

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter, which is being sent to you from sunny Portugal... The August edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is also available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

Please keep those stories coming in for inclusion in future issues. Every month JB finds things to write, quite how, I don't know! (his direct email address is [johnbryan@jbpltstd.demon.co.uk](mailto:johnbryan@jbpltstd.demon.co.uk), or you can send items directly to me to pass on)

#### EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

Thanks to those who have sent amended email addresses, and suggested new members, and of course, welcome also to those that have recently added their names to the database.... For current member names see <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> and go to the link to the database membership..

#### LOSSES

July has not been a good month, with 3 old Biggin Hill'ites passing on, and added to the Roll of Honour at [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

##### Mike Markey

Mike will be known to many as a previous owner of a PA28 G-ASKT, and also of a Piper Vagabond G-ALGA. He passed away in mid-July aged 80.

##### Barrie Lawless

Barrie learnt to fly at West Essex, and flew at S&KFC before joining Fairflight, flying the Dove's, Heron's, and Bandeirantes. After leaving Biggin Hill, flew a Citation before moving to Monarch, then moved temporarily to Saudi, returning to fly for DanAir. Having moved onto their 737 fleet he found himself in BA, where he remained until he lost his licence at age 55 due to diabetes. Moving to France with his family he remained there until succumbing to his illness on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, after a period of very uncertain health.

Barrie made contact with the database only in May 2010 and was really hoping to make it over here to meet up for a beer. Sadly that wasn't to be....

##### Graham White

Graham had been ill for some time, in Spain, where he lived with his wife and sons. He passed away suddenly in hospital on July 18<sup>th</sup>, after initially appearing to be improving..

Graham originally raced in Formula 3 before learning to fly in 1968 at Air Touring, where he subsequently became an instructor. His first commercial jobs were flying in the Volkswagen Dove, flying for Air Logistics, then moved to Executive Wings, before moving to McAlpines at Luton. Subsequently he flew based in the Sudan and Singapore, before returning to the UK with Channel Express until retiring.

He will be remembered well by many of the old Biggin Hill'ites

#### BIGGIN HILL INTERNATIONAL AIR FAIR SHOCK

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010, just about a week after one of the most successful Air Fair's of recent years, Biggin Hill Airport Ltd made a completely surprise and shock announcement that, without warning they were terminating the contract that Air Displays International Ltd had to run the annual air show. See the following link for the full press release of the statement as presented to ADI and the press [http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/BHA\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/BHA_press_release.pdf)

The Air Fair was started in 1963 by Sqd Ldr J R (Jock) Maitland, who at the time leased the airport from various authorities until the London Borough of Bromley assumed responsibility for the airport in around 1974. This change gave Jock, and the airport, significantly more security and the airport and the air show continued to be run very successfully by Jock. In 1988 Bromley were forced to privatise the airport and it was taken over by Airports UK, a subsidiary of the BAA. As part of the purchase, Air Displays International Ltd. were granted a 25-year license to run the Air Fair. In 1994 Regional Airports Ltd. (run by Andrew Walters) took over the airport from Airports UK along with the obligation to allow Air Displays International to continue to run the Air Fair for the remainder of the contract term.

This contract therefore had just 3 years to run, and it was anticipated that a renewal would be unlikely at that time.

This shock decision by Andrew Walters has taken the Air Show world by storm, and is probably one of the worst PR moves made by the airport since they took over the running of the Airport. Whilst it was known that there was a condition within the agreement that the business remained owned by the Maitland family, the wording required a Maitland to hold a majority shareholding. Since Jock handed over the reins for the day to day running of the show to Colin Hitchins more than 5 years ago, this has never been the case, as shares were evenly spread amongst the whole Maitland family, who continued to own it 100%. So, what has suddenly changed?

The decision to terminate the contract from a successful show organiser in this way may well be legally acceptable, but few people seem to feel that it is morally the correct thing to do, and certainly not without prior discussion with the licence holder. There was never any question with any authorities that the show organisation was not absolutely compliant with all legislation and no legal changes inferred in the statement were required by any authority.

The decision to terminate the contract has also left the local community reeling as they have always considered the Air Fair “their annual air show” – It is apparent that this decision has certainly not endeared the airport operator to the local community.

The airport have asked owners and tenants to participate in a carefully worded market survey, that would appear to have a clear objective of producing the answers that the airport operator was seeking.. This survey can be accessed at the following link (open only until 2<sup>nd</sup> August)

[http://www.shape-the-future.com/p3s/survey\\_page.asp?survey\\_id=348&page\\_id=1](http://www.shape-the-future.com/p3s/survey_page.asp?survey_id=348&page_id=1)

Such a shame that Andrew Walters found it necessary to do this without even any prior discussion with ADI. Would it have actually been too much to allow the contract to run its course, with just 3 shows to go? At least it would have been good to see Jock’s legacy achieve it’s 50<sup>th</sup> Show...

The formal response by Air Displays International Ltd can be seen in the following press release [http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/ADI\\_press\\_release.pdf](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/ADI_press_release.pdf)

It seems that many in our midst who have constantly warned that all users should be wary of any business dealing with Andrew Walters, may have been right after all.....

It is perhaps interesting to note that the Facebook group, “Friends of Biggin Hill Airport” (ironically started by Colin Hitchins of ADI to try to foster support for the airport before they shot him in the back!) has managed just 264 members since April, whereas the Facebook group started by a young enthusiast of the air show called “Remembering Biggin Hill International Air Fair” has over 570 members in only 3 weeks... Might tell you something Mr Walters.....!

For those who use facebook, can I suggest you pass the details of this group to their friends and contacts who may feel aggrieved about the airport’s actions, but are not sure how to show it....

## THE AIRPORT

Nothing to report this month, well nothing favourable anyway.

## BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD

With the Air Fair now over (probably for good), membership has now reopened. To those that have already renewed, thank you so much for your support.

That's about it for this month...

John Willis - Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally:

The following text was sent to me by Bob Needham from Australia. It is written by a Qantas Airline's pilot, and is I feel a very well written text that represents the views of many less racially motivated people who genuinely are worried, but not blaming anyone and everyone for these concerns. I know it refers to Australia, but the sentiments remain the same the world over, and certainly here in the UK and Europe. I don't believe anyone will find it offensive, but apologise in advance if they do.. I thought it said how I feel about this issue far better than I ever could.....

QUOTE.....

'YOU WORRY ME!' By Qantas Airlines Pilot - Captain John Maniscalco

I've been trying to say this since 911 in New York , but you worry me. I wish you didn't. I wish when I walked down the streets of this country that I love, that your colour and culture still blended with the beautiful human landscape we enjoy in this country. But you don't blend in anymore. I notice you, and it worries me. I notice you because I can't help it anymore.

People from your homelands, professing to be Muslims, have been attacking and killing my fellow citizens and our friends for more than 20 years now. I don't fully understand their grievances and hate, but I know that nothing can justify the inhumanity of their attacks.

On September 11, ARAB-MUSLIMS hijacked four jetliners in the U. S. They cut the throats of women in front of children and brutally stabbed to death others. They took control of those planes and crashed them into buildings killing thousands of proud fathers, loving sons, wise grandparents, elegant daughters, best friends, favourite coaches, fearless public servants, and mothers of all religions and faiths including Muslims

The Palestinians celebrated, the Iraqis were overjoyed as was most of the Muslim world. So, I notice you now. I don't want to be worried. I don't want to be consumed by the same rage and hate and prejudice that has destroyed the souls of these terrorists. But I need your help. As a rational Australian, trying to protect my country and family in an irrational and unsafe world, I must know how to tell the difference between you, and the Arab/Muslim terrorist.

How do I differentiate between the true Arab/Muslim Australians and the Arab/Muslim terrorists in our communities who are attending our schools, enjoying our parks, and living in OUR communities under the protection of OUR democratic government, while they plot the next attack that will slaughter these same good neighbours and children?

The events of September 11 in the U. S. changed the answer. It is not my responsibility to determine which of you embraces our great country, with ALL of its religions, with ALL of its different citizens, with all of its faults. It is time for every Muslim in this country to determine it for me.

I want to know, I demand to know, and I have a right to know, whether or not you love Australia . Do you pledge allegiance to our flag? Do you proudly display it in front of your house, or on your car? Do you pray in your many daily prayers that Allah will bless this nation, that He will protect and prosper

it? Or do you pray that Allah will destroy it in one of your Jihad's? Are you thankful for the freedom that only this nation affords? A freedom that was paid for by the blood of hundreds of thousands of diggers who gave their lives for this country? Are you willing to preserve this freedom by also paying the ultimate sacrifice? Do you love Australia? If this is your commitment, then I need YOU to start letting ME know about it.

Your Muslim leaders in this nation should be flooding the media at this time with hard facts on your faith, and what hard actions you are taking as a community and as a religion to protect Australia. Please, no more benign overtures of regret for the death of the innocent because I worry about who you regard as innocent. No more benign overtures of condemnation for the unprovoked attacks because I worry about what is unprovoked to you. I am not interested in any more sympathy. I am ONLY interested in action. What will you do for Australia - our great country - at this time of crisis, at this time of war?

I want to see Muslims waving the AUSTRALIAN flag in the streets. I want to hear you chanting 'Allah Bless Australia' I want to see young Muslim men enlisting in the military. I want to see a commitment of money, time, and emotion to the victims of this butchering and to this nation as a whole.

The Australian Federal Police has a list of over 100 people they want to talk to regarding potential terrorism. Many of these people live and socialise right now in Muslim communities. You know them. You know where they are. Hand them over to the police, now! But I have seen little even approaching this sort of action. Instead I have seen an already closed and secretive community close even tighter. You have disappeared from the streets. You have posted armed security guards at your facilities. You have threatened lawsuits. You have screamed for protection from reprisals.

The very few Muslim representatives that HAVE appeared in the media were defensive and equivocating. They seemed more concerned with making sure that Australia proves who was responsible before taking action. They seemed more concerned with protecting their fellow Muslims from violence directed towards them in Australia and abroad than they did with supporting our country and denouncing 'leaders' like Khadafi, Hussein, Farrakhan, and Arafat.

If the true teachings of Islam proclaim tolerance and peace and love for all people, then I want chapter and verse from the Koran and statements from popular Muslim leaders to back it up. What good is it if the teachings in the Koran are good, and pure, and true, when your 'leaders' are teaching fanatical interpretations, terrorism, and intolerance? It matters little how good Islam SHOULD BE if huge numbers of the world's Muslims interpret the teachings of Mohammed incorrectly and adhere to a degenerative form of the religion. A form that has been demonstrated to us over and over again. A form whose structure is built upon a foundation of violence, death, and suicide. A form whose members are recruited from the prisons around the world. A form whose members (some as young as five years old) are seen day after day, week in and week out, year after year, marching in the streets around the world, burning effigies of our leaders, burning the Australian/American/British flags, shooting weapons into the air. A form whose members convert from a peaceful religion, only to take up arms against Australia, the USA, United Kingdom, - countries of their birth. A form whose rules are so twisted, that their travelling members refuse to show their faces at airport security checkpoints, in the name of Islam.

We will NEVER allow the attacks of Bali, September 11, or any others for that matter, to take away that which is so precious to us: Our democratic rights, freedoms, and fun loving way of life. I want to know where every Muslim in this country stands and I think it is my right and the right of every true citizen of this country to demand it. A right paid for by the blood of thousands of my brothers and sisters who died protecting the very system of government that is protecting you and your family.

I am pleading with you to let me know. I WANT YOU HERE AS MY BROTHER, my neighbour, my friend, as a fellow Australian. But there can be no grey areas or ambivalence regarding your allegiance, and it is up to YOU, to show ME, where YOU stand. Until then. 'YOU WORRY ME!'

.....UNQUOTE

If anyone else has good examples of, for example: - Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or simply any unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...) )