



BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



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LE WEEKEND AVIATEUR's

Dan Griffith was a busy boy as usual on Saturday 18th July 2015 when he flew a Hurricane in a formation display at Fairford, then without stopping flew it back to Biggin Hill to be tucked up in its hangar for the night.

Without even a cup of tea he then climbed into our Civilian Coupé (Bunty) which after a false start due to the expert ground crew having forgotten to turn the fuel on, during the pre-flight.



We think it was really Bunty's way of giving Tony some much needed exercise!

Tiger (1) took off with our Miles M38 Messenger to perform Bunty's first proper air display routine along the seafront at Bexhill's Roaring 20's event.

On the return trip to Biggin, Carl Ward took a series of air to air photo's of Bunty and Dan forming on the Messenger.



After a welcome cup of tea, Dan and Tony leapt into the DH90 Dragonfly, (The Duchess) to arrive at Old Warden after a beautiful flight over London just before 1800 for the 'Shuttleworth' Best of British, evening flying display.

At approximately 20.20 the opening flypast of Dan's 10 minute routine in The Duchess, was a never seen before formation flypast in the company of her close cousin the 'Shuttleworth' owned de Havilland DH88 Comet Racer. After the display the Duchess was put to bed owing to heavy rain.



A truly wonderful opportunity to have a picture of these two rare flying machines was a spur of the moment decision by the Comet Racer pilot who saw an opportunity for the cameras of the spectators.

After a fairly short night stay in the Mansion House we were up at 06.45 to check the weather.

Fortunately the experts had got it wrong again. It was a beautiful morning, we strolled to the hangar after only a cup of tea and a biscuit for breakfast!. We pushed the Duchess out into the morning sun and after a formation of Geese had completed a couple of circuits of the airfield on their way, to breakfast, we taxied onto the airfield and were off the ground at 08.20, After another stunning vista over London we woke Billy and Jo' in the Tower, before landing at Biggin at 09.00

Dan had another busy day and was back in the Hurricane to return to Fairford for 09.30 for his formation flying in the afternoon.

Then he flew back to Biggin so he could display a Spitfire at Dover for SAGA holidays at 17.30.

As usual a big thanks to all at air traffic for all their help slotting our old aircraft in during their busy days, especially with the use of RW29 as it makes our operations much easier and safer. TH

SPOTTERS CAUSE CHAOS:

Monday 17th August, a sudden rush of plane spotties caused a large tailback of traffic along the airport road in anticipation of the arrival of participating aircraft (Spitfires) for 'Biggin75'. Tuesday 18th August. Hundreds of people parked along the airport road yet again, with police trying to move them on, more chaos.



1940's Recruitment drive.

Biggin 75 saw the largest gathering of Spifires and Hurrricanes since WWII and the day commemorated as the "The Hardest Day" when the most sorties were flown defending against the largest onslaught by the

Luftwaffe during 'The Battle of Britain.



18 Spitfires, 5 Hurricanes and one Mustang took part.

They formed 3 groups to fly 3 different sorties called Mortimer, Hamlyn and Grice to re-enact 3 Patrols, flying over other WWII airfields in the southeast of England along the routes.

This all ticket event was limited to 3000 people. After the aircraft returned, a walk through the dispersal area was organised allowing close up views and many photo opportunities with the aircraft.

The view of the dispersal area was one that is unlikely to be repeated.



.A friendly wave to the aircraft as spectators get a close up view



'Spitfires', the makers of history.



The Hurricane also a history maker



Two seater Spitfire.



P51 Mustang.



MANY FAMOUS FIGHTER PLANES OF WWII FLEW IN TO BIGGIN HILL TO THE APPLAUSE OF MANY VETERANS AND PEOPLE OF THOSE DARK DAYS FOR 'BATTLE 75'



The pleasant throb of the Merlin engines, of 16 aircraft arriving overhead the airfield, what a lovely sound. We doubt if there was any complaint of aircraft noise on this day of absolute memories of the few that protected our skies in that dark period of war.



Join the services today, a typical recruitment drive of the day.



Mind the spinning propeller!



Old times remembered amongst those who were probably there in one role or another many years ago



Airfield veterans



Everyone poses for the camera after their safe return from a sortie.



Squadron sramble, come on lads!

These were obviously exciting days and quite frightening as well!

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THE 3,000 TICKET HOLDERS FORMED AN ORDERLY QUEUE WHILST WAITING ACCESS



**NEXT MONTH THE BUGLE IS REPORTING FROM VERNON CITY AIRPORT IN CANADA
RESERVE YOUR READING SPACE
TAKE SOME TIME OFF**