

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 2020 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.

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 also all the original Biggin Hill "Bugles" written by our own John Bryan (JB), 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!)*

## **JULY WEATHER**

The weather in July has, in the main, been good for GA, but unlike the period when we couldn't legally fly and it seemed to be permanently CAVOK, the weather has been significantly more changeable this month, with quite a few days where no GA flying actually took place. This was disappointing as this month permission was granted for GA training flying to recommence. But in fairness, most of us predicted that this would happen!!

As I write this, the weather is perfect and full CAVOK again, so lets hope for a good August.

## **GENERAL AVIATION RESTRICTIONS REMOVED**

As predicted in the last month's Newsletter, the Department for Transport lifted the restrictions on leisure flying and Club and school training flights with effect from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. At last!

There was some confusion at the General Aviation Unit of the CAA, who seemed to be the last to know, and who were quite late informing everyone that their previous total block on flying for the purpose of leisure was now lifted. But they did get there in the end, albeit with quite a bit of external pressure from everyone who had already been informed of this by the DfT and most of the aviation press and AOPA etc.

There are, of course, some sensible restrictions associated with this return to flying, but none are too onerous, and things have been slowly returning to normal – albeit a different "normal" to that that we were all used to.

After such a long break, most people were out of club recency, so the take up has been slower than many of us would like, but we are getting there....

As I write this, the Department of Transport has apparently "recommended" that, although pilots flying light aircraft do not have to wear a face covering whilst flying, it is "recommended" that any passengers do.

This recommendation applies to all passengers, including those on an introductory flight or cost sharing.

Those actually sharing piloting duties, including therefore flight training, don't have to wear face coverings, although the DoT contradict this by saying that all occupants on a light aircraft "should" wear face coverings where social distancing is not possible, as long as it is safe to do so!

## **AUGUST BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of August 2020 are:

£1:39.5 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser  
(if uplifted using account card or credit card from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:50.5 per litre for Jet A1

## **BOMBARDIER NEW HANGAR AND FACILITY**

As those of us that have been back up to the airport will have seen, the massive new hangar, ramp, and office facilities for Bombardier are now well underway. Situated between the self-refuelling facility and the South-East apron, it makes it obvious why runway 29 was taken away from us all some time back.

But, from the airport's point of view, this is a tremendous achievement to attract such a vast investment to the airport, especially in these difficult times. The presence of such a prestigious manufacturer at Biggin Hill is excellent and can only help to secure the future of Biggin Hill as an airport, albeit only really benefiting business and corporate operators and owners, rather than us mere light aircraft operators. Still, it would appear the ongoing future of our airport as a whole is likely to remain good in the long term...

## **PAMELA ELLES**

It was with great sadness that, on 20th July, I received a phone call from Alison McGugan that her mum, old Biggin Hill'ite Pam Elles, passed away on the 19th. Pam, who was known to so many of the Biggin Hill Airport community, would have been 94 on 13th August.

Pam was born in Wrexham, the youngest of three girls. In 1943 she joined the Wrens, where she learnt to drive in military lorries. She had many different roles in the services, one of which included driving British politician and academic Lord Salter around.

In 1949 Pam married former Battle of Britain rear gunner, later navigator and Squadron Leader, Robert McGugan, and they were stationed in various places, including Germany (where daughter Alison was born) and Norway. Their last posting was to RAF Biggin Hill in 1965, where Robert retired from the RAF in 1968.

In 1972, whilst she was a secretary at the Conservative Club, Pam met and married Biggin Hill's well known flying instructor/examiner, Richard Elles.

Pam became well known to most of the airport community, at one point running Biggin Hill Aero Club, which later became a part of Cabair, and she became a very active member of Joe Merchant's Pilots Pals club and bar. A lover of the electronic fruit machine in the bar, Pam was almost a permanent fixture on the machine nightly, cigarette in holder in hand.

She was one of the many people that got together to make the knitted pew kneeling cushions in the RAF St George's Chapel at RAF Biggin Hill.

For many years, Pam and Richard held an annual "Boxing Day" gathering at their Biggin Hill home, that became THE place for all airport users to be every year...

Sadly Richard succumbed to cancer and passed away in 1998 shortly after the September 60's and 70's reunion that actually launched this group, BigginHillReunited, and these monthly newsletters

Eventually, after the Pilots Pals bar closed in 2007, Pam moved up to live close to her daughter and sadly was missed by us all.

Her family funeral is going to be on the 13th August at Greenacres Colney Wood Norwich, at 1pm. The family plan to have it video'd and that will be streamed for those who were unable to attend. (Details will follow after the event on the BigginHillReunited group on Facebook and also then in the September edition of this Newsletter)

Pam will always be remembered by all the regular airport users and bar regulars - sadly missed - R.I.P. Pam

Pam's name has been added to the BigginHillReunited Roll of Honour....

## **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**

So here we are, back where we started before lockdown.

Aircraft are busy, pilots and students are taking to the sky. So let's all get back into currency and fly again.

Alouette has packages available to all, members old and new. As always here at Alouette, all designed to help the individual financial strain.

Our social activities are being prepared, and then we can recount our lockdown stories around our bar.

So watch [www.alouette.org.uk](http://www.alouette.org.uk) and book a flight with [bookings@alouette.org.uk](mailto:bookings@alouette.org.uk)

See you all soon.

Regards  
Bruno Bruniges - Club Chairman

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

As I write this submission, yet more countries are being placed on the quarantine list and there is the increasing looming risk of a second spike in COVID-19 across Europe. Like many of you, I watch the news and witness the wide-ranging responses to the crisis, some countries appearing to be returning to normality whilst others have not yet passed the peak of the virus. Whilst I am pleased that activity at Biggin Hill is slowly returning to reasonable levels, the impact of the crisis is clearly deepening across the Aviation industry and recent announcements of job losses across several large airports paints a bleak picture.

Notwithstanding this rapidly changing environment, traffic levels at the Airport have increased throughout June and July and in recent weeks we have seen movements beginning to show stronger signs of recovery. That said, movements remain below where we would clearly like them to be and still remain below this time in both 2018 and 2019.

Developments at the Airport continue at pace despite COVID-19 and those of you who have been at the Airport will have seen the new Bombardier construction accelerate and, with the roof supports being put in place, you can see the scale of this development. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all tenants and partners for their continued cooperation and understanding as this development progresses. As mentioned last month, the new ILS will be installed in October and hopefully the ground works for our Hotel will start towards the end of September this year.

Although there are clear signs that lockdown restrictions are easing, the Airport continues to engage with central government, DfT and the CAA regarding quarantine measures. The Airport continues to engage with its customers to ensure they are fully aware of the measures that have been taken to ensure their safety whilst travelling from the Airport.

Finally, I would like to thank those members of the Light Aviation Steering Group who have provided feedback on our current Noise Abatement Procedures and I will be continue to engage as we review our Noise Action Plan.

I would like to end by wishing all the very best in these trying times and hope that you remain 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 again for this month –please stay well and 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.... Please keep them coming by email to [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) .

QUOTE.....  
Golden Years.....

A balding, white haired "experienced" retired Marine Pilot walked into a jewellery store Friday evening with a beautiful much younger girl at his side. He told the Jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweller looked through his stock and brought out a \$15,000 ring.

The man said, "No, I'd like to see something more special. Price is immaterial."

At that statement, the jeweller went to the back room and brought out another ring in a velvet case.

"Here is a stunning ring at only \$140,000" said the jeweller said. "It the famous Azure Blue which belonged to a Maharajah."

The lady's eyes sparked and her whole body trembled with excitement. Seeing this, the old man said, "We'll take it."

The jeweller asked how payment would be made and the man stated, "By check. I know you'll need to verify my account with the bank, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday morning: I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon."

On Monday morning, the jeweller angrily phoned the old man and said "Sir...There's no money in that account!"

"I know," said the old Marine..."But let me tell you about my weekend..."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....  
The Silent Treatment.

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly the man realized that the next day he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 AM and he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 AM. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A very pretty Blonde girl sits down in an airliners seat and is immediately approached by a Cabin Stewardess who said "excuse me but you cannot sit there, this seat is booked by another passenger".

“Oh!”, said the girl; “I am a beautiful Blonde actress and I am going to Paris to be filmed.”

The stewardess went to the Steward and explained that a seat assigned to another passenger is occupied by a Blonde actress who refuses to be moved as she is going to Paris to be filmed.

The Steward went to the Blonde and explained that she must move due the seat is booked out to another passenger..

Again; she announces "I am a very beautiful Blonde actress and I am going to Paris to be filmed".

The Steward reports the situation to the Captain who approaches the Actress and said "madam you cannot stay in this seat".

“Oh no! I am a beautiful Blonde actress and I am going to Paris".

"Madam" says the Captain, "This part of the aeroplane does not go to Paris, so please follow the Steward to another seat.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Husband and wife had a bitter quarrel on the day of their 40th wedding anniversary!

The husband yells, "when you die, I'm getting you a headstone that reads, "here lies my wife - cold as ever!"

“Yeah?” she replies. When you die, I'm getting you a headstone that reads, "here lies my husband - stiff at last!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Macho man married good looking lay, and after the wedding, he laid down the following rules: "I'll be home when I want, if I want and at what time I want - and don't expect any hassle from you.

I expect a great dinner to be on the table unless I tell you that I won't be home for dinner. I'll go hunting, fishing, boozing, and card-playing when I want with my old buddies, and don't you give me a hard time about it.

These are my rules. Any comments?"

His new bride said: “No that's fine with me. Just understand that there will be sex here at seven o'clock every night...whether you're here or not.”

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Husband (doctor) and wife are having a fight at the breakfast table.

Husband gets up in a rage and says, "and you are no good in bed either," and storms out of the house.

After some time he realizes he was nasty and decides to make amends and rings her up.

She comes to the phone after many rings, and the irritated husband says, "what took you so long to answer the phone?" She says, "I was in bed."

"In bed this early, doing what?"

"Getting a second opinion!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A girl's poem – writer unknown.....

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now  
We need to stay inside  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old  
There wasn't any Facebook  
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth  
But we grew up in the 60s -  
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll  
The pill and miniskirts  
We smoked, we drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then nana,  
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace  
Because our lives were full  
But to bury us before we're dead  
Is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside  
For 4 weeks, maybe more  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin  
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health  
And hope this bloody virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

.....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"...) )