

Hi everyone

Welcome to the October 2012 Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter – a relatively brief one this month. As many will be aware, I have had some family issues this month and that had taken me out of the loop somewhat. Thanks to all who have sent messages to me, it was much appreciated.

The October edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also 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 October 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](mailto: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](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and go to the link to the database members list..

Please let us know if you change your email address at any time – and if you know anyone else who has been involved on the airport, please pass me their details so they can be added to the database.

### **BOB BREWER**

Just as we were going to press, we were passed the sad news that another old Biggin Hill'ite, Bob Brewer, passed away yesterday (29<sup>th</sup> September) at Age 87.

Bob was in the Royal Air Force during the war, serving as ground crew with Bomber Command. He learnt to fly with the late Ron Smith at the Biggin Hill Flying Club around 1966, and moved to Sportair Flying Club in 1971, before joining the Tiger Club in around 1973. He continued flying until about 1990 when the Tiger Club moved from Redhill.

Bob had a fit and healthy life until developing cancer just over a year or so ago. Having literally just happened, it is too early for any funeral arrangements to be known. If anyone would like to attend any service once the date is fixed, please either email me ([john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)) or contact his daughter Julie on 01795 842941

### **OLYMPIC RESTRICTIONS**

Everything is apparently back to normal now following the completion of the Paralympics. In spite of lots of concerns prior to this unique event, it all seemed to pass without incident and was also well received by the majority of people both at home, and abroad.

It is, of course, a shame that far from generating massive increases in numbers of tourists, and corresponding increases in turnover for many varied businesses, the opposite would appear to have happened. Indeed many businesses had their worst ever July/August, and tourist related numbers and incomes were down on normal similar periods. Still, for just a few short weeks, it

appeared that everyone was smiling and the UK presented the outside world with a good impression of a stable and happy people.

Let us all hope that all that money actually does produce the benefits post-Olympics that the politicians promised us all.. Time will tell..

## **CHANGES AT BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

This month the rumour mill is running at full speed and if all we hear is correct, then the changes are certainly not for the better.

There are very strong rumours suggesting that Jet Aviation, once the airport's pride when this global business was attracted to Biggin, have experienced a downturn requiring them to take stock. Many of these rumours suggested that all their staff have been given notice, and that the company is closing down at the airport.

As usual, not all one hears is correct, and the following statement was provided by Jet Aviation in response to my query about the company's likely plans:

*"At Biggin Hill, Jet Aviation has initiated a consultation period with its employees a couple of weeks ago. This will last a minimum of 30 days. Jet Aviation is currently evaluating various options, including*

- downsizing at Biggin Hill
- selling the operation or
- closing it.

*We are currently receiving suggestions and ideas from employees on how to continue the operation at Biggin Hill and will evaluate them while at the same time we also evaluate our other options. The consultation period will end in October by which we hope to provide our employees with more clear answers about the future of the operation at Biggin Hill"*

I am very grateful for their help in providing us with the real facts so that unqualified comments are not allowed to damage the company's future at the airport. Jet Aviation is a prestigious and well respected global business. To lose them from the airport would be a sad loss indeed, so we hope they are able to find a satisfactory workaround that will still involve them remaining at Biggin. We wish them well..

Scottish Charter business, Air Charter Scotland, who opened a base at the airport not that long ago, and took on a hangar at the airport, appear to be giving up their hangar and moving into a small slot offered by one of the other hangarage companies at Biggin – at least there is a positive there for one airport tenant.

Long term airport business, Avtech, who have experienced many changing fortunes over the years are, we are lead to believe, giving up their final hangar. At this time, we don't know what their plans are for the future, but we all, I am sure, would wish them well.

We are also told that a business supplying VIP aircraft catering at the airport is also closing down.

All this is happening at the time that businesses have a threat of massive rate increases hanging over their heads. Although still under review by the Rating Authorities, one wonders whether this threat was the final straw that broke the camel's back with these airport based companies.

On the plus side, Perfect Aviation has moved into larger premises at the airport, moving from the small hangar between the Heritage hangar and Avalon to the old Gold Air hangar and office suit, recently vacated by Premier. And the Heritage hangar (the Red Hangar) now boasts an amazing collection of airworthy Spitfires and other similar equipment based at Biggin, and these wonderful aircraft can be seen flying very regularly at the airport.

## **CONCESSION CHANGES**

Regretfully it has become necessary to remove one of the most popular concessions for Card holding Biggin Hill Airport Social Club members.

The Montien (Thai restaurant) in Westerham and several other locations, has offered the generous discount since the club first started issuing photocards. Whilst the owner of all the Montien restaurants has confirmed on several occasions that he wanted to keep the concession running, his local staff in Westerham seemed to have other ideas, and have been refusing to acknowledge the existence of the concession when claimed. As a result, several members have been unable to benefit from the discount at the time of paying the bill, and have drawn my attention to the problem. It is clearly embarrassing when this happens, as I personally have no control over the situation, other than to draw the owner's attention again and again to the problem. I have decided therefore to tell the owner that we no longer require the concession for members, and it has now been removed from the website.

The concessionary discounts do work well in the other restaurants and services, and I have personally used the card quite frequently in the Napoli in Westerham and Dizzy's Diner in Beckenham. The discount has always been honoured without question in these places, and it has saved significant sums, considerably more than the cost of membership.

If anyone has a favourite restaurant that they can obtain a discount for their fellow members, please let me know and I will confirm it in writing to the management, provide them with a sample card for the noticeboard, and promote them on our websites.

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

With Olympics and Paralympics now behind us, I can with complete relief say that it went extremely well operationally. Overall movements were in fact lower in July and August than they were in those months last year, but this was entirely driven by light aircraft and helicopters operating less than usual. In general, we found that the business traffic was to some extent replacement traffic and not as heavily incremental as had been anticipated. Having said this, the business aircraft movements were very healthy and we were pleased to be able to advise our staff of an Olympics bonus last week as a thank you for their good spirited acceptance of an unusually busy summer with no leave.

Immediately following the Olympics, we were into final preparation for a very successful Business Aircraft Europe Show and then an equally successful CAA Aerodrome Audit, both of which took place in September. Over previous months, work and discussions have been ongoing regarding a possible Air Event in 2013. At this stage, I would say that it is highly unlikely that an Air Event

would take place next year, but this doesn't stop us working on options for 2014 and this continues. Options and ideas are still under discussion for a Social Club, but these are commercially sensitive at this stage – more news on that when I can say more.

Of course you will have heard that Jet Aviation is reviewing its options at Biggin. Again, I am bound by confidentiality but I hope that Jet have been able to make a statement direct to John. All I can say is that we continue to work with them to ensure the best possible outcome for the team, and in cooperation with Jet, identify any opportunities

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: Two items this month – one totally politically Incorrect, and the second something to amuse you...Ralph Scott passed me the first somewhat political comment he read somewhere – it says what most of us think but don't say! – the second, from Ann Greenfield just made me chuckle and lightened the mood after the first one.....

QUOTE.....

I THINK THIS MAN HAS IT ALL COVERED. I COULDN'T SPOT ANYTHING HE LEFT OUT.

"I am the Tory Party's Worst Nightmare. I am a White, Tax-Paying, God-fearing English man. I am a hard working Brit and I work long hours to earn a living.

I believe in God and the freedom of religion, but I don't push it on others. I believe in British products and buy them whenever I can.

I believe the money I make belongs to me and not to some governmental functionary, to share with others who don't work!

I think owning a home doesn't make you a capitalist; it makes you a smart Brit. I think being a minority does not make you noble or victimized, and does not entitle you to anything. Get over it. Join in with the majority!

I believe that if you are selling me a Big Mac, you should do it in English. I believe there should be no other language option.

I believe everyone has a right to pray to his or her God when and where they want to.

My heroes are fellow Brits like Freddy Flintoff and Winston Churchill and I know I've missed a few thousand!!!!

I don't hate the rich. What I hate is the way they always manage to avoid paying proper taxes.

I don't pity the poor, I just hate the way they are always moaning that they are hard done by!!

I know wrestling is fake and I don't waste my time watching or arguing about it.

I believe if you don't like the way things are here, go back to where you came from and change your own country!

This is ENGLAND.....We like it the way it is and even more so the way it was...so stop trying to change it to look like some other country!

If you were born or legally migrated here and don't like it... you are free to move to any country that will have you. I believe it is time to really clean our house, starting with the House of Commons, the seat of our biggest problems.

I want to know where the "Do Gooders" get their money from, and why are they always part of the problem and not the solution?

I also think the cops have the right to pull you over if you're breaking the law, regardless of what race, colour or creed you are. And, no, I don't mind having my face shown on my driving licence. I think it's good....

I dislike those people trying to guilt me into making 'donations' to their cause....Get a job and support yourself and your family!

I believe 'illegal' is illegal no matter what the lawyers think!

I believe the Union Jack flag should be allowed to be flown anywhere in the United Kingdom !

If this makes me a BAD Brit, then yes, I'm a BAD Brit.

We want our country back! My Country..... I hope this offends all illegal aliens.

And shame on anyone who tries to make this a racist message. IT IS NOT !

Britons, stop giving away Your RIGHTS ! THIS IS OUR COUNTRY !

This statement DOES NOT mean I'm against immigration !

You are welcome here, IN MY COUNTRY - welcome to come legally, learn the language, live by our rules and dress as we Britons do. Get a job and pay your taxes (and no Social Security until you have earned it and paid for it!), and pay yourself for the roof over your head!

If you are worried by anyone voicing such opinions, then YOU'RE A PART OF THE PROBLEM !  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Think before you speak (or engage brain before engaging mouth!)

Have you ever spoken and wished that you could immediately take the words back.....  
Here are five examples of a few people who did....

**Example One:** I walked into a hair salon with my husband and three kids in tow and asked loudly, 'How much do you charge for a shampoo and a blow job?' I turned around and walked back out and never went back. My husband didn't say a word...he knew better.

**Example Two:** I was at the golf store comparing different kinds of golf balls. I was unhappy with the women's type I had been using. After browsing for several minutes, I was approached by one of the good-looking gentlemen who works at the store. He asked if he could help me. Without thinking, I looked at him and said, 'I think I like playing with men's balls'.

**Example Three:** My sister and I were at the mall and passed by a store that sold a variety of candy and nuts. As we were looking at the display case, the boy behind the counter asked if we needed any help. I replied, 'No, I'm just looking at your nuts.' My sister started to laugh hysterically. The boy grinned, and I turned beet-red and walked away. To this day, my sister has never let me forget.

**Example Four:** Have you ever asked your child a question too many times? My three-year-old son had a lot of problems with potty training and I was on him constantly. One day we stopped at Taco Bell for a quick lunch, in between errands. It was very busy, with a full dining room. While enjoying my taco, I smelled something funny. So of course I checked my seven-month-old daughter, she was clean. Then I realized that Danny had not asked to go potty in a while. I asked him if he needed to go, and he said 'No' ...I kept thinking 'Oh Lord, that child has had an accident, and I don't have any clothes with me.' Then I said, 'Danny, are you SURE you didn't have an accident?' 'No,' he replied..I just KNEW that he must have had an accident, because the smell was getting worse. Soooooo, I asked one more time, 'Danny did you have an accident ? This time he jumped up, yanked down his pants, bent over, spread his cheeks and yelled 'SEE MOM, IT'S JUST FARTS!! while 30 people nearly choked to death on their tacos laughing. He calmly pulled up his pants and sat down. An old couple made me feel better, thanking me for the best laugh they'd ever had!

**And Last but not least..**

**Example Five:** This had most of the state of Michigan laughing for 2 days and a very embarrassed female news anchor who will, in the future, likely think before she speaks. What happens when you predict snow but don't get any! We had a female news anchor that, the day after it was supposed to have snowed and didn't, turned to the weatherman and asked: 'So Bob, where's that 8 inches you promised last night?' Not only did HE have to leave the set, but half the crew did too they were laughing so hard!

Remember we all say things we don't really mean, so think before you speak!!!

.....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"...) )