



BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS
ISSUE No. 69

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD
www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

In Ass. with BigginHillReunited.co.uk
1st NOVEMBER 2010

LES GRANDE BARBEQUE



A blue haze of smoke rises from the embers giving the food that smoked aroma. This was the scene at the annual Shipping & Airlines Barbeque attended by no less than 50 pilots and aviation minded people, there was no shortage of food nor liquor. The weather tried to put a damper on the proceedings but the chef was not to be outdone, he produced a gazebo from his MPV and erected it over the barbecue and carried on without missing to turn the food over as it roasted on the grill. (The editor actually helped out during this period, then the chef returned complaining someone had removed his tongs. They were duly handed back and the editor left the scene),



for the comfort of the hangar which was now the driest place to be as the drizzle increased and the temperature decreased. Probably the best barbeque yet, we all look forward to next years event.

Finally a raffle was held during the afternoon which raised £420 for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

MAN OF THE YEAR AVIATOR



Jon Windover:

Chairman of Aerobility the UK's leading disabled flying charity providing light aviation experiences for disabled and profoundly ill adults and children, turning the dream of flying into an exhilarating and fulfilling reality. Flying offers a complete change for the disabled, stretching horizons in every sense. Outcomes of flights include realisation of ability and that life is very much for the living. The charity was founded in 1993 at our very own Biggin Hill to represent the needs of disabled pilots and was called the British Disabled Flying Association (BDFFA). Achieving charitable status in 2000, the organization has evolved in both its activities and its perception within the aviation and disabled communities. This

change led to a full rebrand and rename of the charity in 2010, with a single word to encapsulate, define and summarise the goal of the organisation. By combing the charity's core attributes; aerospace and ability, the new name 'Aerobility' was born. We own and operate 3 specially adapted aircraft, a Bulldog and two Piper Warriors.

Aerobility's main base is at Lasham and provides 'Experience



of a lifetime' trial flight, aircraft hire for disabled licence holders, flying days for other disability charities and specialist PPL flying training for disabled members and injured service personnel. We have a strong link with Battleback and Help for Heroes providing our injured servicemen the opportunity to take a new direction in life.

To learn more about the charity go to www.aerobility.co.uk

The forthcoming Aviators Ball is on Saturday 27th November 2010 at Sofitel Hotel, T5 London Heathrow. Tickets £70 each

You can book by phone today on
0208 453 0300



The Aviator' Ball started out as a small event organised for the charity members as an opportunity to get together once a year.

Today, the ball has become its own brand attracting a huge range of people from aviation including the majority of the UK display fraternity, the GA industry, the larger aerospace industry plus the likes of us keen aviators and those who simply share our love of aviation. The ball now represents our single biggest cash injection and underwrites our existence for the majority of the subsequent year. There is a website (*see above column 3*) dedicated to the event, which contains all you need to



know about the occasion including ticket booking.

The main event of the evening is a live auction which is just fantastic, last year we raised just under £80k with some incredible prizes such as a flight in a Spitfire and a back seat ride with the Breitling Jet Team ! This year Jon wants to break the £100k mark – prizes this year are coming in thick and fast. Headline prizes so far include:

1. A flight in a Hawker Hunter
2. A formation flight with the Gnat Display Team

3. Irvin flying Jacket worn by the BBMF's commanding officer, Sqn Ldr Ian Smith during his flight in an original B of B Spitfire. He overflew all the main Battle of Britain airfields including Chartwell and Buckingham Palace. The prize also comes with a guided tour of the BBMF hangar at RAF Conningsby.

4. A flight in a P51 Mustang
5. The latest Breitling Aerospace watch.
6. A signed Rugby Ball by this year's England Rugby Union Team: ORIGINAL signed picture of Jeff Hurst's winning goal in the '66 world cup final.
7. First Class tickets to Dijon staying in a 5* luxury Chateau and a flight with the entire Breitling Jet Team out of their Dijon base.
8. Made to measure aircraft covers.
9. The latest GPS Flymap 7.
10. A touch and go at Heathrow in your own aircraft ! (at night).
11. A day with the Red Arrows (plus a signed suite and signed picture by the 2010 team).
12. We also have a silent auction with smaller prizes including such things as signed books, paintings, aviation memorabilia and aviation equipment etc; We also have lots of items for the ladies !

Dress for this occasion is black tie. please review the associated web pages which are very impressive.

Those confirmed as attending, are the Red Arrows their manager and the Commandant of the Central Flying School, all the pilots from the BBMF will be coming too plus many pilots and owners from the

UK Warbirds and ex-military jet fraternity.

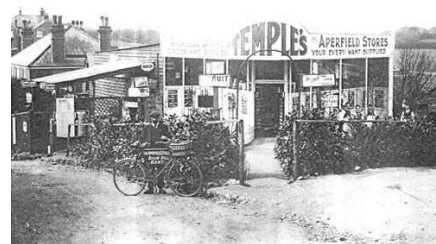


NEWS RELEASE

This release is published at the end of this newsletter – *your personal views and disappointments at the outcome of 48 years of wonderful air shows would be most welcome.*

Most will find this news release a feeble attempt at projecting the future of what the people around Biggin Hill really want and indeed the many spectators that come from far and wide. As far as we can see the Biggin Hill Air Show is a 'Dead Duck' disregarding the skills of past management and the many others that helped to present the annual air show at Biggin Hill.

THE OLD TEMPLE STORES



Cast your mind back 60 years, do you remember where you were?

There was an attempted armed break in at the Temple stores. This was foiled by the heroics of three police officers as reported in the Sevenoaks Chronicle (Westerham) edition recently.

ROBBER FOILING HEREOS REMEMBERED 60 YEARS ON

The heroics of three police officers and a business chief have been remembered six decades after they foiled an armed break in at a Biggin Hill store.

PC Owen Ashwin was awarded the George Medal after he was shot in the throat during the robbery at Temple Stores in Stock Hill on September 28, 1950.

PC John McCallum, PC Ivan King and Thomas Temple - a company director from Biggin Hill – were also awarded the George Medal and a £20 cheque by the King at an Investiture held at Buckingham Palace on October 31, 1950.

Sixty years to the day, their bravery was remembered with a framed display by Borough Commander Charles Griggs and officers at Bromley Police Station.

Borough Commander Charles Griggs said “Luckily injuries such as those sustained by PC Ashwin are rare, but what is consistent is that officers will run towards danger, not away from it.”

Temple Store was located on the corner of Hillcrest Road and Polesteep Hill and was in business until the 1960’s when it was knocked down to make way for a housing development.

NEW SIGNS ADORN BIGGIN



Two commemoration signs with regard to the presence of RAF at Biggin Hill for 75 years have recently been erected at each end of the village

REUNION AT THE OLD JAIL

A ‘Grande Ole Reunion’ at the Old Jail on the 30th with Bob Needham as the principal recipient.

Bob has been on a return visit to UK (probably for the last time) whilst the lure of England is till strong he says, Australia has so much more to offer for him.



He has probably had ‘The Bone’ pointed at him by an old aborigine which may have an influence far more reaching than the occult.



Bob, Dave Milstead, Mick Ronayne share a drink after 46 years.



Mike Townsend, David Quirk, Mick Ronayne, John Willis and Barry McGrath.



Mike Nash-Wortham, John Bryan, Bob Needham & his famous scarf.



Bob and Kate Elliott friends since Bob’s early days at Biggin Hill for some 46 years plus. This important gathering attracted 20 in all, mainly because we are the few that are left similar to Winston Churchill’s few. The hangar doors are always open as Kate Elliott always says for any opportunity to reminisce.



Vic Beattie, Ann and Clive Border, Clive was last seen by JB, some 29 years previous in the UAE.

A classic parting comment by Clive as he left the party was, **“I’ll probably see you again”** (pause) **“In heaven”...!**

A second classic comment overheard during the afternoon by David Quirk..... **‘the most recognisable person I have ever met’**... not sure as to whom he was referring, but it sounded good.



Bob’s expression seems to question Gavin Dix’s presence.



Neil Munro. JW, Peter Oaks, Mike



Finally, Clive and Bob discuss the fact that their hair is not grey, as it appears, it is silver which comes with ageing and that is final.

A wonderful day among friends!

NEWS RELEASE

BHAL No 17/10
7th October 2010

OPEN HOUSE AIR DAY TO REPLACE THE AIR FAIR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2011

A new format of an Open House Air Day at Biggin Hill Airport is to replace the traditional International Air Fair with a date set for the first event on Saturday 10th September 2011.

The change will modernise the purpose and performance of the annual air show to reflect the emerging role of Biggin Hill as a Business & General Aviation Aerospace Centre with an increasingly global reach. A special Youth Day activity is also planned, linking with the projected Aerospace Academy and focussing on the range of new jobs available with the growing number of specialist companies based at the airport.

The world-renowned heritage of RAF Biggin Hill will be fully recognised and symbolised with displays by WWII aircraft and appropriate military participation. The outline programme, still in the early planning stages, will incorporate the best of 21st century aviation by putting the daily life of the airport on show balanced with music, heritage flying and special performances by the flying Services. The occasion will be fully open to the public.

In the longer term, airport management are planning the establishment of a WWII Heritage Centre alongside the 1940 blast pens that provided protection for Hurricane and Spitfire fighters when the airfield was under enemy attack. An original WWII pilot's crew room at the site is to be refurbished with the help of RAF volunteers and this, together with other historic items, is planned for launch in September 2012 at the Open House Air Day that will follow the London Olympics of that year.

Air Days at Biggin Hill will be managed by the airport team with external contractors providing specialist services such as public enclosure facilities and traffic management.

Andrew Walters, Chairman of Biggin Hill Airport, says that the new format will enable a more direct relationship with the local community on an annual basis while at the same time sustaining the valued heritage of RAF Biggin Hill that is known and recognised around the world.

"Jock Maitland, his son Jim and Colin Hitchins in more recent years, have promoted and presided over a magnificent air show for almost half a century.

But now is time for change, putting the community first and giving us the opportunity to say 'thank you' to them" he says.

"An Open House Air Day will enhance the fellowship of companies working at the airport and provide an opportunity for them to project to the public. It is also planned to attract young people to the airport as a source of recruitment for worthwhile careers in the exciting and rewarding business of aviation" Mr Walters adds.

Detailed arrangements for the first of the new series of Air Days, now set for September 2011, will be worked up during this autumn and further announcements made as plans develop.

- ENDS -

FANS' FURY AT AXED AIR FAIR

Dismay at cancellation of famous show after 47 years

By Amy Andrew

reporters@sevenoaks-chronicle.co.uk

FANS of the world-famous Biggin Hill air fair are angry the event has been axed by organisers after 47 years.

Airport officials announced last week it would be replaced with an annual open day.

A number of Facebook groups have appeared with members insisting they are not being told the truth by airport chiefs about the reasons behind the closure.

One site - Remembering Biggin Hill International Air Fair - already has 649 members.

Biggin Hill Reunited founder John Willis, who posted comments on the site, said: "I think it is a PR disaster for the airfield. People who live and work in the area are disgusted by the news.

"Biggin Hill does not have a lot going for it, but residents are very proud of the air show and airport and what it stands for. It has put them on the map."

Bravery

Two weeks after this year's show, Biggin Hill Airport operators announced they were taking over the running of the annual event from management company Air Displays International (ADI).

They initially said the air show would go ahead, with possible changes. It has now been cancelled entirely.

"I think it is a bit of a farce - getting rid of the air show is obviously something they have wanted to do for a long time," said Mr Willis.

"ADI only had three years to run and arguably there was no need to cut the contract short."

Mr Willis agreed there could have



ON DISPLAY: The Red Arrows during a performance at Biggin Hill Air Fair

been problems in 2012 because of the Olympics, but added it was nothing that couldn't have been negotiated.

"Airport director Peter Lonergan has also said he would be solely responsible for any nasty accident or incident that may occur as a result of the air display," he said.

"As everyone in the business knows - a blatant piece of misinformation. Where was he in that terrible year when there were two fatal accidents?"

The air show was launched in 1963 to commemorate the bravery of pilots in the Second World War.

Mr Willis said a number of people had spoken to him about their sad-



FARCE: John Willis says losing the Biggin Hill Air Fair is a "PR disaster"

AA1310101_1

ness and anger after hearing of the air show's demise, but he had not heard from one person concerned about traffic or noise.

He accepted the air show caused some inconvenience to the airport

and its customers, but pointed out the benefits to the community far outweighed any cons.

"It is a great shame that something like this is coming to an end. The air show reminds people of those that gave their lives, and I think that is important," he said.

Andrew Walters, chairman of Biggin Hill Airport, said: "Jock Maitland, his son Jim and Colin Hitchins in more recent years, have promoted and presided over a magnificent air show for almost half a century.

"But now is time for change, putting the community first and giving us the opportunity to say 'thank you' to them."

WESTERHAM CHRONICLE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14TH 2010