

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. The November edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

Please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan@jbpltstd.demon.co.uk, or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses, and suggested new members, and of course, welcome also to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

The following is a list of Database Members who have currently been removed from the database because their email addresses previously supplied now always fail:-

Alan Cornwell, Allan Smallman, Andrew McGill, Audrey Suter, Bernard Cheong, Bill Lowry, Brian & Pauline Cox, Carole & Del Whitehead, Charles Read, Chris Fletcher, Chris Little, Clare Moore, Craig Sargeant, Damian Cross, Daniel Francis, Darren Tilley, Dave Flashman, David Cole, Don Daines, Duncan Staines, Francis Turner, Frank Garland, Gareth Leese, Gary Strong, Graham Waddington, Ian Cranfield, Ian Sheeley, Jackie Gardiner, Jean-Pierre Landuyt, Jennifer Powell, Jim Finlay, John Chester, Kathy Nuttall, Keith Mouque, Keith Sissons, Lindsay Ford, Marcus Bass, Martyn West, Michael Slater, Mick Dryden, Mike Pearce, Paul Bunker, Paul Hammond, Paul Stacey, Peter Mahoney, Ron Phillips, Simon Howell, Stephen McNulty, Steve Foulsham, Steve Lamb, Steven Porteus, Tim Martin, Tony King, William Milne.

If any of you have a current email address for them, please let me know so they can be added back to enable them to start receiving the Newsletters again. Thanks for your help.

A PHEONIX RISES FROM THE ASHES

After the debacle of the airport's termination of the contract for Air Displays International to run the annual Biggin Hill Air Fair, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, a new show management company, Synergy Events Ltd, is already gaining a position in the industry as THE aviation display management experts. Run by Colin and Fran Hitchins, with Andy Pawsey, this company will, I'm sure, surprise us in due course with new air show and aviation related events around the country.

For details see <http://www.synergyeventsuk.com>

R.I.P AIR DISPLAYS INTERNATIONAL

On the 1st December, Air Displays International, organisers of the Biggin Hill Air Fair since 1963 will close the doors to their offices on the airport for the last time. The landmark building, which many know as the Steel House, and some confuse with the old control tower, has had a varied history. As well as serving as the organising hub for the Air Fair, it has also been a restaurant, aviation parts centre, and home to the more secret elements of the police force.

Colin and Fran Hitchins have however moved on - many from the airport attended the hugely successful concert at Chartwell in September, which was the first event of their new company Synergy Events. They are pleased to announce that they will be staging a 2nd concert at Chartwell on the 3rd September 2011. At the time of going to press they were also deep in negotiations for a new air show at another Battle of Britain venue, we will hopefully be able to confirm the date and location in the next issue.

MINI REUNION FOR BOB NEEDHAM

Saturday October 30th saw a gathering of some of around 20 of the old Biggin Hill'ites from the 60's and 70's at the Old Jail. The reunion was arranged especially to welcome Bob Needham, formerly an instructor with County Flying Club back in those distant days of the 60's, who lives out in Australia with his aviation minded family.

Bob was welcomed by many of his old colleagues from those carefree days when the airfield consisted of some 14 clubs, most having licenced (and in some cases, unlicensed) bars, and the airport social life thrived – whereas the current airport management frowns upon such things nowadays....

Full report, including pictures, please see this month's Bugle.

THE 2010 AVIATOR'S BALL

To be held this year at the Sofitel Hotel, Terminal 5, London Heathrow Airport on Saturday 27th November 2010, from 6pm until 1:30am – to raise money for the charity "Aerobility" - this promises to be THE aviation dinner of the year.

The Aviator's Ball started out as a small event organised for the charity members as an opportunity to get together once a year. Today, the ball has become it's own brand attracting a huge range of people from aviation including the majority of the UK display fraternity, the GA industry, the larger aerospace industry, plus the likes of keen aviators and those who simply share the love of aviation. The ball now represents the charity's single biggest cash injection and underwrites the continued existence for the majority of the subsequent year. There is a website dedicated to the event which contains all you need to know about the occasion including ticket booking.

www.aviatorsball.co.uk

Tickets are £70 each or a table of 10 for £630 if bought by the end of this month (Exclusively for the readers of this Newsletter, this deadline has been extended to Friday 12th November, as long as booked directly with Jon Windover – contact him at jon_windover@hotmail.com or on his mobile 07957 417490).

The main event is a live auction which is just fantastic, which last year raised just under £80k with some incredible prizes such as a flight in a Spitfire and a back seat ride with the Breitling Jet Team! This year Biggin Hill's Jon Windover (who is the current Chairman of the Charity) wants to break the £100k mark - prizes this year are coming in thick and fast. Headline prizes so far include:

- a flight in a Hawker Hunter
- a formation flight with the Gnat Display Team
- Irvin flying Jacket worn by the BBMF's commanding Officer, Sqn Ldr Ian Smith during his flight in an original BofB Spitfire. He overflew all the main Battle of Britain airfields including Chartwell and Buckingham Palace. The prize also comes with a guided tour of the BBMF hanger at RAF Conningsby
- a flight in P-51
- the latest Breitling Aerospace watch
- a signed Rugby ball by this year's England Rugby Union Team
- ORIGINAL signed picture of Jeff Hurst's winning goal in the '66 world cup final
- 1st Class return tickets to Dijon staying in a 5* luxury Chateau AND a flight with the entire Breitling Jet Team out of their Dijon base
- Made to measure aircraft covers
- the latest GPS Flymap 7
- a touch & go at Heathrow in your own aircraft! (at night)
- a day with the Red Arrows (plus a signed flying suite and signed picture by the 2010 team)

There will also be a silent auction with smaller prizes including such things as signed books, paintings, aviation memorabilia and aviation equipment etc. There will also be lots of items for the ladies!

For details of the charity "Aerobility" visit <http://www.aerobility.com/>

THE AIRPORT

Following on from the termination of the annual Air Fair, the airport announced its replacement – an open day on a single day in September 2011 – an event that seems to have been quite poorly received by virtually everyone, both in aviation, and amongst local residents. Already it has been announced that there are unlikely to be any significant display items, so this doesn't sound as if it is worth blocking off in our diaries... Time will tell..

Work is now well underway on the huge new 55,000 square foot hangar alongside the main terminal – according to press reports, this much needed facility will add massively to facilities already available to major executive and corporate operators using Biggin Hill Airport.

Announced within the last few days – press reports of Biggin Hill's intention to apply for increased operational hours – some reports say from 5am to "late into the evening". This has inevitably been poorly received by the many airport opposition groups, whose numbers seem to have been added to by many Biggin Hill residents who were previously supporters of the airport, but are unhappy at the loss of their annual air show. I cannot help but think the timing of such an application could have been better! (See - <http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/news/Airport-plan-insult/article-2805976-detail/article.html>)

That's about it for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

A shortage of suitable "text style" stories for 'and finally' has left me searching for something to close this month. The following, although some would possibly feel is slightly politically incorrect, did nevertheless amuse me.. Thanks to Ralph Scott...

QUOTE.....

A Mexican, an Arab, and a Yorkshire Lass are in the same bar.

When the Mexican finishes his beer, he throws his glass in the air, pulls out his pistol, and shoots the glass to pieces.

He says, 'In Mexico, our glasses are so cheap we don't need to drink with the same one twice.'

The Arab, obviously impressed by this, drinks non-alcohol beer (cuz he's a Muslim!), throws it into the air, pulls out his AK-47, and shoots the glass to pieces.

He says, 'In the Arab World, we have so much sand to make glasses that we don't need to drink with the same one twice either.'

The Yorkshire Lass, cool as a cucumber, picks up her beer, downs it in one gulp, throws the glass into the air, whips out her 45, and shoots the Mexican and the Arab.

Catching her glass, setting it on the bar, and calling for a refill, she says, 'In Yorkshire, we have so many illegal immigrants that we don't have to drink with the same ones twice.'

God Bless Yorkshire !!

.....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"...))