

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 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 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

(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!)

AUGUST WEATHER

Well at long last the weather has been on our side, at least it was until this last week when we have had some pretty severe storms and almost tropical rainfall and hail. It seems that most of the light aircraft owners and clubs/schools, have at last been able to have a significantly successful month's flying.

We all hope, of course, that August will remain as we have come to expect each year – a real British Summer.

Here's hoping you will all be able to enjoy your aviation hobby again after about 18 months of multiple lockdown's.

UK COVID RECOVERY ROADMAP – A FURTHER UPDATE

The UK Government's "Roadmap out of Lockdown" was delayed from the originally planned free-for-all date on 21st June until 19th July instead. But as I write this Newsletter, the latest ideas are now being promoted, with hopefully more relaxation on foreign travel being currently announced.

Relaxations include the final opening of restaurants and also most social and entertainment facilities just a week ago. Numbers at social gatherings, including weddings and funerals, as well as in nightclubs and theatres, have now been permitted.

Whilst facemask wearing is no longer mandatory, except for many transport services like tubes and trains in some areas of the UK, the recommendation is still to exercise caution and if anyone has any doubts or concerns, they should feel totally free to continue to wear masks to protect ourselves and others near us.

FLYING CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

It is really good to see that Flight Training for the PPL's/LAPL's has been able to restart, as well as licenced Private Pilots being able to resume regular flying again.

Watching the numbers, it seems that everyone is busy trying to get fully back into flying practice having been seriously held on the ground for so much of the period since March 2020.

We all hope this opening up will be continued, and that Covid infections and the appearance of new variants will continue to allow this return to a form of normality after so long. We are all just seeking a normal life again after all the uncertainty and restrictions.

Please enjoy – but please be careful and sensible too – protect yourselves and others from this horrible Pandemic.

COVID PRE-TRAVEL TESTS

Whilst I appreciate that Biggin Hill has an on-site testing at the Mansi Suite (in the old Lookout Café premises), their prices may well be OK for Jet crews and Charter operators, but they are less than user friendly for normal travellers and holiday makers, being significantly more expensive than can be obtained elsewhere.

However, for those of us who may venture abroad for our well-deserved holidays, there are many price options and offers out there for the required tests before departure. After some research, I would suggest looking at Boots the Chemists in-store testing, which is much cheaper than the Mansi Suite at just £59.99 per person for a Lateral Flow (antigen) test with certificated results for the departing airline (and also the destination country if required in addition to proof of double vaccinations). – See the final page of this Newsletter for a PDF showing all suitable Covid tests and their validity and costs. Check online for the Boots stores that offer these services.

And don't forget the "Passenger Locator Form" for each travelling adult passenger, which must be completed within 48 hours of arrival in the UK. (accompanying children under age 18 who reside at your address may be included on your own form.)

AUGUST BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:69.6 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using fuel account card Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:66.8 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1.08 per litre for "Sustainable Aviation Fuel"!))

SPECIAL NOTES: Users are reminded that credit and debit cards still 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.

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

July has been another busy airborne month for us at Alouette.

We have welcomed back Corina as another instructor after many long months away, and she is really enjoying getting back into our flight Training programme again.

Our members have also been flying hither and thither whenever the weather allowed, and we wish a huge congratulations to Andy Hogan who did his first solo this month, under the watchful eye of our ever-excellent instructor Esther.

Having teased you all now for several months about firing up our BBQ in August, we have decided to go ahead and cordially invite you all on Saturday August 21st at 1300. This is open for all you avid John Willis fans and your partners, families and friends, the more the merrier really! If you work on the airport, or fly elsewhere at Biggin, this invitation is of course open to you and your families too...

To keep things simple, we will be doing an entry deal of a burger or a hotdog and a beer or soft drink for £10.

The Alouette bar will be open throughout and you are more than welcome to buy another burger or hotdog should you wish, though our in-house caterer, Josh 'Yes Chef' Reeves assures me that his dirty burgers and posh hotdogs will sate even the largest of appetites!

We would ask that if you can make it, you RSVP by email to me at chairman@flyalouette.com no later than August 18th. Feel free to bring your own picnic blankets and nibbles should you wish.

We really hope this will be a good opportunity for everybody to catch up after such a long time apart.

I very much hope to see you all there, but until then I wish you all blue skies and tailwinds!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

I joked at the start of my last newsletter with regard to the 'off again, on again' ever changing political and COVID restrictions environment and we find ourselves in exactly the same position now with regard to the isolation rules. This has been brought into sharp focus with the recent impact of COVID on our ATC team, 2 of whom have been identified as having the virus and 8 are currently self-isolating.

Whilst I remain convinced the overall direction of 'travel' remains positive, the recent challenges arising from the lifting of restrictions is now presenting a series of different challenges, not just for aviation, but for the economy as a whole. That said, July has been a good month with overall traffic movements exceeding 2019 levels, although the weight bands have been in the lighter categories. The Airport remains hopeful that the US market will open up and we will see a corresponding increase in long-haul traffic; the current restrictions remain a limiting factor and are hampering a faster recovery. Understandably, trading remains challenging, but the Airport continues to prudently manage costs whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure improvements.

The news concerning infrastructure developments remains extremely positive given the past 18 months and the challenges faced by the aviation industry. Despite some supply chain challenges arising from BREXIT, the Bombardier hangar remains on target for an early completion in December of this year. The concrete for the main hangar floor is currently being laid so the community may experience some interruption along Churchill Way. The appointment of the prime contractor for the Airport Hotel has now been finalised and the community should see visible construction in the next few months. Additionally, the Airport is well advanced in discussions regarding additional hangar construction, which will clearly be subject to planning. The Airport continues to work with the CAA regarding the 03 RNAV approach approval and progress the Air Space Change for the 21 RNAV overlay.

As some of you will be aware, the Airport has recently completed its 5-year review of the Noise Action Plan as part of its commitment within the Deed of Variation to increase operating hours in 2016. The review is currently going through an engagement process with key stakeholders such as SANARB, BHACC Noise and Safety Sub Committee, the BHACC and LBB. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the flying community for its continued support in ensuring compliance with the Airport's Noise Action Plan. We are all aware that safety remains our top priority and I am more than aware that many pilots consider our Noise Abatement Procedures as very restrictive; however, it is vitally important to the Airport that we continue to act as a good neighbour and work with our local residents.

Finally, the Airport continues to engage with the London Borough of Bromley and I would like to reiterate, as one of the largest employers in Bromley, we remain committed to working with the

Council to ensure that local people can continue to benefit from new jobs and investment around the Airport.

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

(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.

Enjoy your flying during August - 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 .**

QUOTE.....

Ahhhhh The Wisdom of the Aged.....

A female CNN journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Western Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. So, she went to check it out.

She went to the Western Wall and there he was, walking slowly up to the holy site.

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, using a cane and moving very slowly, she approached him for an interview.

"Pardon me, sir, I'm Rebecca Smith from CNN. What's your name?"

"Morris Feinberg," he replied.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Western Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace between the Christians, Jews and the Muslims. I pray for all the wars and all the hatred to stop. I pray for all our children to grow up safely as responsible adults and to love their fellow man. I pray that politicians tell us the truth and put the interests of the people ahead of their own interests.."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a fu****g Brick wall."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Wonderfully British

In a train from London to Manchester, an American was berating the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment...

"The trouble with you English is that you are too stuffy... You set yourselves apart too much. You think your stiff upper lip makes you above the rest of us.

Look at me: I'm me! I have a little Italian in me, a bit of Greek blood, a little Irish and some Spanish blood. What do you say to that?"

The Englishman lowered his newspaper and replied, "How very sporting of your mother."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man was looking for a place to sit in a crowded university library. He asked a girl: "Do you mind if I sit beside you?"

The girl replied, in a loud voice "NO, I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOU!"

All the people in the library started staring at the man, who was deeply embarrassed and moved to another table.

After a couple of minutes, the girl walked quietly to the man's table and said with a laugh: "I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking; I bet you felt embarrassed, right?"

The man responded in a loud voice: "£500 FOR ONE NIGHT? I`M NOT PAYING YOU THAT MUCH!"

All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock.

The man whispered to her: "I study law, and I know how to screw people"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Medical experts in London today were asked if it is time to ease the COVID lockdowns:-

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and pharmacists claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off by the whole idea.

Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, and Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in politics.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
Some One-Liners....

I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.

A cold seat in a public restroom is unpleasant. A warm seat in a public restroom is worse.

Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.

Don't irritate old people. The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

Aliens probably fly by earth and lock their doors.

"You will hit every cone on the highway before I let you merge in front of me because you saw that sign 2 miles ago like I did."

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

It turns out that being an adult now is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."

I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

As I watch this new generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.

Confuse your doctor by putting on rubber gloves at the same time he does.

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make food right in front of you. I took her to Subway.

I picked up a hitchhiker. He asked if I wasn't afraid, he might be a serial killer? I told him the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely.

The Flat Earth Society are reporting that the 2 metre social distancing measures are pushing some of their members over the edge.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Subject: 4 worms in Church - Four worms and a lesson to be learned!!!!

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol Dead .

The second worm in cigarette smoke . . . Dead .

The third worm in chocolate syrup Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil . . . Alive

So, the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"





Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said . . . "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

End of service

.....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"...))

COVID-19 TESTING WITH BOOTS: WHICH ONE IS FOR ME?

Test name	NHS Lateral Flow Device Distribution Service	In-store COVID-19 PCR Testing Service	In-store COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Service	Test to Release (In-store COVID-19 PCR) Testing Service	At-home COVID-19 PCR Test (General use/ Pre flight)	Day 2 or Day 2 & 8 COVID-19 Post-Travel Testing Service
 Retail price	FREE	£85	£59.99	£85	£65	£99- £160
Type of test	Antigen	PCR	Antigen	PCR	PCR	PCR
 Typical results times	30 minutes	Typically, within 48 hours of your test	1 hour from time of in-store appointment	By Midnight The day after in-store appointment	24-48 hours from receipt of sample at lab	
In store or online	In store	Book online	Book online	Book online	Online & instore	Order online
 Suitable for flying*	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
Negative result certificate provided	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Applicable for Test to Release	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
How is the test performed?	Self-test at home	10 minute appointment by a specially trained Boots colleague			Self-test at home Sent to the laboratory via a Royal Mail priority post box on the day the sample is taken	
 How do I order a test?	Pick up from the pharmacy counter in selected stores	Order a test and book an in-store test appointment			Via boots.com & selected stores	Via boots.com & ReCoVa-19 portal
Age	All ages	5+ years			All ages	5+ years
Group Bookings	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓

*The Day 2 & 8 test should be ordered before international travel into England, please see the government website for more details. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>. Customers must check the COVID-19 testing requirements for the country that you are travelling to and the airline before purchasing a test or booking an appointment. <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. All tests (apart from Day 2 & 8 COVID Post-Travel Testing) are only suitable for those NOT currently experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you do have symptoms, follow current government guidance, stay at home and arrange a free PCR test via gov.uk and do not come into store. Visit boots.com/covid-19-testing for more information.

