

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Welcome to the first edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter for 2017. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

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> 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

DECEMBER WEATHER

What can I say about the weather for December – rubbish springs to mind! I know it is Winter, but really – where are all those wonderful clear, crisp, winter's days we all looked forward to? Still, at least the days have started getting slightly longer now, giving us, hopefully, longer each day to practice our art... It will soon be Summer!!

DEREK CLAUSON

Old Biggin Hill'ite, Derek Clausen, sadly passed away on 15th December following a difficult year of failing health. Well known to many at Biggin Hill, particularly those at the old Pilots Pals bar, and latterly at the Old Jail, Derek was liked by everyone who met him. His musical entertainments on the Spoons will be remembered by everyone who saw them.

Derek started off life as a steel erector working sometimes 6 or 7 days a week to buy his first home with wife Carol. Apparently this was followed by a number of ventures that Arthur Daly would have been proud of, before settling as a renowned expert in Timber Preservation.

He served in the Suez Crisis during his National Service, which he enjoyed, as recounted by JB in this month's Bugle.

He just turned up at the Pilots Pals bar some years ago and instantly made lots of friends. He loved flying, and made a number of trips around Europe with Stephen Speed, but also loved aerobatics, which he did with Ben Holmes in the Tiger Moth, carrying his customary hip-flask to warm himself up. As always, a complete character.

Derek is survived by his wife, Carol, and his two daughters, Sandra, and Stacie who lives in Sydney. He will be missed by his many friends at Biggin.

Derek's funeral will take place on Friday 6th January at 1.00pm at Hither Green Crematorium, Verdant Lane, London SE6 1TP.

Friends and colleagues are welcome to join Carol and family at the funeral and after at The Fox, 2 Heathfield Road, Keston, BR2 6BQ.

Flowers from immediate family only please, but if you would like to give a donation in Memory of Derek, please follow this link:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/derekclauson

ROY SHEPHERD

I must also report the sad news of the passing of another old Biggin Hill'ite, Roy Shepherd, on 19th December, aged 85. Roy was a good friend to many at Biggin Hill Airport.

Roy was, by profession, a surveyor, both in civilian life and also when he was called into the military at the end of the war, where he served in Germany. He gained his PPL at Biggin Hill in the early days of the club flying at the airport. His love of flying continued with active flying right up to his 68th birthday.

In his capacity as a surveyor, he was responsible for the building of Doug Arnold's hangar at the airport, (the Blue Hangar) that subsequently became the original Gold Air premises, and now Zenith.

Roy's wife Dorothy died in 1996 and there were no children.

DRUGS BUST AT BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

The UK Border Force apparently seized around 12 kilos of cocaine when they detained a man at Biggin Hill airport on Tuesday 27th December. The six packages recovered were worth an estimated £1.4 million.

The 31 year old from Holland had arrived at Biggin Hill on a flight from Breda, near Rotterdam. Following a positive test on a bag, Kevin Bourne was arrested and later charged with attempting to import a Class A drug. He appeared at Camberwell Green Magistrates Court on 28th December and was remanded in custody to appear at Croydon Crown Court on January 25, 2017.

Congratulations to all concerned in stopping this attempt to bring these drugs into the UK through our airport....

FRENCH THREAT TO AIRPORTS OF ENTRY

Last month this Newsletter drew your attention to the planned removal of customs "point of Entry" facilities at around 13 provincial airports in central France.

The following update comes to us from Duncan Campbell, for whom we thank for his research....

QUOTE.....

It took a bit of finding to get hard information rather than rumour because the French government seems to have informed the individual airports that they plan to close their PPFs (points de passage frontaliers – frontier entry points) and appears not to have made a general announcement. Up to now, the local governance for the regions depending on those airports, the airports themselves and business interests seemed to have been making

individual representations but, looking at the online regional newspapers, it looks like they are beginning to unite along with employers and unions and those concerned with national security to protest against the proposals in the strongest terms.

The list of 13 is as follows:

Abbeville,
Agen-la-Garenne,
Amiens-Glisy,
Annemasse,
Besançon-Vèze,
Le Castellet,
Lannion,
Lognes-Emerainville,
La Môle-Saint-Tropez,
Montbéliard-Courcelles,
Nevers,
La-Roche-sur-Yon,
Vichy-Charmeil.

I also came across a current article about the proposed closure of the PPF at Basel-Mulhouse airport, but this seems to be for different reasons, which is why it's not on the list above.

For what it's worth, I think it is worth signing the petition.
.....UNQUOTE

The online petition can be seen at the following URL:

<https://www.change.org/p/non-%C3%A0-l-exclusion-imminente-de-13-a%C3%A9roports-de-province-comme-points-de-passage-frontalier>

It is in French of course, but we carried a rough translation in last month's Newsletter in case it is needed.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USERS

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion. (Please email: John Willis at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!

Seems like only yesterday we were signing off 2015 yet here we are again.

A year of changes for all at Biggin Hill. Some for good, some not so good. One constant remains, however, that is the collective support for General Aviation, flight training and all the associated services we all provide.

Through the literal mist we look forward to a positive year. With reinforcement from the airport of keeping EFG and the Lookout café at the front we offer our thanks and gratitude.

The changes over the years to the operating procedures at the airport we thank our members for all remaining diligent, flexible and versatile. All things change and we must change together, and work together if we are to push forward in one united force.

We offer thanks to the Aerodrome crew, flight and ground ops, handling, fuelling, fire services and of course our beloved ATC who work tirelessly to stay ahead of the game and ensure a smooth running airport.

This year has seen many successes for the company, with new instructors providing valuable instruction and guidance, new ops providing steadfast assistance, and new customers who have become friends providing crucial feedback and support.

As the New Year approaches may we spare a moment not only to remember those who are no longer with us, but remember and embrace those who are here today. This is a time for quiet reflection and an opportunity to start the year afresh with inspiration and vigour.

From all the Falcon Camp, we wish you and Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you soon.

With warm wishes and blessings

Singh, Shonu, Anoop and all Falcon, EFG and Surrey and Kent.

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

I trust you all had a good Christmas and that 2017 will prove to be a prosperous year for us all.

The weather in December has not been favourable to light aviation so there is little to report this month.

Our hangar development to the north of the terminal has commenced and ground preparation works are now complete. Construction of the foundations will begin early in the New Year.

We hope that 2017 will see the implementation of the new runway 03 GPS approach and perhaps further announcements on new resident companies at Biggin Hill. We will continue to work to improve the airport infrastructure and to provide world class facilities for business and general aviation. We hope that this will result in more based aircraft and more MRO companies.

We are working hard to ensure that the new technical college project gets the go ahead in the early part of 2017. Plans are advanced, but we will need to await the formal announcement from London and South East Colleges before we can predict the opening date.

The next 12 months will see many changes at Biggin Hill, including the introduction of the new noise and track keeping system. As previously mentioned, this will require light aviation to pay particular attention to navigation and consequent noise abatement. Rest assured

that full information as to what is expected will be published before the system goes live in the spring.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of database members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list 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.

Having said that membership is free, as you will appreciate, it costs a few hundred pounds a year to keep up the servers and domains to run the Database. The previous annual membership of the club was recently terminated to save accounting and the statutory costs of running a Limited Company. So now I am seeking voluntary contributions, however small, each year to help cover these costs. If you would like to show your support, please make any cheques payable to "John Willis" and send them to "Biggin Hill Airport Users Database, 26 Churchside Close, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3QF"

Those that would prefer not to use a cheque, but who would like to contribute, please contact me and I will give you bank details to which you can make a transfer.

All contributions will be acknowledged by email – thank you..

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.....

One of the English national daily newspapers asked readers "What does it mean to be British?" Some of the emails were hilarious but this one from a chap in Switzerland stood out:

"Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, and then going home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American or Australian shows on a Japanese or Korean TV, which will soon be powered by a French nuclear power station."

And the most British thing of all?

"Suspicion of anything foreign."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched - with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but I fish on Fridays."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Martha recently lost her husband. She had him cremated and brought his ashes home. Picking up the urn that he was in, she poured him out on the patio table. Then, while tracing her fingers in the ashes, she started talking to him....

"You know that dishwasher you promised me, but never bought me? I bought it with the insurance money!"

She paused for a minute tracing her fingers in the ashes then said, "Remember that car you promised me, but never bought me? Well, I also bought it with the insurance money!"

Again, she paused for a few minutes and while tracing her fingers in the ashes she said, "Remember that diamond ring you promised me, but never bought me? I bought that, too, with the insurance money!"

Finally, still tracing her fingers in the ashes, She said, "Remember that blow job I promised you?"

"Well, Here it comes....."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Aussie Blonde was sent on her way to Heaven. Upon arrival, a concerned St Peter met her at the Pearly Gates.

'I'm sorry, 'St Peter said; 'But Heaven is suffering from an overload of godly souls and we have been forced to put up an Entrance Exam for new arrivals to ease the burden of Heavenly Arrivals.'

'That's cool' said the Blonde, 'What does the Entrance Exam consist of?'

'Just three questions' said St Peter.

'Which are?' asked the Blonde.

'The first,' said St Peter, 'is, which two days of the week start with the letter 'T'? The second is 'How many seconds are there in a year?'

The third is 'What was the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

'Now,' said St Peter, 'Go away and think about those questions and when I call upon you, I shall expect you to have those answers for me.'

So the Blonde went away and gave those three questions some considerable thought (I expect you to do the same).

The following morning, St Peter called upon the Blonde and asked if she had considered the questions, to which she replied, 'I have.'

'Well then,' said St Peter, 'Which two days of the week start with the letter T?'

The Blonde said, 'Today and Tomorrow.'

St Peter pondered this answer for some time, and decided that indeed the answer can be applied to the question.

'Well then, could I have your answer to the second of the three questions' St Peter went on, 'how many seconds in a year?'

The Blonde replied, 'Twelve!'

'Only twelve' exclaimed St Peter, 'How did you arrive at that figure?'

'Easy,' said the Blonde, 'there's the second of January, the second of February, right through to the second of December, giving a total of twelve seconds.'

St Peter looked at the Blonde and said, 'I need some time to consider your answer before I can give you a decision.' And he walked away shaking his head.

A short time later, St Peter returned to the Blonde. 'I'll allow the answer to stand, but you need to get the third and final question absolutely correct to be allowed into Heaven. Now, can you tell me the name of the swagman in Waltzing Matilda?'

The blonde replied: 'Of the three questions, I found this the easiest to answer.'

'Really!' exclaimed St Peter, 'And what is the answer?'

'It's Andy.'

'Andy??'

'Yes, Andy,' said the Blonde.

This totally floored St Peter, and he paced this way and that, deliberating the answer. Finally, he could not stand the suspense any longer, and turning to the blonde, asked 'How in God's name did you arrive at THAT answer?'

'Easy' said the Blonde, 'Andy sat, Andy watched, Andy waited till his billy boiled.'

And the Blonde entered Heaven...

... you're singing it now, aren't you...??*

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An elderly couple, who were both widowed, had been going out with each other for a long time.

Urged on by their friends, they decided it was finally time to get married. Before the Wedding they went out to dinner and had a long conversation regarding how their marriage might work. They discussed finances, living arrangements and so on.

Finally, the old gentleman decided to broach the subject of their physical relationship, "how do you feel about sex?" he asked rather tentatively.

"I would like it infrequently" she replied.

The old gentleman sat quietly for a moment, adjusted his glasses, leaned over to her and whispered. "is that one word or two"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A male patient is lying in bed in the hospital, wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth.

A young student nurse appears and gives him a partial sponge bath.

"Nurse," he mumbles from behind the mask, "Are my testicles black?"

Embarrassed, the young nurse replies, "I don't know, Sir. I'm only here to wash your upper body and feet."

He struggles to ask again, "Nurse, please check for me. Are my testicles black?"

Concerned that he might elevate his blood pressure and heart rate from worrying about his testicles, she overcomes her embarrassment and pulls back the covers. She raises his gown, holds his manhood in one hand and his testicles gently in the other. She looks very closely and says, "There's nothing wrong with them, Sir. They look magnificent."

The man slowly pulls off his oxygen mask, smiles at her, and says very slowly, "Thank you very much. That was wonderful. Now listen very, very closely: "Are- My - Test - Results - Back?"

.....UNQUOTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE.....

(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"...))