

Hi everyone

Welcome again to the Biggin Hill Users Database June Newsletter....

JB's June 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.....

IAN HAY

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of another old Biggin Hill'ite. Ian Hay, who will be remembered by many who frequented the Swordfish Bar at the airport, and as the owner of a Cessna 310 (G-ATLD), sadly passed away on 17th May after battling a long and debilitating illness.

Ian, who was in partnership with another late Biggin Hill'ite, Michael Wennink, with a company called Michian Aviation, was a close friend to Malcolm Clark and could occasionally be seen in the Old Jail before his illness prevented him travelling. Our condolences go to his family, Julian, Laurie and Louise. As Malcom said on the eve of his passing, "Another star twinkles in the dark sky tonight".

Should any of his old airport friends wish to attend, Ian's funeral will be held on Friday 5th June at 14.30 at St Mary's Church, High St, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA. It will be followed by a celebration of Ian's life at The Chequers Inn, Heaverham, Sevenoaks, TN15 6NP (5 minute drive from the church).

The family have mentioned that it is not necessary to wear black, and, whilst flowers are welcome, they would prefer donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

JULIETTE THOMSON (CHRISTLIEB)

For those who were around in the 60's you may remember Juliette Thomson who trained for her PPL with Harry Harris at Vendair Flying Club. I have just heard of her passing some two years ago and her name has now been added to the Roll of Honour on the Biggin Hill Reunited website.

After gaining her PPL, her father bought Auster G-AKXP for her 21st birthday from Jonnie Longmore, who owned Vendair. Juliette subsequently married John Christlieb (another old Biggin Hill'ite), although the relationship was unfortunately quite short-lived. Juliette went on to fly commercially in East Africa where she married an Australian pilot/engineer. She eventually became the personal pilot of the Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea flying a Kingair.

VICTORY FOR AN AIRPORT FOR A CHANGE

After watching all the closures of airports around the UK, often brought about by Council actions or lack of support, it was great to read that, at least in the USA, there are people who understand the importance of GA to a Country's economy. The following was an article in Flying Magazine on May 21st 2015 by Stephen Pope.....

"You may have heard the news this week that a New Jersey judge tossed out a lawsuit brought by the town of Readington, which for more than a decade has tried to wrest control of Solberg Airport from the family that has owned it since 1941. But what you might have missed is what the judge had to say not just to the Readington town council but to other towns and cities across the nation that might think about trying the same dirty tricks.

N.J. Superior Court Judge Paul Armstrong issued a 54-page ruling in which he blasted the town's eminent domain land grab, a case that has dragged on for nearly 15 years, saying it amounted to a "manifest abuse of power" and a waste of local taxpayers' dollars. He ordered the town to pay the Solberg family's legal bills, which are expected to tally into the millions of dollars.

But he didn't stop there. Armstrong set a new precedent by elevating GA airports to a special category, one they richly deserve. The judge had this to say:

"Not only is general aviation important to the national infrastructure, but it serves a critical role as the cradle of aviation. The security and economic vitality of the United States depends on this laboratory of flight where future civilian and military pilots are born.

"Airports such as Solberg blossomed in an era when local young men turned their dreams of barnstorming into air dominance in World War II and led this country into its golden age. These dreams still live in our youth, and general aviation endures as the proving ground for future pilots from all walks of life.

"Finally, there is a certain freedom that defines general aviation. Men and women throughout history gazed longingly at the soaring effortless freedom of birds, pondering release from the symbolic bondage of gravity.

"Only here can a man or woman walk onto some old farmer's field and turn dreams into reality. As Charles Lindbergh once said: 'What freedom lies in flying, what Godlike power it gives to men ... I lose all consciousness in this strong immortal space crowded with beauty, pierced with danger.'"

Well said Sir....!

STOP PRESS – CHANGE TO JOINING PROCEDURE AT BIGGIN

Following On from last month's change to the departure procedures, there is now a NOTAM alerting us all to the change of the joining procedures for 21/03. Instead of crossing the upwind end of the active runway onto crosswind, aircraft are (unless asked otherwise by Air Traffic, of course) required to cross the mid-point of the runway and turn onto late downwind. It is anticipated that further changes to airport procedures will follow once the planned booking out system is introduced and trials completed.

CAFÉ AND VIEWING AREA

Again following on from the article in last month's Newsletter, the preparation of the old Cabair premises into a café and viewing area is virtually complete. The facility is expected to open on for business on 1st July. Hope to see you all there when you visit Biggin for a cuppa and a chat...

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 13th JUNE 2015

Final preparations for an extensive day of entertainment, celebration and commemoration at the airport's 2nd Festival of Flight in association with MetroBank on Saturday 13th June are steadily moving into place. Building on the success of 2014, the Festival will have a longer flying display and more to see and do in the showground. Highlights this year include:

- * A full display by the RAF Aerobatic Team "The Red Arrows" at the beginning of their 51st season as one of the world's premier aerobatic teams. The team promotes the

professional excellence of the Royal Air Force worldwide and their performances and evolutions never fail to amaze and impress spectators.

- * A commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the most famous air campaign of history – the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940 in which men and women of RAF Biggin Hill played a leading role. A specially choreographed airfield attack has been planned by test pilot Dan Griffiths and Peter Monk of the Heritage Hangar in which Hurricanes and Spitfires will engage with Messerschmitt 109's in an attack sequence, a high degree of realism being provided by a special effects team controlling a range of elaborate pyrotechnics. Spectators will gain a lasting impression of the sight and sound of an airfield under bombardment, as was RAF Biggin Hill on many occasions throughout the summer of 1940.
- * First appearance ever at Biggin Hill of an original Messerschmitt 109G-4 fighter of the Nazi Luftwaffe with its distinctive Daimler Benz 605A engine. This unique aircraft was restored by the Messerschmitt Foundation in conjunction with the former Daimler Benz Aerospace AG which is now a part of Airbus Group. The aircraft is maintained by an Airbus team at the Messerschmitt Museum at Manching and will be flown at Biggin Hill by Airbus test pilot Klaus Plasa.
- * RAF Chinook HC.4, the versatile and battle-proven helicopter that serves front line operations in theatres or conflict.
- * Royal Navy 'Black Cats' helicopter team equipped with the Lynx Wildcat and the RN Historic Flight demonstrating the Fairy Swordfish biplane that served with distinction during WWII as a torpedo launcher.
- * Bristol Blenheim – a bomber of early years in WWII that has had a total rebuild and returns to Biggin Hill with a new look.
- * The Breitling Wingwalkers with their dazzling display of wing-top performances by gymnastic artistes.
- * Top class aerobatics from the 4-ship Yakovlev team, the Matadors and the G-Force Aerobatics.

The Showground and stage will provide excitement and a variety of entertainment for all the family. Here are some of the ground-based highlights:

- * WWII re-enactors, a glimpse of RAF air and ground crews of 1940 with authentic uniforms and equipment.
- * The Roundel Run Car Rally, finishing with a flourish at Biggin Hill after a testing navigation exercise around Surrey, Sussex and Kent that will be started in the early morning at Brooklands Museum. The Rally brings a collection of classic and modern vehicles to be on show.
- * Putting on the Blitz – on stage. This singing quartet was awarded the Best Musical Performance prize at the 2014 National Vintage Awards. They specialise in the music of the 1940's with timeless songs and close vocal harmonies.
- * West End Kids – on stage. An elite song & dance troupe of talented performers from across the UK.
- * The Patriot Girls – on stage. Three incredible female vocalists singing in a broad range of styles in glorious harmony. They know well how to interact with their audiences.

- * The Model Zone. Radio-controlled boats at a boating lake, a track with radio-controlled cars and some stunning model aircraft being put through their paces.
- * Many food and drink providers that will suit all family tastes.
- * Motor car distributors showing all the latest models.

Gates will open at 9.30am and the morning period is devoted to ground-based activities and entertainments. The stage acts will be hosted and introduced by Michael Traboulsi, an award-winning show organiser and presenter.

Model aircraft will open the flying display at 1.00pm and the display will continue throughout the afternoon, set to conclude with a solo Spitfire display as a final tribute of the day to The Few at around 5.30pm.

Show attendance is limited to 18,000 spectators. Organiser Colin Hitchins says those who wish to attend on 13th June and are not yet ticketed should take steps to acquire tickets sooner rather than later. "The limit is set in order to avoid overcrowding and **when that level is reached, sales will close**. There will no sales facility on the day of the Festival" says Colin.

For ticket purchase on-line and Festival information, go to website www.bhfof.com or call the Box Office on 01689 300005 during office hours **until 5th June 2015 only**.

THE AIR SHOW MARQUEE

Thank you everyone for your support of the Marquee, which is now virtually full. For those who haven't yet purchased tickets, there may be one or two left, and these will literally be issued on a totally first come first served basis.

Remember that anyone who is a member of the database, is an employee or tenant at the airport (or indeed has been in the past) are eligible to use the marquee for themselves and any guests that they choose to bring.

If you want to try for the remaining tickets for the marquee, please send your payment (at £18 per place) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Ltd", with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Marquee Tickets
26 Churchside Close
Biggin Hill
Kent
TN16 3QF

If there are any requests that can't be satisfied, I will return the payment in the supplied return envelope. Currently we are down to single digits so virtually at the 200 capacity. If you have any queries, please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Actual Air Show entry tickets will be required in addition to Marquee tickets, and these are available only until 5th June or until the maximum ticket numbers are sold (whichever comes first) from www.bhfof.com/tickets or telephone the booking line on 01689 300005 M – F 09:30 to 17:00)

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATION

On the 18th August Biggin Hill will resonate with the sound of 24 Merlin engines as 18 Spitfires and 6 Hurricanes that will gather to commemorate the Hardest Day during the Battle of Britain.

Three flights of eight aircraft will take off and patrol the Dover, the isle of Wight and the RAF Biggin Hill sector stations before returning in formation.

A limited number of tickets will be available from the 15th June to attend this unique event with profits donated to the RAF Benevolent Fund. Tickets can only be obtained online via www.biggin75.co.uk.

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

Greetings all!

A hearty hello from all at the Falcon camp. It's been a good month for GA, despite the somewhat undecided weather.

We had plenty of excited people coming to tell us that they can't wait for the new café to open. For those of you wishing to visit the café, don't forget to pay us a visit and enquire about our hire prices and courses!

The Festival of Flight is coming upon us and we can't wait to see the delights held in store for us all!

Don't forget Cirrus visit EFG July 4th and are bring a little treat for us all, if you wish to come please email ops on ops@flyefg.co.uk

So, in the meantime - Be safe, Be happy, Be Blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

May sees the onset of the flying season and hopefully the start of a good summer. Club and light aircraft activity has been buoyant which is very pleasing.

We continue negotiations with the Council over the fine details of the conditions under which they will approve the change to our operating hours which they agreed, in principle, earlier this year.

We have identified a Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping system (NMTKS) that will ensure that we remain good neighbours. The airport will have to agree to some fairly stringent noise limits which will be policed by the NMTKS but this will not fundamentally alter the way in which we use the airport. It will, however, mean that the few pilots, (jet and light aircraft) who do not see keeping to the noise preferential routings as being important will find themselves automatically identified and reported for further action. The NMTKS is similar to a speed camera or a bus lane camera - it never sleeps and it never misses someone busting the limits! But if this makes the airport sustainable and at the same time a better neighbour, then I support it wholeheartedly. I hope that you will too.

The Festival of Flight is upon us again with less only two weeks to go this weekend. I believe that this year's show will be better than last year as we have learned from mistakes we made last time around. We also have the Eurofighter (Typhoon) flying at this year's show which will be exciting

and noisy I imagine. In particular, we have changed the traffic management company and ensured that the Red Arrows are not the closing act which will hopefully reduce congestion.

Please note that there are some minor restrictions on flying over the Festival of Flight weekend so be sure to check these before planning a flight. They are not stringent, but PPR is required at certain times. Thank you all for your patience and cooperation with this process which is a necessity for the period of the show.

Almost all the 18,000 Festival of Flight tickets have now been sold, so if you are thinking of attending but have not yet purchased a ticket, I advise you not to delay in order to avoid disappointment.

Finally, until next time 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.....

In a train from London to Manchester an American was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

"The trouble with you English is that you are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us.

Look at me... I'm me! I have Italian blood, Greek blood, a little Irish blood and some Spanish blood. What do you say to that?"

The Englishman lowered his newspaper and replied,

"How very sporting of your mother!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Roll call on the first day back at school in Leicester –

Mustafa Al Sheriah
"here"

Ahmed El Sheriah
"here"

Fatima El Bindiri
"here"

Ali Acmah Shabeeb
"here"

Ali Sun Al En
No answer

Ali Sun Al En?

Little girl at the back stands up and says "It's pronounced Alison Allen for f***s sake"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

"The explanation" - Sounds logical to me!

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much...

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full up, so to do humans take longer to access information, it has been suggested.

Researchers say this slowing down it is not the same as cognitive decline.

The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!!

I have more friends I should send this too, but right now I can't remember their names...
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Murphy, the Painter

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to the town of Doolin in County Clare, to get him to paint their likenesses.

One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude.

This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object; in fact, she was willing to pay up to £10,000.

Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife.

In a few minutes he returned. "T' would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said. "The wife says its okay. I'll paint you in the nude all right; but I have to at least leave me socks on, so I have a place to wipe me brushes."

Got to love the Irish!

.....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"...))