

Hi everyone

Welcome to the October 2011 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter.

Unusually, the October edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is slightly later this month as a result of JB's personal commitments, but should be viewable or downloadable from the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> within the next 24 hours or so. Please just check the website from time to time over the next day or so...

As always, 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).

#### 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..

#### CABAIR

We have known for some time that the new number crunchers who had acquired Cabair had indicated that they intended to close the Cabair training centres around the UK to concentrate on their professional training schools in the UK and the USA. But just this week (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>) we have found that schools suddenly closed their doors across the whole Cabair Group.

The situation is far from clear at the point of writing this Newsletter, with various rumours circulating that they have gone bust, or into receivership, etc. The various groups on the internet seem to indicate that all PPL centres have definitely closed, and even the professional schools in the USA and Cranfield have ceased operations.

At this point one of the most sensible reports circulating is that the Banks (them again!!) have forced the closure and that talks are underway to restructure the Group and that they have been given a fortnight to come up with a full restructure plan. It seems that it is hoped that the professional schools could be saved, but no one seems to hold out much hope for the PPL centres to survive. Once again, I stress that this is just rumour and conjecture, although it seems a likely scenario. Hopefully we will know more by next month's Newsletter, and we will keep you informed.

#### THE CHERRY LODGE GOLF CLUB DEVELOPMENT

As reported in the Mid Month Special Newsletter, the Bromley Council seems to have woken up to the fact that their handling of the planning permission application for this development was going to affect many people's quality of life, and the entire traffic situation in the Biggin Hill area that would affect thousands of regular road users. It seems that they have had it pointed out to them by the many action groups, and people like us, that the proper procedures may well have not been completely and correctly followed.

Within days of that Newsletter and articles in the local papers, planning notice signs started to appear on telegraph poles and the like all around the affected area, and the deadline for objections was immediately extended to 10<sup>th</sup> October to allow anyone affected to appeal against the plans being approved.

Well done to all who were active in bringing this to our attention. And please do write in to Bromley Council with your views on this proposed development. As previously published last month in the "special" Newsletter - The formal Planning Application at Bromley is Reference Number 11/02499/FULL1

It describes the application as: "Improvement of golf club course including deposit of inert materials to remodel 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th holes and provide multi-shot driving range (on existing practice ground outfield), chipping academy and putting green. Replacement single storey driving range building. Laying out of hard surface on existing informal car parking area to provide 93 spaces. Drainage and landscaping works. Alteration of vehicular access to Main Road and construction of temporary haul roads and compound for import of soil, including wheel washing facility, site office and related buildings - Cherry Lodge Golf Club Jail Lane Biggin Hill TN16 3AX "

The full planning application can be viewed online at:

<http://planning.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=LQ2QY7BT0GG00>

You can view all related documents on the "Documents" tab, but the specific traffic plan can also be seen at:

[http://planning.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/files/54A7839330B23FC411AC10C593818051/pdf/11\\_02499\\_FULL1-CONSTRUCTION\\_TRAFFIC\\_MANAGEMENT\\_STATEMENT-1217782.pdf](http://planning.bromley.gov.uk/online-applications/files/54A7839330B23FC411AC10C593818051/pdf/11_02499_FULL1-CONSTRUCTION_TRAFFIC_MANAGEMENT_STATEMENT-1217782.pdf)

(it is slow loading, but does eventually get there!)

For those who find it difficult to access the traffic plan, I have also loaded it on the club site at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/bhtrafficroute.pdf>

Please remember, if you use Biggin Hill Airport, or simply travel along the Westerham Road between Westerham and Biggin Hill, YOU WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS! You need to put pen to paper and voice your objections, or this will be pushed through and destroy that end of the village for anything between one and two years, if not for ever...

## AIRPORT FAMILY OPEN DAY

As mentioned in the report below from the airport themselves, the 10<sup>th</sup> September saw the airport's own Family Open Day. Whilst not intended to be an air show, more a day out for the kids and the local community, the weather that was forecast to be quite wild and wet, relented, and everyone seemed to have a very pleasant day.

There were many entertaining ground exhibitions, including Motorcycle displays, dog displays, stunt displays with paint guns, trampolines and roundabouts, etc., designed to keep the children entertained. Plus of course, for the older members, assorted refreshment and beer stalls.

There were also two 45 minute flying displays that were excellent, albeit short in duration, by such types as the P51 Mustang, Sea Fury, Twisters, and the Brietling Wingwalkers, as well as a beautifully executed display by Dan Griffith in the Biggin Hill based Kent Spitfire.

Attendance was fairly light, variously estimated at 2000 to 3000 people, many others having obviously been put off by the forecast for adverse weather. But all in all, a successful event – once again as long as people do not try to compare it with a full bloodied air show..

## 2011 CHARTWELL CONCERT

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> September Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill, was converted very efficiently by Colin Hitchins and his team at Synergy Events into an amazing concert venue for this year's prom featuring the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

The event was again graced with good weather (Colin must have been really good in his younger life, as he seems always to be blessed with good weather while either side of his events, we suffer rain, hail, storms and all other weather phenomena's that have been all too common this year!), and the crowd was duly entertained by both the music and beautiful flying displays.

On the Saturday particularly, there was a large contingent from the airport, and it was good to see so many faces supporting the event. I'm sure much champagne and other beverages flowed quite freely to accompany the various picnic spreads enjoyed by the attendees..

Well done to all involved.

## SEPTEMBER AT BIGGIN HILL - FROM THE OFFICE OF JENNY MUNRO

After a pretty quiet August, September started with a bang and has kept up the pace on the business traffic. In recent days, I have noticed that light aircraft have been fairly busy - making the most of the beautiful flying weather while it lasts. This is tinged with sadness, though, as we have seen that Cabair have ceased trading as of this week. This is very difficult for all concerned and unfortunately carries with it some rather unsavoury, yet unavoidable processes. My thoughts are with the team, and we of course would support all efforts to see this long standing feature of Biggin Hill back in the sky if this is at all possible.

Events have been a feature this month. Firstly, we had the Family Open Day on 10th September. For a first event, which was designed to be a community day rather than an Air Show, I thought it was a great success. We had been very careful to NOT attract too many people, as this wasn't the concept, but I hope that those who were there enjoyed the entertainment. I have been asked so many times about bringing back the Air Fair, and I am looking forward to investigating the possibility of building on the type of day that we had, to build a strong event with the benefit of both all the experience of the key people on the Biggin Hill scene, and that refreshing asset – a clean sheet of paper! Let's see where it leads us.... Local press coverage was positive, and I count an endorsement from MP Jo Johnson as being quite a step forward!

This was quickly followed by the Business Aircraft Europe 2011 conference, which was held at Biggin for the first time, having outgrown Oxford Airport. Having so many heavy hitters from the industry on our Airport during such glorious weather was a real coup. The recent investments at Biggin raised many an eyebrow from people who perhaps hadn't visited us in quite some time. RizonJet hosted an evening reception with a stunning display from the Spirit of Kent Spitfire.

So, our days jobs along with the organisation which went into these two events has meant that everyone has had their shoulders to the wheel this month. One of my highlights was the meeting with the Bromley Residents' Federation, at which I was pleased to continue to put across our message and help to allay concerns.

Jenny Munro  
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

## BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Thank you for your continued support of the club, the fees for which help to fund the costs of both the Club website and the Reunion site.

Full details for new, and existing members, can be found on the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) where you can find details of existing membership concessions available via your membership cards.

That's it again for this month...  
John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: This month has been a bit fraught for me so no real time to research some things I have been sent, so, two jokes from members, the first from Dudley Clark, and the second from Ralph Scott ... Thanks guys .....

QUOTE.....

A Liverpudlian walks into a bank in Hope Street and asks for the loan officer.  
He tells the loan officer that he is going to Australia on business for two weeks and needs to borrow £5,000.

The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Scouser lad hands over the keys and documents of new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the Log Book and everything checks out, so The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

The bank's Manager and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the rough looking Scouser for using a £120,000 Ferrari as collateral against a £5000 loan.

An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the Scouser returns, repays the £5,000 and the interest, which comes to £15.41.

The loan officer says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi millionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow £5,000?"

The Scouser replies:

"Where else in Liverpool can I park my car for two weeks for only £15.41 and expect it to be there when I return"

Ah, the mind of the true Scouser.. This is why they survive!

AND ANOTHER ONE.....

My dear husband,

I'm writing this letter to tell you that I'm leaving you.

I've been a good wife to you for the last 20 years and I have nothing to show for it, and the last two weeks have been hell.

Your boss called to tell me that you left your job today which was the last straw. Last week, you came home and you didn't even notice I had a new hairstyle, had cooked your favourite meal and even wore a brand new nightie. You ate in two minutes and went straight to sleep after watching your TV shows. You don't tell me you love me anymore; you don't want sex or anything that connects us as husband and wife. Either you're cheating on me or you don't love me anymore.

Whatever the case, I'm gone.

Your ex-wife.

PS, Don't try to find me, Your BROTHER and I are moving to Invercargill (NZ) together! Have a great life!

REPLY:

Dear ex-wife,

Nothing has made my day more than receiving your letter.

It's true you and I have been married for 20 years, although a good woman is a far cry from what you've been.

I watch TV shows so much because they drown out your constant whining and bitching. Too bad that doesn't work...

I DID notice when you got a hairdo last week, but the first thing that came to mind was 'You look just like a boy!' Since my father raised me not to say anything, if you can't say something nice, I didn't comment..

And when you cooked my favourite meal, you must have got me confused with MY BROTHER because I haven't eaten pork for seven years.

About the new nightie: I turned away from you because the £49.99 price tag was still on it and I prayed it was a co-incidence that my brother had just borrowed £50 from me that morning.

After all of this, I still loved you and felt we could work it out. So, when I won the £20 million Lotto on Saturday, I left my job and bought two tickets for us to Jamaica, but when I got home you were gone. Everything happens for a reason, I guess.

I hope you have the fulfilling life you always wanted. My lawyer said that the letter you wrote ensures you won't get a penny from me. So take care.

Signed,

Your ex-husband, rich as hell and free!

P.S. I don't know if I ever told you this, but my brother Carl was born Carla. I hope that's not a problem.

.....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"...)