

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Users Database – As I will be away on the usual last day of the month, this newsletter is being sent out 24 hours earlier than normal! Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

As members will recall, I continue to be unable to renew my aviation medical until my situation has been reviewed by the CAA. The Neurologist I was sent to seemed to be happy that it SHOULD be possible to get my medical renewed, but he has warned me that it could take several months, so I don't expect to have my licence back this year. (In reality though, I will be away until late November, so I assume I'm not actually missing much....)

Thank you all for your emails wishing me well – your support is very much appreciated.

You are reminded that, even if you ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and also all the original Biggin Hill "Bugles" written by our own John Bryan (JB), by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

(recently we have become aware that some email addresses, particularly gmail addresses, have not been getting through to the intended recipients. So, if you have not received your copy within 24 hours of the beginning of the month, please check the club website (www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) where you can find and draw down the current newsletter - and of course back copies as well!)

OCTOBER WEATHER

Although a bit out of touch as a result of my medical situation, it does seem that there has been quite poor weather this last month.

By the time you read this, the clocks in the UK will have changed from British Summer Time (UTC plus 1) to UTC. So I hope you all remembered, at 2am on Sunday 27th October, to set all your clocks to "fall back" by one hour. If you didn't I would guess you would probably have realised your error by now.

THE LIGHT AVIATION STEERING GROUP

The promised Light Aviation Steering Group held its first formal meeting in October at which the format and group membership was finalised. It was agreed that the group would meet regularly to try to formally discuss and plan for Light Aviation activities at Biggin Hill.

In the interim, if you have anything relevant that you would like the group to discuss or report on, please feel free to either email me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and I will pass it to the group on your behalf, or contact the CEO's office at the airport directly.

NEIL JENSEN

It is with great regret that I have to tell you of the loss of another old Biggin Hill'ite, Neil Jensen. Neil apparently passed away peacefully, but very suddenly, at home on Wednesday 23rd October.

Neil will be remembered by many older airport users as one of the two owners, along with Brian Stevens, of Sportair Flying Club at Biggin Hill with the Fournier RF4's and RF5's and several Robin's. One of the largest and most active clubs of those days, they also had an aircraft sales arm, and their own aircraft maintenance. Many will also remember the Fournier air display team, flown by Neil and Brian, plus the late David Perrin (who went on to display with the famous Rothman's Team).

Neil was also a very active member of the Tiger Club when it was at Headcorn, and he owned a number of personal aircraft at various times – his pride and joy being his Bucker Jungmann.

A real gentleman, and popular with the Sportair members and staff. He will be sadly missed.

Stop Press - The funeral arrangements have been announced just as we were about to publish this Newsletter: It will be held on 18th November at 10:45am at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium in Tunbridge Wells.

Neil's name has been added to the Roll of Honour – R.I.P. Neil

DAVID WHEELER

Sadly, we heard from the family that old Biggin Hill'ite, David Wheeler, passed away in hospital on Saturday 28th September where he was in recovery following an operation. Unfortunately we didn't hear of his passing until after the October Newsletter had been produced.

David was a long term member of the database and had been a regular at the airport for many decades. He was known to many of the older airport and club users and was a regular attendee at many of the social functions at the airport and airshows. Apparently David had his first ever flying lesson when he was just 15 at Biggin Hill in a Tiger Moth, in 1960! His love of flying stemmed from his Dad's RAF career and he was always having flying lessons in attempt to get his PPL, but unfortunately didn't ever complete the licence.

The family have advised that the Funeral will be held on 7th November at 4.15pm at the Beckenham Crematorium. Friends are welcome to join the family for the service, and also invited to the wake at The Elm Tree after the service for light refreshments.

If you are intending to attend, as a courtesy, please let the family know by emailing: sophiewheeler@hotmail.com

David's name has been added to the Roll of Honour at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

R.I.P. David

LINKEDIN

I have personally recently started getting quite a lot of emails asking me to add members of this database to my Linkedin account. Whilst there is a Linkedin account under my name, it was created many years ago, but I do not use it at all and, to be honest, I don't even know the login details to cancel it.

So sorry – it is nothing personal - I am not ignoring you, but there is no active account to which I can log in to accept you. John Willis

FLY2HELP WINTER BALL

Just a quick reminder that 12th December 2019 will again see the Fly2Help annual Winter Ball, at the Warren in Hayes from 6:30pm.

This Black Tie event promises to be a great evening with a pre-dinner drink, a three course meal, entertainment and a Raffle. Tickets can be bought individually or full tables of 10 persons are available.

See: <http://www.johnwillis.co.uk/bhreunited/winterball.pdf>

For more information email mike@fly2help.org

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)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

From strength to strength, that's how we are going here at the 'rear' of the airfield.

Our new aircraft have impressed members and now we take on new instructors. So all we need now is good weather to keep our student training on schedule; and well done to those who now have a PPL.

Socially our bar stays popular and events over New Year are organised, including our annual 1st January flights and later a club dinner.

Join us on 6th November at the clubhouse at 8pm for drinks and chat.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

News from the CEO's Office

Once again, I find myself apologising for missing a newsletter and remain hopeful regular readers were not too disappointed! The Airport has enjoyed a busy few months; however, our attention now turns to Winter Operations and all the challenges that brings.

Although the UK Business Aviation market remains flat, the Airport continues to attract new customers and has reached just under 20% of the London market for the first time. The potential impact of Brexit and the forthcoming election is difficult to predict but the Airport remains positive and will continue to invest in our facilities and infrastructure.

I am delighted to report that the inaugural meeting of the Light Aviation Steering Group was held on the 9th Oct and I was pleased with the turnout and level of engagement. The scope, terms of reference and fixed agenda items were discussed at length and I remain confident this steering group will play a prominent part defining the future of light aviation at Biggin Hill. I look forward to the informed and lively debate!

Turning to development news, the resurfacing of Taxiway Hotel is almost complete and remains on track to be brought into operation by mid-November. Again, I would like to thank all our partners for their cooperation and patience whilst we improve our Airport infrastructure. Finally, it looks like we are close to submitting the safety case to the CAA for the GPS approach for Rwy 03 and we remain on track to bring the approach into operation by the Autumn of 2020.

The Airport continues to work with London South East Colleges to progress the development of the Aerospace Technology college. The current programme still targets an opening date in time for the 2020 academic year. Development work continues regarding the Airport's proposed Hotel development and additional hangar accommodation on site.

Finally, as Winter starts to grab a hold, the Airport has already moved into winter operations and we will be looking to the community to continue its high standards of airmanship and support the Airport in maintaining the safest possible operations.

Cheers
David Winstanley

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we had missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at 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)

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.....

I recently spent \$6,500 on a young registered Black Angus bull.

I put him out with the herd but he just ate grass and wouldn't even look at a cow. I was beginning to think I had paid more for that bull than he was worth.

Anyhow, I had the Vet come and have a look at him. He said the bull was very healthy, but possibly just a little young, so he gave me some pills to feed him once per day.

The bull started to service the cows within two days, all my cows! He even broke through the fence and bred with all of my neighbour's cows! He's like a machine!

I don't know what was in the pills the Vet gave him but they kind of taste like peppermint.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A car full of Irish nuns are sitting at a traffic light in downtown Dublin when a bunch of rowdy drunks pull up alongside of them.

"Hey, show us yer teats, ya bloody penguins." shouts one of the drunks.

Quite shocked, Mother Superior turns to Sister Mary Immaculata and says, "I don't think they know who we are; show them your cross."

Sister Mary Immaculata rolls down her window and shouts, "Piss off, ya fookin' little wankers, before I come over there and rip yer balls off."

She then rolls up her window, looks back at Mother Superior quite innocently, and asks, "Did that sound cross enough?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Slaney phoned the maternity ward at the hospital. 'Quick!' he said, 'Send an ambulance, my wife is goin' to have a baby!'

'Tell me, is this her first baby?' the intern asked.

'No, this is her husband, Kevin, speakin'.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

My Mother wanted me to be a priest.

Can you imagine giving up your sex life; and then once a week people come in to tell you the details and highlights of theirs?

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A little five year old girl was usually driven to school by her Grandad, but one day he had a bad cold so her Grandmother took her.

That night the little girl told her parents that the ride to school with Granny was very different.

"What made it different?" asked her parents.

"Well," she replied, "Gran and I didn't see a single tosser, blind bastard, foreign prick, or wanker on the whole journey"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

This one MAY have been in the Newsletter before, but with the current activities of our so called politicians, I just thought it very appropriate to our situation in the UK now.....

Why We Need to Change all our Members of Parliament Regularly.....

If you start with a cage containing four monkeys, and inside the cage hang a banana on a string from the top, and then you place a set of stairs under the banana, before long a monkey will go to the stairs and climb toward the banana. ALL the monkeys are then sprayed with cold water.

After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with same result -- As soon as he touches the stairs, you spray ALL the monkeys with cold water.

Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put the cold water away. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new monkey.

The new monkey sees the banana and attempts to climb the stairs. To his shock, ALL of the other monkeys beat the crap out of him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original four monkeys, replacing it with a new monkey.

The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment – with enthusiasm - because he is now part of the team.

Then, replace a third original monkey with a new monkey, followed by the fourth.

Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Now, the monkeys that are beating him up have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs. Neither do they know why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

Finally, having replaced all of the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys will have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys will try to climb the stairway for the banana.

Why, you ask? Because in their minds, that is the way it has always been!

This is how today's members of Parliament operates; and this is why, from time to time, ALL of the monkeys need to be REPLACED AT THE SAME TIME!

DISCLAIMER: This is meant as no disrespect to monkeys.

.....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" ...)