

Hi everyone

Welcome to the slightly early March edition of the Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. This Newsletter is being prepared whilst sipping cocktails on a Caribbean Cruise ship, so apologies if it is slightly shorter than usual. Having been away for a major part of the month, I can't really comment much on the activities or weather at the airport during February. But fortunately there are several contributions from others to fill the gap.

Welcome particularly to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

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.

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)

NEW FORMAT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Thanks for your feedback on the change of format for the Newsletter. It does seem that there were far less "bounce-backs" last month, so the PDF version seems to help to make sure you all do receive the Newsletter on time.

As I mentioned before, the PDF version will continue to be available online, along with all previous editions, via the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

BIGGIN HILL "FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT"

A reminder to keep the date in your diaries – Saturday 11th June 2016

It seems that the UK CAA (is that now the "Campaign Against Airshows"?) are working hard to ensure that, following an exemplary safety record in the UK, as a result of an almost inevitable over-reaction by our regulators to the Shoreham tragedy, there seems to be an attempt to stop anything from displaying in the UK again. Instead of seriously considering any genuine safety changes that could be introduced to reduce further the inherent risk to the public from one of the most popular outdoor events in the country, it seems the CAA have instead decided that to improve safety, all they need to do is increase the charging structure associated with their oversight of the display industry, to such an extent as to effectively prevent any displays from taking place. After all, we all know that if there are no displays at all, it will pose absolutely zero risk at all....

(what these morons seem to forget is that, if they actually decimate the display industry completely, there will be nothing left for them to regulate, so they are talking themselves right out of a job! Still – something like that won't bother them – as they will simply have their jobs absorbed into another department, which will then also become economically unviable and will need to raise their charges too – thereby forcing yet another sector of aviation into decline – and so on! Still as long as their pensions are safe!)

Anyway – back to the real topic – The airport is still assessing the ever changing situation from a regulatory point of view, and they will then be able to make the necessary changes to enable this event to continue.

Once more is known, they will publish further information on the website at www.bhfof.com and on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637979396466921/>)

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)

Welcome this month to a new contributor, Air Search...

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from a surprisingly sunny Biggin Hill!

Argh - the rain has been persistent yet we push forward and the sun has shone. It's been a lovely end to February and we hope this will continue into the Spring.

EFG has been busy as ever preparing students on the ground ready for the air. Falcon has been working away in the hangar on all your prides and joys.

We have a new online booking system at EFG (www.efgbookings.co.uk) and this has proven very popular with all our customers. Also stocking all the PPL books and study packs we aim to keep you stocked with all you'll need.

So as the darks grows near and the sun dips to allow some more night flying all we can say is...

...don't forget to call us for your dual training, IMC / Commercial and Night courses and of course all your engineering needs

Wishing you clear skies and blessed days

Regards
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and all the team!

AIR SEARCH

Air Search is, of course, a charitable organisation, which makes no charge for the service we provide to all the major emergency services in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Essex etc. We are a semi-uniformed service.

At the moment, Air Search has a number of operations in hand for the emergency services, as shown below:

During the last couple of months, we have been engaged in a number of operations covering flooding, traffic problems, Operation Stack and animal watch. The latter is through the Environmental Agency, who is concerned at the dumping of cattle on Romney Marshes, causing a health hazard. Many pictures of flooding have been taken in large areas of Kent and these pictures are then sent to the Kent County Council Emergency Services office. They help to show clearly the areas worst affected by flooding. We have also been helpful to the Fire Brigade, providing 'eyes in the sky' over major fires. Our aircrew also cover rivers and estuaries where small boats can (and do) frequently run aground.

We have some 6 pilots and 4 observers based at Biggin Hill, some of whom who live in the village. As many grass airstrips have not been operational these last three months, both Biggin Hill and Lydd have been used on a weekly basis for our operations.

In Air Search London & South East, we have close on 60 pilots and observers committed to flying for the emergency services. Many operate in four or five counties from small grass strips and airfields.

Peter Adams
Air Search UK

MESSAGE FROM BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S SATCO

Hi All,

Latest on the PPR System

I am more than pleased to say this is now running extremely well.

Just a quick reminder that from the 1st April 2016 **all** flights will have to be notified to ATC in advance either by normal ICAO flight plan or via the PPR system. You can make PPR bookings on www.bigginbooking.com or telephone ATC on 01959 578522.

New Portacabin near Runway 29 / 11

Some of you may have already seen the new Portacabin that's been sited just to the North of runway 29 / 11. This building is to be used to house the new transmitters for ATC as well as the relays for the new permanent taxiway lighting that will shortly be installed.

New voices from ATC over the airwaves

ATC have two new Air Traffic Controllers currently undergoing training. Lewis Mendez joined us a couple of months ago straight from the ATC college at Gloucester and he has recently joined by Peter Thompson. Peter comes to us from Cambridge and was formally the SATCO at Manston airport. Welcome to both of them and I wish them all the best.

These two new ATCO's are the latest recruits in an effort to restore controller numbers to a more sustainable level. At present we have a shortage and also have to prepare for the extended hours that have been proposed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my current controllers for their hard work in maintaining an uninterrupted service during this ATCO shortage, thanks guys.

Preparations for Biggin Hill Festival of Flight 2016

Preparations are well under way for this year's event. Following the tragic events at Shoreham last year the air show industry is currently undergoing a major review and there are many new rules that have to be implemented before an air display can be allowed to go ahead. I will keep you posted as things develop.

I think that's about it. Until the next time stay safe.

Best Wishes
Bill Robinson
SATCO – Biggin Hill Airport

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

February has been a busy month for executive jets with half-term proving especially strong, perhaps due to good snow in the Alps and our handling team have had to work very hard to keep our customers happy and on time. Light aviation has taken advantage of a few good days to catch up, but we will have to wait for spring to see more consistent flying return.

So far, this winter has seen no snow and very little hard frost. I have no doubts that this is a direct result of the considerable investment that we have recently made in upgraded snow clearing and de-icing equipment, but I am not complaining!

Over the coming months, you will see various changes in East Camp as we being a program of improvements and investment in the area that has, for so long, been a poor cousin of South Camp. You will all be aware that the Heritage Hangar recently moved to the former Air Touring hangar and the car park area outside will shortly be resurfaced and improved as part of our works. We continue to work on the concept designs and a feasibility study for a dedicated GA centre to be located in East Camp and will share these with you all in due course.

Work continues with the council to agree all the legal documentation that is required to vary the airport operating hours. Once the legal paperwork is agreed, we can begin the installation of the noise monitoring and track keeping system and other facets of the Noise Action Plan.

There is little else to report for the time being, so until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

If you wish to show your continuing support of the efforts to keep things alive for current and old airport users, please help to pay for the servers etc. for the two websites by renewing or applying for membership of the Biggin Hill Airport Social Club. Of course, membership is NOT required just to continue receiving the Newsletters!

Thanks for some who have already sent in their renewal fee, cards have been sent out. If you have paid, but have not yet received your membership cards, please get in touch.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk - When sending anything to us by post, the address is on the website. 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)).

Thanks again for your support, which is much appreciated

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 database members but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership 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.....

The marriage of an 80 year old man and a 20 year old woman was the talk of the town. After being married a year, the couple went to the hospital for the birth of their first child. The attending nurse came out of the delivery room to congratulate the old gentleman and said, 'This is amazing. How do you do it at your age?'

The old man grinned and said, 'You got to keep the old motor running.'

The following year, the couple returned to the hospital for the birth of their second child. The same nurse was attending the delivery and again went out to congratulate the old gentleman. She said, 'Sir, you are something else. How do you manage it?'

The old man grinned and said, 'You gotta keep the old motor running..'

A year later, the couple returned to the hospital for the birth of their third child. The same nurse was there for this birth also and, after the delivery, she once again approached the old gentleman, smiled, and said, 'Well, you surely are something else! How do you do it?'

The old man replied, 'It's like I've told you before, you gotta keep the old motor running.'

The nurse, still smiling, patted him on the back and said: 'Well, I guess it's time to change the oil. This one's black.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young couple left the church and arrived at the hotel where they were spending the first night of their honeymoon. They opened the champagne and began undressing. When the bridegroom removed his socks, his new wife asked, "What's wrong with your feet? Your toes look all mangled and weird.

"I had toliio as a child," he answered.

"You mean polio?" she asked.

"No, toliio . The disease only affected my toes."

When the groom took off his pants, his bride once again asked

"What's wrong with your knees? They're all lumpy and deformed!"

"As a child, I also had kneasles," he explained.

"You mean measles?" she asked.

"No, kneasles. It was a strange illness that only affected my knees."

The new bride had to be satisfied with this answer.

As the undressing continued, her husband at last removed his underwear.

"Don't tell me," she said.

"Let me guess..."

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.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

While in China, an American man is sexually promiscuous and does not use a condom the entire time he is there.

A week after arriving back home in the States, he wakes one morning to find his penis covered with bright green and purple spots.

Horrified, he immediately goes to see a doctor. The doctor, never having seen anything like this before, orders some tests and tells the man to return in two days for the results.

The man returns a couple of days later and the doctor says, "I've got bad news for you, you've contracted Mongolian VD. It's very rare and almost unheard of here in the US, we know very little about it."

The man looks a little perplexed and says, "Well, give me a shot or something and fix me up, Doc."

The doctor answers, "I'm sorry, there's no known cure. We're going to have to amputate your penis."

The man screams in horror, "Absolutely not! I want a second opinion!!!"

The doctor replies, "Well, it's your choice. Go ahead, if you want but surgery is your only option."

The next day, the man seeks out a Chinese doctor, figuring that he'll know more about the disease. The Chinese doctor examines his penis and proclaims, "Ah, yes, Mongolian VD. Vewy ware disease."

The guy says to the doctor, "Yeah, yeah, I already know that, but what can we do? My American doctor wants to cut off my penis!"

The Chinese doctor shakes his head and laughs. "Stupid Amewican docttah, always want opawate. Make more money dat way. No need amputate!"

"Oh, thank God!" the man exclaims.

"Yes," says the Chinese doctor. "Wait two week. Fall off by itself!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Positive Attitude

Late in the night, he finally regained consciousness. He was in Leeds hospital, in terrible pain.

He found himself in the ICU with tubes in his mouth, needles and IV drips in both arms, a breathing mask, wires monitoring every function, and a nurse hovering over him.

He realized that he was obviously in a life-threatening situation.

The nurse gave him a serious, deep look, straight into his eyes, then spoke to him slowly

and clearly, enunciating each word and syllable, "You may not feel anything from the waist down."

Somehow he managed to mumble in reply, "Can I feel your boobs, then?"

And that really is a Positive Mental Attitude!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Nursery Rhymes, although not exactly as I remember them...

Mary had a little pig,
She kept it fat and plastered;
And when the price of pork went up,
She shot the little bastard.

Mary had a little lamb.
Her father shot it dead.
Now it goes to school with her,
Between two chunks of bread.

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To have a little fun.
Stupid Jill forgot the pill
And now they have a son.

Simple Simon met a Pie Man going to the fair.
Said Simple Simon to the pie man,
'What have you got there?'
Said the pie man unto Simon,
'Pies, the clues in the title' !!

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the kings' horses,
And all the kings' men.
Had scrambled eggs,
For breakfast again.

Hey diddle, diddle, the cat took a piddle,
All over the bedside clock.
The little dog laughed to see such fun.
Then died of electric shock.

Georgie Porgy pudding and pie,
Kissed the girls and made them cry.
And when the boys came out to play,
He kissed them too 'cause he was gay.

There was a little girl who had a little curl
Right in the middle of her forehead.
When she was good, she was very, very good.
But when she was bad...
She got a fur coat, jewels and a sports car.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Englishman said to an Irishman - "Is it true that an Irishman always answers a question with another one"?
"Who told you that"? The Irishman replied.

At a railway station in Ballyhough in Ireland it had two clocks which disagreed by some six minutes. When an irate traveller asked a porter what was the use of having two clocks if they didn't tell the same time, the porter replied "And what would we be wanting two clocks for if they told the same time"?
.....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"...)