

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database July Newsletter. I apologise for this being sent slightly earlier than normal, but at the normal time I will not be able to access the internet...

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.*** 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)

Welcome particularly to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

SHIPPING & AIRLINES SPECIAL DAY

Thursday 25th June saw the fantastic sight of the entire Shipping and Airlines fleet of wonderful vintage aeroplanes flying around the skies of Biggin Hill in the glorious sunshine. Peter Greenyer is to be congratulated in preserving so many amazing aircraft in full flying condition.

The skies of Biggin were full of aircraft ranging from light training aircraft, helicopters, Spitfires, and vintage aircraft, as well as the normal range of Corporate Jets. One has to wonder what the visiting jet crews from around the world thought they were coming to.

Biggin ATC are to be congratulated for the way in which they handled such an amazing variation of types and speeds, and kept us all safe. They sounded severely stretched but ever friendly and professional. Made me feel quite proud of our airport...

GEORGE CREW

As many will know, old Biggin Hill'ite George Crew sadly passed away recently. Notice of his passing was too late to include in last month's newsletter.

George will be remembered by many oldies as a member of Surrey and Kent Flying Club in the 1960's. Father of Dave Crew, grandfather of Lisa, Claire, and Leanne, George was an active member of the airport community for some years back in those old days.

Rest in Peace George, you will be missed by your many old friends and colleagues

BOB LEE

Another sad loss this month, Bob Lee, formerly a member of 600 Sqd Flying Group in the 1960's passed away after suffering from a serious illness for some months. Along with brothers Stan, Fred, Dennis, and Eddie, the Lee family were known to most of us oldies from that period.

Bob grew up locally in St Pauls Cray, but lived up in Norfolk for many years. His funeral was held at Hoverton on 25th June. He will be missed by his many friends from that era, and very much by me personally as we spent a great deal of time together back then. R.I.P. Bob.

CHECK OUT THE CIRRUS AT EFG BBQ

Want to try the Cirrus and have a day out with aviation friends?

EFG are holding a BBQ on Saturday 4th July 2015 at the EFG club building next to the, soon to be, Lookout Café. The day apparently starts at 09:30 and some will get the opportunity of flying these excellent aircraft. The BBQ is scheduled to start at around midday. See EFG's own entry later in this newsletter.

BOOKING OUT PROCEDURE AT BIGGIN

Members of the Airport's SANARB committee are currently testing the online booking out facility, and it is anticipated that the announcement of this service going live will be announced during the month of July. Watch for Notices of this appearing with your airport account invoices in due course, and I will endeavour to publicise this through the Biggin Hill Reunited Facebook pages.

For those that have expressed concern about it, I can honestly say that, during testing, it has shown that it will be simple to use and take just a few moments prior to a flight, so no one should worry too much. I am sure that (as with the system in force during the Olympics) within a couple of uses, it will be very much a normal function of pre-flight activity and take no time at all...

CAFÉ AND VIEWING AREA

By the time you read this the long awaited Café and Viewing area is nearing its opening day (planned, I believe for 7th July). We will no longer have to venture off airport to the village to enjoy a Costa coffee and Pannini! Please support the facility whenever you can.

Hope to see you all there when you visit Biggin for a coffee and a chat, with a great view of the airport...

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 13th JUNE 2015

What a great day, sadly marred slightly by poor weather around the UK preventing several planned display items even leaving their bases, and a number of unfortunate unserviceabilities, the airport put on an excellent show. Full details including some photos can be seen in this month's Biggin Hill Bugle.

The Biggin Hill Reunited Marquee for owners, users, and Tenants, was completely full having received excellent support from you all, and everyone seemed to have a great day with their picnics and exotic wines and the like. When early rain threatened, the cover of the marquee certainly helped keep us all cosy and dry. When everything brightened up, the Marquee's garden area provided us all with an excellent viewing area adjacent to the display line.

Thanks again for all your support and, as requested, I have already placed my order for a similar facility at next year's show. Whilst on the subject of next year – please put the date – 18th June 2016 in your diaries....

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATION

Full details of this very unique event on the 18th August can be seen below in the section provided by Colin Hitchins, who is the organiser of the Festival of Flight and the Biggin Hill Airport Community Engagement Manager. Should be very special....

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS & BUSINESSES

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)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

A lovely sunny hello to you all.

So by all accounts it seems that we are in store for some prime flying weather!

GA has had a pretty good month with people flying all across the UK as well as Europe and really taking advantage of all the fantastic facilities Biggin and the great support services have to offer.

Don't forget that next Saturday 4th July EFG Flying School has Cirrus Aircraft show-casing one of their amazing machines. We shall of course have a BBQ on offer so everyone can enjoy the sunshine, food and a cold beverage. All will be welcome to join us.....

Hope to see many of you next week.

Stay safe and fly afar

Anoop Singh Bamrah

BHA COMMUNITY OFFICE

The 2015 Biggin Hill Festival of Flight returned with a bigger audience, 18,000, and a more traditional format for the flying display. Despite the weathers best attempts the flying display was generally well received in particular the closing formation Spitfire display flown by Paul Bonhomme and Steve Jones, I think we have found Ray Hanna's successors. The new traffic management company, Topher, were a vast improvement on 2015 and a number of areas have been identified to make further improvements for next year.

As you all know tickets sold out 10 days before the event, demand was unprecedented and with the number of complimentary responses we have received I am sure this will now be the norm rather than the exception. A date for next year's diary, we have confirmed the 18th June 2016 for next year's Festival of Flight, thank you for your support this year and if you couldn't make this year I hope we will see you in 2016.

We now look to the 18th August when the gates of the airport open again for the commemoration of the Hardest Day during the Battle of Britain. Organised by the airport and the Heritage Hangar the event will see 24 Spitfires and Hurricanes gather at Biggin Before setting off in three flights of eight aircraft to replicate the main sorties of the 18th August 1940. Tickets have been limited to 3,000 with proceeds being donated to the RAF Benevolent Fund. Tickets are available online only via www.biggin75.co.uk.

EFG has a new neighbour which it is hoped will open its doors early July, the Lookout Café. In response to the recent public consultation the former Cabair flying club building has undergone extensive refurbishment. With its garden viewing area the café will be open 7 days a week to serve Tea, Costa coffee, sandwiches, Paninis, cream teas and the like. A new manager has been appointed along with three new part timer members of staff who will be joined by the airport café bar staff when the airport facility closes down as part of the terminal refurbishment.

Regards

Colin Hitchins

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

June has been a busy month for all forms of aviation and we are at last seeing some small growth in the business aviation sector after 5 years of a very flat market. This is a most welcome development.

We continue to negotiate the Council over the requisite controls on noise that we must put in place if we are to take advantage of our extended operating hours. We anticipate that this process will take a few months more and I will keep you posted as to progress.

The new booking out system is now in the final stages of testing and should be released before too much longer. When this is introduced, it should speed up the process of getting airborne and ensure that we always have the details of your flight before you depart, thus allowing us to handle overdue action more effectively if it becomes necessary. Iphone and Android apps will follow shortly and this will allow even easier access to the system.

The Festival of Flight went well this year with 18,000 people turning out despite the weather. Indeed, poor weather to the north of London kept the Blenheim and B17 (Sally 'B') at Duxford and Paul Bonhomme's S Bach on the ground at Audley End, leaving Steve Jones to perform solo in his S Bach. The RAF Chinook also went tech at RAF Northolt. For me, the highlight of the day was seeing Steve Jones and Paul Bonhomme fly a duo in Spitfires. It was a masterclass in formation flying and quite the best Spitfire formation I have seen so far - a really special way to close the show! Lastly, it is my happy duty to thank Colin Hitchins and his team for putting on such a memorable and well run show. Thank you Colin.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again for your support for the club and database so far this year – your financial support is very much appreciated and is used to fund the costs of servers for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site. Existing members renewing do not need a further form, so just send the appropriate fee. (if you need to replace the existing photo, please include a new head and shoulder shot with your name on the reverse – or you can email the photo to me). If you are a new member, please send both the fee, head and shoulder photo, and a completed application form.

(In all cases, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the membership card(s)).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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.

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.....

An elderly lady was invited to an old friend's home for dinner one evening. She was impressed by the way her lady friend preceded every request to her husband with endearing terms such as: Honey, My Love, Darling, sweetheart, etc.

The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love. While the husband was in the living room, her lady friend leaned over to her hostess to say, 'I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your husband all those loving names.'

The elderly lady hung her head, 'I have to tell you the truth,' she said, 'his name slipped my mind about 10 years ago, and I'm scared to death to ask the cranky old asshole what his name is.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

For several years, a man had been having an affair with an Italian woman.

One night, she confided to him that she was pregnant.

Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go back to Italy to secretly have the child. Also, if she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would provide child support until the child turned 18.

She agreed, but asked how he would know when the baby was born.

To keep it discrete, he told her to simply mail him a postcard, and write "Spaghetti" on the back when the child was born. He would then arrange for the Child Support Payments to begin.

One day, about 8 months later, he came home to his confused wife.

"Honey," she said, "You received a very strange postcard today."

"Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," he said.

The wife obeyed and watched as her husband read the card, turn white, and fainted.

On the card was written:

"Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti.
Three with meatballs, two without.

Send extra sauce!!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Golfer's love story.....

An elderly couple were having dinner one evening when the husband reached across the table, took his wife's hand in his and said, "Martha, soon we will be married 50 years, and there's something I have to know. In all of these 50 years, have you ever been unfaithful to me?"

Martha replied, "Well Henry, I have to be honest with you. Yes, I've been unfaithful to you three times during these 50 years, but always for a good reason.

Henry was obviously hurt by his wife's confession, but said, "I never suspected. Can you tell me what you mean by 'good reasons?'"

Martha said, "The first time was shortly after we were married, and we were about to lose our little house because we couldn't pay the mortgage.

Do you remember that one evening I went to see the banker and the next day he notified you that the loan would be extended?"

Henry recalled the visit to the banker and said, "I can forgive you for that. You saved our home, but what about the second time?"

Martha asked, "And do you remember when you were so sick, but we didn't have the money to pay for the heart surgery you needed? Well, I went to see your doctor one night and, if you recall, he did the surgery at no charge..."

"I recall that," said Henry. "And you did it to save my life, so of course I can forgive you for that. Now tell me about the third time."

"All right!!!"

Do you remember when you ran for president of your golf club, and you needed 73 more votes.....?

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man with a winking problem is applying for a position as a sales representative for a large firm.

The interviewer looks over his papers and says, "This is phenomenal. You've graduated from the best schools; your recommendations are wonderful, and your experience is unparalleled. Normally, we'd hire you without a second thought, however, a sales representative has a highly visible position, and we're afraid that your constant winking will scare off potential customers. I'm sorry.... we can't hire you."

"But wait," the man says. "If I take two aspirin, I'll stop winking!"

"Really? Great! Show me!"

So the applicant reaches into his jacket pocket and begins pulling out all sorts of condoms: red condoms, blue condoms, ribbed condoms, flavoured condoms; finally, at the bottom, he finds a packet of aspirin.

He tears it open, swallows the pills, and stops winking.

"Well," said the interviewer, "that's all well and good, but this is a respectable company, and we will not have our employees womanising all over the country!"

"Womanizing? What do you mean? I'm a happily married man!"

"Well then, how do you explain all these condoms?"

"Oh, that," he sighed. "Have you ever walked into a pharmacy, winking, and asked for aspirin?"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young man called Chris from London wanted to buy a Christmas present for his new girlfriend Maggie. They hadn't been seeing each other for very long and she lived in Scotland.

Chris consulted with his sister and decided, after careful consideration, that a pair of good quality gloves would strike the right note... not too romantic and not too personal.

Off he went with his sister to Harrods and they selected a dainty pair of fur lined quality leather gloves. His sister bought a pair of sexy nickers for herself at the same time. Harrods had a free gift wrap offer but the assistant mixed up the two items, the sister got the gloves and Chris unknowingly got the knickers.

Good old Chris sent off his gift wrapped present in a parcel with the following letter.

"Dear Maggie,

I chose these because I've noticed that you are not wearing any when we go out in the evenings. If it had not been for my sister I would have chosen the long ones with buttons, but she wears shorter ones (which are easier to remove).

These are a very delicate shade, but the lady I bought them from showed me the pair she had been wearing for the past three weeks and I hardly noticed any marks.

I had her try yours on for me and she looked really smart in them even though they were a little bit tight on her. She also said that they rub against her ring which helps keep it clean. In fact she hasn't needed to wash it since she began wearing them.

I wish I was there to put them on for you the first time, as no doubt many other hands will touch them before I have a chance to see you again.

When you take them off remember to blow into them a little bit because they will be naturally a little damp from wearing.

Just imagine how many times my lips will kiss them during the coming year.

I hope you will wear them for me on our next date.

All my love,

Chris

P.S. My mum tells me that the latest style is to wear them folded down with a little bit of fur showing.”

.....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”...)