

Hi everyone

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

JB's November 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](mailto:johnbryan13@sky.com), or you can send items directly to me to pass on: [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk))

### **HISTORIC AVIATION MAGAZINES**

I have recently had a contact from Linda Atkinson, who is old Biggin Hill'ite Vic Page's daughter.

His many friends from the old days will be pleased to hear he is well, albeit a little frail nowadays. He is apparently now in a care home and the family are starting to sort through some of his things. Amongst them there are 7 boxes of back issues of aeronautical magazines dating from the 1970's through to the 1990's. They comprise a mixture of Aerospace, Flight International, Tech Air, Airport Support and Pilot.

It sounds quite a collection and Linda wondered if there is anyone out there who would be interested in having them? As she said, it would be great if they could go to a good home.

If anyone is interested, please email me ([john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)) and I will put you in touch with Linda.

### **SINGH'S XMAS "GATHERING" – 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Our friend Singh is again planning a Christmas get-together for all Biggin Hill Pilots and staff...

Quote.....

Dear Biggin Pilots

We are having an XMAS Annual "get-together" at the Crown Inn, Leaves Green, Kent, BR2 6DG on 27th Friday November 2015 from 6 pm. It would be nice to see you all.

The Menu is a choice of a Caribbean Curry Menu or a traditional English XMAS Menu and it is priced from £16 to £22 plus drinks. It would be advisable to book your Meal in advance as places will be limited.

(Contact Michelle at the Crown on 01959 572920 or email her on [mmdunkley@btinternet.com](mailto:mmdunkley@btinternet.com) )

We will be having a small raffle too! - Proceeds will be donated to a Charity (suggestions welcome)

Please also let me know when you have booked so I know you will be attending on the night. (Email me at [singhbam@aol.com](mailto:singhbam@aol.com) )

Singh Bamrah

.....Unquote

## **25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

A date for your diary – the Council meeting at the Civic Centre where the Council will finally decide on the Airport's requested changes. See Will Curtis' article below – we need as many of us as possible to be there to show our support again, as per last time in March. More on this mid-month I'm sure....

### **BOB NEEDHAM**

Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup> saw a group of old Biggin Hill'ites get together at the Kings Arms pub in Leaves Green to welcome Bob Needham back to the UK for what he thinks could be his final time.

It was great to see the old faces again, and there was, of course a great deal of reminiscing about the good old days at Biggin. More on this from JB in the Bugle in due course I'm sure...

### **RAeS HONOUR FOR WILL CURTIS**

In October it was announced that the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), the world's only professional body dedicated to the entire aerospace community, is to confer a Fellowship on Will Curtis, Managing Director at London Biggin Hill Airport.

The elite award recognises his contribution to the development of business aviation as a professional pilot and as a senior management aircraft operator whose skill and experience of twenty years standing has more recently turned to benefit the management of the leading business aviation airport at Biggin Hill.

Commenting on the Society's award to Will Curtis, Martin Broadhurst, RAeS President, said that it is timely to appoint an acknowledged leader in Business Aviation into Fellowship.

"Fellowship (FRAeS) is the highest grade attainable and is only bestowed upon those in the profession of aeronautics or aerospace who either have made an outstanding contribution to the profession, attained a position of high responsibility and have had long experience of high quality in the profession. Fellowship is highly regarded in the aerospace and aviation industry and it is fitting that Will is being recognised for his contribution to our industry" said Mr Broadhurst.

I am sure you will all want to join me in offering our congratulations to Will on this prestigious award. (Ed)

### **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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

### **FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES**

Greetings One and All from the Falcon Camp

A busy month it has been over here. With the Professional Flight Training Exhibition in London Heathrow next week we are all getting geared up to meet the next breed of pilots.

We've had plenty of people in and out this month and with the Seneca and Arrow flying more and more, make sure you take the opportunity to fly them too.

Please feel free to visit us and have some dual training or even your next Licence Revaluation. As for your aircraft, keep her in excellent shape with Singh, Shonu and the folks at Falcon.

Call us today for maintenance 01959 572 339, or your flight training at EFG on 01959 540 400 or S&K on 01959 57 22 55

Hope to see many of you at Singh's airport Christmas gathering on 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Crown

Till the next time - Stay safe, fly true, be blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah

## **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS**

At long last we have learnt that the Council will make a final decision on our application to vary the operating hours of the airport on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 1900 hours in the Civic Centre.

In March 2015, the Council agreed to vary the hours in principle, subject to agreeing with the airport such limitations and conditions as they could reasonably seek. Since then, we have been working with Council appointed consultants to agree the terms of the variation. This has by no means been easy, but we have broadly reached an agreed position. We would ask as many of you as possible to attend the Council meeting to show support to those Councillors who support our plans. They are likely to need that moral support as a vocal minority of rich property developers are seeking to raise a mob to try to intimidate Councillors. These individuals have, for far too long, had their own way with the airport and if they are permitted to continue with their harassment and lies, they will eventually succeed in their ultimate goal, which we have recently learnt, is to close the airport for housing development.

The autumn weather has now closed in and club flying has dipped as might be expected. Now is a great time of year to pursue an Instrument Rating or just to brush up on your instrument skills with the aid of an instructor. There are a few fine days remaining in 2015 and these will doubtless be busy with circuit training and general aviation.

We are drawing up plans to improve East Camp over the next 24 months, so if you see hi-vis surveyors with theodolites and clipboards, that is what they are up to. We envisage a dedicated GA centre complete with social centre. We are developing plans which we will put out to consultation with the Tenants and Users group before we make any firm plans. I am keen to see facilities for the GA sector at Biggin Hill improved and in particular to see the reintroduction of a social gathering point on the airfield that the older and wiser amongst you will know, makes an intangible but important contribution to flight safety quite apart from being a beneficial addition to our general sense of well-being. Simply providing a warm, dry, friendly and welcoming alternative to going flying when the weather is marginal actually helps prevent people getting airborne when they really should not be. As the saying goes, it is better to be down here wishing you were up there, than up there wishing you were down here!

The new lighting works on the aerodrome are making steady headway, but an old and historic aerodrome is an unforgiving environment in which to dig fresh trenches because one always digs up something unexpected and that slows progress somewhat.

We are not far away from completing the work and we hope to have some "switch on" events in late November or early December. As always, it seems that the risk assessments and safety cases take longer than the actual groundworks, but that is the modern world of Performance Based Regulation which is now the focal point at the CAA, seemingly to the exclusion of all else. As long as EASA exists, we will continue to see layer upon layer of new regulation foisted upon us, none of which will be likely to help improve real world safety. But the paperwork will all be in order and that's the main thing after all...isn't it?

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards  
Will Curtis  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB**

It is almost the year end and that time for renewals of your Biggin Hill Airport Social Club membership, which will become due at the end of December if you wish to show your continuing support. Of course, membership is not required just to continue receiving the Newsletters!

Full membership details can be found at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://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).

Thanks again for your support, which helps to fund the costs of servers and domain renewals for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

## **EMAIL ADDRESSES**

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 (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 – it 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.....

CALL CENTRE RECORDINGS.....

Customer: 'I've been calling 700-1000 for two days and can't get through; can you help?'

Operator: 'Where did you get that number, sir?'

Customer: 'It's on the door of your business.'

Operator: 'Sir, those are the hours that we are open.'

Samsung Electronics

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.'

Caller: ; 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I think it means the telephone plug on the wall.'

#### RAC Motoring Services

Caller: 'Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am traveling in Australia?'

Operator: 'Does the policy name give you a clue?'

Caller (Inquiring about legal requirements while traveling in Europe) 'If I register my car in France, and then take it to England, do I have to change the steering wheel to the other side of the car?'

#### Directory Enquiries

Caller: 'I'd like the number of the Argo Fish Bar, please'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, there's no listing. Are you sure that the spelling is correct?'

Caller: 'Well, it used to be called the Bargo Fish Bar but the 'B' fell off.'

Then there was the caller who asked for a knitwear company in Woven.

Operator: 'Woven? Are you sure?'

Caller: 'Yes.. That's what it says on the label -- Woven in Scot land ....'

On another occasion, a man making heavy breathing sounds from a phone box told a worried operator: 'I haven't got a pen, so I'm steaming up the window to write the number on.'

#### Computer Tech Support

Tech Support: 'I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.'

Customer: 'OK.' Tech Support: 'Did you get a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?'

Customer: 'No.'

Tech Support: 'OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?'

Customer: 'Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.'

Tech Support: 'OK. At the bottom left hand side of your screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?'

Customer: 'Wow! How can you see my screen from there?'

Caller: 'I deleted a file from my PC last week and I just realized that I need it. So, if I turn my system clock back two weeks will I get my file back again?'

Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee.  
(Now I know why they record these conversations!):

Operator: 'Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?'

Caller: 'Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect.'

Operator: 'What sort of trouble?'

Caller: 'Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away.'

Operator: 'Went away?'

Caller: 'They disappeared'

Operator: 'Hmm. So what does your screen look like now?'

Caller: 'Nothing.'

Operator: 'Nothing??'

Caller: 'It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type.'

Operator: 'Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?'

Caller: 'How do I tell?'

Operator: 'Can you see the 'C: prompt' on the screen?'

Caller: 'What's a sea-prompt?'

Operator: 'Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?'

Caller: 'There isn't any cursor; I told you, it won't accept anything I type.'

Operator: 'Does your monitor have a power indicator?'

Caller: 'What's a monitor?'

Operator: 'It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?'

Caller: 'I don't know.'

Operator: 'Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that??'

Caller: 'Yes, I think so.'

Operator: 'Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall.'

Caller: 'Yes, it is.'

Operator: 'When you were behind the monitor, did you notice that there were two cables plugged into the back of it, not just one?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Well, there are. I need you to look back there again and find the other cable.'

Caller: 'Okay, here it is.'

Operator: 'Follow it for me, and tell me if it's plugged securely into the back of your computer.'

Caller: 'I can't reach.'

Operator: 'OK. Well, can you see if it is?'

Caller: 'No.'

Operator: 'Even if you maybe put your knee on something and leaned way over?'

Caller: 'Well, it's not because I don't have the right angle --it's because it's dark.'

Operator: 'Dark?'

Caller: 'Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window.'

Operator: 'Well, turn on the office light then.'

Caller: 'I can't.'

Operator: 'No? Why not?'

Caller: 'Because there's a power failure.'

Operator: 'A power .... A power failure? Aha. Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff that your computer came in?'

Caller: 'Well, yes, I keep them in the closet.'

Operator: 'Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from.'

Caller: 'Really? Is it that bad?'

Operator: 'Yes, I'm afraid it is.'

Caller: 'Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them ?'

Operator: 'Tell them you're too damned stupid to own a computer!'

(Rumour has it that the Help Line employee was fired – but hell, he should have been given a medal!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husband.

The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?"

All the women raised their hands.

Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?"

Some women answered today, a few yesterday, and some can't remember.

The women then were told to take out their mobile phones and text to their husband: "I love you, sweetheart."

The women then were instructed to exchange phones with another person, and to read aloud the text message they received in response to their message.

Below are 12 replies; some are hilarious. If you have been married for quite a while....a sign of true love....who else would reply in such a concise and honest way?

1. Who the hell is this?
2. Eh, mother of my children, are you sick or what?
3. Yeah, and I love you too. What's wrong?
4. What now? Did you crash the car again?
5. I don't understand what you mean?
6. What the hell did you do now?
8. Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?
9. Am I dreaming?
10. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.
11. I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.
12. Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Smart Arse Quotes of the Year!!

6th Place

It was mealtime during a flight on a British Airways plane:

'Would you like dinner?' the flight attendant asked the man seated in the front row.

'What are my choices?' the man asked.

'Yes or no,' she replied.

5th Place

A flight attendant was stationed at the departure gate to check tickets. As a man approached, she extended her hand for the ticket and he opened his trench coat and flashed her.

Without blinking an eyelid, she said, 'Sir, I need to see your ticket not your stub.'

4th Place

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at a branch of Sainsbury's but she couldn't find one big enough for her family.

She asked a passing assistant, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

The assistant replied, 'I'm afraid not, madam, they're all dead.'

### 3rd Place

The policeman got out of his car and approached the boy racer he had stopped for speeding. 'I've been waiting for you all day,' the copper said.

The kid replied, 'Yes, well I got here as fast as I could.'

When the policeman finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

### 2nd Place

A truck driver was driving along a country road. A sign came up that read 'Low Bridge Ahead'. Before he realised it, the bridge was directly ahead and he got stuck under it. Cars are backed up for miles.

Finally, a police car comes up.

The policeman got out of his car, walked to the truck's cabin, and said to the driver 'Got stuck, eh?'

The truck driver said, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of petrol!'

### SMART-ARSE ANSWER OF THE YEAR

A teacher at a polytechnic college reminded her pupils of the next day's final exam.

'Now listen to me, I won't tolerate any excuses for you not being here tomorrow. I might consider a nuclear attack or a serious personal injury, illness, or a death in your immediate family, but that's it, no other excuses whatsoever!'

A smart-arsed kid at the back of the room raised his hand and asked, 'What would happen if I came in tomorrow suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?'

The entire class was reduced to laughter and sniggering.

When silence was restored, the teacher smiled knowingly at the student, shook her head and sweetly said,

'Well, I suppose you'd have to write with your other hand'.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Spanish language teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa."

"Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz."

A student asked, "What gender is 'Computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher divided the class into two groups, Male and Female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "Computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "Computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval;

and

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay check to buy accessories for it.

(THIS GETS BETTER!)

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("el computador"), because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem;

and

4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Renault and Ford joined forces to create the perfect small car for women. Mixing the Renault 'Clio' and the Ford 'Taurus' they designed the 'Clitaurus'.

It comes in pink, and the average male car thief won't be able to find it - let alone turn it on - even if someone tells him where it is and how to do it.

Rumour has it though, it can be a real bitch to start in the morning.

Some reported that on cold winter mornings, when you really need it, you can't get it to turn over.

New models are initially fun to own, but very costly to maintain, and horribly expensive to get rid of.

Used models may initially appear to have curb appeal and a low price, but eventually have an increased appetite for fuel, and the curb weight typically increases with age.

Manufacturers are baffled as to how the size of the boot increases, but say that the paint may just make it LOOK bigger.

This model is not expected to reach collector status. Most owners find it is best to lease one, and replace it when it becomes troublesome!

.....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"...) )