

Hi everyone

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

JB's October 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.

Please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. (JB's direct email address is johnbryan13@sky.com, or you can send items directly to me to pass on: john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

SEPTEMBER WEATHER

Although personally I have been away from Biggin for the last couple of weeks, it would seem that September has still been a good month for the clubs and private owners. It is good to see so much interest in learning to fly, and becoming involved in what we all love.

Let's hope for a good October before the almost inevitable deterioration into the Winter months. If the UK media is to be believed, we are in for the coldest, snowiest, iciest winter for decades – but then again, they say that every year in the hope that one year they will be right and can say "Told you so!"

MIKE ROPER

Just coming in as I was putting this Newsletter together was the loss of another old Biggin Hill'ite, Mike Roper. Whilst I cannot claim to know Mike personally, other than by sight, I understand that he has been very active at Biggin Hill for many years, having flown at Alouette Flying Club and others.

His name has been added to the Roll of Honour at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

2017 FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

As readers will see from the entry below from Colin Hitchins, the dates for the 2017 Festival of Flight have now been announced. A two day show this year designed to co-incide with the weekend of the Eastbourne Air Show. So this should help to ensure more hardware for the airport's own show as many aircraft for Eastbourne operate from Biggin Hill anyway.

So, dates for your diary – 19th and 20th August 2017

It should be a great show with a very specific and special event to celebrate – Biggin Hill Airport's centenary.

It is intended that we will have another Users and Tenants Marquee on the Sunday of the show, so watch this space for more announcements. Costs are likely to be similar to last year. If you want to get in on the list early, feel free to email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk with your name and likely numbers of guests, and I'll email you directly as more information becomes available.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

We often talk about it being a small world, and this was illustrated to me just the other day.

I was sitting in a tiny cocktail bar in a small western Algarve village when we started speaking to a man and his wife, making small talk. During the conversation he asked where we lived in the UK, and when I said a small town near London called Biggin Hill, his wife said – “oh he knows that well, he learnt to fly there”.

Of course, this prompted much discussion and during that I obviously asked when and where he learnt. It turned out he learnt at Sportair in the 70's on the Fournier RF4's and 5's – and this when I was the Chief Flying Instructor of Sportair!

Scary eh?

INEXPENSIVE TRAFFIC INFORMATION FOR GA?

I'm sure that many of you will have already heard of this, but in case not, a quick introduction to a relatively new system known as PilotAware.

PilotAware is a small portable and affordable unit that works with a number of pilot aids such as Sky Demon, RunwayHD, EasyVFR, Air Navigation Pro, Sky-Map, and XC Soar, to provide visual and audio traffic information on aircraft that are equipped with ADS-B, Mode C/S, and also other aircraft with PilotAware – a kind of poor man's VFR TCAS. Whilst it will not in any way eliminate proper lookout, it should certainly help give advanced warnings for some of the traffic out there in the busy London area lower airspace.

Full information can be found at www.pilotaware.com

The current introductory price is just £159.99 plus VAT and shipping – a small price to pay if it helps us to spot aircraft earlier that might otherwise have been missed. And remember, by design, as it sees other PilotAware equipped aircraft, the more people using PilotAware, the more information will be available to all of us...

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)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from the Falcon camp

An interesting month with a mix of weather but on the whole not bad!

We have seen plenty of happy faces both in the schools and in the hangar so thank you for your continued support.

This month we say goodbye to Scott our ops manager who has been with us for 3.5 years as he moves to Northampton and welcome Koray, a PPL Holder, to take up the roles as

Operations at EFG. Joe Hilling recently joined us as an instructor and has made a fantastic impact to all involved.

A massive congratulations to our own Peter Aldous on passing his CPL with a first time pass. Peter has gained his instructors rating with us and worked tremendously hard with CFI Ray Watson to gain his CPL. Well done Peter!

So whilst we have this glorious weather, come and visit us for your flight training and aircraft maintenance needs. Flight Training 01959 540 400 Maintenance 01958 572 339

Till the next time. Fly safe and be blessed

Anoop Singh Bamrah

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

2017 will be an important year for London Biggin Hill Airport as we celebrate our centenary. Under the banner 'Biggin Hill 100' we are planning a number of special events and activities.

Our most significant event will be the Festival of Flight. This will see the return of a two-day air show to Biggin on the 19th & 20th of August. Why August you may ask, well we already host the RAF display teams on that weekend for the Eastbourne Air Show and August is a quieter time for the business and therefore easier for us to accommodate add a second day to our Festival of Flight.

A Biggin 100 project team has been put together to look at other events and opportunities. We are already compiling a Biggin100 book, so please do share with us and special memories or pictures. We will look to announce the full Biggin 100 programme of events later this year.

Battle of Britain week was especially busy and productive for us this year.

We aspire to open a branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society here in 2017 and as a precursor to this; we held our first RAeS event here on Monday 12 September.

Peter Monk allowed us to host a very special evening in his Heritage Hangars where we hosted some of our industries key movers and shakers. Our guest of honour was HRH Prince Michael of Kent, Patron of the British Business and General Aviation Association. The lecture, delivered by Ernie Edwards, Chief Operating Officer of the US based Arion Corporation, was on the subject of 'the future of supersonic business aviation'.

The following day the terminal hangar hosted Air Charter Expo (ACE16), with the majority of our resident companies exhibiting alongside many others from the UK and overseas. We hosted over 50 exhibitors, 20 business aircraft and helicopters and 700 visitors.

Overnight our airport based exhibition management company, Transcity, transformed the hangar to accommodate the Bank on Business Expo, with 73 local companies and over 500 guests in attendance. This is the second year of the Expo and it has grown considerably on year 1, offering local business a great sales and networking opportunity.

Looking forward to October we will host the Aim High Scholarship, an opportunity for ten 15 to 18 year old local young adults to explore and learn about the many opportunities in the

world of aviation. Their week includes visits to Gatwick, London City and a flying experience with EFG. Aim High is one of a number of airport initiatives aimed at inspiring our youth to join us in the aerospace world. Our commitment to establish the London Aerospace and Technology College here at Biggin was announced by Will Curtiss at our RAeS event.

And finally.....Will Curtis and myself were invited to the Charles Darwin annual prize giving, it was truly inspirational seeing local young people attaining such a high standard in their exam results and with so many now going on to further studies at universities and colleges.

Best wishes
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

This month has been busy for Biggin Hill with corporate jets well above budget despite a problem with the ILS glideslope that has proven anything but easy to fix. The topography at Biggin Hill makes ILS calibration somewhat problematic and the new antenna for the ILS glideslope (that we had to have made) has not entirely solved the problem. Hopefully it will not be too much longer. The irony is that the entire system is shortly to be replaced, but these systems are not "off the shelf" items so bringing that program forward is difficult.

During the month, various persons spread malicious rumours that the airport was set on destroying WWII Spitfire E pens and other WWII ruins. Mr. David Evans, a serial anti-airport campaigner evidently set about telling unsubstantiated lies to members of the press, leading Bob Ogley to publish an incorrect story to this effect in the local newspapers. Mr. Evans is not interested in the facts of the matter - he prefers to make a good story designed purely to alarm and distress local residents.

Bob, ever the gentleman, immediately retracted the story in subsequent press articles once he had uncovered the truth. The truth is that Biggin Hill is actually preserving these monuments as part of its 100th anniversary celebrations next year. Astonishingly, Mr. Evans was assisted in this deception by a well-known organisation based on the aerodrome and by a few other individuals, all of whom should hang their heads in shame. Social media is probably an evil that we would all be better off without because it permits the simple minded in society to air their thoughts without due consideration of the consequences.

As you are all aware, the runway 29/11 consultation closes at the end of September. We received many responses and will now collate these into broad themes for further discussion during October. Once this work has been completed, we will hold some focus groups to identify the best way forward. I will keep you posted, but we aim to have reached a firm determination by the end of November.

The forecasters are predicting an Indian Summer for October, which probably means it will rain throughout the month. However, on the off chance that the Met Office has it correct, you may want to take advantage of a "last blast" before winter sets in.

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.....

A friend of mine has two tickets for the 2016 Ryder Cup. They are prime seats plus airfares and hotel accommodation. He didn't realise when he bought them that this is the same weekend as his wedding.

If you're genuinely interested and want to go instead of him, it's at St Johns Church, Worcester Park at 2.15pm. Her name is Susan and she will be the one in the white dress.
Cheers

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A fifth grader asked her mother the age-old question,

'How did I get here?'

Her mother told her, 'God sent you.'

'Did God send you, too?' asked the child.

'Yes, Dear,' the mother replied.

'What about Grandma and Grandpa?' the child persisted

'He sent them also,' the mother said.

'Did he send their parents too?' asked the child.

'Yes, Dear, He did,' said the mother patiently.

'So you're telling me that there has been NO sex in this family for 200 years? No wonder everyone's so grouchy around here!'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
Smart Ass Answers

SMART ASS ANSWER #6

It was mealtime during an airline flight.
'Would you like dinner?', the flight attendant asked John, seated in front.
'What are my choices?' John asked.
'Yes or no,' she replied.

SMART ASS ANSWER #5

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 missing a beat, she said, 'Sir, I need to see your ticket, not your stub.'

SMART ASS ANSWER #4

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, 'Do these turkeys get any bigger?'
The stock boy replied, 'No ma'am, they're dead...'

SMART ASS ANSWER #3

The police officer got out of his car as the kid who was stopped for speeding rolled down his window. 'I've been waiting for you all day,' the officer said.
The kid replied, 'Yeah, well I got here as fast as I could.'
When the cop finally stopped laughing, he sent the kid on his way without a ticket.

SMART ASS ANSWER #2

A truck driver was driving along on the freeway and noticed a sign that read: Low Bridge Ahead. Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it. Cars are backed up for miles.
Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, 'Got stuck, huh?'
The truck driver says, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of gas.'

SMART ASS ANSWER OF THE YEAR 2016!!

A college teacher reminds her class of tomorrow's final exam. 'Now class, 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-ass student in the back of the room raised his hand and asked, 'What would you say if tomorrow I said I was suffering from complete and utter sexual exhaustion?'
The entire class is reduced to laughter and snickering. When silence was restored, the teacher smiled knowingly at the student, shook her head and sweetly said, 'Well, I guess you'd have to write the exam with your other hand'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Harley Biker is riding by the zoo in London when he sees a little girl leaning into the lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the collar of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to slaughter her, under the eyes of her screaming parents.

The biker jumps off his Harley, runs to the cage and hits the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. Whimpering from the pain the lion jumps back letting go of the girl, and the biker brings the girl to her terrified parents, who thank him endlessly.

A reporter has watched the whole event. The reporter addressing the Harley rider says, 'Sir, this was the most gallant and bravest thing I've seen a man do in my whole life.' The Harley rider replies, Why, it was nothing, really. The lion was behind bars. I just saw this little kid in danger, and acted as I felt right.'

The reporter says, 'Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know, and tomorrow's paper will have this story on the front page. So, what do you do for a living, and what political affiliation do you have?'

The biker replies "I'm a Royal Marine, and a Conservative." The journalist leaves.

The following morning the biker buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on the front page:

ROYAL MARINE ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND STEALS HIS LUNCH!!!

..... and THAT pretty much sums up the media's approach to the news these days.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Only in Britain -Complaints to Landlords (Extracts from letters written by tenants):

1. It's the dogs mess that I find hard to swallow.
2. I want some repairs done to my cooker as it has backfired and burnt my knob off.
3. I wish to complain that my father twisted his ankle very badly when he put his foot in the hole in his back passage.
- 4.. Their 18 year old son is continually banging his balls against my fence.
5. I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other day that blew them off.
6. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
7. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
8. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.

9. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.
10. 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster, and 50% are just plain filthy.
11. The next door neighbour has got this huge tool that vibrates the whole house and I just can't take it anymore.
12. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.
13. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it is a funny colour and not fit to drink.
14. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces.
15. I want to complain about the farmer across the road. Every morning at 6am his cock wakes me up and it's now getting too much for me.
16. The man next door has a large erection in the back garden, which is unsightly and dangerous.
17. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.
18. I am a single woman living in a downstairs flat and would you please do something about the noise made by the man on top of me every night.
19. Please send a man with the right tool to finish the job and satisfy my wife..
20. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.
.....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" ...)