unfortunately it seems he is being kept on as a Consultant (boo!) – for those that don't know, Peter Lonergan is one of the primary movers in preventing any form of Social Club at the airport for the users, and a person who seems to have many airport users among those who have little respect for him.

Details of his replacement, Jenny Munro, can be seen here in the airport notice to owners and tenants sent on 7th December - www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/bh_md_replacement.pdf
Good luck to her in her new position....

The Olympics are fast approaching and the airport management has released a document that outlines their plans for the airport during that period. This includes changes to the operational hours. Although the application to the council is specific to the period of the Olympics, many local residents, including myself, are concerned that this could be the thin edge of the wedge and that the airport management, once a precedent has been set, could seek to keep these hours beyond the period applicable to the Olympics. The management has not, after all, endeared itself to the local community by the way they have dealt with the air show, and other issues.

The proposals from the airport can be seen here:

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/bh_olympic_proposals.pdf

and

www.bromley.gov.uk/News/biggin_hill_airport_plans_made_public_as_consultation_starts.htm

Residents and other interested groups can express their views about the BHAL plans in an eight week consultation period which closes on Friday 4 February 2011 at 17.00 hours. Comments can be e-mailed to airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk or made by writing to Bromley Council, addressing letters to Renewal and Recreation, Airport Consultation, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH.

The Government's general plans for airspace and aviation during the Olympics, including slot provisions etc. can be seen in the following 26 page document. It will be of interest to all who own, operate, or hire aircraft, and who will or may wish to fly in much of the South East part of the UK while the Olympics are on.

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/olympics_consultation_doc.pdf

Note that the deadline for any responses (see items 64 and 65 in the document) is 7th January 2011.

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

As pointed out last month, one of the businesses on the airport was in reasonably advanced talks with the airport regarding a new club, which would have incorporated a social club, at the airport. These plans came to nothing following the lack of support from a senior management member at the airport. As the article above shows, this person will now be leaving his position – let us hope that, as a result of this change, such plans could be viewed more favourably (but once again, I suspect this is wishful thinking!)

That's about it for this month... Except of course to say that John Bryan and I really hope you all have a very Happy and Prosperous New Year..

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:
Two amusing stories for you....

The first from Ralph Scott (I really don't know where you get them all from??)

QUOTE.....
Irish Hunting Trip.....

Two Irishmen flew to Canada on a hunting trip. They Chartered a small plane to take them into the Rockies for a week hunting moose.

They managed to bag 6. As they were loading the plane to return, the Pilot said the plane could take only 4 moose.

The two lads objected strongly. "Last year we shot six. The pilot let us take them all and he had the same plane as yours."

Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all six were loaded. The plane took off. However, while attempting to cross some mountains even on full power the little plane couldn't handle the load and went down.

Somehow, surrounded by the moose bodies, only Paddy and Mick survived the crash.

After climbing out of the wreckage, Paddy asked Mick, "Any idea where we are?"

Mick replied, "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

.....UNQUOTE

and this second one from Dudley Clark – not meant to be political or offensive in any way – just an amusing story

QUOTE.....

A young Arab asks his father:

What is this weird hat that we are wearing ?

It's a "chechia" because in the desert it protects our heads from the sun !

And what is this type of clothing that we are wearing ?

It's a "djbellah" because in the desert sun it is very hot and it protects your body !

And what are these ugly shoes that we have on our feet ?

These are "babouches", which keep us from burning our feet when in the desert !

Tell me, papa...

Yes, my son ?

... Why are we living in Bradford and still wearing all this crap ?

.....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"...))