

Hi - A very Happy New Year to everyone.....

As promised, it's the 4th January 2007, I arrived back in UK late last night, and the First 2007 Edition of the "Bugle" from JB is now available on the web site at

<http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Just click on the Newsletter link on the home page as normal... (I have also retained all past editions in a separate section, so these can be viewed at any time in the future).

THE BAR - NEW MEMBERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

As previously notified, from the First of January 2007, the club became a totally "Members Only" club. At the time of my leaving the UK at Christmas there were some 60 plus paid up members and I am told that I have at least another 40 or so to process since I left. (I will produce those members photo ID membership cards over the next day or so).

Most people seem to have accepted that, for various reasons of legislation and to assist with funding a move into new premises when the airport makes the changes they plan, it was necessary to change the status quo somewhat. The fees have been kept as low as possible in order to soften the blow, but it was becoming necessary to do something if the club was to survive. There are still a few who believe that membership should not apply to them, and they will unfortunately find it necessary to find an alternative location to meet up with any friends as it clearly is unfair for anyone to expect to be exempt from paying the very small annual fee that everyone else has paid to enjoy the use of the club. For organisations on the airfield there is a Corporate Membership available for a reasonable fee to cover all their full time and part time staff (who still need to apply individually under that corporate "umbrella", but do not need to pay for their own membership), but this does not, of course, include membership of the club for any of that organisation's customers or members who will need to join as individuals if they wish to continue using the club.

As those that read the new club rules will appreciate, there is now a membership committee running the club. As named in the Christmas "Bugle", these are:

Management Committee

Joe Merchant

John Willis

Jill Minter

Annually elected members for 2007

John Bryan

Bill Robinson

Dave Matthews

Any of these will be happy to hear your comments about our club, (and criticisms where appropriate), plus any suggestions for improvements.

For those who have yet to join - please remember that, to use the club now, you will need to either be a paid-up member of the club to use it, or to be invited in by an existing paid up member, who will need to sign you in on each individual day's visit, and pay your daily guest fee of £1. (The person signing you in will also have to accept full responsibility for your actions whilst you are in the club as a guest.)

Forms for joining are available in the club itself, and also on the club's website at <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Other News:

Unfortunately, I have just been told that another friend of the Club and Airfield, Mike Edmunds (affectionately always known as "Mike the Bank"), died yesterday (3rd Jan) afternoon after a period of illness. Mike was a former local bank manager known to many on the airfield in the early days, and a fond supporter of aviation. Not seen too recently at the club, because of his illness, and his move away from the area a few years ago, Mike nevertheless maintained contact with many old friends here at Biggin Hill. Another sad loss.

Regards
John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database