

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 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 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> 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)

AUGUST WEATHER

Wow – what a great month August has been for flying – It seems that, for club and private owners, there have only been around 3 days lost to non-VFR weather in the whole month (although unseasonable strong-ish winds favouring the closed Runway 29, have also resulted in the cancellation of substantial numbers of club training bookings, of course). I hope you've all managed to take full advantage of it before the weather goes downhill again, as it almost always does!

DICKIE BIRD

Dickie Bird, the secretary of Alouette Flying Club in the early 1960's, and a former career Army Officer, sadly passed away at home 22 August aged 88 years. After Biggin Hill, Dickie spent time in Australia and continued flying at the Canberra Aero Club. He was also the skipper of the yacht Pegasus in the 1979 Fastnet Race. He became the Regimental Historian of the Queens Lancashire Regiment and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of his County.

Those at Biggin Hill that remember Dickie will undoubtedly have some wonderful memories of him. He was a great character.

Dickie's funeral was held at St Hilda's Church in Bilsborrow, Lancs, on the day of this Newsletter's publication on 31st August.

EASA PART NCO

For those of you that may have forgotten, EASA's Part NCO came into force on 25th August 2016. It is now against the law to fly any EASA (non-Permit) aircraft for any purpose, and that even includes going around the circuit, without carrying a registered PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) or having an ELT installed in the aircraft, as well as carrying formal aircraft documents.

After letters from the CAA stating that the carriage of a PLB was not required, a subsequent letter cancelled that and confirmed that it was, indeed, a legal requirement after all....

Part NCO also contains other requirements regarding carriage of documents, passenger briefing, keeping a Journey Logbook, etc, most of which everyone has probably been doing anyway.

It is important to also note that Part NCO also applies to non-EASA registered aircraft that are owned/operated by persons who are domiciled in an EASA Country – so all you Brits who own FAA registered aircraft beware – these rules also apply to you!

RUNWAY 29 / JULIET TAXIWAY

At a recent meeting of Airport Users and Tenants, it became clear that the originally claimed “temporary” closure of runway 11/29 and the Juliet Taxiway, was to be far from temporary – In fact, when asked when we could expect to have the Juliet Taxiway returned to use, the airport’s Ground Ops Manager simply stated “never”!

The loss of the use of the Juliet Taxiway makes it virtually impossible for the airport to properly and efficiently function, and is one of the prime reasons for the loss of the crosswind runway as this is the only available taxiway routing now available. To park aircraft on a perfectly serviceable and useable taxiway and then use a serviceable runway for taxiing seems absolutely unnecessary, especially as the associated hangar’s main ramp is left virtually empty most of the time!

I feel that the airport has been less than honest with its Users and Tenants in this matter and have said so to the Management of the airport. However, it has been made clear to me that actually, no long term decisions have been made on this subject yet, but the airport has started a consultation with users to find out the views of those involved.

In this regard, I show here a link to the recent Managing Directors Memo which everyone who uses the airport should read. It can be seen at:

http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/mdm_august16.pdf

(Your attention is drawn particularly to item 3)

It is imperative that anyone who flies at Biggin, particularly those for whom the loss of the cross runway is significant, responds to this consultation. Please make the responses practical and try to offer the airport reasonable reasons why such a facility continues to be needed – for example: cross wind limitations, emergency runway, etc. – and any reasonable and practical suggestions as to what is really needed – for example: would an alternative grass cross wind runway for occasional use when traffic permits be acceptable (and what sort of minimum length could be acceptable for normal use).

I have personally responded to all the points made in the Memo, and would be happy to discuss this with anyone who may wish to make contact. Whilst I am not personally happy with the situation, I feel that we at least have the opportunity to put our views and ideas to the airport in order to hopefully minimise the effects of any such changes on the true ‘small aircraft’ GA community. At the time of going to press, very few people have taken the trouble to respond, and of those that have, I am lead to believe most have signified they are not bothered by the runway’s loss. Instead of just talking amongst yourselves, please take the time to let the airport know your thoughts and ideas on the subject.

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

A very sunny hello from Biggin Hill!

Well we certainly have had a nice run off weather (I promise I'll try not to jinx it!). Our students, pilots, and qualified adventurers alike have had plenty of smiles to show this month.

Here at the flying schools we have been busily making up for the lack lustre first half of the year (and indeed start of "summer").

August has seen our approved Piper Arrow tour Ireland, our trusty PA28 G-BSVM bask in the sunshine of Quiberon France, and of course our excellent instructors topping up their tans!

Earlier this month brought our annual open day and BBQ. We are pleased to have seen so many of you enjoy the weather and food as well as meet so many other like-minded pilots.

We encourage you all to meet and plan trips together making to most of your collective experience. If you wish to be put in touch with someone to fly with, please drop us a line anytime.

We welcome Joe Hilling and Jack Leonard to the fold as new instructors and thank our current faithful for keeping everyone in check.

It certainly has been an excellent flying month.

As ever we have been busy at the hangar with checks, annuals and projects alike. Falcon has been on point in keeping our aircraft ready for service as we fly the hours away.

Again the lovely boys and girls in ATC have doing a tremendous job of keeping everything nice and tight so our thanks to you all.

So whilst we have this glorious weather (and before mother nature realises that she forgot to start the Autumn), 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

August has seen a lot of activity at the Lookout Café with the RAF coming to Biggin Hill in support of the Eastbourne Air Show the café was a great viewing area for the Red Arrows, Typhoon and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, but at the end of the month we discovered something even more popular, than the Red Arrows, the airports Fire Service!!

For four days the boys and girls of the airport fire service brought out their fire engines and equipment in a fenced off area in front of the café allowing many local children to meet them

and use some of the equipment including dressing up in their fire gear. The 4 days saw over 300 children attend, Chris Blossie the Lookout Café manager who organised the day with the Senior Fire Officer, Andy Mellors, said “we have been overwhelmed, we never thought this would be so popular, a big thanks you to the Firefighter’s everyone left with a smile and we had some great feedback from the parents”

Come September and the airport is in the spotlight again as on the 12th September we welcome 150 key business aviation industry leaders and national media to our inaugural Royal Aeronautical Society event. On the 13th we host the Air Charter Expo 16 when we can expect to see over 700 operators and brokers on site. Overnight the space is changed for the Bank on Business Expo with 100 local businesses promoting themselves to over 400 customers.

A final note, you may have heard that our MD, Will Curtis competed in his first Ironman Triathlon on the 20th August, completing it in 11 hours 56 minutes. You can still contribute to the Just Giving page set up for Will supporting the Chartwell Cancer Trust and Charlies Wheelchair. <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/will-curtis>

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the airport, we are looking for stories and pictures that we hope to compile into a book, if you have something or know someone please get in touch. Email colin.hitchins@bigginhillairport.com or message on Facebook LBHACommunity

Best wishes
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

It seems that the summer has only just begun and now I suddenly find it has almost ended, so make the most of the last of the warm days this month and get some flying in. August was a quieter month for business jets, but in my experience of the industry this is usually a good sign that the economy is doing well as businesses and business leaders feel able to relax for the holiday period resulting in less activity.

A huge thank you to all those who supported my bid to raise money for Charlies's wheelchair appeal and Chartwell Cancer Trust on August 20th when I completed Ironman Kalmar in a time of 11 hours 56 minutes (2.5 mile swim, 112 mile bike, 26.2 mile run). If you would like to support these charities you can do so by clicking the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/will-curtis>

As most of you will be aware, we recently began a consultation over the future requirement for runway 11/29, the aim being to establish how important this runway is to different groups of airport users. Many have responded already and I am sure that many more will do so shortly. Once the feedback is in, we will collate it and produce a report showing the main points arising. This will form the basis of a series of discussions to decide what we need to preserve for the coming years and which areas can be redeveloped with additional parking and/or hangarage as the need arises. At this stage it is very much a consultation and no decisions have been made - the idea is to find out what everyone wants.

Sadly, there are always a few who seem to go off the deep end and take to social media to pronounce the end of the world, the expulsion of light aviation, the wanton destruction of all

WWII heritage on the aerodrome, a plague of locusts, a famine and a doomsday explosion. Amongst these there are those that really should know better and who do not show themselves in a good light as a result.

I can confirm that the world will not end, GA will not be expelled from the airport and no WWII monuments are to be destroyed (I cannot promise that the world will not end as this is a decision above my pay grade). Indeed, the E Pens alongside Interflight's hangar are earmarked for long term preservation and enhancement. We are also looking at what can be done with the scramble hut (to the rear of RAS Completions) after the Council rejected it for their museum because its provenance could not be established and it was judged to be in too bad a repair to be easily salvageable. We are now looking to see if the building can be moved and rebuilt.

The Airport will, in future, offer the opportunity of a "heritage trail" to visiting schools, scout units and other interested parties, but these will be arranged directly with the airport as opposed to via third party groups for reasons of airport security and health and safety compliance.

I am sure that you all realise that nothing ever stays the same and Biggin Hill Airport is no exception. We must move ahead with our plans to develop in the business and GA sector and to do so we will have to modernise the airport. This will inevitably mean that there can no longer be a 1970's style freedom at this airport. If a grass airfield with evening barbeque and 'come and go as you please' access is what you are looking for then Biggin Hill is probably not the right airport to use. If you seek a hard, all weather, night equipped, runway close to London and at a customs manned aerodrome then Biggin Hill is ideal. As they say, you pays your money and you takes your choice.

Until next time, 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.....
Yossel Zelkovitz worked in a Jewish pickle factory.

For many years he had a powerful desire to put his penis in the pickle slicer.

Unable to stand it any longer, he sought professional help from the factory psychologist.

After six months, the therapist gave up. He advised Yossel to go ahead and do it or he would probably never have any peace of mind.

The next day he came home from work very early. His wife, Sacha, became alarmed and wanted to know what had happened.

Yossel tearfully confessed his tormenting desire to put his penis in the pickle slicer.

He went on to explain that today he finally went ahead and did it, and he was immediately fired.

Sacha gasped and ran over to her husband. She quickly yanked down his pants and shorts only to find a normal, completely intact penis.

She looked up and said, "I don't understand. What about the pickle slicer?"

Yossel replied, "I think she got fired, too."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Upon arriving home, a husband was met at the door by his sobbing wife.

Tearfully she explained, "It's the pharmacist. He insulted me terribly this morning on the phone. I had to call multiple times before he would even answer the phone."

Immediately, the husband drove downtown to confront the chemist, and demand an apology.

Before he could say more than a word or two, the chemist told him, "Now, just a minute, listen to my side of it. This morning the alarm failed to go off, so I was late getting up. I went without breakfast and hurried out to the car, just to realise that I'd locked the house with both house and car keys inside and had to break a window to get my keys. Then, driving a little too fast, I got a speeding ticket. Later, when I was about three streets away from the shop, I had a flat tyre."

"When I finally got there a load of people were waiting for me to open up. I got the shop opened and started serving them, all the time the sodding phone was ringing."

He continued, "Then I had to break a roll of 10p coins against the cash register drawer to get some change, and they spilled all over the floor. I had to get down on my hands and knees to pick up the coins and the sodding phone was still ringing. When I came up I cracked my head on the open cash drawer, which made me stagger back against a showcase with a load of perfume bottles in it. Half of them hit the floor and broke."

"Meanwhile, the phone was still ringing with no let-up ... eventually I managed to answer it. It was your wife. She wanted to know how to use a Rectal thermometer."

" All I did was tell her."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Best ever Camp letter.....

Dear Mom,

Our Scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are okay. Only one of our tents and 2 sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Adam when it happened.

Oh yes, please call Adam's mother and tell her he is okay. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride in one of the search and rescue Jeeps. It was great. We never would have found Adam in the dark if it hadn't been for the lightning.

Scoutmaster Ted got mad at Adam for going on a hike alone without telling anyone. Adam said he did tell him, but it was during the fire so he probably didn't hear him. Did you know that if you put gas on a fire, the gas will blow up?

The wet wood didn't burn, but one of the tents did and also some of our clothes. Matthew is going to look weird until his hair grows back.

We will be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Ted gets the bus fixed. It wasn't his fault about the crash. The brakes worked okay when we left. Scoutmaster Ted said that with a bus that old, you have to expect something to break down; that's probably why he can't get insurance.

We think it's a super bus. He doesn't care if we get it dirty, and if it's hot, sometimes he lets us ride on the bumpers. It gets pretty hot with 45 people in a bus made for 24. He let us take turns riding in the trailer until the policeman stopped and talked to us.

Scoutmaster Ted is a neat guy. Don't worry, he is a good driver. In fact, he is teaching Horace how to drive on the mountain roads where there aren't any cops. All we ever see up there are huge logging trucks.

This morning all of the guys were diving off the rocks and swimming out to the rapids. Scoutmaster Ted wouldn't let me because I can't swim, and Adam was afraid he would sink because of his cast (it's concrete because we didn't have any plaster), so he let us take the canoe out. It was great. You can still see some of the trees under the water from the flood.

Scoutmaster Ted isn't crabby like some scoutmasters. He didn't even get mad about the life jackets. He has to spend a lot of time working on the bus so we are trying not to cause him any trouble.

Guess what? We have all passed our first aid merit badges. When Andrew dived into the lake and cut his arm, we all got to see how a tourniquet works.

Steve and I threw up, but Scoutmaster Ted said it was probably just food poisoning from the left-over chicken. He said they got sick that way with food they ate in prison. I'm so glad he got out and became our scoutmaster.

He said he sure figured out how to get things done better while he was doing his time. By the way, what is a pedal-file?

I have to go now. We are going to town to post our letters and buy some more beer and ammo. Don't worry about anything. We are fine and tonight it's my turn to sleep in the Scoutmaster's tent.

Love Johnny
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

It was getting a little crowded in Heaven, so God decided to change the admittance policy. The new law was that in order to get into Heaven, you had to have a really bad day on the day that you died. The policy would go into effect at noon the next day.

So, the next day at 12:01 the first person came to the gates of Heaven. The Angel at the gate, remembering the new policy, promptly asked the man, "Before I let you in, I need you to tell me how your day was going when you died."

"No problem," the man said. "I came home to my 25th-floor apartment on my lunch hour and caught my wife having an affair. But her lover was nowhere in sight. I immediately began searching for him. My wife was half naked and yelling at me as I searched the entire apartment.

Just as I was about to give up, I happened to glance out onto the balcony and noticed that there was a man hanging off the edge by his fingertips! The nerve of that guy! Well, I ran out onto the balcony and stomped on his fingers until he fell to the ground. But wouldn't you know it, he landed in some trees and bushes that broke his fall and he didn't die. This ticked me off even more.

In a rage, I went back inside to get the first heavy thing I could get my hands on to throw at him. Oddly enough, the first thing I thought of was the refrigerator. I unplugged it, pushed it out onto the balcony, and tipped it over the side. It plummeted 25 stories and crushed him!

The excitement of the moment was so great that I had a heart attack and died almost instantly." The Angel sat back and thought a moment. Technically, the guy did have a bad day. It was a crime of passion. So, the Angel announced, "OK, sir. Welcome to the Kingdom of Heaven," and let him in.

A few seconds later the next guy came up. To the Angel's surprise, it was Donald Trump. "Mr. Trump, before I can let you in, I need to hear about what your day was like when you died." Trump said, "No problem. But you're not going to believe this. I was on the balcony of my 26th floor apartment doing my daily exercises. I had been under a lot of pressure so I was really pushing hard to relieve my stress. I guess I got a little carried away, slipped, and accidentally fell over the side!

Luckily, I was able to catch myself by the fingertips on the balcony below mine. But all of a sudden this crazy man comes running out of his apartment, starts cussing, and stomps on

my fingers. Well, of course I fell. I hit some trees and bushes at the bottom, which broke my fall, so I didn't die right away.

As I'm laying there face up on the ground, unable to move and in excruciating pain, I see this guy push his refrigerator of all things off the balcony. It falls the 25 floors and lands on top of me, killing me.

The Angel is quietly laughing to himself as Trump finishes his story. "I could get used to this new policy," he thinks to himself. "Very well," the Angel announces. "Welcome to the Kingdom of Heaven," and he lets Trump enter.

A few seconds later, Bill Clinton comes up to the gate. The Angel is almost too shocked to speak. Thoughts of assassination and war pour through the Angel's head. Finally he says, "Mr. President, please tell me what it was like the day you died."

Clinton says, "OK, picture this. I'm naked, inside a refrigerator....."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I was working in the garden this weekend and my wife was about to take a shower. I realized that I couldn't find the rake.. I yelled up to My wife, Where is the rake?"

She couldn't hear me and she shouted back, "What?"

I pointed to my eye, and then I pointed to my knee and made a raking motion.

Then my wife wasn't sure and said "What?"

I repeated the gestures.

"Eye - Kneed - The Rake"

My wife replied that she understands and signals back. She first points to her eye, next she points to her left breast, then she points to her backside, and finally to her crotch. Well, there is no way in hell I could even come close to that one.

Exasperated, I went upstairs and asked her, "What the hell was that?"

She replies,"

"Eye - Left Tit - Behind - The Bush"!!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old woman prospector shuffled into town leading a tired old mule. the old woman headed straight for the only saloon to clear her parched throat.

She walked up and tied her old mule to the hitch rail. as she stood there, brushing some of the dust from her face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old woman and laughed, saying "hey" old woman have you ever danced"

The old woman looked up at the gunslinger and said, "no, I never did dance... never really wanted to."

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said, "well, you old bag, you're gonna dance now," and started shooting at the old woman's feet.

The old woman prospector - not wanting to get her toe blown off - started hopping around. everybody was laughing.

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The old woman turned to her pack mule, pulled out a double-barrelled shotgun, and cocked both hammers.

The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air. The crowd stopped laughing immediately.

The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and he turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening.

The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old woman and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old woman's hands, as she quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "no Ma'am... but... I've always wanted to."

There are a few lessons for us all here:

- 1 - Never be arrogant..
- 2 - Don't waste ammunition.
- 3 - Whiskey makes you think you're smarter than you are.
- 4 - Always, always make sure you know who has the power.
- 5 - Don't mess with old women; they didn't get old by being stupid...

I just love a story with a happy ending, don't you?

.....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"...)