

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May 2013 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

JB's May edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is 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](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me on [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) to pass on).

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

Current member names can be seen at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) using the link to the database members list. If you ever change your email address, please remember to let me know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database).

## **DO YOU KNOW THIS PAST AIRPORT REGULAR?**

Biggin Hill Airport has received a communication from the son of a regular past user of the airport in the 90's.

Apparently his recently deceased father, Alec Stanford, used to be a non-pilot member of one of Biggin Hill's many flying clubs and attended virtually every air-show right from the 1950's RAF Battle of Britain shows until the Air Fair ceased. His father flew regularly as a passenger member with someone whose first name was Terry.

Are you that person, Terry? Or do (or did) you know Alec Stanford?

His son would like to hear from anyone who can help him make contact with his Dad's friend, Terry, or who may remember his Dad from his flying club days at the airport.

If you can help at all, please drop me a quick note at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and I will put you in touch with his son. (if you think you knew his father, but are not sure, I do have a photo of him that I can send you to see if it is who you remember – once again, please email me if you would like to see a copy of that photo.)

## **DAVID (PAPA SMURF) MATTHEWS**

Just too late to make last month's Newsletter, David (Papa Smurf) Matthews passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> March following quite a lengthy illness. He was last seen by many of us when he joined the Biggin Hill get together drinks for the recently departed Roger (the Dog) Taylor at the Crown on 3<sup>rd</sup> March this year.

Dave was a well-known local personality, both on the airport and throughout the local community, where he also lived. He would be best known to other Biggin Hill'ites as the guy who organised and ran all the wonderful Barbecues during Air Shows and special occasions at Joe Merchant's Pilots Pals Club Bar. He originally owned and ran a car accessory business, but subsequently became a painter and decorator when he moved to Biggin Hill.

Dave's funeral was held at Beckenham Crematorium on 18<sup>th</sup> April, where around 150 friends and family packed the chapel to celebrate his life. That was followed by a traditional Biggin Hill style send off at the Old Jail Pub in Biggin Hill.

Always cheerful, and an absolute gentleman, Dave will be sadly missed by many at the airport and in the local community.

### **ROLAND SHERGOLD**

We were informed just a few days ago of the sad loss of another old Biggin Hill'ite.

Roland will only be known to those involved in the airport during the Jock Maitland and Roy Taylor era, as the "Bird Scaring Man" who drove all over the airport in those days in his dilapidated, three wheeled, Reliant Robin. He also acted as the airport general handyman, and amongst his tasks was endeavouring to keep the old style runway lights running. True Oldies will remember that these lights were actually just domestic fluorescent tubes all laid along each side of the runway, so no mean task to keep them working in all weathers!

A really nice guy, who became a little bit of a recluse in his latter years following the loss of his wife. Those of us who were around in those old days of Biggin Hill, will, I am sure, remember him fondly.

### **BIGGIN HILL'S MD RESIGNS**

We have been made aware of the resignation of Biggin Hill Airport Ltd's Managing Director, Jenny Munro, in the last few days. Jenny tells me that she will not be going until October, so there is a long lead in, and that she will be on hand to assist the management in finding a replacement for her position. I am sure Jenny may well mention this topic in her own contribution to this month's Newsletter.

Jenny has made a big difference to the relationship between tenants and users and the operating company, as well as communications with local residents associations, which have seldom been better. She has made the decision following planned lifestyle changes, and will, I'm sure, miss the challenge of the top job at the airport. Certainly, from our point of view, the relationship between the database membership and the airport has never been better, and Jenny has played a very positive and proactive role in achieving that. Her monthly contribution to this newsletter has always been welcomed, and demonstrates the importance she places on having good communication with airport users.

Andrew Walter, the Chairman of Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, has written to all tenants to notify them of Jenny's departure later this year and his comments seem to echo the same sentiments. It will be sad to see her go... See <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/jennymunro.pdf>

Let us hope the new appointee will continue her good work and help to continue to bring everyone together at Biggin Hill Airport.

### **THE DAMBUSTERS 70 YEARS ON**

May 17th 2013 will see The UK's largest event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the iconic Dambusters Raid to be held in the Rizon Jet Hangar at Biggin Hill Airport.

The Dambusters story retold through music, narration, archive and drama, to be broadcast live on BBC Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night'.

The event will feature The BBC Concert Orchestra, The Central Band of the RAF, The RAF Squadronnaires, The Military Wives Choir with Dermot O'Leary and Jeremy Vine. There will also be special messages from Dambuster veterans and Barnes Wallis' daughter Mary Stopes-Roe.

An Auction in aid of RAF Benevolent Fund will be held at 7:30pm.

Tickets may be purchased via the Synergy Events UK booking line on 01689 300005 or online at <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com/tickets/buy-online>

Prices - £45 Front of hangar (**NOW SOLD OUT**) or £35 Rear of hangar - plus a £2 booking fee per order (not per ticket)

Doors will open at 6pm, and Doors to seating at 6.30pm - All guests must be seated for the live broadcast by 7.45pm. Event finishes at 10pm

### **BIGGIN HILL'S MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO "THE FEW"**

For those of you that have yet to purchase their tickets for this unique event at Biggin Hill on 17<sup>th</sup> August, don't delay as there will definitely be a finite number of tickets and you really won't want to miss out.

Organiser Colin Hitchins of Synergy Events UK, on behalf of the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar and in association with Biggin Hill Airport Ltd, writes: "On the 17th August, a historic corner of Biggin Hill airport will once again hear the sound of merlin engines roaring into life to scramble into the sky. This unique event will tell the story of those dark days of 1940 using music, video, narration, re-enactors, special effects, and actors and singers, as we salute "The Few". With over four and a half hours of top quality entertainment, including a Battle of Britain scramble and aerial display, the event will bring alive the summer of 1940 on the historic site from which "The Few" fought."

The event is held in support of the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, and the Chartwell Cancer Trust.

Tickets are priced at £25 for Adults, £15 for a Child, or £65 for a family, and are available for purchase online at: <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com/tickets/buy-online>

## **NICK DAVIDSON MEMORIAL FLYING SCHOLARSHIP**

The Nick Davidson Flying Scholarship final assessments were completed just a few days ago, including flying with the final three candidates.

Gary Merchant, who has been carrying out the interviews and assessments in conjunction with the Airport and S&KFC, on behalf of Nick's family, advises that the Airport's Press Office expects to formally announce the winner on the 22nd of May. Alina Davidson, Nick's widow, will be making the presentation to the winner at a private ceremony to be held in the Airport Terminal.

Good luck to all concerned. We hope to report the details of the winner in next month's Newsletter.

## **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO**

April has been an interesting month in many ways! We have started the 2013-2014 financial year on a much better note than we rounded the last year off in March. April's movements have not been bad at all, and I am very glad that pleasant weekends for flying are starting to appear. For anyone still waiting to use their complementary landing, don't delay! The Accounts and Operations departments can answer any questions you have, and we hope to see you taking to the skies soon – don't miss the window of opportunity!

Our long anticipated replacement fencing is being put in place in East Camp and apart from enhancing the security element (and safety, in relation to deer), it looks very smart and is a good step forward.

We have continued to work with the Heritage Hangar and RizonJet on their upcoming musical events, which promise an exciting season of respectful celebration at Biggin Hill – firstly for BBC Radio 2's Friday Night Is Music Night Dambusters event on 17<sup>th</sup> May, hosted in the RizonJet hangar; then the Musical Salute to The Few being arranged by the Heritage Hangar and taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> August, this being very close to The Hardest Day in the Battle of Britain. More information and tickets available through BBC and the various relevant websites.

We had the official opening of the new Fire Station during the month, with James Cleverly, London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley as guest of honour as well as around 100 invited visitors and press. After such a challenging project and after 19 years of being housed in "temporary" portacabins, we are all proud to be able to give our Rescue and Fire Fighting Service a base which is commensurate with their skill and professionalism. Photos and the press release are on our website.

So it was with very mixed feelings that I advised Biggin Hill's Chairman, Andrew Walters of my plan to retire from full time working in October, and relocate with my other half to Yorkshire after he completes 30 years of Police service, which has taken him all over the country. Having met just over a year ago and neither of us exactly being spring chickens, we want to make up for lost time and tip the work/life balance the other way for a while. 24 years in aviation will be difficult for me to walk away from too, so it is highly likely that I will continue to dabble on an ad hoc basis! The wonderful surprise for me was a completely unexpected marriage proposal, so we will be tying the knot in August this year. Quite a roller coaster, but of the good variety! I have deliberately given far more notice than

necessary, because finding a really good replacement and giving him or her a thorough handover is a high priority for me. Although here for another six months, my two years (so far) at Biggin Hill has been an amazing experience in all sorts of ways and I want to hand it on to someone who will continue to live it in the way that this job demands. It certainly isn't easy (and nor would anyone expect it to be), with a huge range of considerations to continually balance, but it remains one of the best and most varied jobs in aviation, so I will be playing my part in finding the right person to take over.

Thank you as always for the space in the newsletter to bring you my news – both professional and personal this month!

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

Thanks again for your renewals for 2013 for the club, which continue to trickle in. It is gratifying to have your financial support, even though we have no club premises, but your fees do help to finance the websites at BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub

If you have yet to renew, and wish to do so, please send your renewal fees (£10 for single, £15 for a couple, and £20 for a family) together with a Stamped Self Addressed envelope for the return of the membership card(s) – Please also send a new photograph if you wish to have this changed on your new card (with your name on the reverse) otherwise I will continue to use the one I hold on file for you. Renewal fees should be sent to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd (to whom the cheques should also be payable), at PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS. New members should complete the form available on the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) and post it back to the above address with your photo and fee.

That's it for this month

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: A great link to some beautiful model aircraft flying video – as the person who sent it to me said – great take off's and flying, but some of the landings leave a bit to be desired.....

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=zYPag3LuKIA](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=zYPag3LuKIA)

And two funnies to finish off with....

QUOTE.....

A mother and her young son were flying Southwest Airlines from Kansas City to Chicago.

The little boy, who had been looking out the window, turned to his mother and asked, "If big dogs have baby dogs, and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"

The mother, who couldn't think of an answer, told her son to ask the flight attendant.

So the boy went down the aisle and asked the flight attendant, "If big dogs have baby dogs, and big cats have baby cats, why don't big planes have baby planes?"

The busy flight attendant smiled and said, "Did your mother tell you to ask me?"

The boy said, "Yes, she did."

Well, then, you go and tell your mother that there are no baby planes because Southwest always pulls out on time. Have your mother explain that to you."

.....UNQUOTE

& for the more literary amongst us... (Some claim it is by Pam Ayres, but she has denied it on Twitter – her style, nevertheless...)

QUOTE.....

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY - (a husbands point of view)

The missus bought a Paperback,  
down Shepton Mallet way,  
I had a look inside her bag;  
... T'was "Fifty Shades of Grey".

Well I just left her to it,  
And at ten I went to bed.  
An hour later she appeared;  
The sight filled me with dread...

In her left she held a rope;  
And in her right a whip!  
She threw them down upon the floor,  
And then began to strip.

Well fifty years or so ago;  
I might have had a peek;  
But Mabel hasn't weathered well;  
She's eighty four next week!!

Watching Mabel bump and grind;  
Could not have been much grimmer.  
And things then went from bad to worse;  
She toppled off her Zimmer!

She struggled back upon her feet;  
A couple minutes later;  
She put her teeth back in and said

I am a dominater !!

Now if you knew our Mabel,  
You'd see just why I spluttered,  
I'd spent two months in traction  
For the last complaint I'd uttered.

She stood there nude and naked  
Bent forward just a bit  
I went to hold her, sensual like  
and stood on her left t\*t!

Mabel screamed, her teeth shot out;  
My god what had I done!?  
She moaned and groaned then shouted out:  
"Step on the other one"!!

Well readers, I can't tell no more;  
About what occurred that day.  
Suffice to say my jet black hair,  
Turned fifty shades of grey.

.....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"...) )