

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

The July edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ... It is not included here - to view the Bugle you need to go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – when you get to the Bugle section, you need to then click on the July 2012 edition link – this will open it in a new browser window so you can read it or print it..

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).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database members list..

Please let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know anyone else who has been involved on the airport, please pass me their details so they can be added to the database.

EMAIL PROBLEMS!

If anyone has experienced problems when sending emails to me at BigginHillReunited, with bounce messages stating that “this address has Permanent fatal problems”, please accept my apologies. The problems are caused by an anti-spam system called “spamcop” that blocks IP addresses if they are identified as a potential source of spam. This international system blocks the IP address of the mail server that is identified as the source, but most people use a shared service not a dedicated one. On a shared service if just a single user, out of the many thousands using the same server, is identified as a spammer, then everyone using that server ends up being blocked, until the real culprit can be blocked by the ISP and the Spamcop block can be removed. It is not us causing it, we are just one of the many victims.

If you are trying to send something to me and you get such a bounce message, please try an alternative address at johnw@britishwebsearch.com until the old address returns to normal.

CUSTOMS FACILITIES AT CALAIS

Calais-Dunkerque Airport has apparently said that they will be able to continue to provide Customs facilities for the foreseeable future. According to Flyer Magazine, following the announcement that a number of French airfields are set to lose Customs clearance, the airfield has been inundated with questions about its status and wants to reassure pilots that the current two hour Prior Notice Requirement remains acceptable.

You can book customs online here:

<http://aeroport.capcalais.fr/en/forms/customs-form/>

DEREK HARDIMAN

At the time of going to press with this Newsletter I was told that our old friend, Derek Hardiman, who was an active member of the old Pilots Pals and is a friend of many Biggin Hill'ites, suffered a stroke about two weeks ago.

He is apparently responding well to treatment at the Princess Royal University Hospital (Farnborough Hospital to most of us oldies!), where he is being cared for in the Stroke Department. Visiting there is 2pm to 4pm and 6pm to 8pm for any of his friends that would like to visit him and give him their support..

We all wish him well..

CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE THE UK'S AIR PASSENGER TAX

The UK has amongst the highest Passenger Taxes for flying in the entire world. It will soon be cheaper to travel across to Europe to make long haul flights, rather than using UK airlines - That really can't be right or good for the UK economy!

A Fair Tax on Flying, which is an alliance of airlines, tour operators and industry organisations, has unveiled a website allowing people to write to their own MP using a prepared template. This Nationally organised campaign really has made it quick, and simple, and completely effortless to email your own local MP

If you agree and want to try to make a change, go to <http://www.afairtaxonflying.org/>

Please have your say, lets all try to get some common sense to prevail with the powers that be in the UK before they completely destroy yet another industry... Do it now – don't put it off til later!

JACK UPCHURCH

We were informed recently that another old friend of many Biggin Hill'ites, Jack Upchurch, died on 16th April 2012, aged 82. Jack learnt to fly with Rex Nicholls in the original Experimental Flying Group, and subsequently became a very active member of the Tiger Club. He frequently displayed Tiger Club aircraft at various airshows.

His memorial was held at the Airport House, Croydon Airport on 16th June...

JOHN BLAKE

For all air show fans, the name John Blake is synonymous with brilliant commentaries at many shows, including of course the earlier Biggin Hill Air Fairs and more recently Farnborough Airshows. John, who had retired from the airshow circuit for some time now, sadly passed away on 23rd May 2012. In addition to his commentating, John was a very accomplished artist and was Fellow of the Guild of Aviation Artists and a former Chairman of that Guild.

His commentating successor, Stratton Richie, posted a very appropriate obituary on various websites and forums, and that is reproduced in this month's Bugle, so I will leave it for you to read on there.

John will be sadly missed by many who met him ..

HANGARAGE AVAILABLE AT BIGGIN

Global Flight Solutions, who bought the Bernie Ecclestone hangar on the main South East area, have advised me that they have some spare hangarage capacity, and would be happy to consider any aircraft, however small. They say they will be very competitive with existing services at the airport and would welcome any enquiries.

Contact details are: - Global Flight Solutions, Email - theteam@flygfs.com - Tel - 01959 579950

REMINDER & INVITE TO OLD HAY

Message from the organisers to all database members..

“Once again, we are holding another summer party weekend for our friends at Old Hay Airfield, near Paddock Wood in Kent starting from midday on 18th August with Air Displays, Live Entertainment, Food & Drink and an evening party for pilots and aviation enthusiasts alike. Camping is encouraged and many chose to and this year we also have limited on-site accommodation available by prior arrangement on a first come, first served basis (see [website](#) for details). Dogs are welcome, however they must be kept on a lead at all times whilst aircraft are operating.

The event is strictly a private affair, therefore you may only extend this invitation to your responsible friends and family and not publicly advertise the event in any way. Due to local licensing regulations, numbers at the event are limited to a maximum of 499. We are selling advance e-tickets online on the airfield website - <http://www.oldhayairfield.co.uk>

Advance tickets cost £12 per day for adults and £7 per day for under 16's. There is no charge for babies and children under 3 years old. There will also be a small number of tickets available at the gate priced at £15 for adults and £10 for under 16's. We have already sold in excess of 150 tickets so you are advised to buy tickets online to avoid disappointment.

To buy your tickets, you will require a username and password for the website. These are:

Username: oldhay Password: 1195

Please note the site does not seem to work as intended with the Google Chrome browser.

Pilots wishing to fly-in must ensure they have downloaded the joining instructions from the website once they have completed their ticket purchase.

After the success of last years flying display and the truly amazing generosity of the pilots involved we shall once again be holding a flying display on the Saturday afternoon. If you hold a display authorisation and feel that you might like to be a part of it then please contact the Flying Display Director, Sam Whatmough: sam@theairministry.com We would very much love to hear from you and include you and your aircraft in the flying programme. We can't offer much apart from complimentary hospitality all weekend and heartfelt thanks, not to mention hero-like status but we can promise you a very enjoyable time.

Calling all dam-busters and dead-eye dicks! We shall also be holding a flour bombing competition on the Sunday afternoon (bombs provided!).

Updates and developments concerning the event are posted on the Old Hay Airfield Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/oldhayairfield> If you choose the "Like" option, you will receive the updates as and when they occur.

A special high definition video invitation containing highlights from previous years has been prepared and can be viewed by following this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMChyfMo1DU&hd=1&autoplay=1>

If you are unable to view high definition video, please use the alternate link below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMChyfMo1DU&autoplay=1>

Any questions or queries regarding the event can be directed to info@oldhayairfield.co.uk

Look forward to seeing you there for what is set to be another excellent event!”

QUEEN'S JUBILEE CONCERT AT GUILDFORD

Saturday 23rd June saw some 2,500 people braving the weather to attend the Queens Jubilee Concert at Guildford's Losely Park. Friday hit the area with exceptional rainfall, making most of the grounds very waterlogged. The day itself was quite windy and almost constantly overcast except for a brief and very welcome sunny spell conveniently at the moment the Blades formation display began, before deteriorating again and becoming very cold.

Organisers, Synergy Events UK, struggled with the weather during the setup to get the massive stage and sound systems into place on the absolutely sodden ground, but managed relatively well. Unfortunately, when it came to bringing in the two huge TV screens to their planned position either side of the stage, they were beaten. The trucks were simply too heavy for the ground and the first one finally became stuck in a less than desirable position to the side of the main display area and had to be left there for the duration of the show, albeit working fine in that position. Movement of the second one was not even attempted as clearly that would have become stuck too, and it was eventually returned unused to the TV company.

The crowd was entertained by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, and included a music and dance programme based on 60 years of Royal Variety performances by the West End Kids, and performances by the Military Wives Choir. With excellent demonstrations of synchronised marching by Cadets from the Surrey Squadrons of the Air Training Corps, and narration by Classic FM's Nicholas Owen, the concert part of the programme provided plenty to see and hear.

In the air, in spite of quite understandable weather cancellations by The Royal Air Force Parachute Team, the Falcons, the concert goers were treated to an amazing display by the Blades aerobatic team, plus individual displays by the RAF with a Tucano, King Air 200, and a BBMF Spitfire. A DHC 1 Chipmunk also gave a very spirited display in the less than ideal conditions. The promised RAF Roll Demo by two Tornado GR4's was unable to get the vertical airspace to do their show, and we all had to be satisfied with two very noisy flypasts of the two aircraft in close formation at low level. All in all, in the windy weather, with lowish clouds and the constant threat of rain, an excellent effort by all concerned.

Well done to Colin and Fran Hitchins and his team.

APOLOGIES FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

Jenny sends her regards to the membership and her apologies – she is away on leave at the time of going to press and ran out of time to get an article to us before we published this Newsletter. She hopes to have details of the Olympics opening ceremony and Biggin Hill's involvement in that event in next month's Newsletter.

CAA SWITCH TO ALLOWING VFR AT NIGHT DELAYED

The promised changes in legislation to allow VFR at night has now been delayed until 17th September 2012, to coincide with the delayed date previously announced by the CAA for the introduction of the part-FCL changes moving towards the integration with EASA licences. Pilots are reminded that, until that date, any flying during official night must continue to be conducted under IFR.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE

I have had several people asking recently if I know the whereabouts of Don Daines, who is an old Biggin Hill'ite. If you have any means of contacting Don, whose original database email address no longer works, please drop me a note..

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you all for your continued financial support – the club membership fees do help to pay for the server space for the Bugle and this Newsletter and incidental expenses, so it is appreciated..

That's it for this month..

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Two amusing stories this month – the first from Ray Thorpe in Canada, and the second from our regular contributor Dudley Clarke – thanks guys...

QUOTE.....

The following are all replies that British women have put on Child Support Agency forms in the section for listing father's details:

These are genuine excerpts from the forms. Be sure to check number 10 - it takes the prize.

1. Regarding the identity of the father of my twins, child A was fathered by Tyrone Munson. I am unsure as to the identity of the father of child B, but I believe that he was conceived on the same night.
2. I am unsure as to the identity of the father of my child as I was being sick out of a window when taken unexpectedly from behind. I can provide you with a list of names of men that I think were at the party if this helps.
3. I do not know the name of the father of my little girl. She was conceived at a party at 36 Nottingham Avenue where I had unprotected sex with a man I met that night. I do remember that the sex was so good that I fainted. If you do manage to track down the father, can you send me his phone number? Thanks.
4. I don't know the identity of the father of my daughter. He drives a BMW that now has a hole made by my stiletto in one of the door panels. Perhaps you can contact BMW service stations in this area, and see if he's had it replaced.
5. I cannot tell you the name of child A's dad as he informs me that to do so would blow his cover and that would have cataclysmic implications for the British economy. I am torn between doing right by you and right by the country. Please advise.
6. I do not know who the father of my child was as all squaddies look the same to me. I can confirm that he was a Royal Green Jacket.
7. Leroy Smith is the father of child A. If you do catch up with him, can you ask him what he did with my AC/DC CDs?
8. From the dates it seems that my daughter was conceived at Euro Disney; maybe it really is the Magic Kingdom
9. So much about that night is a blur. The only thing that I remember for sure is Delia Smith did a program about eggs earlier in the evening. If I'd have stayed in and watched more TV rather than going to the party at 146 Miller Drive, mine might have remained unfertilised.

10. I am unsure as to the identity of the father of my baby. For example, when you eat a can of beans you can't be sure which one made you fart.

.....UNQUOTE

And now a charming little story – sent in by Dudley with the comment “I bet you won't put this in your Newsletter” – well here it is....

QUOTE.....

The Tax Inspector and the Rabbi

At the end of the tax year, the Tax Office sent an inspector to audit the books of a Synagogue.

While he was checking the books he turned to the Rabbi and said, 'I notice you buy a lot of candles. What do you do with the candle drippings?'

'Good question,' noted the Rabbi. 'We save them up and send them back to the candle makers, and every now and then they send us a free box of candles.'

'Oh,' replied the auditor, somewhat disappointed that his unusual question had a practical answer.

But on he went, in his obnoxious way:

'What about all these bread-wafer purchases? What do you do with the crumbs?'

'Ah, yes,' replied the Rabbi, realising that the inspector was trying to trap him with an unanswerable question. 'We collect them and send them back to the manufacturers, and every now and then they send us a free box of bread-wafers.'

'I see,' replied the auditor, thinking hard about how he could fluster the know-it-all Rabbi. 'Well, Rabbi,' he went on, 'what do you do with all the leftover foreskins from the circumcisions you perform?'

'Here, too, we do not waste,' answered the Rabbi, 'What we do is save all the foreskins and send them to the Tax Office, and about once a year they send us a complete prick.'

.....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"...))