

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 for Database subscribing members, even if your Newsletter doesn't arrive by email at the beginning of the month, 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!)

JULY WEATHER

Well, what can I say! July has been an excellent month for most of the time for light aircraft flying and training. There were of course some days that were less than perfect, including of course the two or three days with air temperatures up to 39 degrees centigrade (and in some areas significantly over 40 degrees, creating new all-time records for the UK)

But apart from one or two less than perfect days, the bulk of the month has allowed us all to partake of our wonderful hobby and do lots of flying

Let us hope that these ideal light aircraft flying conditions will continue throughout August...

COLIN NEILSON

It is with great sadness that I must advise you all of the passing of our friend Colin Neilson a couple of month's back.

Ex-Policeman Colin, who was a member of the Prime Minister Thatcher's protection team, was also an active pilot for many years, predominantly at Biggin Hill. He also, in more recent times, was a flying instructor, but he carried out his instructing at Rochester...

Apparently Colin suffered recently from Motor Neurone disease, which was ultimately what caused his passing. Colin had told family that he didn't want his passing or any funeral arrangements or memorial services to be made public, and as a result we have only recently found out that he has left us.

Colin's name has been added to the Roll of Honour on the BigginHillReunited.co.uk website.

R.I.P. Colin – you will always be remembered.....

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

The various Airport developments are continuing.....

The "Landings Hotel", which is close to the South Camp entrance adjacent to the Lookout Café is progressing well, with the previously visible shell now being bricked up and starting to show how impressive it will soon be. The planned December formal opening may be slightly delayed into early January although there may be various tours and welcoming events prior to the Christmas holidays.

The extremely impressive sculpture and the Battle of Britain special garden and memorial statue, that was designed by John Everiss, has now moved from the RHS Garden Show in Chelsea.

Visible when finished from the main road, the garden features a four metre high statue of a WWII pilot (currently covered up until the formal opening on 15th September) is constructed from 1,200 layers of 8mm stainless steel plates, as well becoming a beautiful feature right in front of the new hotel. It has been moved from the London garden show to Biggin Hill Airport at the request of the artist.

The Churchill Way is now complete from the entrance right round to the Heritage Hangar, and it also features new street lighting along the length of the road all the way to the Heritage Hangar....

The new Bombardier Hangar and complex is now completed, and the of all services from the existing hangar by the South Camp entrance and the Lookout Café are in the process of being moved across to this amazingly impressive new facility...

We are still awaiting the decision on the construction of a new security office on the site of the original Old Armoury building near the industrial estate entrance road. But it is still thought likely that this will almost certainly occur in due course.

THE NEW BOMBARDIER HANGAR COMPLEX

Myself and the other members of the Airport's Light Aircraft Steering Group were recently treated to a tour of the incredible new Bombardier Hangar complex in the centre of the airport.

Roughly the size of four of the original RAF style hangar's (like the RAS one or the one that was originally Surrey and Kent and Fairflight's, but later Jet Aviation's Hangar) plus an amazing office and engineers working facilities, office space, and workshops, it is one of the most impressive airport units I've seen.

Our grateful thanks to the Bombardier management for their time and the use of their boardroom for our meeting. (and of course to David Winstanley and his team for arranging our visit there).

AUGUST BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of August 2022 are:

£2:26.7 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using fuel account card Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 5p per litre)

£1:09.1 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:56.2 per litre for "Sustainable Aviation Fuel"!))

Reduced prices at last! – let's hope this is the start of a series of reductions over time....

SPECIAL NOTES: Users are advised that credit and debit cards can no longer be used at the self-refuel pumps. If you use self-refuelling, you will need your airport H-TEC fuel account card with you when you go there. (if you haven't got one with you, you will have to go over to the Main Terminal apron to uplift fuel from the bowsers instead).

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

Phew, what a scorcher. Here at Alouette we've been donning our shorts to make the most of the sunshine - and the great flying weather. It may have been sweltering on the ground, but it's been decidedly cooler and calmer a few thousand feet up over Kent's glorious countryside in one of our two very well-cared for aeroplanes.

The hot weather hasn't stopped our students making excellent progress across the board with plenty of hours logged as well as lots of solo, circuit and cross-country action. In particular, mention has to be made of our very own Sebastjan Meznaric who has become Alouette's newest PPL. Huge congrats Seb - very well deserved indeed and many happy flying hours ahead.

We've said it before, but one of the (many) joys of learning at Alouette is that thanks to the breadth and depth of tuition, flying experience and airfields visited, our students develop the skills and experience that make for a terrific start in aviation. And new licence holders can be sure that Alouette will be fully behind them in that journey, with all the support, help and advice they need along the way.

The sun is still (mostly) shining and the summer is still very much with us - though thankfully not quite as furnace-like as it has been - and there should be plenty of great flying weather to come. Students and flying members of Alouette alike will be taking to the skies for training or touring in our well-equipped Cessna 172 and PA-28 but there's room for all - current and new members alike. If you or anyone you know is interested in flying with us - and at any level from complete beginner to PPL and beyond - please do get in touch.

Our monthly social evening will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesday 3rd August from 19:30. As ever, everyone is invited for the usual cheap drinks and aviation natter. If it's warm enough we'll even drag over some picnic benches for a spot of alfresco refreshment as the sun sets over the hangars. What could be finer!

Until next month, blue skies and tailwinds to you all. Happy flying!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The Airport has experienced significantly higher levels of traffic than it had forecast for the second quarter of this year and certainly for the month of July. The increase in business jet movements is as a result of several factors ranging from a move from scheduled to business aviation and other airports experiencing operational challenges. Notably, the Airport continues to see an increase in transatlantic traffic with a corresponding uplift in fuel revenue. During peak periods the Airport has taken the unusual step of turning aircraft away to ensure the operation remains safe and that capacity can be properly managed.

The economic landscape remains uncertain and the challenge of recruiting and retaining staff remains the Airport's most critical challenge. Against a backdrop of unprecedented levels of traffic, the need for continual investment in infrastructure, pressurised labour market and a number of key strategic objectives coming to head, the performance of the business remains very strong

On the development side, the construction of the Hotel is progressing extremely well and practical completion is planned for mid-December. The Airport might elect to complete operational work up trials over the Christmas break with a formal opening in January 2023. The Airport continues to engage with stakeholders regarding the potential redevelopment of elements of West Camp. The enhancements to Churchill way are well advanced and progressing according to the programme.

Work continues to finalize the design of the new entrance and gate house. The Airport continues to see a strong demand for additional hangars and is meeting this demand through emerging contractual discussions. Many of you will have seen that the Strongest Link Garden is progressing well and is on track for its formal unveiling on 15th September.

Turning to airspace change, the Airport continues to engage with the CAA regarding the flyability of the approach design given the complexity of the airspace to the south of the Airport. The Airport met with the CAA on 30th June to present the Airport's additional information and evidence supporting the flyability of the approach and the safety enhancements that would be achieved with its introduction. As yet, there is no indication of when the Airport will receive a response or any indication of next steps.

The Airport continues to work hard to engage directly with elected councillors from LBB to ensure that it's the facts that are discussed when there are debates concerning either noise abatement or concepts like fare paying passengers and not the comments of a certain lobby group that specialises in mis information.

Finally, the recent growth in traffic has presented several challenges for not only the Airport but also for the whole Airport community and it emphasizes the importance of continued dialogue and engagement.

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 in the past) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month. Enjoy your flying - 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 ever intended!). - a few relatively clean but amusing short stories....

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.....
ALZHEIMER'S TEST

How fast can you guess these words and fill-in the blanks?

1. __ _NDOM

2. F_ _K

3. P_N_S

4. PU_S_

5. S_X

6. BOO_S

v
v
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v
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v
v

(Alzheimers Test Answers)

1. RANDOM

2. FORK

3. PANTS

4. PULSE

5. SIX

6. BOOKS

Did you get them Right, or are you a Pilot.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Comedian Billy Connolly Quotes.

Statement of the Century: 'If women are so perfect at multi-tasking, how come they can't have a headache and sex at the same time?'

Impotence: Nature's way of saying, 'No hard feelings'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two women were playing golf.

One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole. The ball hit one of the men.

He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologise. 'Please allow me to help. I'm a Physical Therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me,' she told him.

'Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes,' the man replied.

He was in obvious agony, lying in the foetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin. At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help.

She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his trousers and put her hands inside. She administered tender and artful massage for several long moments and asked, 'How does that feel?'

He replied: 'It feels great, but I still think my thumb's broken!'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The Ferrari F1 Team fired their entire pit crew at Castle Donington yesterday.

This announcement followed Ferrari's decision to take advantage of the British government's 'Work for your Dole' scheme and employ some Chaddesden & Liverpoolian youngsters.

The decision to hire them was brought about by a recent documentary on how unemployed and youths from Toxteth and Chaddesden were able to remove a set of wheels in less than 6 seconds without proper equipment, whereas Ferrari's existing crew could only do it in 8 seconds with millions of pounds worth of high-tech gear.

It was thought to be an excellent, bold move by the Ferrari management team as most races are won and lost in the pits, giving Ferrari an advantage over every other team.

However, Ferrari got more than they bargained for!

At both crew's first practice session, not only were both crew able to change all four wheels in under 6 seconds but, within 12 seconds, they had resprayed, re-badged and sold the car to the McLaren team for 8 cases of Stella, a bag of weed and some photos of Lewis Hamilton's bird in the shower.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Your Yearly Dementia Test! (only 4 questions this year)

Yep, it's that time of year again for us to take our annual senior citizen test.

Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important to keep mentally alert. If you don't use it, you will lose it !!

The spaces below are so you don't see the answers until you've answered.

#1. What do you put in a toaster?

Answer: 'bread.' If you said 'toast', just give up now and go do something else.

And, try not to hurt yourself. ; If you said, bread, go to Question #2.

2. Say 'silk' ten times. Now spell 'silk.' What do cows drink ?

Answer: Cows drink water. If you said 'milk,' don't attempt the next question.

Your brain is already over-stressed and may even overheat. Content yourself with reading more appropriate literature such as Women's Weekly or Auto World.

However, if you did say 'water', proceed to Question #3.

3. If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a greenhouse made from?

Answer: Greenhouses are made from glass.

If you said 'green bricks', why are you still reading this ??? PLEASE, go lie down !

But, if you said 'glass,' go on to Question #4.

4. Please do not use a calculator for this for it would be cheating:

You are driving a bus from New York City to Philadelphia.

In Staten Island, 17 people got on the bus.

In New Brunswick, 6 people get off the bus and 9 people get on.

In Windsor, 2 people get off and 4 get on.

In Trenton, 11 people get off and 16 people get on.

In Bristol, 3 people get off and 5 people get on.

And, in Camden, 6 people get off and 3 get on.

You then arrive at Philadelphia Station.

Without going back to review, how old is the bus driver ?

Answer: Oh, for crying out loud !

Don't you remember your own age?!?! It was YOU driving the bus!

If you pass this along to your friends, pray they do better than you.

PS: 95% of people fail most of the questions!

Sorry for all the spaces. You'd be tempted to cheat otherwise.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation.....

Fifty years ago the owner's manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves...

Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery...

.....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" ...)