

Hi everyone

This is a mid-month update for Biggin Hill Airport Users Database members.

The Air Fair

The air show planning is now well underway for the dates of 2nd and 3rd June, and should, as has previously been said, be a great show with lots more flying content from the RAF than previous years.

Air Displays International (ADI) have asked us to remind users that the "Juliet" taxiway, that runs from the Southeast apron to the 03 threshold is fully active this year and therefore comes under the normal airport by-laws and control. It is not a public access area as it has been in previous years.

Any club members or private owners who intend to fly away prior to the show on either day, or return to the airport post show, will require advance booked slot times, for any arrivals or departures from 11:00 local time on Friday 1st June until close of play (ie. 20:00 local time) on Sunday 3rd June. These slots are of course subject to continuing availability and may be obtained up to 18:00 local on Friday 1st June from Bill Robinson in ADI (as you will know, Bill is an Air Traffic Controller at Biggin) on 01959 572277 - after 18:00 local on 1st June Air Traffic Biggin will take over the issuing of slot times.

ADI have asked that anyone requiring slots makes their request as soon as possible to avoid disappointment if the required timings have been pre-allocated to others.

The Pilots Pals Bar

Firstly, members are reminded that "walk-in" tickets are available for members to purchase for their accompanying friends and family.

Maximum of 2 tickets per member (but strictly subject to availability) at price £9 each - tickets valid for either day single entry only. Last date for tickets Friday 18th May. (I can only guarantee definitely to be in the bar twice more - Monday 14th May between 18:15 and 19:30 and Friday 18th May between 19:15 and 20:30 - other times please call me on 01959 571533 or mobile 07836 219848 and I will try to meet you to collect money and deliver tickets.

Remember that Pilots Pals Club Photo ID cards are valid Air Fair entry tickets, so members themselves do not need additional passes or tickets. The card is valid only for the person whose photo appears on it - not for people accompanying them, who will have to hold a valid air fair entry ticket or purchase one on the day. The last day that new or upgrade membership applications can be accepted (subject of course to them meeting the rules for entry) is also Friday 18th May and these must have both payment and photographs for each proposed member,

otherwise the cards will NOT be issued in time for the Air Fair. (Members who have already paid but have yet to supply photographs for each member under their name are reminded that the last day to get the photos to me is Friday 18th May - after that the cards will NOT be available until after the air show!)

Bar access from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd June is restricted to people who are club members and can show a membership card or other agreed entry pass. Due to restricted space, members may be restricted on the number of guests that they can bring to the club (£1 per guest per day).

Joe Merchant

In spite of many rumours to the contrary, Joe is not leaving us for good, he is simply selling his current home and moving to another one, plus taking on a property in sunny Spain where he can spend a part of his time with his wife Val.

The bar is still Joe's and he will be there regularly, but not every night like he has been. As has always been the case, the bar will be run on a day to day basis by Jill on Joe's behalf, but now with help from the committee. He has spent the last 20 plus years almost every day at the bar, and he needs to take some time out to enjoy some of the finer things in life. So please let him have a well earned rest and then we can welcome him regularly back in the bar when he can make it. He will still be in day to day contact with Jill and the committee, so he will still be keeping his finger firmly on the pulse.

Hopefully we can all get out to Spain from time to time too and maybe Joe will start a Pilots Pals bar branch out there????

More at the end of May.....

John Willis
For the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database