

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome also to any 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> To view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.

## **OCTOBER WEATHER**

October weather has definitely been somewhat indifferent for flying, albeit extremely mild in terms of temperatures.

Certainly we seemed to be lacking the often promised "Indian Summer", which usually sees some beautiful flying weather to round off the Summer. Not in 2017 unfortunately!

And, as I write this, we have just had the first frost of this Autumn. Not a harsh one, but a frost nevertheless. Time to get out the de-icing equipment and fluids ready for, hopefully, some of those crisp, clear, cold days that can often see the very best flying weather.

Ever hopeful, we will await November with interest

## **JOHN (JB) BRYAN**

After a long wait, at the time of going to print this month, our friend and monthly Biggin Hill Bugle author, JB is awaiting admission to hospital for a knee operation, and may well be having the operation at the time you read this.

I'm sure you would all like me to send JB the best wishes of all his regular readers. Hope you are soon up and about again..

## **RAF St GEORGE'S CHAPEL**

The work on the area around the RAF St George's Chapel is progressing well and we should soon start to see the new Heritage Centre and Battle of Britain Museum starting to take shape behind the boarded up area.

Not easy to see from the road, the best way to view the progress is via the top deck of a 320 bus!

## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

A few more names have been added to the ever lengthening Roll of Honour in recent weeks. Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we have missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 1959/60 and who has passed away, should ideally be included on there. If you know of someone whose name belongs on the Roll, please email me with their names, and details at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

## **MICK O'CONNELL**

Following on from the previous item, a chance meeting today (31<sup>st</sup>) in the Airport's Lookout Café with old Biggin Hill'ite, Shaun O'Connell, who I haven't seen since around the late 70's I think.

Shaun, who was a member of Mick Ronayne's County Flying Club at Biggin in the 60's and 70's with his late father Pat O'Connell, also flew at Surrey & Kent Flying Club in those dark distant days. He is a Biggin Hill Reunited Database member, and reads these monthly Newsletters, so recognised me and came over to say hello. So sorry to hear from him of the recent passing of his uncle and former County Flying Club member, Mick O'Connell, who will be known to many of us oldies at Biggin.

Mick's name has been added today on the Roll of Honour. R.I.P. Mick

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USERS**

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion. (Please email: John Willis at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

## **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

So, the clocks have now gone back and the available daylight is getting much less and Alouette is ready for lots of night training. We have two easy to fly aircraft, so you can enjoy the view while gaining another qualification. And even better, a nice cosy and warm clubhouse for your return.

Do you have a valid Instructors Rating, and a reasonable amount of free time? Are you looking for a freelance job where you interact directly with the students and plan your times to suit you and your student. Alouette has been experiencing increasing demand over recent months and would welcome one or two instructors who would like to join us on that basis flying a few days a week. The rate that can be earned with us is amongst the best at Biggin Hill. Email [alouettechairman@gmail.com](mailto:alouettechairman@gmail.com) to show your interest and to obtain more details.

This Wednesday, the first of November is an open evening for everyone, including non-members who would like to see us. Come along about 8pm for a free hotdog and buy a beer.

We would love to see you there.

Best Wishes  
Bruno Bruniges  
[alouettechairman@gmail.com](mailto:alouettechairman@gmail.com)

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

A very hearty hello to all of you! Well we finally managed to get some decent weather in eh!? These clear skies have hopefully signalled the end to the murky, wet and dismal never-ending Autumn and marks the start to some crisp winter days.

October saw Piper Arrow conversions, new PPL(A) students and of course our first Night Rating commence. In addition 3 people have embarked on the ATPL with our training

partner CATS both distance learning and residential showing the vibrancy of the General Aviation training market.

It hasn't all been good in the industry with scandals amongst Ryan Air and Monarch ceasing trade. However the industry has reacted extremely quickly in snapping up those guys and gals affected. For the others we keep our fingers crossed for you all and don't forget the only place in South East England to get your Flight Instructor Ratings is here at Falcon.

Amongst the doom and gloom there is a lot of positive news. It is clear to see that airlines are busy as ever recruiting for the ever updating aircrew requirements. In its 2017 Pilot and Technician Outlook, Boeing says it is expecting a demand for 637,000 new commercial airline pilots between 2017 and 2036, this is a 3.2% increase over its 2016 outlook.

With that in mind, Saturday November 4th takes us to London Heathrow T5 Sofitel Hotel for the 2017 Pilot Careers Live event. Please join us from 1000 to take a look how to get your next career established. A new addition to the event sees the brand-new and exciting addition which is dedicated to career opportunities beyond the flight deck. **Aerospace Careers Zone** will be launched.

Use our free voucher code Falcon17

Fly2Help visited us just past the middle of October however the poor weather sadly kept the boys and girls on the ground. However that didn't stop some amazing and intuitive participation during our Q&A. Georgie and Mike did some cracking work so we thank you!

So, the world keeps turning and the planes keep flying, what more could we ask for on (as I write) such a beautiful day.

Remember folks, Falcon will take care of your Maintenance, Sales, Leasing and Flight Training requirements so call now.

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

Best Wishes  
Anoop Singh Bamrah

## **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

There has been some great progress in the airports community engagement program since the Festival of Flight, with a variety of events, sponsorships and engagement opportunities to raise the awareness of how the airport works and what the future holds.

Our charitable work continued this year in support of three charities:-

Chartwell Cancer Trust raised over £9,000 at this year's FOF in the hospitality marquee that the airport provided;

The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund raised in excess of £6,000 at FOF;

The BACA Golf Day;

and finally, Fly2Help received a £3,000 grant to stage the AIM High Scholarship here at the airport.

Outside of the airport we have been active in the local community. Many will have noticed this week that giant poppies have appeared all over Biggin Hill in preparation for Remembrance Day. This was undertaken by the Biggin Hill Residents Association, who have been actively raising funds, and also used some of the annual grant that the airport gives. You may also have seen a number of planters in the village. These have been made by the Men in Sheds team as part of the ongoing project "Biggin in Bloom". The airport has

funded, through the residents association, the materials needed to ensure that next year we will see colourful displays of flowers throughout the village.

The airport fire service open days at the Lookout Café attracted hundreds of families, so much so that we had to open additional parking for them. The next events at the Lookout will see the arrival of Father Christmas on the 10th, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 24th December.

On the 10th October, a public exhibition was held at the Lookout Café to allow visitors to see the plans for the new airport hotel before it is submitted for planning permission. The 50 bed, 3 / 4 star, hotel is much needed in the area. The hotel facilities will also include a small restaurant, lounge, and gymnasium, which will all contribute to providing more employment opportunities locally. The plans can be seen in the news section of [www.lbhacommunity.co.uk](http://www.lbhacommunity.co.uk)

Half term saw the ten AIM High scholars, selected from an extensive number of applicants, attend a week long course designed to expose them to the many careers in aviation. Some had already started the journey towards their goals, while others just want to be part of the world of aviation. They all left at the end of the week better equipped to choose. A big thank you to the AIM High team, Georgina Godfree and Mike Rivett and the many resident companies and departments of BHAL for the hard work in putting together the program.

Another group that have recently benefitted from the airports work in the local community is the junior section of Bromley & Blackheath Harriers, who visited the airport recently to have their running kit presented to them.

And finally the airport this year announced that an additional flying scholarship will be awarded through the Nick Davidson Memorial Flying Scholarship for the next three years.

Colin Hitchins  
Community Engagement Manager

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

October has been another busy month for business jets and fairly average for October in respect of light aviation.

Work on the new terminal hangar is nearing completion and we expect to have the new ramp and hangar space available to customers by Christmas. During October we held an 'open day' in the Lookout Café so that local residents and other interested parties could see the hotel plans and comment on them. We have taken the feedback received into account and will submit our application for planning permission in the next day or so.

October saw the aviation minister, Lord Callanan, visit Biggin Hill Airport to see for himself the activity and development here. Lord Callanan expressed his support for the work we are doing and urged us to continue to forge ahead with investment and training. In my address, I asked the Minister to ensure that national aviation policy recognised business aviation as a separate and distinct sector of commercial aviation, pointing out that airports such as Biggin Hill were a vital part of the solution to the looming runway capacity crisis in the south east because they can accommodate additional business aviation movements, thereby releasing slots at major hub airports for scheduled and holiday charter flights best suited to those larger aerodromes. During a subsequent conversation, the Minister undertook to 'see what could be done' to recognise us more distinctly in policy.

The SANARB has recently seen an increase in the number of aircraft electing to depart VFR in weather conditions that are completely unsuitable for flight by visual reference.

There is an element of Darwin' work in this ,matter and the problem has a tendency to correct itself fairly quickly, but it is unacceptable because it is not fair to those innocent bystanders on the ground. Recently, a twin engine aircraft departed for France, VFR, in a weather reported as being 2500m in drizzle and overcast at 500 feet. The aircraft failed to follow its initial clearance from runway 21 (left turn at 2 miles) and instead crossed Biggin Hill village at about 300ft AGL heading south east towards the coast. It never climbed above 1,700 feet and was seen on radar to be weaving left and right, clearly uncertain as to its position. There have been several other incidents such as this and additionally, a fairly serious incident directly resulting from an inadequate pre-flight inspection. Please do not depart in conditions that are unsuitable and please ensure that you really do make a proper pre-flight inspection of your aircraft every time.

As many of you know, I spent years as an aerobatic display pilot and as a result, I spent a great deal of time transiting VFR around the UK from show to show. I learned that it is not low cloud alone or low visibility alone that will ultimately kill you. It is a combination to the two which is lethal. You can probably safely navigate and avoid obstacles below a hard 700-800 ft cloud base with 10 km of visibility below (you cannot observe the 500 ft rule in any less than 700ft), but if you do that with 2,500 m visibility, you will certainly get into trouble.

Equally, if you fly at safe sector altitude, with a radar service, on a day with poor visibility (say a summer milk bottle haze) you will likely be OK as long as you do not become disoriented. So my advice, gleaned from many hours of low level VFR transit, is to avoid a combination of low cloud and low visibility at all costs.

Finally, as winter is now approaching, it would also be a good time to review winter operational procedures, such as de-icing and windscreen cleaning because low sun and a dirty windscreen make for reduced forward visibility.

Some of the nicest flying can be found on clear, sunny, winter days and provided that adequate precautions are taken, it is a great time of year to get airborne and perhaps, have more of the sky to yourself.

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards  
Will Curtis  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

### **DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES**

A constantly updated list of database 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.....

Spare a thought for poor old Michael O'Leary, Chief Executive of Ryanair.

After arriving in a hotel in Manchester, he went to the bar and asked for a pint of Guinness.

The barman nodded and said, "That will be £1 please, Mr. O'Leary."

Somewhat taken aback, O'Leary replied, "That's very cheap," and handed over his money.

"Well, we do try to stay ahead of the competition", said the barman. "And we are serving free pints every Wednesday from 6 pm until 8 pm. We have the cheapest beer in England".

"That is remarkable value", Michael comments.

"I see you don't seem to have a glass, so you'll probably need one of ours. That will be £3 please."

O'Leary scowled, but paid up.

He took his drink and walked towards a seat. "Ah, you want to sit down?" said the barman. "That'll be an extra £2. You could have pre-booked the seat, and it would have only cost you £1."

"I think you may be too big for the seat sir, can I ask you to sit in this frame please".

Michael attempts to sit down but the frame is too small and when he can't squeeze in, he complains "Nobody would fit in that little frame".

"I'm afraid if you can't fit in the frame you'll have to pay an extra surcharge of £4 for your seat sir".

O'Leary swore to himself, but paid up. "I see that you have brought your laptop with you" added the barman. "And since that wasn't pre-booked either, that will be another £3."

O'Leary was so incensed that he walked back to the bar, slammed his drink on the counter, and yelled, "This is ridiculous, I want to speak to the manager".

"I see you want to use the counter," says the barman, "that will be £2 please."

O'Leary's face was red with rage. "Do you know who I am?"

"Of course I do Mr. O'Leary."

"I've had enough! What sort of a Hotel is this? I come in for a quiet drink and you treat me like this. I insist on speaking to a manager!"

"Here is his e-mail address, or if you wish, you can contact him between 9.00 am and 9.01am every morning, Monday to Tuesday at this free phone number. Calls are free, until they are answered, then there is a talking charge of only £1 per second, or part thereof".

"I will never use this bar again".

"OK sir, but do remember, we are the only hotel in England selling pints for £1."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An older golfer was hitting his ball from near a water hazard and his club fell into the water.

When he cried out, the Lord appeared and asked, "Why are you crying?"

The golfer replied that his club had fallen into the water and he needed the club to have a chance to win the tournament and supplement his meager pension.

The Lord went down into the water and reappeared with a golden club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

The golfer replied, "No."

The Lord again went down and came up with a silver club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

Again, the golfer replied, "No".

The Lord went down again and came up with an iron club. "Is this your club?" the Lord asked.

The golfer replied, "Yes".

The Lord was pleased with the golfer's honesty and gave him all three clubs to keep, and the golfer went home happy.

Sometime later, the golfer was walking with his wife along the water hazard, and she fell into the river.

When he cried out, the Lord again appeared and asked him, "Why are you crying?"

"Oh Lord, my woman has fallen into the water!"

The Lord went down into the water and came up with Kate Upton. "Is this your woman?" the Lord asked.

"Yes," cried the golfer.

The Lord was furious. "You lied! That is an untruth!"

The golfer replied, "Oh, forgive me Lord. It is a misunderstanding. You see, if I had said 'No' to Kate Upton, you would have come up with Jennifer Anniston. Then if I said 'No' to her, you would have come up with my woman. Had I then said 'Yes,' you would have given me all three. And Lord, I am an old man not able to take care of all three women in a way that they deserve ... that's why I said 'Yes' to Kate Upton".

And the Lord was pleased

The moral of this story is: If a golfer ever tells a lie, it is for a good and honorable reason and only out of consideration for others!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Love Story

I will seek and find you.

I shall take you to bed, and have my way with you.

I will make you ache, shake & sweat until you moan & groan.

I will make you beg for mercy, beg for me to stop.

I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieve when I'm finished with you.

And, when I am finished, you will be weak for days.

All my love,

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Signed: The Flu

Now, stop thinking about sex, and go get your flu shot!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

**Is it Male or Female? You might not have known this, but a lot of non-living objects are actually either male or female. Here are some examples...**

**FREEZER BAGS**

They are male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.

**PHOTOCOPIERS**

These are female, because once turned off; it takes a while to warm them up again.

They are an effective reproductive device if the right buttons are pushed, but can also wreak havoc if you push the wrong buttons.

**TYRES**

Tyres are male, because they go bald easily and are often over inflated.

**HOT AIR BALLOONS**

Also a male object, because to get them to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under their butt.

## SPONGES

These are female, because they are soft, squeezable and retain water.

## WEB PAGES

Female, because they're constantly being looked at and frequently getting hit on.

## TRAINS

Definitely male, because they always use the same old lines for picking up people.

## HOURGLASS

An hourglass is female because, over time, all the weight shifts to the bottom.

## HAMMERS

Male, because in the last 5000 years, they've hardly changed at all, and are occasionally handy to have around.

.....UNQUOTE

## QUOTE.....

**Subject: Scottish Obituary**

Woman goes to the local newspaper office to see that the Obituary for her recently deceased husband is published.

The Editor informs her that there is a charge of £1 per word.

She pauses, reflects, and then she says, "Well then, let it read: "Fred Brown died."

Amused at the woman's thrift, the Editor tells her that there is a seven-word minimum for all Obituaries.

She thinks it over and in a few seconds says, In that case, let it read:

"Fred Brown Died ... golf clubs For Sale"

.....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"...) )