

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database July Newsletter....

JB's July 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 – 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: 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.

PETER PAIN

It was with great sadness that, the day after publishing last month's Newsletter, I was informed that our friend and old Biggin Hill'ite, Peter Pain, passed away on 2nd June after a very short illness. (The announcement was made via the Biggin Hill Reunited group on Facebook).

Peter, who initially joined the Coldstream Guards for his National Service before passing selection for the Number One Independent Parachute Company. He saw active service in Suez and Cyprus. Initially on leaving the services, he went to California to seek his fortune, before returning to the UK. He had various jobs in the UK, including a Steeplejack, and an AA Motorcycle Patrol Man, and then he joined the London Fire Brigade. Eventually he joined the Fire Service at Heathrow Airport, subsequently moving to the Gatwick Airport Fire Service, and eventually joining the Fire Service at Biggin Hill.

During his time at Biggin, he also worked in the Tower, was the airport manager for a time, and was the senior Fire Officer, where he trained many of the existing senior Fire Crews.

A tremendously well respected man, Peter will be much missed by many at the airport.

His funeral was held at Crawley on 11th June, and was attended by many dozens of family and friends, including many former colleagues from Biggin Hill and Gatwick. The Gatwick Fire Service sent a Fire Appliance to accompany the funeral cortege, and his coffin was piped into the service by Biggin Hill Airport's Vic Faloon.

Our condolences to his widow, Wendy, and her family.

BIGGIN HILL "FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT"

Saturday 14th June 2014 saw the welcome return to our airport of an airshow, the "Festival of Flight". Whilst the weather on Saturday morning was far gloomier than previously forecast, nothing was going to put off the 15,000 pre-paid show visitors from taking their part in this

unique new show. With gates opening at Midday, there were already substantial queues, both on foot as well as by car, long before that time.

Fortunately the weather improved steadily and the earlier showers abated and, by the time the Red Arrows arrived at the airport for their display later in the day, it was acceptable for their customary formation run and break, coloured smoke on, which always impresses the crowd.

Different to previous shows, the Festival of Flight took account of the airport's commercial needs to allow normal traffic to operate and, instead of a 5 or 6 hour closed period, the display closure periods were cleverly restricted to three separate periods of around an hour, with normal operations in between them. In the airport open periods, there were many activities and shows/demonstrations within the main showground to keep people's interest. The general consensus from virtually everyone I have spoken to, was that the new format worked very well, and was something that did not, as anticipated, detract from the day. In fact, in some ways, it actually enhanced it.

After an excellent day's flying programme, the Red's gave their excellent display in the last display block, and after it completed the crowd were treated to the wonderful sight of the late Ray Hanna's Spitfire, MH434, flown by Paul Bonhomme, tucked nicely in the middle of the Red's "Vic" formation as they flew majestically down the flight display line in front of the crowd. Beautiful sight.

Paul then went on to close the show, as Ray did for many years at the annual Air Fair, with a solo Spitfire display, accompanied by stirring and patriotic music on the PA system – a fitting end to an excellent show.

I would like to express our thanks to the Airport Management, in particular Will Curtis, Andrew and Robert Walters, for re-introducing an airshow into our calendar. It was clearly well received by both local residents and airport tenants and users alike. A special thanks, of course, to Colin Hitchins for his organising skills. Whilst there were some minor hiccups regarding traffic management at exit time, and food supplies within the showground, these are all teething troubles for a new show, and nothing that can't be cured for subsequent shows. Remember how long it took for the Air Fair's organisation to evolve!

I do hope that the obvious success of the new show, which has put Biggin Hill Airport back on the map for many fans and local residents, will result in the show returning to an annual event. I am sure that it is always possible to find reasons to argue that such an event is not commercially compatible with the nature of Biggin Hill Airport's day to day operations, but I am sure this event has proved that the show can co-exist very well with the normal jet traffic for that one day – and the potential Public Relations gains for the airport are of course enormous.

AIRPORT USERS MARQUEE AT THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

The new Airport Users Marquee was exceptionally well received, and fully subscribed. A little over 200 people brought their picnics and were able to watch the show from a large garden area right on the flight display line – one of the best views available, and just a few hundred yards from the Runway's edge.

To everyone that supported me in purchasing their tickets and attending on the day, thank you very much. It has brought a new dimension to air show viewing for very many of you. Should there be another show, I will try my best to arrange for another similar facility. It was great to meet up with so many old faces, some of whom had travelled especially to the UK for the show. A sort of mini-reunion as well as an airshow.

Whilst on the subject of support – there were a couple of people (and they will know who they are!) who seemed to think that while everyone else paid for their front line facility, they would invite their friends in for free without asking, by passing their wrist bands over the fence to them – you may think this went unnoticed, but it didn't. All that means is that, on future events it will be necessary to spend more money on securing the area to prevent such abuse – and that will affect everyone else, who will have to cover that cost within the price they pay. Such actions were not clever, was totally unnecessary, and was detrimental to everyone else who financially supported everything. It really wasn't that expensive, after all...

OLD HAY AVIATION BOOGIE 2014

In case you don't already know about it, this is your invitation (as Biggin Hill Reunited Database Members) to attend the Annual Aviation Boogie at Old Hay on 8th, 9th, and 10th August.

“Following the successful addition of another night to the Boogie last year, we will once again be opening the event on Friday evening from 6pm to allow those camping the weekend to pitch their tents and enjoy an evening of entertainment before the air display on Saturday. On Sunday, we are opening the event up to visiting pilots with a fly-in, which means the skies over Old Hay will be busy all weekend.

A video invitation has been specially prepared for you, which captures some of the highlights of the air display last year. The video can be accessed here >

[Old Hay Aviation Boogie 2014 Video Invitation](#)

Tickets are available now on the [Old Hay Website](#). Because the Aviation Boogie is a private event, you will require a username and password to purchase tickets.

The username is *boogie* and the password is *oh1195*

This year tickets will ONLY be available in advance up until 1st August and will be limited to a maximum of 499. Tickets will be then be posted out in the form of wristbands, which must be worn at the event as your proof of purchase. There is a one day pass and a full weekend pass available for both Adults and Children. The one day pass covers only the air show on Saturday. The full weekend pass is for those wishing to camp and enjoy the live music, model air displays, hog roast and party which takes place on the Saturday evening.

There are family passes available which include a discount for two adults accompanying two children.

The website should contain all the info you need about the event, however please email info@oldhayairfield.co.uk should you have any further queries.”

STOP PRESS – as at 23rd June there were apparently only 150 tickets remaining! [Ed]

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS

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)

Nothing from anyone this month folks....

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

June was a busy month with the highlight being the Festival of Flight. The event was well received and much enjoyed by the local population so we will be looking to run the event again next year which will, of course, coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Since

Biggin Hill was arguably a focal point the Battle of Britain being possibly the best known of the many fighter stations that took part in the battle, it seems likely that the spotlight of publicity will shine brightly on our event next year. We will plan accordingly! We are obviously looking at what, with hindsight, did not go quite so well at this year's event and we know that we need more catering outlets, more toilets and better traffic management at next year's event. However, these are all surmountable obstacles and we think not too difficult to fix.

On the operational side, we are currently working on a Noise Action Plan as part of a wider plan committing us to being a better neighbour and employer in the local community. We are reviewing our flight paths and current operational practices and procedures to see how we might better mitigate our noise footprint allowing local residents more peace and quiet. Sadly, it seems that light aircraft frequently ignore published noise abatement routings and so we will need to look closely at how we manage this type of traffic in future because we cannot simply ignore the effect that these errant aircraft have on the local population below. We have asked nicely a number of times and still the problem persists due, it seems, to a small number of pilots who for whatever reason do not want to do the decent thing. We are now approaching the warmest months of the year in which many locals like to use their garden and enjoy the summer weather. May I take this opportunity to ask all pilots reading this to review the current noise abatement routings and to ensure that they comply with these at all times. Please operate your aircraft in a manner likely to cause the least possible distress to those on the ground - reduce propeller RPM as soon as practical after departure, use the lowest safe power setting and avoid flying over all built up areas surrounding the airport as a matter of course. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Our safety management system is now providing a large bank of data and we are beginning to see emerging trends that will allow us to mitigate threats to safety, hopefully before an incident takes place. Many of these threats are easily mitigated, others not as easily, but we will work through these as a part of a corporate commitment to continuous improvement in everything we do at the airport.

One of the areas of potential confusion highlighted by the SMS and by anecdotal evidence is occasional congestion on the radio leading to delays in timely communication with ATC. In order to cut radio congestion at Biggin Hill and to provide full and accurate information regarding flights operating to and from Biggin Hill, we are now looking at introducing a "booking out" procedure for flights that are not already covered by an ATC flight plan. This will require pilots to "book out" before boarding for departure in the same way that they do at the majority of other UK airports. Information provided to ATC whilst booking out will include registration, estimated off blocks time, number on persons on board, name and phone number of pilot in command, destination, first reporting point after departure, fuel endurance and estimated time en route. The advantage of this is that upon first contact, ATC will already have your flight details and therefore there will be no need to share your life history with them before getting going. It should lead to a more efficient and calmer use of Biggin Hill ATC radio frequencies and therefore more expeditious arrivals and departures for all.

As already announced, we are working to extend our wi-fi across the East Camp. The project is somewhat behind and the hold-up is with the fibre optic line provider, Virgin. Hopefully this project should not be delayed too much longer. Once the project is complete I will let you know.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their renewal fee –Your support is much appreciated. Full details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

When sending anything in, please remember to use the new postal address...

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.....

A good set of "one liners" for you.....

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time....

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a coffin, 3 hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £70!!! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I was at an ATM yesterday when a little old lady asked if I could check her balance , so I pushed her over.

I was driving this morning when I saw an AA van parked up. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself that guy's heading for a breakdown.

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarves are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that, 2:30am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador."Bugger that" says Mick "have you seen how many of their owners go blind?"

I saw a poor old lady fall over today on the ice!! At least I presume she was poor - she only had £1.20 in her purse.

My girlfriend thinks that I'm a stalker. Well, she's not exactly my girlfriend yet.

A wife says to her husband you're always pushing me around and talking behind my back. He says what do you expect? You're in a wheelchair.

I was explaining to my wife last night that when you die you get reincarnated but must come back as a different creature. She said I would like to come back as a cow. I said you're obviously not listening.

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

Two Muslims have crashed a speedboat into the Thames barrier in London. Police think it might be the start of Ram-a-dam.

Sat opposite an Indian lady on the train today, she shut her eyes and stopped breathing. I thought she was dead, until I saw the red spot on her forehead and realized she was just on standby.

The wife was counting all the 5p's and 10p's out on the kitchen table when she suddenly got very angry and started shouting and crying for no reason. I thought to myself, "She's going through the change."

When I was in the pub I heard a couple of plonkas saying that they wouldn't feel safe on an aircraft if they knew the pilot was a woman.

What a pair of sexists. I mean, it's not as if she'd have to reverse the bloody thing!

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who has stabbed six people in the arse in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.

Bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it!

Murphy says to Paddy "What ya talkin to an envelope for?" "I'm sending a voicemail ya thick sod!"

Just got back from my mate's funeral. He died after being hit on the head with a tennis ball. It was a lovely service.

An Asian fellow has moved in next door. He has traveled the world, swum with sharks, wrestled bears and climbed the highest mountain. It came as no surprise to learn his name was Bindair Dundat.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Have you ever been wound up by your PC when creating a password.....???

WINDOWS: Please enter your new password.

USER: cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters.

USER: boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.

USER: 1 boiled cabbage

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

USER: 50bloodyboiled cabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

USER: 50BLOODYboiledcabbages

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

USER: 50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

WINDOWS: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

USER:

ReallyPissedOff50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

WINDOWS: Sorry, that password is already in use.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

No one believes seniors . . . everyone thinks they are senile.

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighborhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Jerry had carved I love you, Sally.

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armoured car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand dollars!

Jerry said, We've got to give it back.

Sally said, Finders keepers. She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighbourhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armoured car yesterday?

Sally said, No.

Jerry said, She's lying. She hid it up in the attic.

Sally said, Don't believe him, he's getting senile

The agents turned to Jerry and began to question him.

One said: Tell us the story from the beginning.

Jerry said, Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday

The first police officer turned to his partner and said, Were outta here!

.....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"...))