

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June 2013 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

JB's June edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is 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](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me on [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. Current member names can be seen at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) using the link to the database members list.

If you ever change your email address, please remember to let me know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

## **100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR “THE BUGLE”**

Seems quite amazing, but JB's Newsletter, “The Biggin Hill Bugle”, is issue 100 this month.

How does JB think of stuff to write about every month?? From a single sheet amusing club newsletter in the Pilots Pals bar in 2004, to the internet based multi-paged monthly Newsletter that is read all over the world by many old Biggin Hill'ites. Well done, John! That is quite an achievement...

## **BUSY BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

Biggin Hill Airport looked a bit like a mini-Heathrow this past weekend (25<sup>th</sup> May) when it played host to an amazing assortment of large and medium corporate jets. With most of runway 11/29 packed with parked jets in a neat line down one side, and the Southern Apron also quite packed, it was certainly a very impressive sight.

The weekend traffic influx was the result of the UEFA Champions League Final being held between Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich at Wembley Stadium.

There is clearly much money in football....

## **THE DAMBUSTERS 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**

Biggin Hill Airport featured very strongly in the Dambusters Anniversary celebrations when, on May 17<sup>th</sup>, RizonJet's huge hanger was transformed into a concert venue for BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night' evening broadcast.

Over two and a half thousand paying guests watched the evening concert featuring The BBC Concert Orchestra, The Central Band of the RAF, The RAF Squadronnaires, and the Military Wives Choir, that was broadcast live on the national radio channel. The concert told the Dambuster's story through music, narration, archive and drama, read by presenters Dermot O'Leary and Jeremy Vine.

On the morning of the concert, BBC Radio 2 also broadcast the Chris Evans morning show live from a Lincolnshire RAF station. The broadcast then terminated with Chris Evans getting airborne in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's iconic Lancaster, which then flew him to Biggin Hill, where the Jeremy Vine show was being broadcast live and featured the aircraft's arrival.

The Main Road in Biggin Hill, where the approach path crosses it, came to a complete standstill as the Lancaster flew in, as people listening to the live broadcasts flocked to the airport to witness the arrival. After landing, the aircraft backtracked and taxied alongside the road, with DJ Chris Evans waving to the crowd from the top hatch of the Lancaster.

Thanks to the BBC for again putting our airport back on the map for the public, as well as for the excellent and appropriate tribute for the anniversary of the Dambusters Raid..

### **LOTS TO DO AND PLACES TO GO THIS SUMMER**

It may have been a pretty rough year so far as far as flying weather goes, although we have had some really beautiful flying days in between the rain and low cloud!

But nevertheless, there are some great events still for us all this year:-

### **NEW SYNERGY EVENT AT RAF CRANWELL**

Join the RAF College Band and the RAF Salon Orchestra for a magical summer evening on 27th July 2013 when, for one night only, Royal Air Force College Cranwell, Lincolnshire opens its doors to the public and becomes the spectacular setting for "Anthems in the Park 2013".

Hosted by Carol Vorderman and special guest stars Jonathon & Charlotte, the evening will take place on the manicured lawns in front of the world's oldest military aviation college.

This unusual public access will begin at 3pm, when you are invited to picnic in the atmospheric grounds of College Hall Officers' Mess whilst enjoying top quality pre-concert entertainment including a spectacular air display featuring the Red Arrows, BBMF Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane, Hawker Hunter, RAF Tutor, RAF Kingair.

Other performers include the West End Kids, 1846 Squadron Air Cadets Bhangra group and the Cranwell Military Wives Choir.

Tickets are priced at £25 for Adults, £15 for a Child, or £65 for a family, and are available by phoning the Synergy Events UK booking line 01689 300005 or for purchase online at:

<http://www.synergieventsuk.com/tickets/buy-online>

## **OLD HAY – SUMMER PARTY WEEKEND**

Our friends at Old Hay are again holding their Summer Party at Old Hay Airfield, near Paddock Wood in Kent starting from midday on 10th August with Air Displays, Live Entertainment, Food & Drink and an evening party for pilots and aviation enthusiasts alike.

The organisers again send their Biggin Hill friends the invitation to join them again this year:

“Camping is encouraged and many choose to and this year we have extended the space available for camping following the cramped conditions last year. If camping isn't your thing, on-site accommodation is available by prior arrangement on a first come, first served basis - please enquire if interested. 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 £18 per day for adults and £8 per day for under 16's. There is no charge for babies and children under 3 years old. To buy your tickets, you will require a username and password for the website. These are:  
Username: oldhay Password: oh1195

Those wishing to camp must purchase tickets for both days at a special advance price of £35, which includes a full evening of entertainment and a late bar. We have also introduced a family ticket which offers great value for up to 2 Adults and 2 Children - again see website for details”

## **BIGGIN HILL'S MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO "THE FEW"**

You are reminded of this forthcoming Biggin Hill event on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013, which promises to be totally unique. Especially for those that love the sight and sound of magnificent Merlin engines, you really don't want to miss out on the opportunity to be there.

Supporting the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, and the Chartwell Cancer Trust, tickets are priced at £25 for Adults, £15 for a Child, or £65 for a family, and are available by phoning the Synergy Events UK booking line 01689 300005 or for purchase online at: <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com/tickets/buy-online>

So – even if you missed the BBC concert on 17<sup>th</sup> May, and still miss the Biggin Hill Air Fair each summer, there are still good things to look forward to.

## **NICK DAVIDSON MEMORIAL FLYING SCHOLARSHIP**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 saw the presentation of this special scholarship to 20 year old John Harrison from Horsham at a special ceremony in the airport terminal.

Air Cadet John was picked out of dozens of young hopeful's following a demanding process of interviews and assessments run by Easyjet Training Captain and Biggin Hill'ite, Gary Merchant, who was handling the process on behalf of Nick's widow, Alina Davidson.

John is very active in the Air Cadets, having reached the rank of Cadet Flight Sergeant with 1015 Squadron, and received an award for best NCO in 2012. He holds both Silver and Gold awards for gliding at the RAF's Central Gliding School at RAF Syerston, and is to become a civilian gliding instructor at RAF Kenley. John is passionately keen to pursue a career in aviation, so this award could not go to a more appropriate recipient.

At the ceremony, Mrs Davidson presented John with a flight bag containing the syllabus, study books and equipment that will assist in his training programme with Surrey & Kent Flying Club at Biggin Hill Airport.

Mrs Davidson also confirmed that the Scholarship (worth some £9,000 to the winner) will be repeated again in 2014 and has again asked Gary to find another worthy winner next year.

We congratulate John on winning this scholarship, and wish him every success in his future aviation career.

#### **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

I mentioned last month that the financial year had got off to a reasonable start in terms of movement numbers. May has continued in the same vein, helped significantly by the UEFA Champions League Final at Wembley last weekend; half term; and the Monaco Grand Prix.

We knew it would be busy, but to beat the number of movements we had over the weekend of the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics by almost 60% was quite an achievement! Operational measures were taken to cope with aircraft parking requirements; additional vehicles were hired in; additional fuel stocks made available; staff covered extra shifts; and overall, it was a resounding success. I even had a few enquiries from neighbours, wondering why there was suddenly so much activity at the Airport! Credit goes to the team, who worked extremely hard and showcased Biggin Hill at its best. Thanks also to any private pilots or trainees who were flying last weekend, for doing your part in keeping things moving.

This was hot on the heels of EBACE, Europe's largest business aviation conference, held in Geneva. We had a new and improved stand, which was manned by a selection of the team for that week. New customers have already come to Biggin Hill as a result, showing the value of the quite significant investment in these shows.

It was great to meet John Harrison, the deserving winner of the Nick Davidson Memorial Scholarship. It was quite a rigorous selection process, so I have no doubt that John values the opportunity and just as importantly, will enjoy the experience that this scholarship brings.

Finally, there is no news yet on my successor, but I hope to be able to bring you news on this next time!

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Thanks again for your renewals for 2013 for the club, which continue to trickle in. It is gratifying to have your financial support, even though we have no club premises, but your fees do help to finance the websites at BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub

Full details can be found at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

That's it for this month

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Three amusing ditties – thanks to everyone for sending their contributions. Obviously, whilst all are appreciated, some are slightly more 'rude' or 'political' than I feel safe to use, but do please keep them coming..... )

QUOTE.....

A man walks into a drug store with his 8-year old son. They happen to walk by the condom display, and the boy asks, "What are these, Dad?"

To which the man matter-of-factly replies, "Those are called Condoms son. Men use them to have safe sex."

"Oh I see," replied the boy pensively. "Yes, I've heard of that in health class at school."

He looks over the display and picks up a package of 3 and asks, "Why are there 3 in this package?"

The dad replies, "Those are for high school boys, one For Friday, one for Saturday, and one for Sunday."

"Cool" says the boy. He notices a 6 pack and asks, "Then who are these for?"

"Those are for college men," the dad answers, TWO for Friday, TWO for Saturday, and TWO for Sunday."

"WOW!" exclaimed the boy, "then who uses THESE?" he asks, picking up a 12 pack.

With a sigh and a tear in his eye, the dad replied, "Those are for married men. One for January, one for February, one for March....."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....  
ACTUAL AUSTRALIAN COURT DOCKET 12659 ---

A lady, about 8 months pregnant, got on a bus and sat down. She then noticed the man opposite her was smiling at her. She immediately moved to another seat. This time the smile turned into a grin, so she moved again. The man seemed more amused. When on the fourth move, the man burst out laughing, she complained to the driver and he had the man arrested.

The case came up in court.

The judge asked the man (about 20 years old) what he had to say for himself.

The man replied, "Well your Honour, it was like this: When the lady got on the bus, I couldn't help but notice her condition. She sat down under a sign that said, 'The Double Mint Twins are coming' and I grinned.

Then she moved and sat under a sign that said, 'Logan's Liniment will reduce the swelling,' and I had to smile.

Then she placed herself under a deodorant sign that said, 'William's Big Stick Did the Trick,' and I could hardly contain myself.

But, your Honor, when she moved the fourth time and sat under a sign that said, 'Goodyear Rubber could have prevented this accident!' ... I just lost it."

'CASE DISMISSED!!'

.....UNQUOTE

And lastly, for you aviation types who are also budding meteorologists, a change in terminology....

QUOTE.....

Rather than offend a sizable portion of the UK population, UK weather will now be referred to as 'Muslim Weather'

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(Partly Sunni, but mostly Shi'ite).

.....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"...)