

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May edition of the Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome particularly to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

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.

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)

BIGGIN HILL LOSES TWO MORE CHARACTERS

It is my sad duty to report the loss of two more Biggin Hill characters from days gone past:

STEVE ELLIS

Steve was known to many Biggin Hill'ites from his flying, in the early days, at Air Touring Club, and latterly with many clubs and private owners. For many years Steve worked at Gatwick specialising in obtaining overflight, transit, and ferry clearances around the world for airlines, ferry companies and private and corporate pilots and operations.

He was a vocally colourful chap, who had a heart of gold. He died on 7th April, aged just 51, after a period of ill health that plagued him in his later years. Steve's funeral was held on the 20th April in Edenbridge and it was attended by many friends and colleagues. He will be missed by many. R.I.P. Steve.

RENE SMITH

Known to virtually everyone who has ever worked at Biggin Hill Airport, Rene was the cheerful and bubbly post lady who delivered our mail, come rain or shine, for about 30 years. Rene, who was Pilots Pal, Lizzie Porter's mum, died on the 17th April.

Lizzie has asked me to advise Biggin Hill'ites that should anyone wish to pay their last respects or raise a glass for her, Rene's funeral is to be held on Friday 13th May 2016 at 2pm at: Kemnal Park Cemetery, A20 Sidcup Bypass, Chislehurst, BR7 6 RR. All who knew Rene are welcome. (If anyone wishes to send flowers they should be sent to Undertakers, W Uden, 128 Main Road, Biggin Hill by 12pm on the day).

The funeral will be followed by a wake (or in Rene's own words, 'a right old knees up') at The Blacksmiths Arms, Cudham Lane South, TN14 7QB. Trust us, it won't be a quiet evening!

BIGGIN HILL "FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT"

With just over a month to go to this year's Festival of Flight on 11th June, tickets for the event are apparently selling well, so I recommend that you buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Don't forget, there will be no tickets available on the day, and there is a limited number of tickets – once that number is reached, no more will be available for anyone!

To keep up to date with plans for the show, you can visit the show's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1637979396466921/>) and also on the Festival of Flight website at www.bhfof.com , where you can also purchase your show entry tickets.

MARQUEE FOR THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

At the time of writing around 70% of the 200 capacity of the Hurricane Marquee and Enclosure has been reserved and those reservations are now being taken up. Remember that it is available for all airport Owners and Tenants, as well as Database members, and their friends and colleagues.

The cost for each place in the Enclosure is £20 and, if you have yet to reserve your place please email me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) with the numbers required and I will put you on the reservation list. Tickets will be offered in the order that reservations are received and once offered the place, payment will be required within a maximum of 14 days before the reservation expires and those places are released to the next on the reservation list.

As in previous years, the enclosure will provide a marquee with tables and seating, plus a garden area with seating to view the display right on the front of the flight display line. There will be a pay bar in the marquee offering an assortment of beers, spirits and wines, plus teas and coffees. Guests will be free to bring their own picnics and refreshments to enjoy through the display.

LARGE COLLECTION OF BOOKS AVAILABLE

I was recently contacted by a Ted Etherington, who used to fly from a number of airports in the South East, including Biggin Hill. It seems he has a large collection of aviation books that he would love to see go to a good home. He doesn't want anything for them, other than collection, but doesn't want to have to deal with lots of different people, so all or none please.

The actual list of books can be seen here: www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/aviationbooks.pdf

If you are interested in having these, please email Edward at ted@thrawgoon.plus.com

RENE FOURNIER IS 95

René was the designer and builder of the unique Fournier range of VW powered aircraft. The RF4's and RF5's were popular in the early 70's as a relatively cheap means of learning to fly and building up hours for professional licences and indeed Sportair at Biggin Hill, of which I was the CFI, were major operators of these types. Many of the UK's airline and display pilots cut their teeth on these unique machines.

Former owner of Sportair, Brian Stevens, writes "The Clube Fournier Internacionale are arranging a fly-in and lunch at Amboise on the 7th of May to celebrate René's 95th birthday. I and several of my family will be there and I am sure anyone else who would like to wish René a Happy Birthday would be welcome. Weather permitting it should be a megga meeting of Fournier aircraft!

Mike Millar of the UK Fournier Club has more details and would like to know who will want to join in the lunch party. (get in touch at m.millar@tiscali.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

Greetings all - Another day another student taking for the skies and experiencing the pure joy of learning to fly. Whilst it's not been a record breaking month we have had a few days where the dedicated few have managed to get their solo flights and long nav exercises finally done after a long and wet winter. As ever we are happy to start you on your CPL, Flight Instructor Courses or even get you flying our Arrow or Seneca.

For all your flight training needs call us on 01959540400.

The boys at Falcon have been busy with a makeover of the hangar underway, they are all ready to take on your next 50hr, Annual and all your future projects. Looking to purchase a plane, then give Singh or Shonu a call anytime on 01959572339 and let their years of experience guide you to your next craft of choice.

June 11th is the Airshow and we'll have a stand ready to answer your questions and help you out so please visit us!

Until the next time,
Stay safe, fly straight and be blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah

MESSAGE FROM FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT OFFICE

We are now only 6 weeks away from this year's Biggin Hill Festival of Flight, which is anticipated to be another sell out, both on the gate and for the Hurricane Enclosure marquee which is being organised for the airport by John Willis. The show features many of the favourites, including the Red Arrows, BBMF, Wingwalkers, and of course our own Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar Fighters. In the showground, we have moved on from the 1940's and into the 1960's, with a 60's music stage on which tribute bands will be playing into the early evening alongside classic scooters, mini's and other iconic symbols of the era.

From the airport we hope to have the flying clubs out in the showground to encourage more to take up flying or simply to book a trial lesson. The Heritage Hangar, which is now accessible to the attending public, will be pushing out a number of their aircraft for all to see, alongside the Shipping and Airlines classic British aircraft collection.

Behind the scenes 2016 has been difficult for air show organisers, pilots, and display directors, as we all look to comply with the new guidance and regulations being issued by the CAA, and the uncertainty of if, and when, our permission to stage the display will be granted. Whilst we may not necessarily agree with all of the measures being imposed, we must continue to minimize the risk to everyone. I still think that the air show industry safety record is one that many other events look at with envy.

So, what is new for 2016 and how will it impact on the Festival of Flight? If you are in the showground very little is the answer, perhaps a few of the aircraft will be a bit further away but that is about it. However, we must now take into account those that stand outside of the airport. The main road at the end of runway 03 will be subject to screening on the fence and advisory notices for people not to stand there, ultimately if we do get people congregating in this area and straying from the footpath on Milking Lane Farm we may have to suspend flying until they have dispersed. To that end, we will be using the local press and social media to get the message out that in the showground is the place to view the display.

Colin Hitchins
Event Director

MESSAGE FROM THE AIRPORT'S MANAGEMENT

With both the Managing Director and the SATCO away on annual leave the task of typing a few word has fallen to me this month. The age old phrase 'April Showers' held true this year but I do not think anyone thought that the showers would be of snow towards the end of the month. Despite the below normal temperatures for much of the time the general aviation community were out and about in good numbers and as I write this on the 28th of April they have already surpassed last year's movement total for the month. The corporate and business market is also doing well and it is anticipated that they will finish the month close to the 2015 figure.

Spring and warmer weather means more maintenance tasks on the airport repairing the damage caused by the winter. Those of you flying from the south side of the airport will have noticed some new tarmac and yellow lines at the intersection of the taxiways and the middle of runway 29/11. Other random patches of wear and tear will need to be treated over the coming months. The maintenance crew have commenced 'mowing the lawns' and as every gardener will know once you start this it is a never ending job until the winter. Our garden has a lot of lawns.

The consultation for our proposal to introduce a GPS approach to runway 03 has now ended and by the time you read this the post consultation report will be available on the airport website. The task now moves on to co-ordinating our requirements with those of Gatwick, Redhill and Kenley after which the entire mountain of paperwork being generated will be taken in a Transit van to the CAA for their consideration, and hopefully approval.

Also shortly going to the CAA for approval will be the Instrument Runway Visual Range system (those red and white poles alongside runway 21) so that by next autumn we can give accurate and timely information to pilots on the visibility on the runway under foggy conditions. Although to many pilots this is irrelevant as in those conditions they should be in the Lookout Café eating Paninis, and not attempting to fly, it is vitally important to our corporate pilots who need to know if they can get their boss to work on time.

Despite the CAA's recent imposition of new rules for the organisation and running of air displays the plans for this year Festival of Flight on the 11th of June continue forward. The increased levels of animation in the office two doors down from mine suggests that Colin Hitchins is putting together the final touches for the day's events. Let us just hope that it does not snow on that day as well!

Peter Mirams
Manager, Air Traffic Services

(PS. Airport MD, Will Curtis, send his apologies for missing this newsletter edition, he is away on holiday – he will be back with us next month – Ed)

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thanks for some who have already sent in their Club renewal fee, cards have been sent out. This membership really does help to cover the server costs for the two websites. *(Of course, membership is NOT required just to continue receiving the Newsletters!)* 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 - Postal address is on the website. Existing members don't need a further form on renewing, just send the appropriate fee. (If you want me to use a new photo, please send 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 constantly updated list of members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list 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.....

Once upon a time, after the Big War, there was this scud running fighter pilot caught by nightfall's rapid approach with commensurately dwindling visibility, and he thought he had better find a place to land fast. Our intrepid aviator at the last minute gets a glimpse of a field of new mowed hay through a hole in the clouds.

Relieved at his good fortune, he lands and taxis up to the nearby farmhouse. The farmer comes out onto the front porch and says, "You can spend the night in the barn, but stay away from my daughter." As he lay down, starting to doze off, said daughter brought him a plate of supper. The conversation led to romance and the farmer's number one rule was broken.

As dawn broke our hero got long gone. Some seven years later, the pilot passed over the farm and decided to land and pay a visit. However, as he approached the house he saw a six-year-old boy standing in the front yard with the object of his former passion.

The daughter, sensing his question said, "Yes, this is your son."

"Why didn't you let me know, I would've done the right thing," he said.

The daughter then replied, "We discussed it, even prayed about it, but in the end we thought it was better to have a bastard in the family than a pilot."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

One morning, the husband returns the boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book..

The peace and solitude are magnificent.

Along comes a Fish and Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?'

'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't that obvious?')

'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her.

'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.'

'Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up.'

'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault,' says the woman.

'But I haven't even touched you,' says the Game Warden.

'That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment.'

'Have a nice day ma'am,' and he left.

MORAL: Never argue with a woman who reads. It's likely she can also think

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

American Agony Aunt "Abby" Admitted she was at a loss as how to answer the following questions:

Dear Abby,

A couple of women moved in across the hall from me. One is a middle-aged gym teacher and the other is a social worker in her mid-twenties. These two women go everywhere together, and I've never seen a man go into or leave their apartment. Do you think they could be Lebanese?

Dear Abby,

What can I do about all the Sex, Nudity, Fowl Language, and Violence on my VCR?

Dear Abby,

I am a twenty-three year old liberated woman who has been on the pill for two years. It's getting expensive and I think my boyfriend should share half the cost, but I don't know him well enough to discuss money with him.

Dear Abby,

I've suspected that my husband has been fooling around, and when confronted with the evidence, he denied everything and said it would never happen again.

Dear Abby,

Our son writes that he is taking Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own?

Dear Abby,
I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now how do I get out?

Dear Abby,
My forty year old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$50.00 an hour every week for two and a half years. He must be crazy.

Dear Abby,
My mother is mean and short tempered; I think she is going through mental pause.

Dear Abby,
You told some woman whose husband had lost all interest in sex to send him to a doctor. Well, my husband lost all interest in sex and he is a doctor. Now what do I do?

Dear Abby,
I have a man I can't trust. He cheats so much, I'm not even sure the baby I'm carrying is his.

Remember, these people can vote...

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables when a voice in the dark said, 'Jesus knows you're here.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze.

When he heard nothing more, after a bit, he shook his head and continued.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard , 'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yep', the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'

'The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

After landing my new job as a Bunnings "Greeter" - a goodfind for many retirees, I lasted less than a day

About two hours into my first day on the job a very loud, unattractive, mean-acting Bogan babe walked into the store with her two kids,yelling obscenities at them all the way through the entrance.

As I had been instructed, I said, pleasantly, "Good morning and welcome to Bunnings."
I then said, "Nice children you have there. Are they twins?"

The woman stopped yelling long enough to say, "No, they ain't effin twins. The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7, why the hell would you think they're twins? Are you blind, or just effin stupid?"

I replied, "I'm neither blind nor stupid, Madam. I just couldn't believe someone shagged you twice.... Have a good day and thank you for shopping at Bunnings."

My supervisor said I probably wasn't cut out for this line of work.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Wonderful English from around the world

In a Bangkok Temple:

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail Lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Doctor's Office, Rome:

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Dry Cleaners, Bangkok:

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.

A Nairobi Restaurant:

CUSTOMERS, WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE, OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi:

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

On a poster at Kencom:

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP.

In a City restaurant:

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

In a Cemetery:

PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS, FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:

GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE, OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS, IN BED.

On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant:

OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

In a Tokyo Bar:

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:

THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

Hotel, Japan:

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS, AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY, EXCEPT THURSDAY.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:

IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON OUR BLACK FOREST CAMPING SITE, THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE, MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT, UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Hotel, Zurich:

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen:

WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

A Laundry in Rome:

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND THEN SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

And finally, the all-time classic, seen in an Abu Dhabi Souk shop window:

IF THE FRONT IS CLOSED, PLEASE ENTER THROUGH MY BACKSIDE.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

It's that magical time of year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honouring the least evolved among us.

Here is the glorious winner:

1. When his 38 calibre revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

And now, the honourable mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger... The chef's claim was approved.

3. A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies... The deception wasn't discovered for three days.

5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer... \$15.
[If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?]

7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly.. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape...

8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."

9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast.... The man, frustrated, walked away. [*A 5-STAR STUPIDITY AWARD WINNER]

10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street by sucking on a hose, he got much more than he bargained for... Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline, but he plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's

sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

In the interest of bettering mankind, please share these with friends and family... unless of course one of these individuals by chance is a distant relative or long lost friend. In that case, be glad they are distant and hope they remain lost.

Remember.... They walk among us, they can (and probably do) reproduce, AND VOTE!

.....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"...))