

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the first Biggin Hill Users Database December Newsletter of 2015 – a relatively brief one this time as I have been away until the last minute....

JB's January 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.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have been contacted by a researcher helping a family to find the whereabouts of someone called Peter Bennett. He was apparently a pilot (not thought to have been a professional though) in the very early 60's, possibly involved at Croydon previously as well. I have seen photo's and information that seem to suggest it was from Biggin Hill that he flew from after 1959. Aircraft mentioned that he flew and that may get the old memory cells going are:

Auster 5's G-AOCR & G-ANIJ, Emeraude Piel GP 301B G-ASCZ, Leopard Moth G-AIYS, and Chipmunk G-AOSU

If you have any information that you think may help, please drop me an email with your thoughts to: john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

THE MARQUEE IN JUNE 2015

Following the great success of the Marquee at the 2014 Festival of Flight show, and the many requests for a similar facility for the 2015 show, I am pleased to confirm that we will definitely have a similar marquee this coming show.

Called the Biggin Hill Reunited Marquee, it will be available all day with a pay bar and furnished garden area, as last year. It will be limited again to 200 persons, and it will be open to all users (past and present), plus tenants, plus of course guests, on a first come, first served basis. Full details will follow in the February newsletter when tickets will become available to purchase.

To ensure your places, please email me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) to confirm how many places you would like - Once tickets are released, I will email you separately just ahead of the Newsletter to confirm payment details. Your reserved tickets will be available for the month of February at which point any unclaimed reservations will be released for general sale.

I will look forward to your support again and to see you on 13th June.

THE 2003 BUMP REUNION – BIG SCREEN – NEXT VIDEO

This month's video from the Big Screen presentation at the 2003 Bump Reunion has now been published. This month features a Canadian TV documentary about Biggin Hill in the late 60's and includes some shots of the South East Apron with the original "greenhouse" tower perched on top of the fuel office. Just under four minutes, see who you can recognise...

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

<http://youtu.be/K5qGgB4cNsQ>

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

Greetings from the Falcon Camp!

What a year, with a mix of ups and downs (mainly on the runway) and winter holding off till the last moment things have been quite promising!

We have seen our first IR and CPL Pass and the Arrow on the fleet full time. Many students have passed their First Solo and Respective Skills Tests, we are humbled to be around such amazing people.

As we look glance back over the past year and toward another, let us remember not only those who passed on, but those who are still with us.

Let us be thankful for having such strong bonds here at Biggin, whether it is being greeted "Good Morning" by one of the friendly staff at the tower, or waving to the fuel bowser as it drives by going on to its next job. We all share one thing in common, no matter how the wind blows, how the cold air feels against our skin, even how much being told to "stand by" 3.3nm inbound on a conditional clearance gets you going! Biggin Hill Airport is home for all of us and I for one am grateful.

Thank you for all your support shown over the many years. Don't forget to call us for your next 50hr / Annual / C of A or Flight Training Requirement.

From all at Falcon, EFG, Surrey & Kent, have a very Happy New Year.

Be safe, Flight Straight, Stay Blessed.
Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

The last month has been busy for the management team at Biggin Hill. We have had variable traffic levels with some very busy days and some much quieter periods. The ongoing road works on Leaves Green Road are damaging our business to a large degree as aircraft operators avoid using the airport due to the excessive delays caused by this never ending repair work.

Whilst this replacement of the gas mains by SGN will hopefully cure any gas leaks, Thames Water declined to take the opportunity to replace the adjacent and very aged water main which is apparently on their program "within the next 5 years". In the meantime the monthly expedition on the part of Thames Water to frustrate locals going about their legitimate business by digging up Leaves Green road will continue and then at some point the road will apparently be closed entirely for a considerable period to facilitate a new water main. I suggest that you make sure that your larder is full (because Biggin Hill will be cut off from the outside world) and please feel free to write to your MP and ward Councillor to express your frustration at this inexcusable lack of joined up thinking and regulatory control over the profiteering antics of the utility companies. If we make enough noise someone may eventually listen to us ordinary folk, although as you will see below, listening appears not to be Council's strongest point.

As mentioned last month, we have applied to the Council for the extended airport operating hours upon which we consulted with local residents so extensively. The Council, quite incredibly, have now stated that they must carry out their own public consultation (something they previously said they did not have to do) and so we are more than a little frustrated with their approach.

A number of global companies have expressed interest in locating their UK operations at Biggin Hill, but they will not commit to us until we have the requisite approvals in place. Meanwhile the usual band of anti-airport fanatics are spreading false rumours around and about the community. You will all remember that scaremongering that took place last time the airport looked to change the status quo - well it seems that their latest stunt is to claim that Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport is due for imminent closure and that it is planned that all Charles De Gaulle traffic will be relocated to Biggin Hill Airport (which I am sure you will agree will be very convenient for downtown Paris!). Someone has evidently been at the Christmas sherry too early...

Seriously though, we need to ensure that we all take part in the Council's own consultation and respond positively as, if we are not careful, the small minority of "antis" will yet again get a disproportionate amount of air time and attention. It seems that the NIMBYs are not interested in jobs for the younger generation, nor in the future success of the airport which they would ideally like to see closed for good. They slate the airport openly for failing (in their opinion) to support the heritage of the airport, all the time ignoring the fact that the airport has volunteered, for no reward, to underwrite the cost of operating a heritage centre if it can be built and to underwrite the cost of maintaining and protecting St. Georges chapel if and when the MOD decide to take it off their books. It is difficult to see what more we might do to support the heritage of the airport. We see our heritage as important and we are keen to protect and honour the history of Biggin Hill airport for future generations, but this will cost money and money, as you all know, does not grow on trees. It has to be earned by commercial activity. The antis, it seems, care only about themselves. The fact that many of them moved into their very substantial houses around the airport, or under its approach, relatively recently and certainly long after the airport was in operation does not seem to matter to them at all. Ironically, they seem as keen as us on honouring the heritage of the airport. They believe, it seems, that Biggin Hill airport can survive purely to service the odd Spitfire flight and host some bits of bent metal carefully placed in an exhibition centre.

Of course, it is more complicated than that, and the £6 million annual cost of operating an airport of this size can only be met by commercial Business Aviation traffic. In the absence of that, I can see Biggin Hill falling prey to airlines, or alternatively following in the footsteps of West Malling aerodrome - also an important WWII fighter base - whose heritage is now buried under 1,500 affordable homes.

Ironically the intransigence of the antis today will likely spell disaster for tomorrow, because if we do not move forward in Business and General Aviation, I fear that we will become a target for regional airline traffic when London runway capacity starts to become really stretched towards the end of this decade. The antis claim that this is just scaremongering - perhaps they should actually read the various reports and government papers that pertain to this subject because if they did so,

they might find themselves unpleasantly surprised.

During the last week of November, Biggin Hill Airport Limited and Oxford Airport jointly took part in a judicial review hearing in the High Court. During this, the matter of the UK CAA's responsibility to regulate the safety aspects of civil air traffic even whilst using RAF airfields, and the MOD's responsibility to abide by EC Directive 216/2008 and to set standards at least as effective as those at equivalent civil aerodromes were considered.

RAF Northolt was the main consideration since they are currently able to attract a substantial volume of business aviation traffic without meeting safety standards that a civil aerodrome is forced to meet, and of course without any commercial risk because their wage bill is underwritten by the long suffering tax payer. They are not troubled by Uniform Business Rates, nor by CAA inspectors demanding six figure safety improvements, nor by the costs of aerodrome upkeep (which again are paid for by you and me), and yet they are very conveniently located 20 minutes from the West End, so they really do have a very unfair commercial advantage!

During the hearing, the MOD actually stated in their evidence that they could not consider reducing their runway length to comply with the requirement for an ICAO minimum of 90 metres of Runway End Safety Area because, if they did so, their runway would be too short to accept the larger business aviation types, and this would cost them lost revenues! It beggars belief that financial loss should be used as a reason not to comply with accepted minimum safety standards. I must try that argument on the UK CAA aerodrome inspectorate next time they demand some expensive upgrade!

You will all have seen press coverage, at the end of November, concerning a Gulfstream III that managed to leave the paved surface of the runway whilst manoeuvring for take-off. There is little doubt that this was simple pilot error, but the matter was handled in exemplary manner by the airport fire service and no one was hurt so, whilst the aircraft is somewhat rearranged and probably too old to be worthy of repair, we can be thankful that all ended well. Apologies if you were delayed whilst the operation to clear the runway was in progress the following day.

Christmas has now long passed, and New Year is upon us again, and it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2015.

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to those who have already sent in their membership fees for 2015 – your support is very much appreciated. It is my intention to produce all the cards and get them off to you all within the next day or so.

Full membership 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...

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 Happy and Prosperous New Year from John Bryan and I

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.....

A little late for Christmas but an interesting little story.....

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the Christmas pressure.

Then, Mrs. Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

He went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out, Heaven knows where.

When he began to load the sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went in the house for a glass of cider and a shot of rum. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug, and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor.

He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the doorbell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open, and there stood a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said very cheerfully, 'Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?'

And; so began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

Not a lot of people know this!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A lady walks into Harrods. She looks around, spots a beautiful diamond bracelet and walks over to inspect it. As she bends over to look more closely, she unexpectedly farts.

Very embarrassed, she looks around nervously to see if anyone noticed her little woops and prays that a sales person was not anywhere near.

As she turns around, her worst nightmare materializes in the form of a Salesman standing right behind her – Good looking as well.

Cool as a cucumber, he displays all of the qualities one would expect of a professional in a store like Harrods.

He politely greets the lady with, "Good day, Madam. How may we help you today?"

Blushing and uncomfortable, but still hoping that the Salesman somehow missed her little 'incident', she asks, "What is the price of this lovely bracelet?"

He answers, "Madam – if you farted just looking at it – you're going to sh*t yourself when I tell you the price!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Wonderful English from around the World

In a Bangkok Temple:

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Doctor's office, Rome :

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Dry cleaners, Bangkok :

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.

In a Nairobi restaurant:

CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE, OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

On the main road to Mombasa , leaving Nairobi :

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

On a poster at Kencom:

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO WE CAN HELP.

In a City restaurant:

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

In a Cemetery:

PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS, FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:

GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE, OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.

On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant:

OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

In a Tokyo Bar:

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:

THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE, IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

Hotel, Japan:

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY, EXCEPT THURSDAY.

A sign posted in Germany 's Black Forest :

IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON OUR BLACK FOREST CAMPING SITE, THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE, MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT, UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Hotel, Zurich :

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand :

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen :

WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

A Laundry in Rome :

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND THEN SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

Seen in an Abu Dhabi Souk shop window :

IF THE FRONT IS CLOSED PLEASE ENTER THROUGH MY BACKSIDE...

.....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"...))