

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

JB's February edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> To view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.

JANUARY WEATHER

I am finding it very difficult to say anything positive about this month's weather. Apart from a very few beautiful days, we seem to have had most adverse conditions all in one single calendar month – virtually everything except sandstorms!!!

The only thing we can really hope for is a better February – I hope!

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Biggin Hill Airport is 100 years old this year!

Lots happening throughout this very special year to commemorate the occasion. For full details, see Colin Hitchins' (Airport Community Manager) section below for some of the Biggin100 events.

And of course, follow the Facebook and Twitter accounts for the airport for frequent updates.

MARQUEE AT THE FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

Following on from a previous Newsletter item, I am pleased to say that we have confirmed the availability of a User's and Tenants "Hurricane" Marquee for Sunday 20th August 2017 at the Festival of Flight. (The show this year promises to be a much bigger event, spread this time over the two days of 19th and 20th August)

As previously, the Marquee will be positioned right on the display line with a garden area from which to watch the show. There will be a pay bar offering very competitive prices (and the bar price list will be published well ahead of the show so we all know what is available and what prices etc.).

As before, the use of the marquee will be restricted to a maximum of 200 persons and once tickets are sold, no more will be available.

The price will be £25 per adult, £15 per child aged between 5 and 15, and £5 per child under 5. Additionally there will be the need to purchase show entry tickets.

Having said that, we have a special offer this year - a discount of £5 per above ticket where they are ordered and paid for prior to 30th June (ie. £20, £10, and free).

Tickets to the marquee will be exclusively available via myself, email john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk and postal address as shown on the form.

If you would like tickets reserved, please send your completed application form (attached to this email) back to me as soon as possible, together with your payment and a self-addressed and

stamped envelope to enable passes to be dispatched once available. Your order and payment will be acknowledged by email.

Remember passes will be reserved on a strictly first come, first served basis. Once the 200 allocation has been fully sold any further applications received will be returned.

VULCAN XH558 AND ADAMS AVIATION

At almost 65 years of age the Avro, or Hawker Siddeley, Vulcan is one of the most iconic British aircraft ever built. Its radical large delta-wing design was a world-beating success and led directly to both Concorde and the Space Shuttle. Although designed as a bomber its performance and agility was aligned more to that of a fighter and, in later years, always stole the show when appearing at Air Displays.

Sadly those days are gone and the last remaining flying example of this remarkable piece of engineering, marked XH558 and known as "The Spirit of Great Britain", which did its farewell tour in 2015, now requires care in its old age. Says Adams Aviation CEO, Stephen Gosling, "With the support of Concorde Battery Corporation, Adams Aviation is very happy to be involved in donating their batteries in order to keep this important aircraft powered.

In many ways even more importantly, in light of the fact that the aircraft will be losing its home in less than 3 months, and will then be spending time outside in all that the British weather offers, Adams Aviation has also given the Charitable Trust, who looks after its well-being, a quantity of ACF-50, the leading approved anti-corrosion solution for aircraft.

It's no easy feat to ensure the future of this aircraft, or any other important piece of our flying history, and we recognise there are many contentious issues surrounding XH558. Obviously there are differing opinions on how the current situation has been reached but, for us, the important thing is trying to make sure that this aircraft does not end up as merely a mention in the history books. With the changes being put upon future flying displays too, it seems even more important to try pulling together to help save our aviation heritage".

Anyone who has seen the Vulcan fly would surely not want to deny future generations of being able to hear its unmistakable "howl", even if just on the ground?

For more information on the survival plan for XH558, and a link to their donation page, go to the Vulcan to the Sky Trust web site: <http://www.vulcantothesky.org/>

Thanks so much to our friends at Adams Aviation for their efforts to help preserve this wonderful aircraft, such an important part of our aviation heritage.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USERS

If you would like me to include your business or personal comments in the Newsletter, either on a regular basis, or just occasionally, please drop me an email with your contact details and the requested contribution and I will try to include it in the next Newsletter. I will acknowledge anything sent to me for inclusion. (Please email: John Willis at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from the Falcon Camp.

Well it's been a bit chilly this month! However, that hasn't stopped us from de-icing our aircraft and getting out there on those cold, crisp winter days.

All will be delighted to hear that we have managed to conduct a few Night Ratings this year already. The Seneca has been busy and currently is gearing up to take a professional pilot on their Multi Engine re-valuation, so don't forget to do yours here too!

The PPL market is showing peaks and troughs as always. Recent legislation with changes to RTF's have had many a question come to my door.

Recent calm days have allowed those students waiting for some solo time to get back in the air, and what a stunning array of days we had. Alas the cold has returned, but we look forward to more crisp days and warm chats with all of you, so head over any time.

Washing you clear skies.

Stay blessed
Anoop Singh Bamrah

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

We are now very much into the finer detail for Biggin100, with our centenary launch event on the 13th February when we have some unique visitors from the aviation world and the local community visiting us, keep an eye on our social media feeds, @lbhacommunity, for more details. But the main focus for 2017 will be the Festival of Flight which has now been moved to the 19th & 20th August to allow us to return to the traditional format of a two-day show. Indications are that the display line up will be the strongest since the show returned in 2014, we should be able to release details very soon once the UK and overseas military confirm participation.

I know that John Willis is keen to start promoting the Hurricane Enclosure which will have its traditional frontline position in the hospitality area, we are planning to introduce a new garden bar facility with pre-published prices to take away the strain of carry your drinks in. With the ever increasing number of people working on the airport we expect tickets for the enclosure to be snapped up pretty quick.

A new event for 2017 called Big on Business which is expected to be the largest business networking event in the South East, possibly the UK, with over 300 businesses delegates being hosted in the Spitfire Enclosure on the Friday of the Festival of Flight weekend, if you are interested in getting involved get in touch.

Looking towards the end of the Biggin100 events we are planning a Battle of `Britain charity golf day on the 11th September at the West Kent Golf Course, we will be looking to attract sponsorship for each of the 18 holes and up to 24 teams of four, I will let you have more details as they become available.

Finally, the airport has commissioned a Biggin100 coffee table book, if you have a story or pictures that we can include, please get in touch with Andy Pawsey who would be delighted to hear from you andyaircommes@btinternet.com.

Best wishes
Colin Hitchins
Community Engagement Manager

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

January has represented a few fine frosty days for flying although fewer than might be expected took advantage of this, perhaps due to the financial constraints imposed by Christmas. Meanwhile Business Aviation bounced back after a quiet December and revenues are up on

forecast, helped by our new de-icing machine which has been invaluable in getting our customers away on time on frosty mornings.

Work continues on the new terminal hangar with the site preparation phase now substantially complete. The IRVR system will hopefully be signed off for use shortly after a period of testing and verification over the autumn months. Once this is complete we will be able to offer touch down, mid-point and stop end RVR readings. Runway 29/11, now permanently closed, will shortly be remarked as a taxiway and signage and lighting updated. A plan to inform this work is currently under construction.

Recent foggy days have provided challenging conditions for aviators. Most light aircraft operators are sensible enough to understand the inherent danger in single engine IFR operations in zero/zero conditions. However, one operator who will remain nameless, elected to depart in a single engine aircraft in RVR conditions that grounded the business jet operators. At best this was grossly misplaced faith in the engineering of a single engine aircraft and at worst is was negligent, selfish and stupid. The airport will progress this matter with the CAA for further action and SANARB will decide what sanction to impose. For obvious reasons, I urge all aircraft operators, single, multi-engine, turbo prop or jet pilots to observe and operate only within the published aerodrome and EASA minima.

Hopefully February will provide some suitable days for flying. Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated list of database members can be seen at <http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk> Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. If you know others who are not on the list but are eligible to join (i.e. if they currently fly from the airport, or work there, or ever have done so) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

Thank you very much to all of you who have generously made financial donations in support of the Newsletter and the database upkeep. Your support really is appreciated.

If anyone else would like to show their support, please make any cheques payable to “John Willis” and send them to “Biggin Hill Airport Users Database, 26 Churchside Close, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3QF”. If you would prefer not to use a cheque, but would still like to contribute, please contact me and I will give you bank details to which you can make a transfer.

All contributions will be acknowledged by email – thank you..

That's it for this month.....
John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: As usual, a few amusing stories that, according to the many comments I receive about this section, is very popular amongst the membership. (As always, no offence to anyone is intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions....)

QUOTE.....

A bit of Generic Aviation Humour.

1. Every take-off is optional. Every landing is mandatory.
2. If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. That is, unless you keep pulling the stick all the way back, then they get bigger again.
3. Flying isn't dangerous. Crashing is what's dangerous.
4. It's always better to be down here wishing you were up there than up there wishing you were down here.
5. The ONLY time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
6. The propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane used to keep the pilot cool. When it stops, you can actually watch the pilot start sweating.
7. When in doubt, hold on to your altitude. No one has ever collided with the sky.
8. A 'good' landing is one from which you can walk away. A 'great' landing is one after which they can use the plane again.
9. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.
10. You know you've landed with the wheels up if it takes full power to taxi to the ramp.
11. The probability of survival is inversely proportional to the angle of arrival. Large angle of arrival, small probability of survival and vice versa.
12. Never let an aircraft take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier.
13. Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be another airplane going in the opposite direction. Reliable sources also report that mountains have been known to hide out in clouds.
14. Always try to keep the number of landings you make equal to the number of take offs you've made.
15. There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately no one knows what they are.
16. You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck.
17. Helicopters can't fly; they merely beat the air into submission.
18. If all you can see out of the window is ground that's going round and round and all you can hear is commotion coming from the passenger compartment, things are not at all as they should be.
19. In the ongoing battle between objects made of aluminium going hundreds of miles per hour and the ground going zero miles per hour, the ground has yet to lose.
20. Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment.
21. It's always a good idea to keep the pointy end going forward as much as possible.
22. Keep looking around. There's always something you've missed.
23. Remember, gravity is not just a good idea. It's the law. And it's not subject to repeal.

24. The four most useless things to a pilot are the altitude above you, runway behind you, gas back at the airport, and a tenth of a second ago.

25. There are old pilots and there are bold pilots. There are, however, no old, bold pilots.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Martha recently lost her husband. She had him cremated and brought his ashes home.

Picking up the urn that he was in, she poured him out on the patio table. Then, while tracing her fingers in the ashes, she started talking to him....

You know that dishwasher you promised me, but never bought me? I bought it with the insurance money!"

She paused for a minute tracing her fingers in the ashes then said, "Remember that car you promised me, but never bought me? Well, I also bought it with the insurance money!"

Again, she paused for a few minutes and while tracing her fingers in the ashes she said, "Remember that diamond ring you promised me, but never bought me? I bought that, too, with the insurance money!"

Finally, still tracing her fingers in the ashes, She said, "Remember that blow job I promised you?"

"Here it comes.."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Amazing how your values change as you age!

An elderly lady was standing at the railing of the cruise ship holding her hat tight so that it would not blow away in the wind.

A gentleman approached her and said, "Pardon me, madam, I do not intend to be forward but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this high wind?"

"Yes, I know," said the lady. "I need both my hands to hold onto this hat."

"But madam, you must know that you are not wearing any panties and your privates are exposed!" said the gentleman in earnest.

The woman looked down, then back up at the man and replied, "Sir, anything you see down there is 75 years old. I just bought this hat yesterday!"

While Peter was sunbathing naked at the beach at Noosa, for the sake of civility, and to keep it from getting sunburned, he had a hat over his private parts.

A woman walks past and says, snickering, "If you were a gentleman, you'd lift your hat."

He raised an eyebrow and replied, "Madam, if you were better looking, it would lift itself."

A man has reached old age when he is cautioned to slow down by his Doctor instead of by the police.

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.

Old age is when you have stopped growing at both ends, and have begun to grow in the middle.

Old age is having a choice of two temptations and choosing the one that will get you home earlier.

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

You're getting old when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

There are important questions to be answered about recent LGBT bathroom legislation and whether transgender people will be permitted to use a restroom of the gender that they "identify" with or be required to use the restroom of their biological gender.

If the latter, will public restrooms be required to have a Genital Inspection Station posted at the entrance to all public restrooms?

Who will have to pay these Pecker Checkers, the people using the restroom, or the entity that owns the restroom? And how much money will a Pecker Checker be paid to check peckers?

Or, do we pay a Pecker Checker by the number of peckers checked?

How many peckers can a Pecker Checker check if a Pecker Checker could check peckers?

What has this country come to when the U.S. Department of Labor has to create a new job description of "Politically Correct Restroom Service Inspectors"?

Want to guess their motto???

"If You gotta pee - We gotta see!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man and a woman were sitting side by side in first class of an airplane. They were total strangers to each other.

The woman sneezed, took out a tissue, gently wiped her nose, and then visibly shuddered for ten or fifteen seconds.

The man went back to reading his book. A few minutes later, the woman sneezed again, took a tissue, wiped her nose, and then shuddered violently once more.

Although assuming the woman might have a cold, the man was still curious about the shuddering. A few minutes passed when the woman sneezed yet again. As before she took a tissue, wiped her nose, her body shaking even more than before.

Unable to restrain his curiosity, the man turned to the woman and said, "I couldn't help but notice that you have sneezed three times, wiped your nose, and then shuddered violently. Are you okay?"

The woman replied, "I am sorry if I disturbed you. I have a rare medical condition. Whenever I sneeze, I have an orgasm."

The man, more than a bit embarrassed, was still curious. "I have never heard of that condition before," he said... "Are you taking anything for it?"

The woman nodded. "Yea..... black pepper."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman asks her husband at breakfast time, "Would you like some bacon and eggs, a slice of toast, and maybe some grapefruit juice and coffee?"

He declines. "Thanks for asking, but, I'm not hungry right now. It's this Viagra," he says. "It's really taken the edge off my appetite."

At lunchtime, she asks him if he'd like something. How about a bowl of soup, homemade muffins, or a cheese sandwich?"

He declines. "The Viagra," he says, "really trashes my desire for food."

Come dinner time, she asks if he wants anything to eat. "Would you like a juicy rib eye steak and some scrumptious apple pie? Or maybe a rotisserie chicken or tasty stir fry?"

He declines again. "No," he says, "it's got to be the Viagra. I'm still not hungry."

"Well," she says, "Would you mind letting me get up? I'm starving".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to the pub for a drink with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go down the pub with me today? We will have a good time."

But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going down the pub with me?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's box and shouted,

"Hey, you in there!

Would you like to go to the pub with me?

This time, a little voice came out of the box,

"I heard you the first time!

I'm putting my f##king shoes on!"

.....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 funny, unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest or amuse our readers, please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...))