

Hi everyone

I have recently been informed of the passing of one our old friends from Biggin Hill in the 60's and 70's.

Robin Rackham apparently died of a stroke in March this year. Robin was born in Tyne & Wear, and moved to the USA as a child. He was trained by the USAF on T34's and T37's. Following an accident, during which he ejected from his T37, he left the US Air Force - joining IBM in the USA and then in London after a while, which is when his association with all of us at Biggin Hill began. He left IBM to run the Fox & Hounds pub in Otford, where many of us spent many considerably drunken evenings, and bought a Tiger Moth G-ANCX in 1967, which he used for hours building before selling it, and the pub, returning to the US to complete his commercial training. After gaining his professional licences, he worked for Cessna European sales, and then Britten Norman sales, before taking up a career with the airlines. Flying for such airlines as Court Line, Air Europe, Air Holland, Transavia, etc., over many years, he retired as a B757 Captain in the mid 1990's.

For many of us who were around in those days, we will have many fond memories of him. Robin remained in contact with us, via the User Database, but due to health problems, was unable to attend our various reunions. He was last seen by many of us at the memorial service for the late Bill Webb. He will be missed by lots of us around the world.

On a lighter note:- remember that Joe Merchant is holding his auction to sell off all the bar's memorabilia tomorrow (Saturday 17th June) at 10am. As Joe put it - everything must go! Hope I will see many of you there.

The fact that the memorabilia is being sold does NOT mean the club is closing - the bar will remain open for as long as Joe is able to keep it running - based on the normal pace of change at Biggin Hill, this may well be for several months, or even years! Even after the closure and demolition of the current bar (if it ever happens, of course), I am sure a place will be found for Joe and the club into the future. Joe has been a permanent fixture for us all for many years, and he will not go down without a fight - he needs all of our continued support though.

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

PS. If anyone should be offered a secondhand Garmin 196 - please let me know. A unit was stolen from an aircraft recently. Programmed waypoints contained in it will help identify the unit, as will the serial number (that has been passed to Garmin to attempt to identify in the future)