

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 2011 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. The July edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is [johnbryan13@sky.com](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), 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 <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

#### SINGH BAMRAH

For those of you that didn't see it – the June 2011 issue of Pilot magazine had a great article on Singh and his family, and his Biggin Hill based businesses. In case it was missed, it forms a part of this month's Bugle – well worth a read... I believe that edition was a complete sell out, and is no longer available. I reckon Singh bought up all the copies! – Only joking Singh, well deserved recognition of a lifetime of service to us all at Biggin. In fact, without you, clubs would have all but disappeared from the airport!

#### MRS JAMES

For those amongst us who have, in the distant past, worked for or had dealings with Jock Maitland, Surrey Aviation, or the Air Show, back in the early days of Biggin Hill, I felt I should advise you of the passing of a really sweet old lady we would all remember fondly – Mrs James. She was the office cleaner and tea lady for many years in those offices, and was always very sweet and helpful to everyone, as I'm sure you will all recall. She died in late April, at the ripe old age of something like 95. We were all represented at her funeral by Jean Moore and Fran Hitchins.

#### RIZON JET HANGAR COMPLEX

The impressive new Rizon jet MRO and FBO hangar and office suite at Biggin Hill is now open for business. Regular airport users will have recently seen both major aircraft movements to and from there, as well as the recent London to St Tropez Dodgeball rally event that passed through Biggin Hill with a number of "supercars" when the rally made its first stop of the trip at the airport, and utilised the Rizon facilities.

#### THE GREAT ESCAPE 2

As reported in the last month's Newsletter, the "Great Escape 2" successfully took place on 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June, starting at Biggin Hill Airport. Congratulations to all concerned. (see [www.greatescape2.net](http://www.greatescape2.net) )

## BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT & THE OLYMPICS

As many people will know, the request by Biggin Hill Airport for a variation of the licence from Bromley Council for the period of the 2012 Olympics was rejected earlier in the year. This was largely a political matter as Councillors will usually go with the vocal majority, as it is in their political interests to do so.

Biggin Hill Airport has now submitted a revised application which restricts their request for variations on operating hours only, and to just the two separate calendar periods of the Olympics and Para Olympics. It also drops the request for allowing fare paying passengers to be carried during that period.

<http://bigginhillairport.com/revised-olympic-hours-application-files-with-bromley-council>

The Council met just over a week ago to consider this request, and have decided to again opt for a short public consultation. (last time, the Council received 2194 responses, only 112 of which were supporting the request! This was largely due to the opposition groups seriously mobilising their supporters whereas we didn't. Remember these opposition groups would have the airport closed down or so seriously restricted as to ensure its financial survival as an airport would be seriously jeopardised!!!)

I appreciate that many of us had serious issues with the previous Airport Manager, and with the airport's premature termination of the Air Fair contract, and that probably meant that fewer people from our side responded in support (after all, 112 is hardly a sign of any support!) but - and it is a big but - it is very important for the airport operating company to take maximum advantage of the unique, once in a lifetime, event of the London 2012 London Olympics. This would ensure that it's finances are strengthened, rather than weakened by the fairly draconian airspace restrictions in the whole of the airspace being planned for the Southeast area. A strong and financially secure airport operating company is in the long term interests of all of us that use the airport, even occasionally.

So, with a new Managing Director, Jenny Munro, appearing to be now listening to the users needs, it really is time for us to put our past prejudices about the airport's handling of the Air Fair, and the lack of trust many had with the previous Airport Director's position, and help to support this request by the airport.

The opposition groups, like "Flightpath", have become very adept at promoting misinformation that frightens non-aviation residents into panicking and writing letters to the council to stop absolutely anything that the airport wants to do. As you can see in the very obviously "Flightpath originated" newspaper stories on the web links below, the emphasis is on the long term expansion of the airport, and the suggestion that the Olympics proposal is just the start of this long term expansion. It is not - it is a reasonable request to take advantage of the once in a lifetime event presented by the London 2012 Olympics. Flightpath's constant use of the words "scheduled services" and "lack of road and rail infrastructure", demonstrate clearly that their opposition to these proposals is actually nothing to do with the Olympics - it is the only way they can frighten people into voicing their opposition to what is a perfectly reasonable request in reality.

[http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/9094849.Council\\_to\\_reconsider\\_Biggin\\_Hill\\_Airport\\_s\\_bid\\_for\\_extended\\_2012\\_Olympic\\_hours/](http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/9094849.Council_to_reconsider_Biggin_Hill_Airport_s_bid_for_extended_2012_Olympic_hours/)

<http://www.woldingham.com/flightpath.htm>

It is interesting also to read the public comments made at the foot of the News Shopper article - most are simply spouting the usual "Flightpath" rhetoric - fortunately someone (and it is not Jenny - I have checked - Ed!) is attempting to counter each adverse comment with the true situation, but I suspect these protester's will be unswayed by anything that contradicts what they have been constantly fed as reality!

Two more local newspaper articles that include the “comments” sections criticising everything aviation related again:

[http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/9103361.Council\\_consulting\\_over\\_new\\_airport\\_proposals\\_to\\_extend\\_Olympic\\_opening\\_hours/?ref=mc](http://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/9103361.Council_consulting_over_new_airport_proposals_to_extend_Olympic_opening_hours/?ref=mc)

<http://chislehurstnews.wordpress.com/2011/06/21/new-biggin-hill-plans-revealed-as-ceo-dismisses-local-fears/>

See also the Bromley Council’s webpage about the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to decide on the revised proposals:-

[http://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/299/biggin\\_hill\\_airport\\_revised\\_application\\_considered\\_at\\_executive](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/press/article/299/biggin_hill_airport_revised_application_considered_at_executive)

SO, HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Do nothing and believe that someone else will do something is not an option! It is "our" airport - take the initiative and the time to put pen to paper - IT IS IMPORTANT.....

I would ask you to write to Bromley Council and additionally to your own MP at Westminster and voice your support in your own words. (I have not suggested a standard letter as these are often discounted by the Council as obviously organised tactics) I would recommend that you do so within the next few days as the consultation period is very short this time and it closes on 29th July..

I have been in touch with Jenny Munro on this matter and she has asked, in addition to the sending of direct letters to Bromley Council and MP's, for help with the following:-

- a) Letters to of support to editors of newspapers;
- b) Assistance with introductions to local area Residents Associations or other groups who you feel would appreciate a presentation and discussion about the Airport;
- c) Introductions to people or groups/associations where you believe it could be beneficial if they could visit the Airport for a tour and presentation

To those actions I would add – Please get involved in the online “comments” sections of the newspapers as well (some links above, but there will be many more) – have your say there to help counter the very one sided anti-airport postings that are attempting to use this medium to sway others and scare them into joining the opposition

In effect - whatever you think will help to allay concerns of members or friends of members. Please email me if you believe you can help in this way and I'll pass them to Jenny - or you can email her direct at - [md@bigginhillairport.com](mailto:md@bigginhillairport.com)

To send your letter of support to Bromley Council either by email to [airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:airport.consultation@bromley.gov.uk) or made by writing to Bromley Council, addressing letters to Airport Consultation Group, Bromley Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley , BR1 3UH .

2011 CHARTWELL CONCERT – A MUSICAL SALUTE TO THE R.A.F.

Once again, Synergy Events (the Phoenix risen from the ashes of Air Displays International after the termination of the Air Fair contract at Biggin) are planning a repeat of their amazingly successful Chartwell Concert of 2010.

Atmospheric Chartwell, the former residence of Air Commodore Sir Winston Churchill, will be brought to life by this patriotic celebration of the role of the Royal Air Force - "Yesterday and

Today". The Central Band of the Royal Air Force will take centre stage for this twilight concert on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> September. Supported by displays of historic and modern RAF aircraft, special effects, archive and modern film footage - this concert will bring alive some of the RAF's greatest moments of yesterday and today. Men and women of today's RAF will join the band in a celebration of their current service culminating in an uplifting, patriotic finale.

A sell out 3,000 people attended last year's Battle of Britain concert so an additional night has been added for 2011. Director of Music for the RAF Central Band, Piers Morrell said "*Last year's concert was a highlight for the band, it was a great honour to perform at the former home of Sir Winston Churchill and we are very much looking forward to bringing a brand new programme to Chartwell this year*". The Royal Air Forces Association is the chosen charity for this event; the association is dedicated to supporting serving and former RAF personnel and their families.

Unlike tradition Proms Concerts held throughout the summer, this unique production will take spectators on a flight through time – from the early days of the Royal Air Force to today's modern fighting force.

Tickets are now on sale online at [www.synergyeventsuk.com](http://www.synergyeventsuk.com) (where you can also view the latest information about the concert) or by calling the ticket line 01689 300005, they are priced at £33 per person plus a £2 booking fee per order.

#### BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Members renewals are still trickling in, even as late as this month, even though membership runs from January to December. Thanks for those. All membership cards have been sent out, so if you haven't received them, please let me know. Full details for new, and existing members, can be found on the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

In closing, another appeal to mobilise your support against the "anti" Biggin Hill Airport groups...

It is OUR airport – we have been there a lifetime, as most of you will be fully aware of, having been there yourselves for so long – and Airports have aircraft operating from them! It is, of course, important that we all accept that an airport as large as Biggin Hill cannot survive commercially on revenues from light aircraft and club flying alone, so our desire for things to be as they were is, perhaps unfortunately, never going to happen. We can, however, co-exist with the current commercial style traffic quite happily even if things are different to how they were - but if the commercial side of Biggin is not permitted to prosper, I personally think it is almost inevitable that the airport would eventually be forced to close its doors – it would just be a matter of time. **THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!**

Come on guys, have your say – get involved in the online debates – write to Bromley Council - write to the papers – talk to your friends and solicit their support - don't let the lies go uncountered.. Biggin Hill Airport's management has entered a new era – they are listening to us all – don't waste the opportunity – let them know you are behind them.....

That's it again for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: This comes to us this month from an old Biggin Hill'ite now a resident of New Zealand – but his little story is just as relevant to us here in the UK.... And how true it is...

QUOTE.....

Being Green is the new thing! - Or is it?

In the queue at the store, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day."

The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right, that generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But they didn't have the green thing back in that customer's day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's nappies because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right; they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the Wall. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the tram or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or went on the bus instead of turning their mums into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Isn't it so sad how the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were, just because they didn't have the green thing back then?

.....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"...)