

Hi everyone

Welcome to the October 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 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.

SEPTEMBER WEATHER

September has been a somewhat disappointing month for GA flying weather, especially after lots of suggestions of an "Indian Summer". I personally was away for the first couple of weeks, but I am told I missed very little flying, and it hasn't been that great either since my return. I know I keep saying it, but let's hope for a better month for flying this month before the clocks change and the nights start drawing in again.

I guess the only thing we can really say is that, although we don't get the best flying weather here that often, at least we don't suffer from the extremes like our friends in the USA and the Caribbean. This year's hurricane season has demolished large parts of the USA and the islands destroying almost everything in their paths. Our thoughts go out to our US and Caribbean cousins.

DEREK McQUOID

Around the middle of September I received the sad news that old Biggin Hill'ite and friend to many of us older airport users, Derek McQuoid, had passed away. Derek, who was 78, apparently died on 29th August after a short illness.

A former flying instructor, as well as owner of South London Aero Club (known as SLAC), Derek was a very active member of the Biggin Hill fraternity in those distant days.. Oldies will recall that SLAC was situated in the 60's in one of the Blast pens between Vendair flying Club and County Flying Club, roughly where the "red" hangar is today.

Always a very friendly and decent man, he was well respected by his colleagues, and a regular in "Dillows" on those many tea drinking clamped days at the airfield, where we all put the world to rights on an almost daily basis. Recalled by a friend of those days, now living in Australia, he was also a regular at the airfield haunt, the New India restaurant in Bromley – in those days, one of the only such establishments around...

A very strong family man, Derek leaves behind his wife of 43 years, Margaret, and children, Louise and Robert.

His funeral was held on Wednesday 27th September 27th at St George's RAF Chapel, Biggin Hill and after at Beckenham Crematorium followed by a wake/reception at The Chancery, in Beckenham. I was honoured to be able join Derek's family and friends at the funeral at the RAF Chapel to represent his old mates from his aviation days at Biggin Hill.

Thanks to Derek's daughter, Louise Purcell (nee McQuoid), for letting us know of his passing

R.I.P. Derek.

PAUL COOK

Former Alouette Flying Club member in the late 80's, Paul Cook, died suddenly on his birthday earlier this year aged 61.

Trained originally as an aircraft engineer in the RAF, he joined Dan Air and then BA (where he worked on the Heathrow/Gatwick helicopter shuttle) after leaving the RAF. After a period then in the Far East with Bristows, he retrained as a Helicopter Pilot and worked for British International Helicopters before rejoining Bristows, flying on North Sea oil rig support. An active member of BALPA, he took early retirement on health grounds.

Paul left behind his wife of almost 30 years, Christine, and their three daughters, Josephine, Caroline, and Elizabeth.

R.I.P. Paul

DENNIS ANDREWS

I was recently informed that old Biggin Hill'ite Dennis Andrews, known to many oldies from the 1960's and 70's, has been admitted to hospital. He is in Farnham Hospital (Bentley Ward - 01483 782209) for physio and rehabilitation following a heart problem. He is a little low in spirit and would appreciate, I'm sure, a visit from any of his old friends. Apparently he expects to be there for around another couple of weeks.

It would be good if any of his old mates from those early days of Biggin Hill could spare the time to cheer him up a bit. Obviously I would suggest checking first with the ward, that he is still there before calling in.

Get well soon Dennis.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS ENQUIRY PLEASE

The airport has received an enquiry from someone in Japan. This person is trying to locate documentation about their late father who they understand did some pilot training and qualification (including multi-engine rating) at Biggin Hill. His name was Reginald Laurence Maddox but we understand he also may have been known as Laurie Maddox. He was born on 21 July 1934 in London.

If anyone can recall the name and has any information at all that we can supply to them, please email me (john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) and I will pass it on and, with your permission, supply them with your contact details if they would like to know any more.

Thanks very much for any help you can offer.

RAF St GEORGE'S CHAPEL

In spite of lots of vocal opposition, the work to build a Heritage Centre and Battle of Britain Museum alongside the wonderful St George's Chapel at Biggin Hill Airport is now starting. The airport will at least get it's long awaited museum albeit that the design has been questioned by some. The design involves the demolition of the more recently added Vestry, but will not otherwise affect the main Chapel.

I have been contacted by people from all around the world complaining about what they have been told is the planned demolition of the St George's Chapel – this was never the case! Once they realise that, most of the opposition is withdrawn as that was the main concern in their minds.

Whether we like the design or not, after years of political wrangling and wasted money as different groups fought for their own ideas and control, we are at least moving forward and the project has the funding needed.

I would have hoped that people would decide that now is the time to stop fighting, and all pull together in support of this long awaited project, and help to make it a fitting tribute to those that fought for us all in the Battle of Britain from Biggin Hill. Personally I feel that "something must surely be better than nothing at all!"

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with the names of old Biggin Hill'ites who are missing from our Roll of Honour 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.

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

Did you know that every first Wednesday of the month we have a Members Social Event and an 'Open Evening' - a friendly gathering of like-minded people. Some pilots, some partners, some students, some firmly on the ground. Everybody is welcome to come along and check us out; you just tell the barman that you are not a member (yet) and he will have you signed in as a guest.

This Wednesday 4th Oct. is our joke telling night. Simply make the barman laugh and he will give you a free beer! Yes Free Beer! You are also welcome to the free hotdogs! Yummee.

Door opens about 7:30 pm and closes when last one leaves. Get there early if you can as the regulars can eat a surprising amount of hotdogs!

How do we do it? Remember, Alouette is a non-profit making club for flying enthusiasts. Run and operated by volunteers. With our own instructors and examiners. Using a Cessna 172 and a Piper PA28, both four seat tourers and training aircraft.

Come join us

Best Wishes
Bruno Bruniges
alouettechairman@gmail.com

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from all at Falcon

Not the September we hoped for but we made the most of it with plenty of tests completed and eager students awaiting solo flights from initial to QXCs finally getting their day.

Our student base seems healthy as ever with many taking advantage of Biggin Hill's Biggin Hill's largest Approved Training Organisation. We pride ourselves on years of working with the community, local schools and organisations as well as industry leading peers to ensure expert tuition.

The CAA have given invaluable guidance over soon to come legislative changes in the world of Flight training so once official we'll keep you posted.

Singh and Shonu have been keeping on top of the 8.33 changes with excellent news giving welcome breathing space for all of us private owners too. Well done to Singh for championing the cause along with many others and ensuring GA has a long life ahead of it.

We welcome back Ben Akhtar to EFG! This time not only as operations but as a full time student supported by the Nick Davidson scholarship in partnership with Biggin Hill Airport. Our thanks to all for the support.

As winter approaches please don't forget to call us for your Night Rating and IMC Requirements as well as a professional environment to support all your future goals.

The operations staff sees the addition of Keyah to the fold. With her experience in aviation, cabin crew and a charming personality we hope she enjoys the fun atmosphere at EFG and Falcon as a whole, as all our members have done for many years.

Till the next time.

Stay blessed, fly safe, have fun.

Best Wishes
Anoop Singh Bamrah

SURREY & KENT FLYING CLUB

Surrey and Kent are pleased to announce that the third Nick Davidson Scholarship winner, Jack Hawkins, has successfully completed his PPL. He put in a good deal of hard work and competed the flying and ground studies in just over 6 weeks and in the minimum flying hours.

We wish him well with his future at Air Tankers, a job he started at the beginning of September.

Congratulations

Roger Patterson and all at Surrey & Kent Flying Club

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

September has been another busy month for business aviation with landings up on the same period last year. Light aviation has held its own and despite the restrictions on circuit flying having an effect on total light aviation, movements by private owners were slightly up on last year.

Our runway 03 GPS approach is currently being processed by the CAA, but we hope they will provide a response to our application shortly, after which we will consider their response and move forward with implementation. In the meantime we are edging closer to the commencement of approach lighting works to support the new procedure, legal paperwork having caused some small delays in moving this forward.

The terminal hangar build remains on schedule and we are now able to use some of the new ramp, which is most welcome on busy days. In the coming months, you may see fencing work being carried out on the north west boundary of the aerodrome. This is in order to better secure the airport and to better ensure that wildlife, in particular deer, cannot gain entry to the manoeuvring area and cause a hazard to aircraft or vehicles on the airport estate.

By now, you may all have read of some changes in the make-up of Bromley Council. The Leader, Cllr. Stephen Carr, recently stepped down and Cllr. Colin Smith (Conservative) has been elected as the new Leader in his place. Stephen Carr should be congratulated for the exceptional job he did as Leader over many years, especially in setting the airport on a course for a sustainable future that supports the local amenity whilst providing great career opportunities to the youth of the Borough.

The new leader, Cllr. Colin Smith is a strong defender of the environment and we look forward to working with him to ensure that the airport remains a good neighbour and adds benefit to the Borough as a whole.

The Noise Monitoring and Track Keeping System (NMTKS) continues to provide useful data regarding compliance with published noise abatement procedures. Recently there seems to have been a return to the old days and regrettably, a few light aircraft are failing to abide by the NAPs and are overflying Tatsfield and even Biggin Hill villages.

The Safety and Noise Abatement Review Board, SANARB, which is made up of Biggin Hill based pilots including light aircraft owners and flight instructors, continues to review every track violation. Now that the system is well established the SANARB may, in future, impose additional charges or operational restrictions upon anyone overflying these areas due to a lack of planning or attention to detail. With this in mind and with great respect, might I ask all pilots to ensure that you do not infringe this zone. You need, please, to remain south of Tatsfield village at all times so do not cut the corner because the NMTKS will not ignore it!

Meanwhile the SANARB has dealt with some safety issues effectively, but one case of note involved a business jet that made what is known in aviation speak as a 'non-standard' departure off runway 21 in which an excessive bank angle and high angle of attack were deliberately commanded, leading to an abnormal flight condition and irregular departure path' - or a 'split ar**d departure' to you and me. The matter was recorded in our SMS and on the NMTKS, investigated by the overseas aircraft operator involved. The investigation resulted in both pilots losing their jobs. The system works!

There continue to be some ill-founded rumours circulating regarding the future of light aviation at Biggin Hill. As we have previously made clear, we foresee light aviation based at Biggin Hill for many years to come and we continue to work on plans for a dedicated GA centre. Nevertheless, there is a fundamental change taking place in the London area as business aviation is gradually displaced from the larger hub airports in order to make way for more scheduled and holiday charter traffic. This means that more business aviation is using Biggin Hill - an inevitable consequence of the 'ripple effect' caused by a shortage of runway capacity in the South East. We expect this trend to continue and with RAF Northolt scheduled to close next year for 9 months for runway repairs (they are going to use £45 million of our money to repair the damage they have done to their runway by allowing business jets to use it over the past 10 years), we expect that the business aviation tide will rise higher in 2018 than ever before.

There is little doubt that this will affect operations by light aircraft to some extent, especially ab-initio training requiring use of the visual circuit, if for no other reason than the required

IFR and wake turbulence separation that must be applied by ATC. Patience and some spare fuel will therefore likely be needed on busy days. As has been the case this year, it may be impractical to accommodate large numbers of training circuits, but we are working through all the permutations at the moment to see how best to address this issue. We will keep you posted.

Generally, with many smaller airfields under threat from developers and the medium size airports, such as Biggin Hill, in demand by traffic displaced from larger airports, light aviation is coming under increasing pressure throughout the South East. The days of cheap flying are sadly long gone and the costs of the real estate required to facilitate leisure related aviation are only increasing with time making it less viable to the majority of us. Whilst Biggin Hill can never return to the halcyon days of the 1980s and some change is going to be inevitable, we will do whatever we can to preserve and protect as much of our light aviation as we can.

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.....

Lexophile" is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year in an undisclosed location. Here are this year's winning submissions:...

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

And finally:

Those who get too big for their britches will be totally exposed in the end.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A businessman in the first class cabin decided to chat up the drop dead, gorgeous flight attendant: "What is your name?"

Flight Attendant: "Angela Benz, sir"

Businessman: "Lovely name ...any relation to Mercedes Benz?"

Flight Attendant: "Yes sir, very close"

Businessman: "How close?"

Flight Attendant: "Same price".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Quips of Wisdom

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.

Wisdom is not using it in a fruit salad.

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have remained a virgin.' - Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.' - Eleanor Roosevelt

Last week, I stated this woman was the ugliest woman I had ever seen. I have since been visited by her sister, and now wish to withdraw that statement. - Mark Twain

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. - George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. - Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. - Socrates

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. - Groucho Marx

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe.- Jimmy Durante

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back. - Zsa Zsa Gabor

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. - Alex Levine

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. - Rodney Dangerfield

Money can't buy you happiness - But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. - Spike Milligan

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP. - Joe Namath

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap. - Bob Hope

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress. - Will Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. - Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but everything else starts to wear out, fall out, or spread out.- Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere. - Billy Crystal

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Wife: "Oh My, look at that drunk guy!"

Husband: "Who is he?"

Wife: "Ten years back he proposed to me, and I rejected him"

Husband: "Wow - and he is still celebrating....?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

IDIOT SIGHTING No.1

My daughter and I went to the McDonald's checkout to pay our bill and I gave the clerk a £5 note.

Our total bill was £4.20, so I also handed her a 20 pence piece.

She said, 'You gave me too much money.'

I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me £1 back.'

She sighed and went to get the Manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the 20 pence and said 'We're sorry but we do not do that kind of thing.'

The clerk then proceeded to give me back 80 pence in change. Do not confuse the staff at MacDonald's in St Albans , Hertfordshire.!!

IDIOT SIGHTING No2

We had to have the garage door repaired. The GARADOR repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener.

I thought for a moment, and said that we had the largest one GARADOR made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower.

He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.'

I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4 and he said, 'NOOO, it's not. Four is larger than two.'

We haven't used Garador repair since. Happened in Moor Park , near Watford .

IDIOT SIGHTING No3

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the Highways Department to request the removal of the 'DEER CROSSING' sign from our road.

The reason:

'Too many deer are being hit by cars on this stretch of road! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing, any-more.'

Story from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING No 4

My daughter went to a local Kentucky Fried Chicken and ordered a Taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.'

He said he was sorry, but they only had Iceberg Lettuce.

From South Oxhey , Hertfordshire.

IDIOT SIGHTING No 5

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?'

To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?'

He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.' Happened at Luton Airport

IDIOT SIGHTING No 6

The traffic light on the corner buzzes when the lights turn red and it is safe to cross the road. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged friend of mine.

She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for.

I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!'

She is a Local County Council employee in St Albans , Hertfordshire. (And she's NOT blonde)

IDIOT SIGHTING No7

When my husband and I arrived at our local Ford dealer to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the Service Department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the Driver's door.

As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door-handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

'Hey,' I announced to the Fitter/Mechanic, 'it's open!'

His reply: 'I know. I already did that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in St Albans , Hertfordshire.

STAY ALERT! They walk among us. AND THEY BREED!....:)

.....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" ...)