

Hi everyone

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

You are reminded that, even if you ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle", by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

MARCH WEATHER

Somewhat changeable flying conditions this month, varying between beautiful clear and smooth flying conditions, through to excessively high and gusty winds, unfortunately predominantly right across the one remaining runway.

Clubs and private owners certainly have taken full advantage when the conditions have allowed it, to get airborne. By the time you read this, the clocks will have just changed, and we have those much lighter and lengthening evenings. Back, we hope, to Barbecue weather very soon!

BIGGIN HILL R/T PROCEDURES

Following a discussion at the recent Safety and Noise Abatement Board (SANARB) and at the Tenants and Users meeting, the SATCO has drawn our attention to the concerns that R/T procedures and Biggin have become very varied and causing a few problems, particularly during busy periods.

In conjunction with Bill Robinson, the following set of guidelines has been drawn up for use at Biggin to minimise the length of calls, particularly when preparing for and during departures.....

R/T Calls - Assumes Aircraft has been booked out before the call:

Biggin G..... Local / Circuits / Outbound / Taxi (circle the one you need)

ATC RESPONSE: G..... Pass your message

Biggin G..... PPR Numberis a at QNH..... Request Taxi

ATC RESPONSE G..... instructions including runway in use and taxiing route

(TO BE READ BACK!)

Correct word to use for description of detail

TAXI = only use when moving from one place on the airport to another

CIRCUITS = when intending to fly the circuit pattern

LOCAL = used when the flight is departing the ATZ and will return subsequently without landing elsewhere

DEPARTURE = leaving Biggin to land at another airport

INBOUND = arrival at Biggin from another airport

REJOIN = returning to the airfield from a local (non-landing) flight

Note: it is not necessary to add the area when flying local, nor the destination when flying to another airport - that information is already on the ATC strip generated from the PPR request...

Even if PPR has already been obtained, if going first for fuel, that should just be the TAXI request - do not call for the detail until you have restarted at the pumps and are now ready to actually move for that flight

In essence though, the procedure is designed to keep calls as brief as possible, whilst letting others know what type you are, and where on the airport you are.

It is very important not to just launch into the message on the first call as they could be on the phone and not pick up on it all

Thanks for your understanding. As Bill says, this should avoid the frustration of the controller giving full taxiing instructions to an aircraft, only to be told that they are taxiing to self-refuelling first, or being unable to issue a landing clearance to an aircraft because a lengthy call is started on the first contact.

NEW FEES ETC. AT BIGGIN FOR LIGHT AIRCRAFT

By the time you read this Newsletter, the much publicised new landing fees and restrictions will have come into force.

For small aircraft the minimum published landing fee is now £41 plus VAT. That new rate will also apply to each touch and go if carrying out circuits.

After some discussions however, the airport have agreed that "Biggin Hill based" aircraft that pay monthly on Direct Debit will be eligible for a 10% discount on the standard rates – ie. £36.90 plus VAT = £44.28 – additionally it was recognised that some pilots, in order to maintain a valid licence, occasionally do need to carry out some circuits. To help with this, the airport has agreed that those same Biggin Hill based aircraft, paying by Direct Debit, will receive a 30% discount on the standard rate – ie. each touch and go will be charged at £28.70 plus VAT = £34.44

Additional changes at Biggin Hill, with effect from 1st April, restrict all operations to fully licenced pilots, and will not allow any solo flights by students at the airport – of course, this will not prevent students from flying into and out of Biggin Hill with an instructor.

NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT BIGGIN

As publicised in the last edition of the Newsletter, Biggin Hill Airport's new CEO, David Winstanley, has taken up his position this month.

Many users have had the opportunity of meeting David during this month. Many points of view have been expressed, and David has indicated that hearing these ideas and views from so many has been quite enlightening and useful. Obviously he can't be expected to be able make changes that will satisfy everyone's ideas, but he has shown a willingness to listen, which is a good thing of course. He certainly has shown that he wishes to continue the process of communicating well with users, as indeed did Will Curtis.

We would all like to welcome David to our historic and very famous airport, and hope that he will enjoy his new role here.

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)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

Greetings from Alouette

The club strives on; now recognised by the CAA as a Designated Training Organisation (DTO).

We offer first rate training and facilities for you to gain and keep your licence, as well as being in a friendly atmosphere with like minded people who socialise at our own clubhouse bar.

So now, since last night, the clocks give us more daylight hours so come and check us out.

Either look at our website www.alouette.org.uk or pop round to our clubhouse this coming Wednesday 7:30 for 8pm You're all welcome.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from all at Falcon

Another month and some unsettled weather but our students making the most of a few cracking days.

Another 2 of our fleet have received amazing paint schemes thanks to RAS Completions based here at Biggin.

The local councillors and schools await the results of their local charity drives with trial lesson vouchers from EFG gifted as part of our community initiative. Good luck to all the future pilots and engineers we hope to inspire.

As always Falcon is at the beating heart of training the engineers and pilots going on to future careers both in the airline's and in business aviation.

Well done to Christian Darbyshire on securing his work experience placement with EFG. As a local student he has tirelessly supported his local school and with aspirations to gain not only his PPL but much, much more. We welcome him to the team.

Our latest batch of university students on their multi month industrial placements started this month.

By last count Falcon is proud to have engineers, pilots and operations staff at Bombardier, Zenith, Arena, Virgin, British Airways & DHL to name but a few. We are proud of you all.

So let us look forward to clearer days and calmer skies.

Thanking you all for your support.

Best Regards
Singh, Shonu, Anoop
and all at Falcon & EFG

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As I sit here looking out across the airfield and put pen to paper for this newsletter for the first time, it has struck me that I have been in post 26 days yet I already feel at home! This feeling of being 'at home' is not as a result of my ability to adapt to new surroundings but it's down to the very warm welcome I have received from the Biggin Hill team and the wider Biggin Hill community. It is also due, in no small part, to the handover I received from Will Curtis and it would be very remiss of me not to start by acknowledging the huge contribution Will has made to the success of Biggin Hill in his tenure as Managing Director.

Returning to the present, I join an Airport with huge potential and a future which I can assure you will be as distinguished as its past. Preserving our past whilst delivering our future is no easy task and we all have a role to play in ensuring Biggin Hill continues to serve its customers, partners and local community. As Will mentioned in his last entry in the newsletter, light aviation will always have a future at Biggin Hill; however, that future is balanced against the increasing costs of regulation, development and provision of airfield infrastructure and services.

The 'Biggin Hill Story' is compelling; significant capital investment over the past decade has attracted global business with over 70 companies employing over 1,300 people on the 500-acre site. I am pleased to report that such development continues at pace with the Hotel, Aerospace College, 03 GPS approach and Hotel taxiway works all proceeding well.

I will continue to get my feet under the table and hopefully get an opportunity to meet as many of you as I can as soon as I can.

Cheers
David Winstanley

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thank you to members that continue to provide us with additional names of old Biggin Hill'ites who we had missed. The Roll of Honour can be seen on the website at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

(Anyone who flew from, or worked, or even socialised regularly at the airport since it became a civilian base in 1959/60 and who has passed away, should ideally be included on there. If you know of someone whose name belongs on the Roll, please email me with their names, and details at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

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.

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.....

Charlie was installing a new door and found that one of the hinges was missing.

He asked his wife Mary if she would go to B&Q and pick up a hinge.

Mary agreed to go. While she was waiting for the manager to finish serving a customer, her eye caught a beautiful bathroom tap.

When the manager was finished, Mary asked him, "How much is that tap?"

The manager replied, "That's a gold plated tap and the price is £500

Mary exclaimed, "My goodness, that is a very expensive tap. It's certainly out of my price bracket."

She then proceeded to describe the hinge that Charlie had sent her to buy.

The manager said that he had them in stock and went into the storeroom to get one.

From the storeroom the manager yelled. "Ma'am, did you wanna screw for the hinge?"

Mary paused for a moment and then shouted back, "No, but I will for the tap."

This is why you can't send a woman to B&Q!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Few Quickies.....

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: 'So I hear you're getting married?'

'Yep!'

'Do I know her?'

'Nope!'

'This woman, is she good looking?'

'Not really.'

'Is she a good cook?'

'Naw, she can't cook too well.'

'Does she have lots of money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.'

'Well, then, is she good in bed?'

'I don't know.'

'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'

The boss walked into the office one morning not knowing his zipper was down and his fly area wide open.

His assistant walked up to him and said, 'This morning when you left your house, did you close your garage door?'

The boss told her he knew he'd closed the garage door, and walked into his office puzzled by the question.

As he finished his paperwork, he suddenly noticed his fly was open, and zipped it up.

He then understood his assistant's question about his 'garage door.'

He headed out for a cup of coffee and paused by her desk to ask, 'When my garage door was open, did you see my Jaguar parked inside?'

She smiled and said, 'No, I didn't. All I saw was an old minivan with two flat tires..'

Three old guys are out walking.

First one says, 'Windy, isn't it?'

Second one says, 'No, it's Thursday!'

Third one says, 'So am I. Let's go get a beer..'

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art.. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbour . 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty..'

Morris , an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'

'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Aphorism is a statement of truth or opinion expressed in a concise and witty manner .

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble....but shouldn't that be an even number?

I find it ironic that the colours red, white and blue stand for freedom, until they are flashing behind you.

When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body. Men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you love someone? That's common sense leaving your body

My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that!

I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can go in a robe, before you start looking like a mental patient.

Now, don't you feel better knowing what an aphorism is?

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

As men age, we start seeing more of the medical world, which nowadays seems to include an increasing number of women as our physicians and therapists, and, in my case, a new urologist.

My family doctor recently referred me to a just-out-of-medical-school female urologist.

I saw her yesterday, and she's absolutely drop-dead gorgeous as well as unbelievably sexy.

I told her that occasionally I had trouble peeing, so she said she would have to have to carry out the usual checks for this.

She also told me that I need to stop masturbating.

I asked her why.

She said, "Because I'm trying to examine you..."

.....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"...)