

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter... The June 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>

Please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. Every month JB finds things to write, quite how, I don't know! (his direct email address is johnbryan@jbplstd.demon.co.uk, 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..

BIGGIN HILL INTERNATIONAL AIR FAIR 2010 - 26th & 27th JUNE

The 48th Biggin Hill International Air Fair is looking as if it will be THE show of the year, with a very impressive display line up confirmed. For full details, have a look at the Air Fair website at www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk

Tickets are on sale in advance for £18.00 for adults (these are £23.00 on the day) with children under 15 years entering free (only when accompanied).

As described last month, for Owners and Tenants, the special marquee within the hospitality village (Sunday Only) is now definitely going ahead. (the show have agreed that this is also available to members of the Biggin Hill Reunited Database) I know many of you have already requested tickets. If you have, please now ensure you send off your payment to Fran to arrive BEFORE 9th June cut off date. Fran has warned that no tickets will be processed after that cut off date.... Details below...

This great facility includes: – Entry in to the Air Fair, Special Parking, an excellent Buffet Lunch, pay bar and an uninterrupted view from the private garden – but it obviously has a limited space, and bookings will be refused once capacity has been reached.

If you haven't yet done so and would like to book, contact Fran Hitchins initially on 01959 572277 or by email to fran@airdisplaysint.co.uk to confirm your request, and immediately (if space is confirmed as still available) send your cheque payable to "Air Displays International" for £38 + VAT (£44.65) per ticket, to: Attn Fran Hitchins, Air Displays International Ltd, Biggin Hill Airport, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3BN. Fran has warned that no tickets will be processed after the cut off date above....

For normal advanced air show entry tickets and Grandstand bookings call 01959 572277 or visit www.bigginhillairfair.co.uk (The advanced ticket Booking Office closes at 5pm on Friday 18th June)

CHARTWELL 70TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BRITAIN CONCERT - 4TH SEPTEMBER 2010

A reminder of the wonderful new event in the local area this year at National trust Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1924 until his death in 1965.

Full details of this unique evening can be found at www.synergyeventsuk.com or by calling 01959 572277.

ATTEMPT TO GET CONCORDE FLYING AGAIN

There is apparently a serious attempt to get Concorde back into the air, not from an airline point of view, but as a heritage aircraft. In my opinion, this wonderful British aircraft should never have been grounded completely, even if unviable economically for continuance in commercial service.

For those who feel the same as I do, and I am sure many Database members will, please show your support – the Group's website is <http://www.save-concorde.co.uk/>

They also have dedicated Facebook site, which you should join if you use that Network: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=84332595616&ref=ts>

For that use Twitter, there is also a link there from the main Group website above...

Lets show as much support as possible – you never know, we may yet see Concorde back as a display aircraft at a future Air Fair!!!

THE AIRPORT

The new apron extension adjacent to the Main Terminal appears to be progressing very quickly. It is, I understand, expected to be in use during June..

Work on Rizon Jet's new hangar facility and the surrounding area at Biggin Hill looks to be nearing completion, and still is, I believe, expected to be opening in July 2010.

VOLCANIC ASH

Whilst the status of the unpronounceable Icelandic volcano, and the others nearby, are still uncertain, there does seem to have been a new, and more realistic and practical, approach to the operation of aircraft within airspace that may be affected by the ash cloud. One hopes that we will never again see the wholesale total closure of virtually the whole of Europe's airspace on the basis of a theoretical computer model. (after all, as some have said – the airspace around the globe following the Mount St Helen's eruption several years back remained affected by ash for some two years, but the aviation industry did not cease. Also, as one airline captain said, we operate into and out of the middle eastern airports daily, with massive concentrations of dust and sand, albeit different in nature to the ash, without major concern).

AAIB REPORT ON BIGGIN HILL CITATION ACCIDENT

For those that may not already know, the UK's AAIB have now published their report on the tragic accident involving Biggin Hill'ite, Mike Roberts, when the Citation he was flying with another pilot crashed into a house (fortunately unoccupied) in Farnborough, Kent, on 30th March 2008, after departing from Biggin.

http://www.aaib.gov.uk/publications/formal_reports/3_2010_vp_bge/3_2010_vp_bge_report_sections.cfm

There are clearly things that we can all learn from such terrible accidents, and, although it is not pleasant reading, it is recommended that all who fly multi-engined aircraft, particularly turbine powered machines do so.

CAR HIRE EXCESS CHARGES

There have been quite a few reports from members of car hire firms (particularly in European holiday resort areas) forcing people to pay extortionate "excess" charges or charging their expensive special Insurance cover for protection from these charges to their credit cards without client's authority. It

seems that, in these competitive times, many of these firms offer apparently cheap rental rates, but then make additional charges that are not insured for a small scratch, a slightly damaged wheel or tyre, damaged mirror, or other similar “damage”, when the car is returned. (Note: This underhand practice is not restricted to just the lesser known smaller operators, but in fact has included some of the biggest multi-National names in the business as well)

Particularly useful for people who hire cars regularly, I have been looking at UK insurance to cover the “excess charges” separately rather than taking the hire company’s expensive cover. As an example, a recent hiring I looked at, was an additional 90 Euros for the Hire firm’s cover, but it could be insured for just £29.10 for the same period of hire in the UK. (In fact, an entire year’s multiple cover for Europe, excluding hiring in the UK, was only £39.62)

I just thought it might be useful to many of you who regularly travel to Europe and hire cars. I am not “recommending” the cover – so please make sure you read the policy details for yourselves if you are interested. Go to <http://www.essentialtravel.co.uk/carhireinsurance/>

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

With the forthcoming Air Fair just weeks away, membership applications are temporarily suspended until July. Those that have already renewed, thank you so much for your support.

For details of current concessions, including the member’s airshow entry concession, please go to <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> and follow the “concessions” link on the homepage. (Remember - if it is not on the webpage, then it is no longer available!)

If you haven’t taken advantage of the club’s special Air Fair concession already, please remember any applications received after close of business on Friday 18th June will not be processed, and the cheque returned.

That’s about it for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

This from Brian Stevens from Brazil, who believes it to be a true story. A bit non-PC I guess, but it did amuse me....

QUOTE.....

A White lady, about fifty years old, arrived at her seat in the economy class of an airliner and saw that she would be sitting next to a negro man.

Visibly upset, she called the air hostess . “What is the problem, madam?” asked the air hostess.

“Can’t you see?” replied the lady, “You have put me next to a negro. I cannot possibly sit here. You must give me another seat.”

“Please be calm” replied the air hostess, “Unfortunately all the seats are occupied but, nevertheless, I will see what we can do.”

The air hostess left and returned a few minutes later.

“Madam, as I said, there are no spare seats in the economy class. We have only one seat available in the first class”

Before the lady could make any comment, the air hostess continued "It is unusual that our airline permits that an economy class passenger should sit in the first class, however, under the circumstances, the Captain considers it unacceptable that a passenger should be made to travel alongside a disagreeable person"

Then, addressing the negro gentleman, the air hostess continued....

"Excuse me, sir, if you are willing, please gather your hand luggage and follow me as we have made a seat available for you in the first class."

And all the nearby passengers who had, dumbfoundedly, witnessed the scene, began to applaud.

.....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"... I am running out of "clean" ideas!!!)