

Hi everyone

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

As a result of the lockdown re-introduced on 4<sup>th</sup> January, there has still been virtually no GA activity since the last Newsletter. But, as many will, of course, know, the UK Government has introduced a “Road Map out of Lockdown” so hopefully things may improve slightly if all goes according to plan....

You are reminded that, even if you don't get your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as any back copies of this Newsletter by visiting the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

*(If you have not received your copy within 24 hours of the beginning of the month, please check the club website above where you can find and draw it down for yourself!)*

### **MARCH WEATHER**

This month, remaining in the lockdown, and with Leisure Flying prevented under law, again the weather has again been somewhat irrelevant, as we have virtually all been unable to fly.

BUT – we have a Roadmap now to hopefully come out and return slowly towards normality over a few months....!

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT NEW DISCOUNT SCHEME**

The airport has just announced a very generous new discount scheme for Biggin Hill based Privately Owned aircraft – known as the “Home Based Aircraft Discount Scheme”. This is introduced in tandem with a promise to maintain the current landing fee rates after April 1<sup>st</sup> for the next year, the point at which there would usually have been an increase in charges.

Owners of Biggin Hill Based private aircraft will need to apply for this discount and mark the PPR form with the scheme name above.

For details of this new scheme, please feel free to contact your private owners representative on the Airport Consultative Committee, myself (John Willis), or John High, for details of the scheme, or of course contact the airport themselves....

### **UK ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN**

As mentioned above, the UK Government has published it's “Roadmap out of Lockdown” with guidelines as to how the changes to the law will affect General Aviation. Some people are claiming that as they are called guidelines, they can pretty much ignore them.... Not so!

The published guidelines are simply guidelines to the actual law to make it less daunting to have to try to understand the actual written law....

So, what are the Roadmap Steps:

#### **STEP 1**

This Step commences on 29<sup>th</sup> March, and will allow licenced pilots who are in recency to fly solo.

Provided they can satisfy the 90 day rule (3 take offs and landings within the last 90 days), then they can carry a passenger or passengers who are within the pilot's own household or bubble.

Flying training for recreation or leisure purposes is not permitted. ie. No PPL training or dual flying with an instructor. This means that someone who is out of current flying practice and therefore requires a check out with an instructor cannot fly as this is not permitted.

## STEP 2

This Step, that will commence no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April, allows for flight training or flights with an instructor to recommence. This is the first point at which a dual check ride is acceptable. It is therefore the point at which clubs and schools can recommence operations...

## STEP 3

This Step, that will commence no earlier than 17<sup>th</sup> May, is principally the point at which some larger sporting events and similar may be permitted subject to suitable social distancing etc.

Meeting others outdoors will be permitted but not with groups of 30 or more which will remain illegal. Currently the suggestion is that indoor meetings socially of up to 6 persons or 1 other household may be permitted (but this could be increased according to the data at that time.

## STEP 4

This Step, that will commence no earlier than 21<sup>st</sup> June, is the point at which the Government hope to remove all legal limits on social contact, and reopen any remaining closed settings.

(Nothing in this Roadmap affects training for the provable purpose of obtaining a professional pilots licence, which is allowed to operate throughout the period.

The CAA, having been put under much pressure by many of us, have now issued a Safety Notice SN-2021/009 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, which actually clarifies the fact that dual checks are not permitted under Step 1

The DfT have actually advised the CAA that it is their intention to prosecute persons breaking the law, so please be careful.....

## **RESTARTING FLYING**

Please re-familiarize yourselves with the noise sensitive areas adjacent to the airport that should be avoided, and of course follow all the published airport's noise abatement procedures. Being a good neighbour will obviously help to avoid anti-airport issues for us all.

Check NOTAM's and the A.I.P. before getting airborne again....

Finally, as we said last month, please check that your Pilots Licence and Medical are still current and valid.

Is your SEP or other expiring ratings still shown as still valid on your licence?

And remember, you cannot carry any passengers unless you have provably completed 3 take offs and landings within the preceding 90 calendar days!

## **APRIL BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of April 2021 are:

£1:57.0 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using account card  
Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:59.8 per litre for Jet A1

**SPECIAL NOTES:** Users should be aware that credit and debit cards cannot currently be used at the self-refuel pumps. The situation is likely to remain this way for some time, so if you use self-refuelling, please make sure you have your airport H-TEC fuel account card with you when you go there.

**WARNING:** For those that, in the past, may have used credit/debit cards for your fuel payments, you should be aware that a recent system audit has shown that a number of payments did not go through the recipient's bank accounts. As a result, these missed payments will be collected as a part of this backlog in due course.

## **YOUR HELP REQUESTED PLEASE**

On a lighter note, can I please ask you all for your assistance? Our Biggin Hill Reunited Database consists of our many airport friends, past and present, email membership.

But as many will be aware, people do from time to time change their primary email address, but often then forget to let their contacts know. As a result, the Newsletter, which is sent by email, has a number of "bounce" messages. Some may of course be as a result of some of our friends passing away in these difficult times. But, in reality, it usually is as a result of a simple email address change.

I show below a list of members whose emails are currently bouncing back, and I would really appreciate you letting me know up to date addresses for these folks if you have them:

Andy Hughes	Mark Norton
Andy Pawsey	Martin Nunn
Austin Guest	Martin Thomas
Bob Quick	Micah Brown
Carly Fitzgerald	Mike Warner
Celia Kench	Nick Pratt
Chris Melaisi	Nicky Merchant
Chris Ransley	Passy Casey
Coral (from Avalon)	Paul Cartwright
Daniel Whiffen	Paul Thomas
David Ladd	Ray Massey
Derek Bishop	Reg Mulligan
Diane Gething	Richard Day
Dirk Strydom	Roger Leese
Don Daines	Roland Shergold
Fred Roffey	Ross Humphries
Gary Saint	Sean Leith
Iain McClelland	Sidney Shettle
Jackie Greaves	Simon Massey
James Aldridge	Steve Gosling
Janet Stokes	Steve Loveridge
Jenny Munro (Bagshaw)	Sue Ferrari (Muckle)
Jim Findlay	Ted Etherington
Katie Smith (Williams)	Terry Smith
Ken Heuer	Tim Hearn
Kerry Danaher	Tom Wheeler
Laura Ayres (Banfield)	Tony Crook
Linda Parry	Tony Dsilva
Linda Sullivan	Trevor Williams

Vincent Walsh

Thank you everyone for any updated information you can get to me so we can all stay in touch with our friends

### **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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

### **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

Well, it has been a long and boring wait, but finally, like the flowers of spring, general aviation is once more showing signs of life. Which is good, because thinking what to write for this Newsletter is getting harder and harder with each grounded month! Much longer and I think I would have to submit my recipe for banana bread.

After much ado with the CAA, DfT, AOPA, and all the other abbreviated aviation organisations, we have finally managed to decipher the guidance issued and, as I'm sure you are all aware by now, the restart date for Alouette, as with all other flying clubs, will be April 12th.

Naturally all members will be required to have a check flight with an instructor, but from then on the sky once again becomes your playground. We already have bookings coming in but we can always make room for new faces!

The Alouette bar will also be opening as soon as we are allowed, but until then you'll just have to help yourselves to a post-flight coffee.

So come to Alouette, let us help you dust off the rust and get you back amongst the clouds!

Stay Safe

Stuart Taylor  
Club Chairman

### **MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE**

The focus for the Airport throughout March has centred on engagement with the government through the Global Travel Task Force and preparations for the lifting of restrictions for GA flying. Additionally, the Airport has created its own internal process for lifting restrictions which mirrors the four-step approach announced by the government. With a clear roadmap and the continued success of the vaccine rollout, the Airport believes we are seeing the first real early signs of recovery but we wait with baited breath regarding the recommendations due to be made by the Global Travel Task Force on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

The Airport, like all businesses in our sector, continues to navigate through the economic challenges presented by the 3<sup>rd</sup> National lockdown. Trading throughout March has been severely limited and this has made for a very lean last quarter of this financial year. Traffic levels throughout January, February and now March remain more than 50% down on what we would have expected throughout this period.

In my last newsletter update I expressed frustration at the fact that many small airports across the UK had been excluded from the government's Airport Ground Operations Support Scheme and I find myself equally frustrated that despite extensive lobbying, the government will not be

extending the eligibility terms to include smaller airports. The failure to acknowledge the delicate balance of the wider aviation Eco system will undoubtedly put many small airports at risk.

Those of you that have been at the Airport recently will have noticed the continued progress with the Bombardier hangar, the hoarding being put up around the Hotel site and the new ILS localiser in place. This continued investment in airport infrastructure is critical to ensure the Airport is well placed to take advantage of the recovery when it comes. Hopefully, we can pick up the pace shortly regarding additional apron works in front of hangar 446 and the resurfacing works planned for Foxtrot taxiway. Unfortunately, whilst we continue to make progress regarding the implementation of the 03 RNAV approach, it's in operational date will be towards the end of this summer.

As I write this update, we are literally days away from the start of the lifting of restrictions on some GA flying activity. Whilst this is great news for us all, this is a timely opportunity for me to stress the importance of addressing any potential skills fade that might have occurred during the lockdown. I feel, in the interest of flight safety, it is an imperative that we all take a measured approach to getting back in the air. The CAA have recently issued a Safety Notice SN-2021/008 covering aspects for the safe return to normal operations. Additionally, I would stress the need for everyone to take the necessary steps they feel are appropriate for a safe return to the skies.

I hope that most of our home-based GA community will have received confirmation of our Home-Based Aircraft discount scheme. I am aware that John will have commented on the scheme and I trust that, together with holding landing fees to 2020/21 prices, this is a welcome benefit to the GA community.

Finally, I hope you all stay safe and well.

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](http://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](mailto: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..... Hopefully you will be able to enjoy some flying again during April

Stay well and please stay safe.....

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 to this section.... **To avoid me running out of them, please keep them coming by email to [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) .**

QUOTE.....

THE RICH OLD MAN

A rich old man goes for his regular round of golf with his friends but this time he brings along a gorgeous young lady.

"Guys, meet my new fiancée" he says, full of pride as he introduces her to his pals.

For the rest of the afternoon his friends can't take their eyes off the stunning beauty.

After a round of golf, the rich old man goes up to the bar to buy drinks for the group.

One of his friends goes with him and when at the bar asks him, "How on earth did you manage to hook up with such a beautiful young lady? You're seventy. She must be at least forty years younger than you!"

The rich old guy says, "I lied about my age."

His friend says, "And she believed you? How old did you say you were?"

"I told her I was ninety.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I can really imagine for a foreigner moving to the United Kingdom, it must be a major culture shock....

"I lived in London for six months. Overall, it was a lovely experience but there were many crushing moments of culture shock that left me intrigued and confused....."

\* Pub culture.I was shocked to learn how much the English enjoy visiting the pub and having a drink because their stereotype is that of a stuffy, refined Englishman. There are so many bars, restaurants, nightclubs, and pubs around London and people really love to have a pint or a Pim's Punch.

\* Pub culture 2.0.As much as Londoners like to drink, last call at the pub is 11:00 p.m. In Italy, 11pm is when people start getting ready to go out.

\* Crossing the street.Since they drive on the left in London, traffic was not coming from the direction I expected. So many close calls every day!

\* Pants" means "underwear" and "trousers" means "pants. This can get really awkward really fast. But that's another story.

\* When someone says something is a "good shout" they mean "good idea.

"Hey, let's go get sushi."

"Good shout, girl."

"I'm not shouting. I'm literally right here."

\* The store called "Currys" does not sell curry. They sell electronics. Don't google "curry" after a night at the pub and then walk to Currys thinking you will be able to order a curry because you will be VERY DISAPPOINTED.

\* As a greeting, everyone in the UK says, "Are you alright?" When they say this, they simply mean "hello". But every single time I heard it, I thought I looked sad or upset. (Very plausible considering my resting bitch face).

\* The word "terribly" means "really" and the word "awfully" also means "really".  
I'm terribly glad we went out on this date. Tonight went awfully well. I really like you.

\* Instead of "sleeping in" Brits "lie in". This doesn't sound like a big deal but it's confusing in conversation.

"Hey! Any plans for tomorrow?"

"I'm having a lie in."

"You have a lion?!"

"No, I'm – never mind."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man, smelling of booze and cigarettes, sat down on a subway next to a priest. His tie was stained, there was red lipstick on his collar and face and a half-empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket.

He opened his newspaper and began reading.

After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked, "Tell me Father, do you happen to know what causes arthritis"

The priest replies, "My son, it's caused by loose living, consorting with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, contempt for your fellow man, sleeping around with prostitutes and lack of a bath."

The drunk muttered in response, "Well, I'll be damned", then returned to his paper.

The priest, thinking about what he had said, nudged the man and apologised. "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

The man answered, "I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope suffers from it."

MORAL: Make sure you understand the question before offering the answer.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Three men die in a car crash and went to hell. Their names were George, Barrack, and Donald.

The devil went to George and said, "Welcome to hell, George. I'd like you to meet your wife for the rest of your eternity."

The devil opened a door, and there was the ugliest woman they had ever seen.

They had seen many ugly women in their lives, but none as squalid as her. This lady was hideous. She took George to her room in hell.

The devil went to Barrack and said, "Welcome to hell, Barrack. I'd like you to meet your wife for the rest of your eternity."

The devil opened another door, and there was an even uglier woman.

She was so ugly she could make Goldfish crackers frown.

The woman took Barrack to her room in hell.

The devil went to Donald as said, "You must wait a bit before I give you your wife. While you wait you will be tortured personally by me."

So the devil made Donald his slave and forced him to do all these useless tasks, like pushing heavy things up a hill and pouring water on things that didn't need to get wet.

It was exhausting.

Finally, after a few months, the devil led Donald to a door and opened it,

Donald was worried what his wife would look like, but when the devil opened the door, there was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.

Donal was amazed that he had gotten such a hot wife, when the devil said, "Welcome to hell, Elizabeth. I'd like you to meet your husband for the rest of eternity."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In the morning Tom calls to his boss: "Good morning, boss, unfortunately I'm not coming to work today. I'm really sick. I got a headache, stomach-ache, and my both hands and legs hurt, so I'm not coming into work."

The boss replies: "You know Tom, I really need you today. When I feel like this I go to my wife, and tell her to give me sex. That makes me feel better, and I can go to work. You should try that."

Two hours later Bob calls: "Boss, I followed your advice, and I feel great! I'll be at work soon. By the way, you got nice house."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A girl goes to see her Gynecologist. She undresses and sits down with legs wide apart.

Doctor: "Up!"

The girl lifts her legs up.

"Up!"



The girl lifts her legs even higher.

“Up!!!” shouts Doc.

Girl: “Doc, I can’t lift them higher.”

Doc: “The office of Gynecologist is up on the Second Floor. It’s the barber shop here.”

.....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”...)