

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 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 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.

## **AUGUST WEATHER**

A rather changeable August for flying with some perfect flying days, but several periods with less than ideal weather for flying. But, when it did return to typical expected August weather, the clubs and private owners could be seen taking full advantage of it.

As I write this, Biggin Hill is again shrouded in low cloud with drizzle yet again, so once again the Lookout Café will benefit from a lot of bored instructors consuming copious quantities of tea.....

## **CHARLES OMAN**

I have been advised this month that former Biggin Hill'ite from the 60's, and subsequently a British Airways Captain, Charles Oman passed away on 9th August aged 83.

Those around in those days at Biggin will undoubtedly remember Charles as a rather eccentric character with a very distinctive voice who was often seen in an ex Royal Navy Duffle Coat to combat the BH Winters.

I seem to recall Charles flying for Air UK after leaving Biggin Hill, but I believe he also may have worked for British United / British Caledonian before ending up with British Airways, where he remained until his ultimate retirement.

His funeral is apparently to be held at St Mary's Church, Balcombe on Monday 4th September at 11.30 a.m. His family request no flowers please, any donations to St Mary's Church, Balcombe.

R.I.P. Charles.

## **FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT**

Saturday and Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August saw this year's very successful Festival of Flight celebrating Biggin Hill Airport's Centenary year. With a period of poor weather in the week's leading up to the show, the event fortuitously had relatively good weather on both days (albeit with a challenging and quite chilly wind on the Saturday), and the anticipated rain very obligingly held off until shortly after the final display item on the Sunday!

The two day show featured an impressive flying and ground programme both days, with significantly greater military support than previously from the UK, Belgium, France, and Czechoslovakian air forces, as well as old favourites like the Breitling Wingwalkers, Trig Aerobatic Team, Extra 300 Duo, "Sally B" Flying Fortress, Great Warbird Team, OV-10 Bronco, and of course Biggin Hill's own Heritage Hangar Spitfires and Hurricane, who closed each day's show with a moving and poignant solo Spitfire display to music.

Sharing many military assets with the Eastbourne Air Show, the visiting public were treated, not only to the actual displays, but also much coming and going of fast jets and the Red Arrows between the displays, all of whom were based with Biggin. Sunday also saw the return to Biggin

Hill of the French Air Force "Patrouille de France" aerobatic team for the first time in many years, who put on a very impressive display unique to us as the only show in the UK this year.

An excellent show making the now annual Festival of Flight a "must go to" show on the UK air show display calendar. Congratulations to Colin Hitchins and his team for putting on a great event.

### **HURRICANE ENCLOSURE AT THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT**

The Hurricane Enclosure in the main hospitality area at the Festival of Flight was again well utilised by many Biggin Hill users and Tenants, who were able to view the excellent displays up front and close from the garden area fronting the display line.

With a pay bar to accompany their own picnic style lunches, some 200 people helped to support us again this year, and I thank you all for that support. I hope to offer something similar next year if the show organisers allow us to do so. Watch this space in a few months for details of show dates and details of any facility that we are able to secure for you all..

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

Thank you to those of you that supplied the names of old Biggin Hill'ites who were missing from our Roll of Honour on the website at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

Those names have now been added.

Please let me know if any others are missing from there. Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 59/60 and who has passed on to the big hangar in the sky, should ideally be included on there.

I don't know about you, but I quite frequently scroll my way down that frighteningly long list to remind myself of missing friends and colleagues. It is a walk down memory lane as the memories flood back of these wonderful people who are gone forever, but never forgotten....

### **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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

### **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

Hello Friends, a very busy time for all of us, yet at Alouette even more so because of our social events and activities.

Our planes are non-stop training and touring, with students taking skills tests with our resident examiner, written tests being completed with our other resident examiner and PPLs enjoying trips away.

Our bar has changed supplier and is restocked with even more choice. Our social nights still include FREE FOOD ! Who else on the airport gives food away?

Let's continue to make new acquaintances and enjoy our shared flying together. We're a club as well as a training organisation.

BBQ, a Music Night and a club flight to Le Touquet are next on our calendar – see details on our website at [www.alouette.org.uk](http://www.alouette.org.uk) – Come along and join us – we have Social Memberships available as well as Full Flying Memberships!.

Enjoy,

Best Wishes  
Bruno Bruniges  
[alouettechairman@gmail.com](mailto:alouettechairman@gmail.com)

## **FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES**

Greetings from all at Falcon. What a busy month!

The Festival of Flight was a tremendous success! With vast swathes of pilots both old, new, and soon to be, our guys and girls had a great time speaking to all of you. Our thanks go to the instructors and members who join us not only at the FoF, but every social event we do.

Let us not forget Colin and his team who put in sheer graft to ensure a safe event.

Shonu and the team were proud to exhibit with London South East Colleges. It has been a great honour to support the college with the new Aviation Courses and we look forward to paving way for a new era in Aviation study here at Biggin. Andy Patsalides and Bethany in the tower have shown great support in bringing innovation and technology to Biggin making it the future forefront for all aviation related qualifications.

With our members flying to parts of the continent, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands and of course the Isle of Wight, this month has been a flurry of activity. Students have managed to make significant progress here during this spell of pleasant weather reducing frustrations all round.

We say goodbye to G-BICG as she makes way for a Piper Archer currently with RAS. All goodbyes are bitter sweet they say. After many years at Biggin she has given exemplary service and memories to countless number of pilots.

Whilst we reduce the number of Cessna 152 operating here at Biggin within Falcon, those that remain are fully compliant with 8.33 and have even had Garmin Aera 660 GPS units installed. Our commitment to a safe environment for all involved is high as ever.

Understanding the constraints of the airport, we are doing our level best to co-operate in every way we can. Here at Falcon, our dedication to offering excellence in training with excellence in aircraft goes a long way to ensuring you a safe, enjoyable career in aviation!

The hangar has enjoyed a busy summer with plenty of aircraft coming in for scheduled maintenance.

Don't forget for those who require ELT battery checks, we are approved 145 Component to keep you flying!

Pride in the Falcon hangar is flying high. Two aircraft have been sold to USA both performing cross Atlantic flights. A Baron which has been maintained by Falcon for many years, and Cessna 182 for which Falcon performed the Pre-Purchase inspections. Whilst sales abroad are quite common over here, the distances and weather encountered in cross Atlantic flights were quite gruelling. A testament not only to the pilots but also the aircraft and maintenance regimes over here!

November 4<sup>th</sup> takes us to Pilot Careers Live in London Sofitel T5 so please come and say hi!

Always a busy and fruitful show the build-up starts now so register your interest here: <https://www.pilotcareernews.com/live/london/#tickets> Enter promo code "Falcon17" for free entry.

So here is hoping for more sunshine in September.

Till the next time. Wishing you calm skies and clear horizons.

Best Wishes  
Anoop Singh Bamrah

## **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

To celebrate 100 years of aviation at Biggin Hill at this year's Festival of Flight was always going to be a tough one to deliver in a world of ever diminishing display assets and the new CAA and MAA regulations, but I think we delivered. But it was only through the support of the management, staff and tenants of the community of the most famous of all the RAF's fighter stations "Biggin Hill".

Staging such a large event at the airport was always going to be a challenge, but by moving the show from the traditional June slot to August, when the commercial traffic is quieter, enabled us to host a larger line up of UK and overseas military and increase the event to two days.

No one person can ever put together an air show the size of the Festival of Flight and I would like to thank some of my colleagues and the band of temporary and voluntary staff individually for their hard work ensuring the success of the weekend. The showground, hospitality gardens and car parks are all looked after by Andy Lovejoy and his team from the hardworking maintenance department backed by Robin Temple of Landmark Services, many regular attendees commented that they had never seen the showground looking so good. 1,800 temporary barriers and over 3 km of fencing was erected (and put away), for this task the maintenance team were supported by the airport fire service, rain or shine they are out there, with only the sound of a boiling kettle and toast being ejected from their toasters stopping work.

I am sure most would agree the display line up was one of the best for many years, one even the grandfather of air shows, Jock Maitland, would have been proud of. Getting the support of the likes of the Czech, French and Belgian air forces is never easy but remembering their fallen colleagues who are commemorated in the RAF Chapel each declared their support early on. The gold medal winner of the Olympic 110m hurdles has fewer barriers to cross than those put in front of the team by the CAA and MAA this year, this is where I must thank our Flying Display Director, Geoff Brindle, supported by our Ground Operations Manager Barry Sargeant and Chair of the Flying Control Committee Rod Dean. Without their considerable experience and hard work, we would not have seen many of the display assets that we did.

Our air traffic team must deliver that single sheet of A4 paper detailing the aircraft running order into one that works and works on time. This year the runway not only supported our own flying display but that of Herne bay and Eastbourne. Bill Robinson our senior Air Traffic Control Officer has for many years co-ordinated the flying display in support of the Flying Display Director, his team of controllers is bolstered by Gary Merchant, who is invaluable in the tower providing the controllers with up to date information. For the new controllers this year, a big well done, welcome to the air show fraternity, +3 minutes on the Sunday show will be hard to beat.

The airport strives to be in the vanguard for safety and the air show has the scrutiny of not only the CAA and MAA and the local Safety Advisory Group made up of the emergency services and local government agencies, but also the internal safety audit overseen by our Safety and Compliance Manager, Peter Thompson and then a further audit by the Regional Airports Safety Executive, Jock Lowe before the BHAL board authorise the Festival of Flight to proceed. The green light is not given easily, I would like to thank Andy Holcombe, Event Manager for his tireless support to

ensure that the many potential risks are mitigated to acceptable levels, that is anything from what do we do if we lose a child to how would we evacuate the site if it was required. In the showground many of my ex London Fire Brigade colleagues (every one of them held senior roles meaning I still call most "Guv") worked in our safety team, we may be a bit greyer and the waistlines slightly larger but it is reassuring knowing they are there)

The build-up and knock down of the show means lots of contractors coming on and off of site, not a problem!! Then try and keep most of the taxi-ways open for aircraft, now you have a problem. The airport security team, managed by Debbie really stepped up to the plate this year "the answer is yes what is the question" is fast becoming the mantra of the staff.

Finance, handling, marketing, the admin support staff and estates all played a part in making this year's Festival of Flight a team effort that all should be proud of. In closing I would like to thank you for your continued support and if you have any suggestions or comments (please be gentle) then let me know.

Regards to all  
Colin Hitchins  
Community Engagement Manager

## **MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS**

August has been another busy month for the airport with the 100th anniversary air show drawing big crowds. A seasonal dip in business aviation traffic was expected, but our movement numbers were well above target for the month. Some fine weather has helped clubs and private owners to get airborne too.

We will shortly begin installation of the new runway 03 approach lighting system, so you may see activity on the other side of the Main Road as we prepare the ground for the lighting bar that will be located there. Most of the approach lights will be inlaid flush into the 03 undershoot and we will carry out most of this work at night to avoid disruption. We remain hopeful that the new approach may be serviceable by late autumn and the CAA is due to complete its review of the design and ACP imminently. The new terminal hangar is making good progress and is currently on schedule for completion late this year. Meanwhile, we expect to go for detailed planning permission for the revised hotel project in early September with construction due to begin early next year.

Many of you will have read press reports about the new breed of "cost sharing" websites such as Wingly and Skyuber. To most reasonable people, including the vast majority of Biggin based GA pilots and clubs that I have spoken to, the concept of private pilots holding themselves out as public transport operators seems unethical, if not downright dangerous. Certainly many have complained directly to the CAA, who simply state that this is an EASA ruling over which they have no sway. At least one serious accident has occurred as a direct result of this misguided policy and sadly, many more are sure to follow in due course. Here at Biggin Hill, we have a problem with such flights in that the airport lease prohibits the sale of individual seats in aircraft although it is important to point out that genuine cost sharing is not prohibited in any way.

Quite apart from safety concerns, we view this as a general prohibition on this type of activity where, as is the case with at least two Biggin Hill based aircraft, the pilots concerned are holding out a service that is effectively an 'on demand buy a seat' service. It is certainly not in the spirit of Private Category flying and the general public are not qualified to differentiate Private Category from Public Transport Category flight operations. Our policy is to ask anyone involved in such activity to cease immediately and to remove their aircraft to another airport before carrying out such a flight. Cost sharing is the genuine distribution of direct aircraft operating costs between friends, or at least acquaintances, with the aim of spreading the cost of a flight that was initially conceived of by the pilot - not by the passengers. Wingly, in particular, appears to be the opposite

of this and acts almost like a charter broker (but without the expertise and discrimination exercised by a professional charter broker). On Wingly's web based platform, flight destination, time, date and passenger numbers can be specified by the passenger. It is almost certain that a flight initiated under such circumstances will breach the provisions of the insurance on the aircraft concerned, so those involved in such activity should probably check with their insurer before assuming it is all covered. We are happy to hear arguments to the contrary, but this is very much our take on the matter at present, so please bear this in mind before joining one of these 'cost sharing' sites."

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.....  
Understanding Women.....

Arguing with a woman is like reading the Software Licence Agreement - In the end you have to ignore everything and click "I Agree"

Never make a woman mad - They can remember stuff that hasn't even happened yet

Remember, woman always have the last word in an argument - Anything a man adds after that is the beginning of a new argument

If a woman says "first of all" during an argument - run away, because she has prepared research, data, charts, and will destroy you

A wise man once said nothing

Behind every angry woman, stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he did wrong

Been there, done that. Then been there several more times, because apparently I never learn

Every time you speak to your wife, your mind should remember that.... "This conversation will be recorded for training and quality purposes"

Some things are just better left unsaid - And I usually realise it right after I say them...

Be decisive. right or wrong, make a decision - The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision!

Life is short, smile while you have teeth

Don't worry, some people are their own punishment in life

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two women friends had gone for a girls' night out. Both were very faithful and loving wives, however they had got over-enthusiastic on the Bacardi Breezers.

Incredibly drunk and walking home they needed to wee, so they stopped in the cemetery.

One of them had nothing to wipe with so she thought she would take off her panties and use them.

Her friend however was wearing a rather expensive pair of panties and did not want to ruin them.

She was lucky enough to squat down next to a grave that had a wreath with a ribbon on it, so she proceeded to wipe with that.

When the girls had finished their tasks, they went home.

The next day, the husband of one of the women was concerned that his normally sweet and innocent wife was still in bed hung over, so he phoned the other husband and said, "These girl nights out have got to stop! I'm starting to suspect the worst. My wife came home with no panties on!"

"That's nothing," said the other husband, "Mine came back with a card stuck to her arse that read.....

'From all of us at the Fire Station. "We'll never forget you."'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Beatrice, The church organist, Was in her eighties, had never been married. She was admired for her sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea. As he sat facing her old Hammond organ, the young minister noticed a cut glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water, in the water floated of all things, a condom!

When she returned With tea and scones, they began to chat. The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water, its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him he could no longer resist. 'Miss Beatrice', he said, 'I wonder if you would tell me about this? Pointing to the bowl.

'Oh, yes,' she replied, 'Isn't it wonderful? I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet, that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A father buys a lie detector robot that slaps people when they lie. He decides to test it out at dinner one night.

The father asks his son what he did that day.

The son says, "I did some schoolwork." The robot slaps the son.

The son says, "Ok, Ok. I was at a friend's house watching movies."

Dad asks, "What movie did you watch ?"

Son says, "Toy Story." The robot slaps the son.

Son says, "Ok, Ok we were watching porn."

Dad says, "What?"

At your age I didn't even know what porn was."

The robot slaps the father.

Mom laughs and says,

"Well, he is certainly your son ."

The robot slaps the mother.

End of Story.

P.S. Robot For Sale

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

These glorious insults are from an era before insults in the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir, " said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy ." -Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." -Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." -William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." -Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." -Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." -Oscar Wilde

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." -Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." -Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." -John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." -Irvin S. Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." -Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." - Paul Keating

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." -Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." Forrest Tucker

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" -Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." -Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." -Oscar Wilde

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." -Billy Wilder

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it." -Groucho Marx

"A modest man, with much to be modest about" and "A sheep in sheep's clothing" - Churchill's comments on Clement Attlee

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A little old lady was walking down the street dragging two large plastic garbage bags behind her. One of the bags was ripped and every once in a while a \$20 fell out onto the sidewalk.

Noticing this, a policeman stopped her, and said, "Ma'am, there are \$20 bills falling out of that bag."

"Oh, really? Darn it!" said the little old lady. "I'd better go back and see if I can find them. Thanks for telling me, officer."

"Well, now, not so fast," said the cop. "Where did you get all that money? You didn't steal it, did you?"

"Oh, no, no", said the old lady. "You see, my back yard is right next to a golf course."

A lot of golfers come and pee through a knot hole in my fence, right into my flower garden. It used

to really tick me off. Kills the flowers, you know Then I thought, why not make the best of it?"

"So, now, I stand behind the fence by the knot hole, real quiet, with my hedge clippers. Every time some guy sticks his thing through my fence, I surprise him, grab hold of it and say, O.K., buddy! Give me \$20, or off it comes."

"Well, that seems only fair," said the cop, laughing.

"OK. Good luck!"

"Oh, by the way, what's in the other bag?"

"Not everybody pays."  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....  
The Amish and the Elevator

A fifteen year old Amish boy and his father were in a multi-story shopping mall for the first time. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked, 'What is this Father?'

The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, 'Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is.'

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheelchair moved up to the moving walls and pressed a button.

The walls opened, and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched the small numbers above the walls light up sequentially.

They continued to watch until it reached the last number and then the numbers began to light up in the reverse order.

Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous 24-year-old blonde stepped out

The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son.....

'Go get your Mother'  
.....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"...) )