

Hi everyone

Welcome to the Biggin Hill Users Database September Newsletter.

JB's September edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> As always it is NOT included here - to view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link. As always, 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

Welcome particularly to the new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.....

AUGUST WEATHER

Although we may all be tempted to comment on how poor the weather has been this summer, my own logbook for August would seem to disagree! It would seem that just six days in the month have been completely poor from a VFR flying point of view, with a further four or five such that only part of the day was bad. So maybe it has been quite a good month after all...

AUGUST AT BIGGIN HILL

August has been quite an eventful month for us all at the airport and in aviation generally.

This started on the first of the month with the dramatic incident involving a Spitfire from the Heritage Hangar that suffered a partial engine failure moments after take-off from runway 29. The pilot, Dan Griffiths, was able to pull off an amazing recovery back to the airport, where he managed to put it down behind east camp, just within the airport's boundary, almost on the site of the old rubbish tip. Unfortunately the surface of the ground in that area gave him few choices and the aircraft was severely damaged when the port wing was torn off by a concealed tree trunk in the long grass.

Dan suffered from a relatively minor injury to his shoulder, given the serious nature of the accident, and was back flying again within days.

Congratulations Dan for the brilliant recovery from such a potentially critical situation. Without wishing to have the comment misunderstood or taken the wrong way, it really couldn't have happened to a better person – Dan's experience in the RAF and as a former CAA Test Pilot, as well as being an exceptional warbird display pilot, ensured that he was as well placed to recover this emergency as anyone could be....

Then the most wonderful event unfolded at Biggin commemorating the Battle of Britain 75th anniversary of the "hardest day" on 18th August 1940. Organised jointly by Biggin Hill Airport and the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, 3,000 paying guests (as well as countless thousands around Kent) were treated to the incredible sights and sounds of 23 Merlins (well mainly Merlins) as 17 Spitfires, 5 Hurricanes, and a single P51 Mustang, took to the skies over the airport. These aircraft then split up into three formations that flew around the area in which the famous battles took place in 1940, before returning to Biggin Hill.

I find it difficult to describe the emotions that I and so many others felt to see (and even more importantly hear) these magnificent machines all overhead the airport at once. It was made doubly emotional to share that view with so many of the veterans who were participants in that actual era in the 40's.

An amazing day and amazing people...

Unfortunately, as all will be aware of course, August will go down in history as the month in which the terrible Shoreham Air Show tragedy occurred. At the time of writing, some 11 persons are believed to have lost their lives when the Hawker Hunter crashed on the A27 alongside Shoreham airport during its display on Saturday 22nd August. Our thoughts and prayers are with all affected by this awful accident.

On Saturday 29th August, exactly one week after the accident, many hundreds of people attended a special memorial gathering at Shoreham Airport to remember those who perished. Simultaneously, prompted by publicity on social media, an estimated 20,000 plus people all around the world signified they would be joining them in their one minute silence at exactly 13:20 BST (the time at which the accident occurred). At Biggin Hill, Air Traffic managed to arrange things in order to enable the airport to join in this tribute by participating in the one minute's silence, and at EFG Flying Group, amongst others, all engines remained shut down as instructors, staff, and members, showed their respects too. R.I.P. all who perished....

BOB NEEDHAM

Aussie resident, old Biggin Hill'ite, Bob Needham, is planning a visit to the UK (possibly for the final time) and has asked JB and I to arrange a get together for any of his old friends from his Biggin Hill flying days in the 60's. Bob was last here in September 2006 for a mini-reunion held in the Pilots Pals bar. Bob, who is a regular contributor to JB's Biggin Hill Bugle, and is still very actively flying down in Oz, has asked us to make contact with as many from that era as possible so we can all get together in one of the local pubs for a jar or three.

Currently the likely day is Saturday 17th October sometime in the afternoon, date and timings to be confirmed. If you remember Bob, he would love to see you. Please email me on john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk and let me know you are likely to want to be there, so we can account for numbers, and also confirm venue and time.

PLEASE HELP TO SAVE OUR AIRFIELDS

Please spare a moment of your time to review and sign an important petition to help protect our airfields from closure for housing development. This petition on the UK Government's own petition website, has been privately launched and is supported by Flyer Magazine and others.

The petition states....

"In 2003 an 'administrative oversight' led to the deletion of planning protection from airfields being classified as brownfield sites. As a result, airfields are being closed by developers, breaking transport links and destroying significant areas of natural habitat within airfield boundaries.

The UK aerodrome network is regarded by DfT as an important part of the national transport infrastructure and there is strong evidence that airfield sites offer low-insecticide, low-herbicide, sanctuaries for plants, insects and associated wildlife.

We demand a review of the brownfield designation of airfields for redevelopment, in recognition of their economic benefit and importance as environmental "green spaces", and that Government Planning Policy reverts to that previously in place."

To sign the petition, please go to:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106779>

Please get friends and family to view and show their support – the more signatures we can get, the more chance we have of protecting our airports from closure and development. If we can

get it up to 10,000 signatures, the Government will have to make a response to it. But, if we can get it up to 100,000 signatures, then the petition will be considered for a debate in Parliament!

THE LOOKOUT CAFÉ AND VIEWING AREA

The new Lookout Café at Biggin Hill Airport (in the old Cabair Building next to EFG), has now become well established as THE place to meet old friends at the airport for a coffee or a light snack (my wife loves their supplies of rather exotic looking cakes, which she tells me beautifully compliments a cup of tea/coffee!) It is proving to be a major attraction for local residents to bring friends and family to enjoy a relaxing hour or two watching the airport's activities and the coming and going of aircraft of all shapes and sizes. When weather is good, the garden area is also an ideal spot for them to show their children what goes on at their local airport. Who knows, some of these young children may well prove to be tomorrow's pilots....

With the winter months fast approaching, the Café hopes to be able to provide light hot products such as bacon rolls, jacket potatoes, and soup, etc., to keep us all going.

I hope to see many more of you there in the course of the next few months...

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT BIGGIN THIS SUMMER

A reminder of the two remaining major events at Biggin that will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain:

On the 18th September, Dermot O'Leary, Jeremy Vine, and Sophie Raworth will present the BBC Concert Orchestra's performance for the BBC Radio 2's live programme "Friday Night is Music Night" from the Rizon Jet Hangar at Biggin Hill. "The Battle of Britain at 75" will bring to life the stories from 75 years ago during the performance. I understand the event is now sold out, but it will be possible to view it live on TV via the "Red Button" as well as live at around 300 cinemas around the UK.

The following night (19th September) in the Rizon Jet Hangar – you will be able to watch a very unique screening of the iconic film 'Battle of Britain', which starred Sir Michael Caine, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Sir Michael Redgrave, surrounded by the aircraft that defended Britain in 1940. There are also plans for flying displays by a Spitfire & Hurricane (weather permitting), and the event will also feature a Glenn Miller style orchestra and veteran interviews.

For details & tickets see: www.battleofbritain75.org/saturday/

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 all

A very strange month for all the in GA community with some dramatic highs and lows.

All at Falcon send their support to everyone affected by recent tragedies.

The schools have tried to make the most of whatever mother-nature has thrown at us. With members flying as far afield as Guernsey, Scotland, France and the West Country it's good to see so many of you taking advantage of your PPLs.

Alas the weather may not be as predictable with Autumn and Winter approaching, so please call us for refresher training, and not to forget IMC and IR work! Call us now on 01959 540 400.

Keep your plane in good stead with the guys at Falcon Flying Services. Call Singh and Shonu on 01959 572 339 to get the very best for you and your aircraft.

Till the next time - Safe flying

Anoop Singh Bamrah

BHA COMMUNITY OFFICE

The 18th August was a very emotional day with the sound of 23 Merlin engines as seventeen Spitfires, five Hurricanes and a P51 in RAF colours gathered at Biggin Hill to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 'Hardest Day' during the Battle of Britain. The day was staged by the airport and the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar with around 40 veterans invited as our special guests, including Sqn Ldr Tony Pickering, who flew Hurricanes during the battle. With all of the major TV, radio and national newspapers carrying the story, not many in the UK were unaware of the event and the reasons behind it being staged. A £10,000 cheque was presented to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund by BHAL MD Will Curtis and the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar owner Peter Monk.

We now look forward to hosting the BBC on the 18th September as Radio 2 pay tribute to the 75th anniversary. The Chris Evans Breakfast Show will be broadcast live from the Heritage Hangar, followed by the Jeremy Vine show from the Rizon Jet ramp which is then followed by the "Friday Night is Music Night" radio programme live at 8 pm from the Rizon hangar. The concert is a sell-out but can be seen live via the BBC red button or at over 300 cinemas around the country.

If you would like to keep up with all things community at the airport you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter using LBHACommunity.

Regards
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

August has been a busy month for the airport staff. Work has begun on installing the new lighting at the stop end of the runway 21. Work should be complete by the time the clocks change in October, allowing visiting aircraft who are not familiar with the airfield layout to find their way safely to their allocated parking space. This is a good example of actions and improvements arising from the airport's EASA safety management system which identified a problem that had probably affected aircraft operations for some time, but which had not previously come to the attention of the airport management.

The new Lookout cafe and a viewing area is open for business and the new appointed cafe manager, Chris Blossie, a resident of Biggin Hill himself, will be working with the staff to add some new menu items including freshly made sandwiches. The cafe also serves Costa Coffee so we do hope you will find time to drop in and check out this new facility. The former cafe bar in the terminal is now closed and the terminal, which has received a makeover is reserved primarily for passengers and crew departing or arriving at Biggin Hill. If you just want a coffee and a chat, or you plan to meet someone at the airport who is not actually flying in, the place for this is now the lookout cafe. There is a small meeting room in the Lookout, suitable for up to 10 people, which is available for hire on an occasional basis. Please see Chris Blossie if you would like to use this facility.

The hardest day tribute held on 18th August went off well. I think that the last time this many Rolls Royce Merlin engines were running together on the surface of Biggin Hill must have been during World War II. Well done to Peter Monk who gathered so many Spitfires and Hurricanes together, to Colin Hitchins and his team for organising all the ticketing, catering and hospitality for the veterans and guests and to the staff of the Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar for putting on such an amazing feat of the organisation and dedication.

We are still awaiting a council decision regarding our application to extend the airport operating hours some 10 months after making the initial application.

We have now completed a revision to our proposed airport noise action plan which has been overseen by London borough of Bromley Council airport noise consultant, Cole Jarman. This comprehensive plan will contain and reduce airport generated noise. Today there really are no formal controls and the airport can theoretically land and depart up to 125,000 Boeing 737 sized aircraft each year within the existing terms of its lease. Of course we do not handle anything approaching that number of aircraft, airport movements currently being somewhere around 45,000 per annum. However I think it beneficial to those who currently use the airport and to those who live around the airport that we fix Biggin Hill airport firmly in the Business and General aviation sector. Our proposals cement the airport in this sector and I think that is good news for everyone. We live in an uncertain world and in a city that is forecast to become chronically short of runway capacity in the next decade or so. No one, least of all me, can predict the future, but the proposals that we have put forward for the airport will give us all as much certainty for the future as may be possible - some degree of certainty where none currently exists.

The noise limits that will be formally imposed if the council agrees our proposals will prevent a future use for the airport that we would all rather avoid because such limits would make use its regular use by larger airline aircraft types practically impossible.

However, these changes will mean that those of us operating in the local area will need to pay close attention to noise sensitive areas and operate with these considerations in mind. If our plans are approved we will be installing a state-of-the-art noise monitoring and tracking keeping system that will automatically identify anyone flying in a noise prohibited area. Much like a speed camera, the NMTK system never sleeps, so it will generate a "ticket" for anyone failing to abide by the agreed procedures. This won't mean any significant change for the majority of you, who already operate with care and consideration for the community.

For those who are living around the airport these proposals represent a major step forward for the better in terms of noise control and enforcement of the agreed procedures. The proposed NMTK system has a public portal allowing anyone with access to the internet to view and monitor aircraft movements in real time (or past) and to file a complaint if they believe that they may have been disturbed by aircraft.

The system will tell an individual user how close an aircraft actually passed to their location, both vertically and horizontally, and indeed what level of noise it made as it passed and how this compared to the agreed noise limit imposed by the council. It will show the track and vertical profile of each arrival and each departure and then compare this to the approved noise preferential routing. It will identify any departure from the approved procedures and where such departure occurs produce a report for further action. The NMTK system will also pick up aircraft overflying the airport area, allowing us all to identify some of the airline traffic bound for London Heathrow airport that is so often mistaken for traffic using Biggin Hill, especially in the early morning period around 5 am when Heathrow traffic begins to "stack" over Bromley. We hope that this system will be helpful to local residents wanting to learn more about the air-traffic environment in the skies overhead. Some people have asked me why we cannot have a system

such as this with the current airport operating hours. Well that would be nice but the NMTK system will cost around £250,000 to install and implement so the financial reality of the situation is that it can only come as part of a package to improve the airport operating conditions. I hope you will all feel able to support our proposals when they are published in the coming weeks.

Until next month safe flying.

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Full membership details can be found at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk When sending anything to us by post, please remember to use the new address on the site. Existing members renewing do not need a further form, so just send the appropriate fee. (if you need to replace the existing photo, please include a new head and shoulder shot with your name on the reverse – or you can email the photo to me). If you are a new member, please send both the fee, head and shoulder photo, and a completed application form.

(In all cases, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of the membership card(s).

Thanks again for your support for the club and database so far this year – your financial support is very much appreciated and is used to fund the costs of servers for the BigginHillReunited and BigginHillClub websites.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

A full and current list of member names can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to tell us if you change your email address. If you know others who are not members 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 – it 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.....

Last month, a world-wide telephone survey was conducted by the UN.

The only question asked was:-

"Would you please give your honest opinion about possible solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world?"...

The survey was a complete failure because.....

In Eastern Europe they didn't know what "honest" meant.

In Western Europe they didn't know what "shortage" meant.

In Africa they didn't know what "food" meant.

In China they didn't know what "opinion" meant.

In the Middle East they didn't know what "solution" meant.

In South America they didn't know what "please" meant.

In the USA they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

And in Australia, New Zealand and Britain everyone hung up as soon as they heard the Indian accent!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The following are all replies that Detroit women have written on Child Support Agency Forms in the section for listing 'Father's Details,' or putting it another way...Who's your baby's Daddy? These are genuine excerpts from the forms.

1. Regarding the identity of the father of my twins, Makeeshia was fathered by Maclearndon McKinley. I am unsure as to the identity of the father of Marlinda, but I believe that she was conceived on the same night.
2. I am unsure, as to the identity of the father of my child as I was being sick out of a window when taken unexpectedly from behind. I can provide you with a list of names of men that I think were at the party if this helps.
3. I do not know the name of the father of my little girl. She was conceived at a party at 3600 East Grand Boulevard, where I had sex with a man I met that night. I do remember that the sex was so good that I fainted. If you do manage to track down the father, can you please send me his phone number? Thanks. (The runner-up).
4. I don't know the identity of the father of my daughter. He drives a BMW that now has a hole made by my stiletto in one of the door panels. Perhaps you can contact BMW service stations in this area and see if he's had it replaced.
5. I have never had sex with a man. I am still a Virginian. I am awaiting a letter from the Pope confirming that my son's conception was ejaculate and that he is the Saver risen again
6. I cannot tell you the name of Alleshia's dad as he informs me that to do so would blow his cover and that would have cataclysmic implications for the economy. I am torn between doing right by you and right by the country. Please advise.
7. I do not know who the father of my child was as they all look the same to me.
8. Tyrone Hairston is the father of child A. If you do catch up with him, can you ask him what he did with my AC/DC CDs? Child B who was also borned at the same time..... well, I don't have clue.
9. From the dates it seems that my daughter was conceived at Disney World. Maybe it really is the Magic Kingdom.

10. So much about that night is a blur. The only thing that I remember for sure is Delia Smith did a program about eggs earlier in the evening. If I had stayed in and watched more TV rather than going to the party at 8956 Miller Ave, mine might have remained unfertilized.

11. I am unsure as to the identity of the father of my baby, after all, like when you eat a can of beans you can't be sure which one made you fart. (This made number #1).

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Jack goes to his friend Mike and says, "I'm sleeping with the minister's wife. Can you hold him in church for an hour after the services for me?"

Mike doesn't like it, but being a friend he agrees.

After the services, Mike starts talking to the minister, asking him all sorts of stupid questions, just to keep him occupied.

Finally the minister gets annoyed and asks Mike what he's really up to. Mike, feeling guilty, finally confesses to the minister. "My friend is sleeping with your wife right now, so he asked me to keep you occupied."

The minister smiles, puts a brotherly hand on Mike's shoulder and says, "You better hurry home.....

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My wife died a year ago."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A farmer went out one day and bought a brand new stud rooster for his chicken coop.

The new rooster struts over to the old rooster and says, 'OK old fart, time for you to retire.'

The old rooster replies, 'Come on, surely you cannot handle ALL of these chickens. Look what it has done to me. Can't you just let me have the two old hens over in the corner?'

The young rooster says, 'Beat it: You are washed up and I am taking over.'

The old rooster says, 'I tell you what, young stud. I will race you around the farmhouse. Whoever wins gets the exclusive domain over the entire chicken coop.'

The young rooster laughs. 'You know you don't stand a chance, old man. So, just to be fair, I will give you a head start.'

The old rooster takes off running. About 15 seconds later the young rooster takes off running after him. They round the front porch of the farmhouse and the young rooster has closed the gap.

He is only about 5 feet behind the old rooster and gaining fast.. The farmer, meanwhile, is sitting in his usual spot on the front porch when he sees the roosters running by. The Old Rooster is squawking and running as fast as he can. The Farmer grabs his shotgun and - BOOM - He blows the young rooster to bits.

The farmer sadly shakes his head and says, 'Dammit..... Third gay rooster I bought this month.'

Moral of this Story? ... Don't mess with the OLD FARTS - Age, skill, wisdom, and a little treachery always overcome youth and arrogance!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Mario, the Italian golfer

One of the proud Lamaro family, Mario, an 80-year-old Italian goes to the doctor for a check-up.

The doctor is amazed at what good shape the guy is in and asks, "How do you stay in such great physical condition?"

"I'm Italian and I am a golfer," says Mario, "and that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight and out golfing up and down the fairways. Afterwards, I have a very hot cappuccino and sometimes a glass of vino, and all is well."

"Well," says the doctor, "I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your father when he died?"

"Who said my father's dead?"

The doctor is amazed. "You mean, you're 80 years old and your father's still alive. How old is he?"

"He's 100 years old," says Mario. "In fact, he golfed with me this morning, and then we went to the topless beach for a walk and had a little vino and that's why he's still alive. He's Italian and he's a golfer, too."

"Well," the doctor says, "that's great, but I'm sure there's more to it than that. How about your father's father? How old was he when he died?"

"Who said my Nonno's dead?"

Stunned, the doctor asks, "You mean you're 80 years old and your grandfather's still living! Incredible, how old is he?"

"He's 118 years old," says the old Italian golfer.

*The doctor is getting frustrated at this point, "So, I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?"

"No, Nonno couldn't go this morning because he's getting married today."

At this point the doctor is close to losing it. "Getting married? Why would a 118 year-old guy want to get married?"

"Who said he WANTED to get married?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An English lady walked into a Police Station and the desk Sergeant said "Can I help you?"

"Yes" she said, "I'd like to report a case of sexual assault".

"Where did it happen?" the Sergeant asked.

"In the park just down the road" she replied.

"Can you describe what happened?"

"Yes, I was walking along the footpath in the park near the trees when a man jumped out of the bushes and dragged me in there, removed my underwear then he dropped his pants to his knees and had his way with me".

"Could you give me a description of him?"

"Yes, he was wearing white shoes, long white trousers, a white shirt and he had these two big long pads from his feet up to and over his knees, one on each leg".

"Sounds to me like he was a cricketer, most probably a batsman", said the Sergeant.

"Yes", said the lady, "He was an Australian Cricketer".

"That's very observant", said the Sergeant, "You worked that out from his accent?"

"No", she replied. "I worked it out because he wasn't in for very long".

.....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"...))