

Hi everyone

Just a few notes for this month...

Firstly, if you haven't already seen it, the July "Bugle" is on the web site at <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Sorry for the late notice.

Next, although JB expresses concern about the Air Fair attendance, it was in fact a great success - sufficiently so as to ensure that planning has now started for next year's show (which is likely to be the same dates - ie. the first weekend in June 2007). Colin Hitchins should be congratulated in taking a show where its future was seriously in doubt, to the point where it is secure for a further year. Its long-term future is still dependent upon having a few successful shows to build up the depleted reserves necessary to put the next show together, so it is not out of the woods yet - still, we can all look forward to another show next year at least.

Traffic patterns and site layout contributed to the apparent poor attendance shown in JB's picture, but with the use of the Downe entry/exit and moving the car park entrance away for the pedestrian areas and rearranging the car park layout, the crowd was able to access the show with significant ease - and around 75,000 to 85,000 attended over the two days (obviously, with the Derby and an England football match on Saturday, that days attendance was down on what would be expected in those weather conditions, but Sunday's attendance was good).

Joe's bar has now had a revamp, following the auction of some of the artifacts and pictures recently. It has been repainted, and new pictures are now going up. So the bar is starting to actually look better than it has for some time. Certainly not what one would expect if it was going to close, I can assure you. I have been personally working closely with Joe and closure is definitely not on the cards. The threatened demolition and hotel build (whilst I think it will probably happen in time) is not likely to occur for some months, if not years, and Joe is discussing new premises into the future with the airport. Things may change, but as long as you all keep supporting the bar regularly, it should continue to serve us all for some time to come. Remember though, it will only survive if you all give it your support whenever you can.

This coming Saturday night (15th July) the very popular duo Coolie and Rick will be performing again at the club. Come down and enjoy the evening's great party atmosphere, which promises to be excellent as always. Evening officially starts at 8pm, but if the weather is good, why not come over early and enjoy the afternoon at the club too.

Looking into the future, Joe is planning to have a mini-reunion at the bar in September (date to be announced in due course) followed by one of his mini flying displays in the evening - subject to the normal permissions and availability of course.

So, for those of you who live some distance away and who come down just occasionally, why not save your next visit to coincide with Joe's date once it is announced and come meet all your old flying buddies.

I will be off on my annual month's jaunt to Portugal towards the end of July, so next month's "Bugle" will be uploaded to the web site from there. I may not have the time to send out a newsletter, so just check the site around the 1st or 2nd August for the new edition.

Regards to all
John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database