



# BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT BUGLE

News from our Airport at Biggin Hill - established 2005



CLUB AND AIRPORT NEWS

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

In Ass. with BigginHillReunited.co.uk

ISSUE No. 35

[www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

**The Bugle is back**, following an unsettled period. We have a new style, heading, and will, hopefully, be able to keep the Pilots and airport users, past and present, of Biggin Hill, informed of the happenings in and around the airfield. First of all the editor and colleagues of the newly formed 'Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd' hope that all our friends from many years back, had an enjoyable Xmas and we wish you all the very best for 2008. We also thank you for standing by us during this unstable period and take on board your comments to a man. (*Women supporters included*). The fact we have no premises, our spirit is still there, as are our long memories for each other.

## B. H. AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB

Membership for the newly formed club remains as last years rates, with virtually all past benefits still available. The Club is a Limited Company and therefore has a bank account into which all membership fees are deposited securely for the future. It also provides the vehicle for future investment, should airport premises become available needing further financial support from members and other interested parties. Current members of Pilots Pals are automatically eligible to join, but others who are not past or present airport users or workers cannot be accepted. For full details, see the new club's website ([www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)).

Cheques should be made payable to *Biggin Hill Airport Social Club*. Any future premises on the airfield

will be arranged with security of tenure in mind. However, having previously been allocated new premises for the old club in any future development plans, which were lost when Joe had to close, and we now have a lot of ground to recover. Whatever we do to achieve our goal to return to the airport, we will make sure anything done is in the best long term interests of the members.

## MEMBERS AT THE OLD JAIL

This meeting place has become one of the centres of attraction for airport users and members – it is warm and cosy with a very good restaurant.



## USE OF THE SQUASH CLUB

Whilst we enjoyed social membership at the Squash Club for the interim period (*ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007*) to remain using their premises after then, we will individually have to take up their own membership directly to avoid upsetting their club members, who pay £20 or more, depending on the category of membership chosen. For all our club members, there is a discount of £5 available against the chosen level of membership, if they

want to carry on using the Squash Club's bar after 1<sup>st</sup> January. The Squash Club did us proud by giving us somewhere to go, when the old premises at the airport closed, when Joe left to take up his retirement in Spain, for which we wish him well. The club is open all day, with good food available at both lunchtimes and in the evenings.

## FLYING CLUB DOWN UNDER

Bob Needham sends this picture of another Biggin Hill Pilot friend (Dave Milstead) who recently paid a visit to Bob at his flying club. Dave is standing on Bob's left and according to Bob, is looking glum because he is not holding a VB (Victorian Bitter)



Ex Biggin Hill'ite Bob spent several years flying in Rhodesia before being forced to move to Australia. Bob says any members going to OZ (NSW) for a holiday are most welcome to look him up.

## SCOUNDRELS OF AVIATION

The following picture of these two look-a-likes who claim to have exceptional aviation experience should be avoided at all cost. (*For you, that is!*). Their flying stories will leave you in jaw-dropping amazement, wondering how they survived their first story. Not only, will their twin-like looks deceive

you, but you will be left with some



confusion, as to who you actually bought a drink for. So to save confusion, you will buy each one a drink. Because their stories are so true to life, you are obliged to keep listening, and they won't stop until you run out of money. Cheers !! Have I told you this one ?? You will dig a very big hole for yourself, and must be careful about being friendly with these amiable types who look unassuming and friendly !

### BIGGIN'S MAGIC MEMORIES

During the coming year we will endeavour to bring back some historic memories from bygone days, when we shared wonderful days and nights on the airfield, with some images **through the hangar doors, which are always open.** "A classic quote from Peter and Kate Elliott" Below - Mrs Hood, Mike Hood & Cobby as they exit the **'Hangar Doors'**.



These people were always at the airfield come hail or shine, winter and fall, the urn simmering in the corner ready to make a brew. The aircraft would be lined up ready for the days flying before retiring for a ritual pre-flight tea session akin to a Japanese tea party, but without the sequence of dignity, or traditional dress !



Mike Hood pictured here with the editor on the IOW. Mike owned the DH Rapide pictured behind us in which he did pleasure flights at Biggin Hill and the Isle of Wight during the summer months. The editor's beard has since faded to grey since those far off days – (see adjacent picture). Sadly Mike is no longer with us. *Wonderful memories of days long gone.*



The editor poses for a French aviation magazine at one of the many air shows at Biggin Hill.

### THE ' SOUTH OF FRANCE'



The editor again, pictured with Ted Wein (*Turbo Ted*) in Cannes, a couple of weeks later. Everyone seemed fly to here regularly for weekends and the many restaurants Sadly, Ted a good *entertaining friend* has also departed to the big airfield in the sky – *god bless.*

### A MAGIC DESIGN FEATURE



After years of consideration, the editor, who took this picture at



Biggin Hill, many years ago, has finally concluded, that they got their inspiration from the Red Arrows with their team of eight **'Star Burst'** during a Biggin Hill Air Show. All these stories are told with an element of truth, and should be believed, as there is more to come.

### PARKING AT THE AIR SHOW

The secret is to arrive long before the cars and people to get the best spot – can you imagine being parked anywhere near this when it prepares to lift off !!



The late Mark Campbell, arranging a parking position for this USAF Chinook Helicopter after landing on runway 29. *A very big machine!*

Whilst we at the Bugle delve into our archives, we still welcome pictures and stories – send direct to [johnbrya@jbplstd.demon.co.uk](mailto:johnbrya@jbplstd.demon.co.uk)