

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 2011 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. The March 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>

As always, please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's 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..

SPRING IS SPRUNG??

As I sit here writing this newsletter, I look out at the airport in the distance on a beautiful Sunday morning, with the gentle background noise of club aircraft taking to the skies at last. It seems forever since we have seen good flying weather, particularly at a weekend, and I hope that the weather may be finally allowing the clubs to start serious flying again to overcome the appalling winter they have experienced. *(Such a shame that, within just a few hours of writing that we are back in rain and low cloud again.. Still, spring can't be that far off, can it?)*

BIGGIN HILL – THEN AND NOW

On a rainy and miserable day recently, I returned to the website that I recommended to you all some two years or so ago to while away the time. I subsequently spent many hours working my way through hundreds of "then and now" photographs of Biggin Hill village and the surrounding areas, including the airport. An excellent way of passing an otherwise dank and dismal day..

Go to: <http://www.bigginhill-history.co.uk/choices.htm>

Enjoy....

LAST AIR FAIR IMMORTALISED BY GOOGLE?

For those of you that are users of Google Earth, you will know that the satellite views stay the same for some time before an updated view is substituted for an earlier one. This time, Google has done the air show fans proud, as it's current view is now one taken on June 27th 2010, just as the Red Arrows landed at Biggin Hill on the Sunday show (they can just be seen either side of the runway, rolling towards the end of 21) – looks good...

THE AIRPORT & THE OLYMPICS

The recent consultation period with Bromley Council regarding Biggin Hill Airport's plans for the period of the 2012 Olympics closed on Friday 18th February 2011. Everyone now awaits the decision by the Council regarding those plans that, if approved, will result in a temporary change to the operating lease held by Biggin Hill Airport Ltd.

Such plans have inevitably resulted in a surge of support from residents of the area for those Anti-Airport groups that fuel their fears with dramatic miss-information and scare tactics.

Let us hope that the Council see through these and allow the Airport to take fullest commercial advantage of this very short, but totally unique, opportunity that the 2012 London Olympics offer them. A strong and financially viable airport is clearly in the interests of all airport users, and indeed local residents who reap the benefits of such a historic airport within their community.

Good luck to BH Airport in these endeavours to overcome the protestors.

NEW AIRPORT BOSS

The 1st March will see the new Managing Director, Jenny Munro, take up her post at Biggin Hill. She takes over from Peter Lonergan, who formally retires from his post as Airport Director on 31st March 2011. We would like to welcome her to Biggin Hill Airport and the airport community, and wish her every success in her new position.

THE AIRPORT AND THIS NEWSLETTER

It has been pointed out to me that Andrew Walters and his management team are less than happy with me as a critic of their policies, so I felt I should put the record straight here.

I am, personally, a strong supporter of Andrew Walters and his team at Biggin Hill Airport Ltd most of the time. They have achieved much at Biggin Hill over a relatively short time, and have ensured by their actions and policies that the airport is still here and is likely to remain so long term (something that was seriously in doubt at some points in the past).

In general (although my opinion is actually irrelevant in real terms), I have agreed with most of Andrew's policies, and the direction he has taken the airport, BUT that doesn't mean I totally support his every word. When I receive a serious number of emails criticising any airport policy decisions from members of the database, then I feel it is my place to make those points public. It does NOT, however, mean that I am joining the ranks of the "anti-airport" brigades.

Whilst I may criticise some of the airport's decisions or policies, which I am perfectly entitled to do, if I see or hear the opposition groups spouting their miss-information to further generate support to restrict the airport, then I will be the first to go against them and support the airport (even if a specific decision may not be totally to my liking!) These groups must not be allowed to gain ground or overly influence the way the airport operates, providing the airport behaves in a community friendly manner (which is has always done in general terms). It is an airport, and aircraft operate from airports, and at Biggin Hill this has been happening since the early 1900's....

So Mr Walters, I and the members of this database are not your enemy, indeed you could use us to spread the word to many who would support you out there (as indeed was done previously when we actively helped in your fight with the developers of the "Leavesden" site opposite the Terminal), should you chose to do so and communicate with us from time to time. But please don't expect me or indeed everyone to support everything you do and say without question – we are entitled to an opinion even when that opinion differs from your own.

Good luck with your plans for the period of the 2012 Olympics.

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership. Existing members who have yet to renew can do so by simply sending in their fee with a self addressed stamped envelope – no new form is required, and no photo (unless you want to use a different one for the new card of course!) Full details on the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

Applications from new potential members should follow the instructions on the website.

I feel I should again stress that neither JB nor I wish to actually run a club, nor be involved in the running of a Social Club at Biggin Hill Airport – we simply believe that there should actually be one (Biggin Hill is one of the few airports in Europe that does not have a social club on site where like minded people can meet and enjoy like minded company – and in this I do not just mean club airports!)

If anyone else should find a way of starting and running a social club on the airport that would be open to ANY present and past airport users, then they would have our total support. It would be our intention if such an event happened, to simply transfer over the shares in the limited company, asset and liability free, to that new operator, in order that the name could be used legitimately. JB and I do not want to be involved at all, we would back off and simply continue the current database and newsletters for those that choose to receive them and leave the NEW club to continue under that new ownership without interference from us at all...

That's it again for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

Couple of quick jokes for you this month – both clean, both free of any political issues this month..

Thanks to Ralph Scott for this one – Talk about quick thinking!! Employ that lad..

QUOTE.....

A man in a London Tesco tries to buy half a cauliflower. The very young produce assistant tells him that they sell only whole cauliflowers. The man persists and asks to see the manager. The boy says he'll ask his manager about it.

Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager 'Some prat out there wants to buy half a cauliflower.' As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he added, 'And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half.'

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way.

Later the manager said to the boy, 'I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?'

'Liverpool , sir,' the boy replied.

'Well, why did you leave Liverpool ?' the manager asked.

The boy said, 'Sir, there's nothing but whores and footballers up there.'

'Really?' said the manager. 'My wife is from Liverpool .'

'You're kidding?' replied the boy. 'Who did she play for?'

.....UNQUOTE

This one made me giggle.... Thanks to Dudley Clark for this one..

QUOTE.....

A chicken farmer went to a local bar.... Sat next to a woman and ordered a glass of champagne...

The woman perks up and says, 'How about that? I just ordered a glass of champagne, too!'

'What a coincidence' the farmer says. 'This is a special day for me.... I am celebrating'

'This is a special day for me too, I am also celebrating!' says the woman.

'What a coincidence!' says the farmer! As they clinked glasses the man asked, 'What are you celebrating?'

'My husband and I have been trying to have a child and today my gynaecologist told me that I am pregnant!'

'What a coincidence,' says the man. 'I'm a chicken farmer and for years all of my hens were infertile, but today they are all laying fertilized eggs.'

'That's great!' says the woman. 'How did your chickens become fertile?'

'I used a different cock,' he replied.

The woman smiled and said, 'What a coincidence.'

.....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"...)