

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

The March edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ... Please remember that, to view the Bugle you need to go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – when you get to the Bugle section, you need to then click on the March 2012 edition 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, or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to all the new members of the Database who are probably receiving this Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database membership..

Please remember to let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know someone else who doesn't receive our regular newsletters and is, or has been involved on the airport, please pass me their name, email, and who or what they were or are associated with at Biggin.

GEORGE DOBSON

I think everyone who was involved in the celebration of George's life back in December at the Chapel and the airport should really give themselves a big pat on the back. George's family have been in touch and are very pleased to announce that money raised from friends and family and sent to the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (GAPAN), who were the recipients of the donations, have been sufficient to enable them to offer a special Scholarship this year.

In a letter to George's family, GAPAN says, "I write to thank you, and all the other individual donors, for the tremendously generous donation in favour of the Guild of Air Pilots Trust, and which will be used this year to fund the "George Dobson Scholarship". This gift is most welcome and the scholarship will be a very much appreciated addition to the total number of scholarships on offer this year to the very deserving candidates who make it through our selection process".

A fitting tribute to the memory of a very special friend to so many Biggin Hill'ites...

THE AIRFIELD GATHERING

It was really good to see all those who took the time to attend the "Airfield Gathering" on the 11th February at the Crown.

I will not report on that as I know that JB has covered the event in his Bugle edition this month, except to say thanks to Lisa Crew and Kate O'Shaughnessy for their efforts in bringing everyone together on the day. Well done...

PRIVATE AIR SHOW IN KENT

Members of the database are invited to attend a unique and very exclusive private airshow on the weekend of 18th and 19th August at Old Hay, near Paddock Wood in Kent. Being private and not open to the public, a lot of the issues relating to the health and safety brigade and other do-

gooders are avoided, and it is possible to get very much up close and personal with the pilots, aircraft and see the displays from a decent yet safe distance.

Most people (many of whom return year after year, bringing with them their friends and families) camp for the entire weekend as there is a Hog Roast and party on the Saturday evening and flour bombing competition on the Sunday. The real nucleus of those attending previous shows have been Biggin Hill / Pilots Pals Bar people.

The event, starting from midday on Saturday, requires that all attending must sign a liability waiver as they arrive and must act in a safe, responsible and sensible manner whilst at the event. (Any person not willing to sign this should not attend and will be asked to leave if they attempt access. Similarly, any person not acting in an appropriate manner during the event will be asked to leave and not return). To qualify as a private event, it is imperative that it is not advertised, and attendees are invited guests only.

Database members wishing to accept this invitation to attend can get information and buy reduced price tickets in advance from the secure website <http://www.oldhayairfield.co.uk>. You will be required to enter a username and password in order to access the ticket purchase page. (The username is oldhay and the password is 1195). For those without web access, it is possible to turn up and pay on the gate although the tickets will cost more if you do, and are subject to remaining availability.

Attendees can camp overnight in their own tent, motorhome or caravan or they can rent one of the organisers teepees that sleep 6-8 occupants. For those staying overnight on Saturday, there is a party and a night flying display with RC model aircraft.

Ticket prices are: Adult £12 per day in advance, £15 per day on the gate, Under 16 £7 per day in advance, £14 per day on the gate - No charge for babies and children under 3 years old
Dogs are allowed, although they must be kept on a lead. Hot food and drink is available all weekend plus there is a hog roast on the Saturday evening. The bar is licensed to sell beer and wine only.

Flying in to Old Hay is possible with PPR, provided both aircraft and pilot are suited to operating on a 680m grass runway. Pilots with display authorisation are permitted to perform a flying display and will receive free hospitality if they do. Frequency is 119.500

The airfield's facebook page is constantly updated with news and information about the event - look up Old Hay Airfield - or the website. - If anyone has any question or queries, they can also email info@oldhayairfield.co.uk

FLYING FROM BIGGIN HILL DURING THE 2012 OLYMPICS

Maurice Greenaway, the Biggin Hill Airport Private Owner's Secretary, has apparently been invited to attend a meeting towards the end of March with Air Traffic Services at Biggin Hill Airport and a representative from the CAA to discuss the procedures that the Airport want to operate during the Olympic period.

In his Newsletter to private owners, Maurice says: "The Airport expects the Olympic Games to place a greater demand upon their operation with additional workloads affecting ATC, Ground Operations, Handling, the Airport Fire Services and Aircraft Refuelling.

Biggin Hill Airport will be operating within the Restricted Zone during the Olympic Games. All IFR flights will be subject to a slot allocation with limitations on runway capacity. All VFR flights

operating out of the airport will be subject to pre-approved flight plans with the exception of circuit training."

If you are a private owner, then you will have already received Maurice's Newsletter on the subject, but for those who are heavily involved at Biggin, but are not necessarily an owner, the meeting is an opportunity for any concerns that exist regarding the restrictions and operations of the airport during the Olympics to be voiced. I am sure Maurice would welcome any constructive feedback or questions in advance of that meeting from anyone who may be affected. If you have any such concerns, please send them either directly to Maurice if you have his direct contact, or via me to pass on to him ready for the meeting.

FEBRUARY AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

Thank you once again to Biggin Hill Reunited for the opportunity to contribute to the newsletter. As ever, we have had a busy month, with the added challenge of snow and freezing temperatures to keep us on our toes. We continually try to learn from previous experience in terms of how we handle these episodes and I was glad that the equipment which had been sourced over the year was put to good use. These are always operationally challenging times and I am grateful to the members of the team who worked diligently, day and through the night when necessary (without complaint!), to minimise the effect on operations.

On a different note, I was extremely proud to learn that Biggin Hill Executive Handling was voted 5th out of 395 FBOs / business aviation passenger facilities across UK, Europe and Middle East by the users of the airports, who are EBAN (European Business Aviation News) readers. We were second only to Inflight at Stansted in the UK. This goes to show that great customer service is the key, and the team thoroughly deserve the recognition.

Otherwise, investment continues at Biggin. You will have noted the speed with which the new Formula 1 hangar is being erected, and work continues apace on the eagerly anticipated fire station for our crew. In addition to facilities and equipment, we are investing in people too. I hope you will have the opportunity to meet and welcome our new recruits over coming weeks in the Fire, Air Traffic Engineering and Fuel sections. I am equally glad to say that no-one is leaving the team - some of the new joiners are for newly created positions, and some are filling vacancies.

These investments of all types will have us in good shape for the Olympics - for which planning is well underway. Slot bookings are steady at the moment and it is generally expected that there will be a rush on the remaining slots over the next few weeks. We will continually endeavour to minimise impact on our regular customers, and thank you for your continued co-operation on the matter.

Jenny Munro

MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again to everyone who has sent in their club renewal fees for 2012. I should now be up to date with the membership cards so all those who have sent their fees should by now have received their cards. Renewal by previous members is simply done by sending the appropriate payment with a self addressed stamped envelop for the return of the card.

Applications for new memberships should follow the instructions on the Club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk, where the application form and full instructions can be found.

Thank you all for your support..

That's it for this month..

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Two amusing anecdotes this month to end the Newsletter. For the first - My thanks to old (well maybe not that old!) Biggin Hill'ite, Rhys Perraton from distant Canada for this month's contribution.. Good to hear that our international reputation is as good as ever (not)... If it wasn't so close to the truth, it would be saddening.. Viva la Brussels..

QUOTE.....

Britain's New Navy

The Royal Navy is proud of its new fleet of Type 45 destroyers.

Having initially named the first two ships HMS Daring and HMS Dauntless, the Naming Committee has, after intensive pressure from Brussels, renamed them HMS Cautious and HMS Prudence.

The next five ships are to be named HMS Empathy, HMS Circumspect, HMS Nervous, HMS Timorous and HMS Apologist.

Costing £850 million each, they meet the needs of the 21st century and comply with the very latest employment, equality, health & safety and human rights laws.

The new user-friendly crow's nest comes equipped with wheelchair access.

Live ammunition has been replaced with paintballs to reduce the risk of anyone getting hurt and to cut down on the number of compensation claims.

Stress counsellors and lawyers will be on duty 24hrs a day and each ship will have its on-board industrial tribunal.

The crew will be 50/50 men and women, and balanced in accordance with the latest Home Office directives on race, gender, sexuality and disability.

Sailors will only have to work a maximum of 37hrs per week in line with Brussels Health & Safety rules, even in wartime! All the vessels will come equipped with a maternity ward and nursery, situated on the same deck as the Gay Disco.

Tobacco will be banned throughout the ship, but Cannabis will be allowed in the wardroom and messes. The Royal Navy is eager to shed its traditional reputation for; "Rum, sodomy and the lash"; so out has gone the occasional rum ration which is to be replaced by sparkling water.

Although sodomy remains, it has now been extended to include all ratings under 18. The lash will still be available but only on request. Condoms can be obtained from the Bosun in a variety of flavours, except Capstan Full Strength.

Saluting officers has been abolished because it is deemed elitist and is to be replaced by the more informal, "Hello Sailor". All information on notices boards will be printed in 37 different languages and Braille. Crew members will now no longer be required to ask permission to grow beards or moustaches - this applies equally to women crew members.

The MoD is working on a new "non-specific" flag because the White Ensign is considered to be offensive to minorities. The Union Flag had already been discarded.

The newly re-named HMS Cautious is due to be commissioned soon in a ceremony conducted by Captain Hook from the Finsbury Park Mosque who will break a petrol bomb over the hull. She will gently slide into the water as the Royal Marines Band plays "In the Navy" by the Village People.

Her first deployment will be to escort boat loads of illegal immigrants across the channel to ports on England's South Coast.

The Prime Minister said, "While these ships reflect the very latest in modern thinking, they are also capable of being up-graded to comply with any new legislation coming out of Brussels."

His final words were, "Britannia waives the rules!"

.....UNQUOTE

AND - for the second one, my thanks to Dudley Clarke once again – where do you get them all from....

QUOTE.....

The Hotel Bill

An elderly lady decided to give herself a big treat for her significant birthday by staying overnight in one of London 's most expensive hotels.

When she checked out next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250.00.

She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high. "It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth £250.00 for just an overnight stop without even breakfast."

The clerk told her that £250.00 is the 'standard rate' so she insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appeared and forewarned by the desk clerk announced: "the hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference center which are available for use."

'But I didn't use them," she said.

"Well, they are here, and you could have," explained the Manager.

He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which the hotel is famous. "We have the best entertainers from Edinburgh , Glasgow , and Aberdeen performing here," the Manager said.

"But I didn't go to any of those shows," she said.

"Well, we have them, and you could have," the Manager replied.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!"

The Manager was unmoved, so she decided to pay, wrote a check and gave it to the Manager.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the check. "But madam, this check is only made out for £50.00."

"That's correct. I charged you £200.00 for sleeping with me," she replied.

"But I didn't!" exclaims the very surprised Manager.

"Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have."

Don't mess with Senior Citizens

.....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"....)