



BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS

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THE BUGLE WORLD WIDE

Yes, the Bugle is read around the world in far away places beginning with Tasmania (*the editors homeland*) Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, the Philippines, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, France, Spain, Portugal, USA, Canada. Many other pilots respond from locations around the world. It is good to know they remain loyal to the Biggin Hill Airport community where many gained their personal careers in aviation.



This Tasmanian contingent of pilots led by Capt Barry Whitmore (left) ex-helicopter pilot (from Dubai) and companion of your pilot / instructor editor, also ex-Dubai. These 'Pilot Chappies' have the best supply of Boags Beer in the world and the best atmosphere on this quiet location on the Tamar River near Launceston (Tasmania) to relax. *By the way, if you want to live, and, do nothing for the rest of your life,* go live in Tasmania, it is absolute paradise. There are a few snakes around, but no worries, the effect of the Boags Beer will dispel any such fears or anxiety of snake bites. Furthermore, Tasmania is totally surrounded by sea and 300 nautical miles from the continent of

Australia, also surrounded by water thereby making it totally immune from the invasion of unwanted immigrants. Friendly Pilots who wish to approach these shores for a landing are welcomed at all times, *no worries mate !*

Editors note: if you have had too much to drink and can't focus properly on the pictures – go to the percentage scale at the top of the page and magnify the image, which will not necessarily improve the quality, but you will believe it has.

PANIC AT WATERING HOLE

Whilst partaking of a glass of the amber nectar at our local pub recently, a Police Dog Team arrived in the car park and everyone thought the worst. Then a big Ambulance arrived followed by more police. We were all trapped. Then an officer came into the bar to seek assistance from the bar staff, who, by some strange coincidence had completely vanished from the bar, we all fell silent feeling condemned. It appears that someone had discovered a body in the woods nearby – after some time the police departed the scene to the relief of those wanting a top up. *Cheers !!*

SHIPPING & AIRLINES B,B,Q



The annual hangar Bar-B-Q was another annual success with many

pilots and friends attending. This photo, shows early arrivals gathering with nostrils turned toward the aromatic smells wafting from the Bar-B-Q. Numbers escalated rapidly, requiring an additional shopping expedition being dispatched to the local Supermarket for extra supplies of food. However, the drink situation was admirably catered for. (*excellent forward planning*) The chief chef, Tony Habgood, was roasted by the charcoals for several hours, never leaving his post all afternoon. We extend our thanks to S&A, for providing a wonderful day out, amid the company of friendly pilots and their families.

IMPROVEMENTS AT BIGGIN

Several new buildings have been erected at the airfield creating a pleasant environment from the old days of derelict buildings occupied by one and all for many years. The blue and white building below will be occupied shortly by two flying clubs. Cabair and EFG, with other



buildings created for businesses,



plus some new hangars built previously, and all painted accordingly to blend in with the surroundings, a great improvement.



AIRFIELD PERSONALITIES



Amarjit Singh Bamhra (*Singh, as he is known*) first came to Biggin Hill Airport in 1973 seeking a career in aviation. He arrived at the airfield, casually walking across runway 29 thinking it was disused. He was picked up by two gentlemen in a Jaguar who gave him a lift to Air Touring. It was some twenty years later during a heated discussion that the driver of the Jaguar revealed himself, saying *'don't forget, it was me that gave you a lift and took you to Air Touring'*. It was the late Norman Wilson. Singh of course at this time was a political refugee from Kenya, because the Government of the day had gained their independence and saw fit to expel anyone with a British Passport. Singh's possible aviation career at Nairobi Wilson Airport came to an abrupt end. Prior to arriving at Air Touring Singh spent two years at Air Training Services in Scotland. He would subsequently take up a position with Air Touring Services as their Chief Engineer. Singh remained at Air Touring until 1977 before leaving to start his own company 'Falcon Flying Services'. He started with no money, working initially under a plastic sheet and an old post office van which doubled as an office and store

room, and company transport, before moving under more substantial cover as the English winter set in. (*Ah! those halcyon days of aviation*). Singh began to employ people to help with the ever increasing demand for maintenance. Singh would build his own hangar thereby increasing his business tenfold. Singh also extend his business beyond the boundaries of the airfield servicing aircraft from far and wide. Today Singh's two sons Shonu and Anoop help run his business. His business would continue to grow and he set about buying aircraft and leasing them out to various flying clubs. If an aircraft came up for sale, Singh would buy it, adding to his collection and his financial dilemma which he managed with skillful dexterity that would make other people pale. Fortunately, Singh is of the non paling variety, and has a wonderful sense of humour to match. Singh's collection of aircraft would total 55 at its peak. He amassed a staff of twenty during these furtive years with Ashley Soares as his Chief Engineer who is responsible for aircraft maintenance and training staff. Singh runs his Empire from an office that is more like a ships corridor with hundreds of pictures adorning the walls and a woven mass of cables that feed several telephones and computers. Over the years he has obtained a multitude of spares that he can find in less than a second, quoting part number and the price whilst talking on two or more phones at the same time. Falcon Flying Services have over 30 years experience at maintaining GA aircraft striving to keep operating costs down. His hangar is a hive of activity, is bright and airy. A traditional jostick smoulders on a small alter outside the office window. Whilst driving home from the airfield one night in 1998 he had a strange tingling in his hands and a strong vision of healing powers overwhelmed him. This was a

calling from Baba, the ultimate Guru. Whilst the editor is somewhat of a Guru himself, he will leave this divine gift to Amarjit and his healing powers which are quite phenomenal. Singh's spiritual powers and observations have astounded several people with his accurate predictions of their previously undisclosed ailments.....!!.



Singh and Shonu at the controls.

HIS BEST FOOT FORWARD



Joe Merchant sends this picture from Spain with Jill and Kelly Minter from their recent visit to Spain. Today, is one year on since the Pilots Pals Bar was closed. Joe is enjoying his retirement in the sunshine. Joe and Val look forward to visitors from the UK. Joe has asked the Bugle to provide his telephone number and Email address for those that may be planning a trip to Spain for a visit. For security reasons the Bugle does not publish data-base addresses on the web. However, please email your request to:

< john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk >

The details will be sent directly to your mail box.