

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. October was not a good month for old Biggin Hill'ites, as can be seen below... It has also not been blessed with the best flying weather, so not a great month all round..

The November edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> ... It is not included here - to view the Bugle you need to go to the club website and click on the link on the homepage – when you get to the Bugle section, you need to then click on the November 2012 edition 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, or you can send items directly to me to pass on).

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Welcome to the new members of the Database who are receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.. For current member names see www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk and go to the link to the database members list.. If you ever change your email don't forget to let us know (and also, please feel free to introduce new Biggin Hill'ites to the database..)

AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES

One of Biggin Hill's most well-known and respected businesses, Audio Visual Services, run by Doug Denhart and his family for as long as I can remember, seemingly ceased trading recently.

Based in latter years on the Airport Industrial Estate, but initially opposite the South Camp airport entrance on the corner of Sunningvale, there cannot be many people in the Biggin Hill area that have not, at some stage, made use of Doug's skills with TV and Satellite.

A good friend to us on the airport, always prepared to assist when asked, it was a shock to many that this business was seemingly no longer available. - "where will we all go now" is a comment I have heard from many regular users.

I am pleased to tell you that in spite of the business closing down, Doug, and son Tony are still able to independently assist us with our satellite and TV/Audio installations etc. If you need anything at any time, please contact:

DD Services
AV Solutions
46 Main Road
Biggin Hill
TN16 3DU

Douglas Denhart on 07768 696259
Tony Denhart on 07860 588228

Their temporary email is douglas.denhart@btinternet.com but they hope to set up a website in due course for their business. Once they have that, I will include that address in a future Newsletter.

THE 2012 AVIATOR'S BALL

This year's Aviator's Ball is to be held again at the Sofitel Hotel, Terminal 5 at London Heathrow Airport on Saturday 24th November, 2012 from 6 pm to 1:00am

This prestigious event costs £110 per person and the ticket price includes:

- Arrival drinks and canapes
- Gourmet 3 course meal with wine
- Coffee/tea and chocolates
- Reno Air Race Room
- Award winning DJ
- Magicians
- Surprise Live Music and Fly past

For those that book early, there is still a Special 'Early bird' ticket price of just £95. But beware, there is only a limited number still available.

All profits from Aviators Ball go to Aerobility.

Full details can be found on their website at <http://www.aviatorsball.co.uk/>

BOB BREWER

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Bob Brewer's funeral was held on 11th October at Randalls Park Crematorium in Leatherhead. Around 85 people attended, and the airport side was represented by JB and I, plus Diana Franks and Graham Wrightson with his wife.

ANDREW VIPOND

We were very shocked to hear of the sad death of Andrew Vipond, aged just 60, on 2nd October. Andrew was my own partner in the 1970's and 80's air charter business, Centreline Air Services, as well as running his family furniture business based on the old Croydon Airport industrial estate. He learnt to fly at Biggin Hill at Air Touring Club, and was a very active member of the Biggin Hill Airport community in the 70's and 80's.

Andrew was diagnosed some time ago with a serious condition but was seemingly in remission, when his condition deteriorated rapidly in the last weeks of September. He passed away peacefully at home with his wife, Sharon, at his side.

His funeral was held at St Mary's Church in Addington Village on 12th October attended by around 200 friends and family. Our sincere condolences to Sharon and son, Mark, and the rest of his family.

BOB GRAVES

Old Biggin Hill'ite, Bob Graves, passed away on 10th October after a short illness. The company he founded, Micro Consultants, that subsequently became the multi-national public company, Quantel, had one of the very first Biggin Hill based Executive Jet aircraft (G-BMCL and later G-

HENRY), as well as a number of other smaller types. Quantel's aviation department was based where Interflight is now, having built the current office block and a hangar at that location. Bob also paid for and built the road that permitted access from that point and around the back of the airport to the original Air Touring complex. Prior to that time, people and vehicles actually drove around the taxiway, joining at the location of the old Steel House, crossing the threshold of runway 29 (with traffic lights operated by Air Traffic), all the way around to the Air Touring building!

Bob, along with his two partners, developed and marketed a number of incredibly complex electronic products mainly to the World's TV and film industry. One of the first of these products was known as 'Paintbox', but this was followed by products called 'Harry' and 'Henry'.

Bob flew at Sportair, participated very successfully in major UK air races, and was an active member of the airport community for many years. His funeral, attended by business colleagues from around the world, as well as family and friends, was held on 22nd October at Sussex and Surrey Crematorium in Crawley.

STANLEY LONG

Another old Biggin Hill'ite, Stanley Long, apparently passed away on 10th September. Stanley was actively involved at Biggin Hill back in the 70's and 80's, and owned a number of aircraft including Cessna 310's.

He was a very successful film Director and Producer, and became well known for his X-rated 'sexploitation' movies, one of the best known of which was 'Adventures of a Taxi Driver' that broke many box office records. He went on to become one of the UK's biggest independent film distributors.

His full obituary can be seen at:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/stanley-long-film-director-who-was-described-by-the-sun-as-the-king-of-sexploitation-8142922.html>

OCTOBER AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

It is amazing to think that Hallowe'en is here and 3 months have already passed since the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics - the Games seemed to take so long in the planning stages and now are disappearing into the past at a rate of knots!

Business has been unspectacular since then, and although we don't yet have final movement figures for October, September was reasonable with light aviation picking up after the Olympics restrictions and performing ahead of September 2011. Business aviation was slightly disappointing, performing close to last year's level for the month and slightly behind September's budget.

More and more of the team here are seizing the opportunity to get involved in our charity work, and October saw a Chocolate Tasting Evening and the first Biggin Hill Bake-Off, with a wonderful selection of cakes made by some very unexpected but talented people! The good news is that this year so far, we have raised over £2,000 for the charities voted for by the staff - the Chartwell Cancer Trust at the PRU and the RAF Benevolent Fund. We are planning a Christmas Biggin Bake-Off, more details on that next month.

As Title Sponsor for the second year of Bromley Business Awards, we were glad to see the enduring Chris Carey's Collections (textiles recycling) as the deserving overall winner, announced at the Gala Dinner at The Warren on 25th October. Here is the link to the site, which shows the winners in each of the categories:

<http://bromleybusinessawards.co.uk/winners2012/>

For those interested in news of a possible Air Show / Event at Biggin Hill, work has continued on this subject and we are grateful for all the feedback. Having had such a busy summer and given the regulatory procedures and marketing time required, it is highly unlikely that there will be a full event in 2013, but I remain optimistic that something entirely worthy of Biggin Hill's name can be introduced. I would prefer to do it well than soon, although both would be good, I know!

There continue to be very interesting discussions with investors wishing to start new businesses at Biggin Hill and although those remain confidential ahead of start-up, I am optimistic that we will see some additional features on the Airport in the short term.

Lastly, I called in at St George's Chapel today to have a look at Josie Cole's exhibition of historical photographs, showing 100 years of Biggin Hill Airport, starting with an emergency landing in a field! It is on until the end of this week, 2nd November, between 1000 and 1600 for anyone wishing to visit.

Jenny Munro

MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you all for your continued financial support – it is much appreciated..

That's it for this month..

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

Nothing remotely political, just three short funnies this month.. Thanks (in order) to Laurie (Harry) Harris, Ralph Scott, and Dudley Clarke, for this month's selection...

QUOTE.....

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his cancer stricken father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune.

One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "But in just a few months my father will die and I will inherit £200 million."

Impressed, the woman asked for his business card.....

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and three days later, she became his stepmother!

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.....
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two women were playing golf. One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize. 'Please allow me to help. I'm a Physiotherapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd only allow me,' she told him.

'Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes,' the man replied. He was in obvious agony, lying in the fetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin.

At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his trousers and put her hands slowly and carefully inside. She then administered a tender and skillful massage for several long moments and softly asked, 'How does that feel'?

"Feels wonderful", he replied; "but I still think my thumb's broken!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A couple was invited to a swanky costume party. Unfortunately, the wife came down with a terrible headache and told her husband to go to the party alone.

Being a devoted husband, he protested, but she argued and said she was going to take some aspirin and go to bed, and there was no need for his good time being spoiled by not going.

So he took his costume and away he went.

The wife, after sleeping soundly for about an hour, awakened without pain and, as it was still early enough, decided to go to the party.

Since her husband did not know what her costume was, she thought she would have some fun by watching her husband to see how he acted when she was not with him. She joined the party and soon spotted her husband cavorting around on the dance floor, dancing with every nice woman he could, and copping a little touch here and a little kiss there.

His wife sidled up to him and, being a rather seductive babe herself, he left his current partner high and dry and devoted his time to the new babe who had just arrived. She let him go as far as he wished ... Naturally, since he was her husband.

Finally, he whispered a little proposition in her ear and she agreed. So off they went to one of the cars and had a quickie.

Just before unmasking at midnight, she slipped away, went home, put the costume away, and got into bed, wondering what kind of explanation he would make for his behaviour.

She was sitting up reading when he came in, and she asked what kind of a time he had. He said: "Oh, the same old thing. You know I never have a good time when you're not there."

"Did you dance much?"

"You know, I never even danced one dance. When I got there, I met Pete, Bill Browning, and some other guys, so we went into the den and played Poker all evening.

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But you're not going to believe what happened to the guy I loaned my costume to..."

.....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"...))