

Hi everyone

Welcome again to the Biggin Hill Users Database May Newsletter....

JB's May 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.*** 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: john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

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 <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to tell us if you change your email address. If you know others who are not members but are eligible to join (ie. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – it is, of course, free.

STOP PRESS – NEW AIP ENTRY FOR BIGGIN

Literally as we were going to press the new Air Pilot entry for Biggin Hill has been released – especially note the new departure procedures shown on pages 9 and 10 – these apply to all non-IFR departures for aircraft below 5700kgs. (one major change is that the climb on take off from runway 21 after the noise abatement turn now goes to 3nm instead of the original 2nm).

You can view the textual AIP entry here:

<http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/aip.pdf>

GOOD FLYING WEATHER AT LAST

I am pleased to say that we have, at last, benefited from some excellent weather during April, albeit there were some periods where conditions were not ideal. Clubs and private owners seem to have taken full advantage of the good conditions and the skies around Biggin have been buzzing with the sounds of small aircraft.

CAFÉ AND VIEWING AREA

As you read this Newsletter many will be pleased to hear that the old Cabair building next to EFG is in the process of conversion into a Café with an associated viewing area. It is hoped to have the facility open before the Festival of Flight in June, possibly before.

Whilst this is clearly not the social club that many would like, it has to be said it is a move in the right direction – at least visitors young and old to our airport (many of whom may well be the UK's and Biggin Hill's budding future pilots), and visiting and based pilots, will have somewhere that they can use as a meeting point and place to get a cuppa....

Clearly not Dillows Café (for the oldies who remember that far back!), nor Joe's Bar, but I hope this will be well received and used...

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 13th JUNE 2015

This year's Festival of Flight display line up is now all but complete with a confirmed 4 hour flying programme including six Spitfires, three Hurricanes, an ME109 Buchon and a special guest from Germany - an ME109G with its distinctive sounding Mercedes Benz engine. It is also nice to see

the return of the RAF Chinook display, one of which has been awarded best display at past Air Fairs. Full details of the flying display can now be found on the Festival of Flight web site <http://www.bhfof.com/>, it is also worth following the event Facebook page for all of the latest news, LBHACommunity.

Tickets are limited and once the 18,000 have been sold the ticket office will close and none will be available on the day. That is not to say that we will be sold out tomorrow but we have sold over half of the tickets and last year's show did sell out before the official ticket office closing date.

THE AIR SHOW MARQUEE

Thank you to everyone who have already purchased their places in the Biggin Hill Reunited Marquee at the 2014 Festival of Flight show on 13th June. All reservations have now been satisfied, and the very few that haven't been taken up have been put back into the pot for any others who would like the places.

Anyone who is a member of the database, is an employee or tenant at the airport (or indeed has been in the past) are eligible to use the marquee for themselves and any guests that they choose to bring.

The Marquee, which will have tables and chairs inside, will have a prominent display line position with a furnished garden area looking over the airport from where they can watch the display, and a licenced bar. There will be private toilet facilities within the main hospitality enclosure area, as last year. Users are welcome to bring their own picnic and drinks, but there will be a licenced bar in the marquee and there will be numerous food outlets in the main air show public arena where hot and cold food may be purchased.

If you would like places in the marquee, please send their payment (at £18 per place) payable to "Biggin Hill Airport Ltd", with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Marquee Tickets
26 Churchside Close
Biggin Hill
Kent
TN16 3QF

Any orders will be processed on a strictly first come, first served basis, and if there are any that can't be satisfied, I will return their payment in the supplied return envelope. Currently, more than 170 have been taken up from the maximum 200 capacity, so I would recommend that you don't delay if you want to secure your places.

If you have any queries, please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Actual Air Show entry tickets will be required in addition to Marquee tickets, and these are now available from the beginning of April from www.bhfof.com/tickets or telephone the booking line on 01689 300005 M – F 09:30 to 17:00)

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATION Biggin Hill Airport - Tuesday 18th August 2015

In the 75th year since the Battle of Britain was fought in the skies above southern England, a special commemoration of the role of 'Churchill's Few' will be staged at the historic former RAF airfield, nowadays as we all know a busy international airport serving international business

aviation as a gateway to Greater London and the City, and home to the unique collection of the Heritage Hangar Spitfires and Hurricane.

Eighteen Spitfires and six Hurricanes will gather at Biggin Hill on Tuesday 18th August 2015, 75 years on to the day from the 'hardest day' of the 1940 air battle to honour the courageous pilots, engineers, armourers, operations staff and ground crews who faced constant attack from the Nazi Luftwaffe on that day.

18th August 1940 was a Sunday. Biggin Hill was a key sector station where 32 Squadron were flying Hurricanes and 610 (County of Chester) Squadron operated Spitfires. At lunchtime, Luftlotte 2 with nine Dorniers of low-flying specialists Staffel 9/KG 76 launched a heavy attack on Biggin Hill and Kenley that continued in waves throughout the day. Apart from landing to refuel and re-arm, the Hurricanes and Spitfires were airborne continuously long into the evening and despite intense damage to the airfield, at no time was it non-operational. As dusk approached, 32 Squadron had lost seven Hurricanes but not one pilot, 610 Squadron had lost two Spitfires but also had no loss of life. Overall, on that day, the RAF lost 136 aircraft - but for the Luftwaffe, it had been a disastrous day, numerically and for morale. No other day during the Battle would either side suffer such losses.

On 18th August 2015, the Spitfires and Hurricanes will carry out a sortie with three formations, starting with a stream take-off at noon.

The first formation will head south to overfly the Solent, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth.

The second formation will head east to overfly Dover, former RAF Hawkinge and the Battle of Britain Memorial on the white cliffs at Capel-Le-Ferne .

The third formation will route over former Battle of Britain airfields at West Malling, Detling and Gravesend.

The three formations return to Biggin Hill for a stream landing to park in a line on the subsidiary runway. At 1400, there will be a flight line walk for guests to see the aircraft and meet the pilots during the afternoon. Military and civilian veterans are being invited to witness and share the occasion, We are looking to invite military and civilian veterans of the period, if you or you know someone please get in touch with Robin Brooks from the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar.

A limited number of tickets at £40 per person will be available for VIP access to the Battle of Britain enclosure on the airfield, including the flight line. Refreshment facilities will be in place. Ticket sales open on Monday 15th June from the website <http://www.bigginhill75.co.uk> Net proceeds will be donated to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

This unique Battle of Britain Commemoration on 18th August 2015 is a joint venture between Biggin Hill Airport Ltd (<http://www.bigginhillairport.com>) and the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar (<http://www.bigginhillheritagehangar.co.uk>)

AIRMANSHIP AT BIGGIN HILL

As one of the members of the airport's Safety and Noise Review Board (SANAARB) it is extremely pleasing to see that the numbers of SMS reports involving smaller aircraft has dropped substantially in recent months. I firmly believe this is as a result of a conscious effort on the part of users to take a little more care when operating at the airport and in the surrounding area. In the main most airport users should be congratulated on their excellent professional approach to their flying at Biggin.

The long awaited Online Booking Out system is fast nearing completion so more of that in the near future.

The planned changes to noise routings for all aircraft, and the introduction of “avoid where possible” areas, are also imminent and the amendments to the airport’s entry in the National A.I.P. have been submitted and are awaiting formal promulgation. (Airport users are, of course, reminded that these “avoid areas” extend vertically to a maximum of 2,000ft and, on routine flights, should not be entered at all. The exceptions to that are where ATC has specifically authorised such transit – for example, an instruction to extend downwind automatically authorises entry into the Farnborough/Orpington “avoid” area. Similarly flight safety issues of course come first, so if you have a problem, and entry of these “avoid” areas becomes necessary for the safety of the flight, then this is automatically acceptable – although in such cases, after the flight, you may be asked to explain what the circumstances were in order that the airport can placate any residents who may complain about the flight.

All the procedures are simply designed, not to restrict us, but to show the residents of the local area that we are doing everything in our power to minimise any nuisance caused to them by our aircraft operations. It is in all our interests to have their support, rather than opposition, as we never want to see our airport go the way of so many others (Manston, West Malling, Panshanger, and many, many, more over the years).

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Just a quick bit of information for the private owners amongst you all - please note that I am now one of your permanent representatives on the Airport’s Consultative Committee, along with Douglas Field. If you have anything that you feel I should bring up at Committee level on your behalf, please feel free to contact me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk).

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)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Good day and what a day it is! The wind has calmed, skies have cleared and all is well on the bump.

We are happy to say that the recent Heathrow Exhibition went off without a hitch. Whilst records numbers weren’t experienced the calibre of candidate was far more credible. If these folks bite or not we still have to wait and see but all in all promising for the industry!

With the upcoming Festival of Flight all hands are on deck with excitement to see smiling faces coming along. The airport has worked wonders to promote the old buzz of the Air Fair (sans traffic of course) and give people that sparkle in their eye when they think of aviation again.

EFG are holding a BBQ Saturday 4th July with Cirrus Aircraft as the main attraction. If you wish to attend please email us asap to register on ops@flyefg.co.uk

Apart from that the experts at Falcon Flying Services are ready to take on your next 50hr, Annual or exciting project so give them a call on 01959 572 339

Be safe, Be happy, Be Blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

It has been another busy month. BHAL has been engaged in negotiations with the Council to agree the noise monitoring and track keeping (NMTK) requirements that will need to be introduced later this year. The NMTK system is essentially a fairly sophisticated computer program that links the noise monitors to the radar feed and thereby looks for aircraft that are failing to follow the prescribed tracks (laterally or vertically) after departure or upon arrival. Aircraft monitored include jets, light aircraft and helicopters. Because the computer never sleeps, all transgressions are recorded and automatically brought to the attention of the airport operator for further action. I would therefore urge all pilots and operators to ensure that they use this summer to become fully familiar with and competent at maintaining the approved routes because once the NMTK system is in place there will be no latitude available to us as the airport (the Council and the public will be able to see all) and those transgressing on a regular basis will very likely find themselves excluded from using Biggin Hill airport. I am very much afraid that this is the price of progress and a sign of the times – gone are the days when we could drift all over the sky regardless of those beneath us. This type of NMTK system is in use at most London airports including Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted, Farnborough and Southend and it must come to Biggin Hill if we are to ensure the future of the airport in its current activity bracket.

We do not anticipate being in a position to adopt extended opening hours until the autumn at the earliest because, once final approval is obtained, we will have to recruit many new staff, train them and then promulgate the new hours.

During the summer months you may see work going on around the 03 threshold area. This is mainly new taxiway lighting upgrades and also some lead off lights for the stop end of runway 21. Additional signage is being added to the runway 29/11 holds in an attempt to prevent continued runway incursions that seem to be so prevalent at the moment. I would ask all pilots to remember that runway 29/11 can be in use at the same time as runway 21/03 and you must, of course, have a clearance to cross runway 29/11 because it is a licensed runway under the control of ATC. If in doubt, please stop and check with ATC that you are in fact clear to cross – don't assume because you may end up in a very dangerous situation as has recently been the case on a couple of occasions!

You will also see continuing tidy up work going on in East Camp. It is our intention to improve the GA facilities in East Camp considerably over the coming two or three years with new parking, improved airside ramps and other upgrades to be announced in due course. We are currently advertising for two additional persons to join our ground maintenance section so that we will hopefully have more manpower available in future to fix things and generally keep on top of ongoing maintenance tasks. We expect these new starters to join imminently.

Now that the weather is warming up we are all getting out flying again, myself included. It is definitely the case that, no matter how much experience we have, we are always rusty after a prolonged winter lay off. I would encourage all airport users to take an hour or two with a flight instructor in order to refresh the memory and to reprogram the flying part of the brain before launching off "solo". It is always worth practising those life-saving skills such as EFATO and PFL and I have never flown with an instructor without learning something new during the course of the lesson. Give it a try – it will very likely make you feel more confident and more at home as you taxi out for that first flight of the (hopefully long and hot) summer months. If you do not have a long experience base as a pilot, this is even more important.

Until next month, safe and enjoyable flying

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks again for your support for the club and database so far this year – your financial support is very much appreciated and is used to fund the costs of servers for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site. 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)).

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.....

Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow..

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Now for some medical funnies submitted by Doctors...

1. A man comes into the ER and yells, 'My wife's going to have her baby in the cab.'
I grabbed my stuff, rushed out to the cab, lifted the lady's dress and began to take off her underwear.
Suddenly I noticed that there were several cabs - - - and I was in the wrong one.

2. At the beginning of my shift I placed a stethoscope on an elderly and slightly deaf female patient's anterior chest wall.
'Big breaths,' . . . I instructed.
'Yes, they used to be,' . . . Replied the patient.

3. One day I had to be the bearer of bad news when I told a wife that her husband had died of a massive myocardial infarct.
Not more than five minutes later, I heard her reporting to the rest of the family that he had died of a 'massive internal fart.'

4. During a patient's two week follow-up appointment with his cardiologist, he informed me, his doctor, that he was having trouble with one of his medications.
"Which one?". . . . I asked.
"The patch... The Nurse told me to put on a new one every six hours and I'm now running out of places to put it!"
I had him quickly undress and discovered what I hoped I wouldn't see. Yes, the man had over fifty patches on his body!

Now, the instructions include removal of the old patch before applying a new one.

5. While acquainting myself with a new elderly patient, I asked, 'How long have you been bedridden?'

After a look of complete confusion she answered

' Why, not for about twenty years - when my husband was alive.'

6. I was performing rounds at the hospital one morning and while checking up on a man I asked, 'So how's your breakfast this morning?'

'It's very good except for the Kentucky Jelly. I can't seem to get used to the taste'. Bob replied.

I then asked to see the jelly and Bob produced a foil packet labeled 'KY Jelly.'

7. A nurse was on duty in the Emergency Room when a young woman with purple hair backcombed into a punk rocker Mohawk, sporting a variety of tattoos, and wearing strangely revealing clothing, and lots of gold earrings , entered

It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis, so she was scheduled for immediate surgery..

When she was completely disrobed on the operating Table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green and above it there was a Tattoo that read . . . ' Keep off the grass.'

Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said, 'Sorry . . . Had to mow the lawn.'

8. Baby's First Doctor Visit

A woman and a baby were in the doctor's examining room, waiting for the doctor to come in for the baby's first exam.

The doctor arrived, and examined the baby, checked his weight, and being a little concerned, asked if the baby was breast-fed or bottle-fed.

'Breast-fed,' she replied..

'Well, strip down to your waist,' the doctor ordered.

She did He pinched her nipples, pressed, kneaded, and rubbed both breasts for a while in a very professional and detailed examination.

Motioning to her to get dressed, the doctor said, 'No wonder this baby is underweight. You don't have any milk.'

I know,' she said, 'I'm his Grandma, But I'm glad I came.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Whilst strolling round the Harbour this morning about 7 am. I noticed a character shouting "Allah be praised" and "Death to all infidels" and suddenly he tripped and fell into the water.

He was struggling to stay afloat because of all the explosives he was carrying. If he didn't get help he would surely drown.

Being a responsible citizen, and abiding by the law of the land that requires you to help those in distress, I informed the Police, the Coastguard, the Immigration Office and even the Fire Dept.

It is now 11 a.m., the terrorist has drowned, and none of the authorities have yet to respond.

I'm starting to think I wasted four stamps.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Subject: The Ant and the Grasshopper - Two versions, Old & New...

OLD Version:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed.

The grasshopper has stored no food nor built a shelter, so he dies out in the cold.

MORAL OF THE OLD STORY: Be responsible for yourself.

Now for the MODERN Version:

The ant works hard in the withering heat and the rain all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while he is cold and starving... The BBC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food.

Britain is stunned by the sharp contrast.

How can this be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Kermit the Frog appears on News Night with the grasshopper and everybody cries when they sing, 'It's Not Easy Being Green ...'

"Occupy the Anthill" stages a demonstration in front of the ant's house where the news stations film a group from the Labour Party singing, "We shall overcome."

The Archbishop of Cantaloup has the group kneel down to pray for the grasshopper while he condemns the ant's insensitivity.

Ed Milliband (Very Old Labour) jumps on the photo opportunity and also condemns the ant, but blames David Cameron, George Osborne and Margaret Thatcher for the grasshopper's plight.

Nicola Sturgeon (Seriously Nasty Party and leader of the Scottish Assembly) says this could never happen in Scotland, and it won't happen again in England if Ed will let her make the rules... even though she's ineligible to sit in Parliament!

Nigel Farage (United Kingdom Insect Party) says this is the type of opportunity that opportunist migrant bugs will seize upon and that we should really be spraying the Channel Tunnel with bug spray.

Polly Toynbee and Vanessa Redgrave exclaim in an interview on BBC News that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and both call for an immediate tax hike on the ant-hill mansion to make him pay his fair share.

Finally the EU intervenes and drafts the Economic Equity For Grasshopper's Act, retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs while constructing his ant-hill and, having nothing left to pay fines and taxes, his home is confiscated and given to the grasshopper.

The story ends as we see the grasshopper and his free-loading buddies holding a party and finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while the government house he is in, which as you recall just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around them because the lack of maintenance.

The ant disappears into the snow, never to be seen again. The grasshopper is found dead from obesity and his new found chum, Kermit the Frog, can't even be bothered to attend the funeral. The Ant-hill, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of eastern European spiders who terrorize the once prosperous neighbourhood. The entire Nation collapses bringing down the rest of the free world with it because Grasshoppers and Spiders are not entrepreneurs... they are just opportunists.

MORAL OF THE STORY: Be very careful how you vote (and you can never trust a singing frog).

.....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"...)