

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database March Newsletter....

JB's March 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 – 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 on john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. A full and current list of member names can be seen at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

Please remember to let me know if you ever change your email address. (Please also feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database – if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so, they are eligible to join – and it is, of course, free).

NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

Please note that Biggin Hill Reunited, and the Biggin Hill Airport Social Club, both have a new postal address. As I no longer require it for my other business, I have now terminated the old Post Office Box Number that we have used for years, and will in future just use the following address for both organisations:

26 Churchside Close, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3QF

I have changed the address on the various website pages, and forms etc., and hope I have found everywhere that it appears, but if you should notice anything that still shows the old PO Box Number address, please let me know and tell me where you saw it. Thank you..

TONY CROOK

It is regret that I advise that old Biggin Hill'ite Anthony (Tony) Crook passed away on the 21st January 2014 – a private funeral was held on 3rd February. Former RAF wartime bomber pilot and ex Racing Driver Tony's full story featured in the May 2013 edition of the Biggin Hill Bugle (viewable online under 'Back Issues' – www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/may2013.pdf).

He was the owner of the Bristol car company for many years with the workshop at Bristol Airport. These were hand built cars right down to the body work, which was made of aluminium. He owned three Rallye aircraft during his time at Biggin Hill and still had one, which is kept at Denham.

Tony died peacefully in his sleep just short of 94.

EVENING GATHERING

Tuesday 25th February saw some 50 Biggin Hill'ites meeting up for a social evening at the Aperfield Inn in Biggin Hill. The gathering was arranged by Singh Bamrah of Falcon and owner of both EFG and Surrey & Kent Flying Clubs.

A tremendous success, with much reminiscing and aviation chatter which we all agreed must be repeated regularly to try to bring back the social element that used to be so popular at Biggin Hill. See the photo's in this month's Biggin Hill Bugle.

Congratulations to Singh and his sons, Shonu and Anoop, for organising it so well, and for the staff at the Aperfield Inn for coping so well with the mass influx of airport people at relatively short notice and for their food and service.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE VIDEO

As many of you that use Facebook will have already seen this, I felt that others who have (or have had) an involvement with Biggin Hill Airport, may also like to view my daughter's university project video, as it involves our airport. Francesca is studying Editing and Post Production at Ravensbourne in London.

Her course task was to produce a 3 minute "news" style mini-documentary. It had to be on any subject she chose, and then planned, scripted, filmed, and edited by her. She chose the airport and in particular the work and activities of the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar as the topic, with the title "Protecting our Heritage".

It is not for commercial use, but as the subject is dear to most of us, I thought some of you may like to have a look. (By the way, she got a special dispensation from the University, and of course Arena TV, to incorporate the flying shots for obvious reasons, as we couldn't afford to get the beautiful war birds airborne just for her!!!!)..

The video can be viewed here:

<http://vimeo.com/87016866>

(Nothing I can claim any credit for! All I did was to speak nicely to the Airport, the Heritage Hangar, and the Chapel, to gain permission for her to film it... The rest is totally down to Francesca)...

I'm very proud and impressed with what she did. I hope you enjoy it (Frankee has said you are free to share it with others if you would like to).

NEW EASA INSTRUMENT RATINGS

Timothy Nathan, a member of the board of PPL/IR and Biggin based Instrument Rating Instructor, will be giving a talk about the new EASA Instrument Ratings, the Competency Based IR and the Enroute IR, in the Crew Lounge at Biggin Hill Airport Main Terminal at 7:30pm on Thursday 13th March. There will be no charge and the Airport is providing Tea, Coffee and Biscuits.

Numbers are strictly limited in that room, so please register your intention to come to Mel Courtney by email at pa@bigginhillairport.com .

If the event is oversubscribed, another talk will be given at 6pm on the same day at the same venue. It would be helpful therefore if you could indicate to Mel if you could come at 6pm instead, if that extra session is added.

A NEW EVENT FOR YOUR CALENDAR

If you haven't already heard, Biggin Hill Airport is to hold a special one day flying event on 14th June to be known as the Festival of Flight. Featuring the Red Arrows, who celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, the event will have a very limited number of tickets available and once sold, there will be no more released. Given the interest in the local community for another air show, I

would recommend buying your tickets as soon as they are released to avoid disappointment. Full details can be seen in the latest Airport press release

www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/fof_20feb14.pdf

Tickets will be available for purchase, once released later in March, from the website at:

www.bhfof.co.uk

Great News for the local community and the airport, most of whom have missed their annual air show. It will not be the same type of show as the Air Fair, but I am sure, with the airport behind it and with Colin Hitchins (formerly the organiser of the Air Fair) involved, I'm sure it will be an event not to be missed.

FARNBOROUGH

It does seem that Farnborough Airport in Hampshire is seeking to shut off a major part of the South East of the UK to Light Aviation to cope with their now approved increase in aircraft movements. Their complex plans are published in a consultation document that any interested parties may participate in. The shut off point for submissions under this consultation is 23:00 on Friday 2nd May 2014.

The entire document package can be viewed and downloaded from:

www.consultation.tagfarnborough.com

I have read through it very briefly and my initial concern (apart from the complexity and MASSIVE size) is the proposed Radio Mandatory Zone that appears to all but shut off the end of the corridor between the Gatwick and Heathrow zones to all non-radio and non-transponder equipped aircraft. Whilst I don't personally fly aircraft in that category, I would be concerned if that category of GA was affected in that manner. Other than that, the plans, which do appear ridiculously and unnecessarily complex, in the main, do not seem to affect much airspace below 2,500ft (if one has radio!). There are also a couple of minor plus points for GA in the plans

I really think that anyone who ever flies in this part of the UK should read these plans and make your views known, while you have time. This continued growth of Controlled Airspace needs to be carefully monitored before the UK becomes one big control zone. And to TAG who are seeking this airspace – who do you think you are? There are airports around the world a hundred times more complex and with massively more traffic than you will ever have, operating without a fraction of the restrictions and airspace that you seem to want to have control of!!

ANOTHER COUP FOR BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

Just in as we were about to publish this Newsletter – hot off the press – it has been announced that Orlando based Signature Flight Support has acquired the Fixed Base Operations (FBO) part of Jets Ltd of Biggin Hill. They have not taken over Jets (Biggin Hill) Ltd completely, just the FBO part. For full details, see the press release on the airport website:

<http://www.bigginhillairport.com/2014/02/jets-biggin-hill-ltd-sells-biggin-hill-fbo-facility-to-signature-flight-support/>

Signature is the world's largest fixed-base operation and distribution network for business aviation services. Already having bases at London Luton, London Heathrow, and London Gatwick, the addition of this operation at London Biggin Hill, with its amazing proximity to the City of London, gives their customers the ultimate airport choice. Well done Biggin Hill....

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

February has been another wet month, but fortunately we have been able to remain open for business throughout. Private flying and training has benefitted from a few days of decent weather and probably as many as can be expected in February. We were busy with corporate jets over the half term period as many took advantage of the improved snow conditions in the Alps. BHAL is currently recruiting Passenger Handling Staff. Interested parties can find out more about this opportunity via the BHAL website. We want to offer the jobs to local residents so please prompt any suitable candidates you may know to apply!

The Biggin Hill Festival of Flight has now been formally announced and will place on Saturday 14th June 2014. The event this year will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Red Arrows, who will fly at Biggin Hill that day. Tickets will be on sale via local shops and online from mid-March. We expect tickets to sell out quickly and the event must be limited to 15,000 spectators due to Health and Safety considerations, so if you want to attend please make sure you get your tickets early! The airfield will be substantially open for normal operations during the day of the event. We will have only three hours or so of actual display flying split into two or three blocks in order to allow normal air traffic outside these times. An ATC OPS notice will be published soon regarding flying on that day. Apart from these minimal restrictions which will also be well publicised via NOTAM, all tenants and aircraft owners will retain unobstructed access to the runway and taxiways throughout the event, so need not make special contingency plans of the type required in past years.

The Festival of Flight will include many family oriented ground activities and shows such as motorcycle display teams and vintage cars as well as giving a nod to the traditional air show event by presenting some of the more exciting and best loved air display acts. Don't expect an all-day air show as in past years, but do expect a similar feel and look for the event. We want this to be an event for the local community as much as for those further afield, so we will be offering tickets to Biggin Hill residents at a concessionary rate well before they go on sale to the wider public at the full posted price. More details to follow. Now where did I put that Sukhoi...?

Until next month, safe flying!

Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their renewal fee –Your support is much appreciated. Full details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

Existing members just need to send a cheque payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd for the due fee as listed on the website, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the new card. No new membership form is needed unless you have changed address, and no photos are needed unless you want us to use a new one.

But please remember, if you are a new member applying, we need a completed application form with your contact details, a head and shoulder photo for each person the application covers, a Stamped addressed envelope so we can send back your membership photo-card – and of course your cheque for the appropriate membership fee payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (if you don't supply a photograph, we can't produce the card)...

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.....

Billy was at school this morning and the teacher asked all the children what their fathers did for a living.

All the typical answers came out, fireman, policeman, salesman, chippy, captain of industry etc, but Billy was being uncharacteristically quiet, so the teacher asked him about his father.

"My father is an exotic dancer in a gay club and takes off all his clothes in front of other men. Sometimes if the offer is really good, he'll go out with a man, rent a cheap hotel room and let them sleep with him."

The teacher quickly set the other children some work and took little Billy aside to ask him if that was really true.

"No," said Billy, "He plays cricket for England but I was just too embarrassed to say."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Spot and the Mushrooms

She wanted to serve her guests mushroom-smothered steak, but she had no mushrooms and no time to buy them.

Her husband suggested, "Why don't you go pick some of the mushrooms that are growing wild down by the stream?"

"No, some wild mushrooms are poisonous."

"Well, I see varmints eating them and they're OK."

So she picked a bunch and washed, sliced and sautéed them for her dinner.

Then she went out on the back porch and gave Spot, their dog, a double handful. Spot ate every bite.

All morning long, she watched the dog.

The wild mushrooms hadn't affected him after a few hours, so she decided to use them.

The meal was a great success.

After everyone had finished, her daughter came in and whispered in her ear, "Mum, Spot is dead."

Trying to keep her head about her, she left the room as quickly as possible, called the doctor and told him what had happened.

The doctor said, "That's bad, but I think we can take care of it. I'll call for an ambulance and I'll be there as quickly as I can. We'll give everyone enemas and we'll pump out their stomachs and everything will be fine. Just keep them calm."

Before long they started to hear the sirens as the ambulance tore down the road. The Paramedics and the doctor had their suitcases, syringes, and a stomach pump. One by one, they took each person into the bathroom, gave them an enema, and pumped out their stomach.

After the last one was done the doctor came out and said, "Everything will be okay now," and with that he left.

The hosts and the guests were all weak and knackered sitting around the living room when the daughter came in and said to her mum, "I can't believe that guy!"

"What guy?"

"You know, that one who ran over Spot, he never even slowed down".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In the year 2013, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in Worcester and said:
"Once again, the earth has become evil and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans."
He gave Noah the blueprints, saying: "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.
"Noah!" He roared, "I've started the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed."

"I needed a Building Permit."

"I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system."

"My neighbours claim that I've violated the Neighbourhood By-Laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Local Planning Committee for a decision."

"Then the Local Council and the Electric Company demanded a boat load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it."

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space."

"Then the Environmental Protection Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood."

"I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew."

"Immigration are checking the Visa status of most of the people who want to work."

"The Trades Unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with ark-building experience."

"To make matters worse, the Inland Revenue seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species."

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

"Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky."

Noah looked up in wonder and asked,
"You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord.

"The EU, the British Government, and the Do-Gooders beat me to it."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Now a bit of basic arithmetic to challenge the mind after the last couple of entries.....

A farmer died leaving his 17 horses to his three sons. When his sons opened up his Will it read:

- My eldest son should get 1/2 (half) of the total horses;
- My middle son should be given 1/3rd (one-third) of the total horses;
- My youngest son should be given 1/9th (one-ninth) of the total horses.

As it's impossible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other. Eventually they decided to go to a farmer friend. They considered him to be quite smart, and see if he could work it out for them.

The farmer friend read the Will patiently and, after giving due thought, he brought one of his own horses over and added it to the 17. That increased the total to 18 horses.

Now, he divided the horses according to their father's Will.

Half of 18 = 9 - So he gave the eldest son 9 horses.

1/3rd of 18 = 6 - So he gave the middle son 6 horses.

1/9th of 18 = 2 - So he gave the youngest son 2 horses.

Adding up how many horses they have:

Eldest son	9
Middle son	6
Youngest son	2
TOTAL	17

Now this leaves one horse over, so the farmer friend takes his horse back to his farm. Problem Solved!

Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th horse (i.e. the common ground).

Once a person is able to find the 18th horse the issue was resolved. It is difficult at times; however, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach one!

This is what you could call clever Mathematics?

Not only that but each son got more than his fair portion:

Half of 17 = 8.5 and he got 9

1/3rd of 17 = 5.67 and he got 6

1/9th of 17 = 1.9 and he got 2

Now go ahead and rationalize that!

.....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"...))