

Hi everyone

Welcome to the December 2018 edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter, the last one for 2018. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time. A very brief Newsletter this month as I have been away for most of it.

You can always view back copies of this Newsletter as well as past copies of JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle" by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

BIGGIN HILL WEATHER IN NOVEMBER

Whilst I was personally not around for much of this month, friends and colleagues report that the weather for November was less than favourable for most of the month, with more non-flyable days than those that were suitable for light aircraft flying. And, of course, following the clock changes at the end of October, the available daylight hours are reduced dramatically. As I write this Newsletter, the weather is extremely grey with early morning fog and a forecast for low cloud and rain again this afternoon.

At this time of the year, it is sometimes difficult to remember back to the extremely hot summer that we have experienced this year. Let's hope that December is a little better and that we can look also forward to a great flying year in 2019.

BIGGIN HILL 'ITES

After a bad month for losses of old friends in October, I am pleased to report that we are all alive and kicking and looking forward, I'm sure, to a great Christmas and New Year

2018 A YEAR FOR CHANGES

This year has been a year of changes – predominantly with light aviation at Biggin Hill.

Initial reports in the early part of the year suggested that the airport was trying to get rid of all light aviation. Subsequently it transpired that the airport was simply trying to force a reduction in light aircraft movement after failing over a number of years to obtain voluntary reduction in circuits. Changes were deemed necessary for safety reasons, so training organisations had their leases terminated, pending submission of a proposal to continue operations at the airport. Once that was done, and after negotiation, new leases were issued and, whilst it would be wrong to say that things returned to normal, certainly flight training continued.

The airport has made great strides in getting the various aspects of aviation (corporate jets, helicopters, private owners, club training and rental, and warbirds) to work together. The airport's Safety and Noise Abatement Board (SANARB) investigated many infringements and incidents, not just of light aircraft, but also jets and commercial operations, and a number of individual pilots have been barred from operation at, or into/out of Biggin Hill.

These combined actions have made amazing improvements in safety at the airport and, in my opinion, made Biggin Hill one of the safest airports that we can all operate from, albeit incredibly busy. (It is clear that, in general, the majority of safety issues that are now being experienced at Biggin, are caused by visiting light aircraft whose standards of flying often leave quite a lot to be desired.)

We should be justifiably proud of the general standard of flying at the airport on the part particularly of based operators, and I'm sure that the airport would be the first to congratulate everyone for their efforts to fit in.

CROYDON AERODROME AVIATION & MILITARIA FAIR

Just a quick reminder again for your diaries: -

The annual post New Year Aviation and Militaria Fair is again to be held at the Croydon Airport hotel, (Hallmark), A.23, Purely Way, Croydon, Surrey on Sunday 6th January 2019 from 10.30am.

With around 40 stalls, all indoors, offering Books, Militaria, Models, Toys, collectables, Paintings, etc. Entry is £4 - Free parking.

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,

Despite an odd bout of peculiar weather, 2018 has seen a record number of trial flights, PPL's and flying activity in general at Alouette. The little fleet has been busy this year.

Don't forget Alouette Social evening is on Wednesday December 5th, 19:30 onwards. Family and friends are always welcome to stop by and take advantage of our subsidised bar, you don't even have to be a member to pay us a visit.

A big thank you goes out to the committee for their hard work and valuable input this year. Let's not forget the instructors at Alouette, without your knowledge, patience and skills, we would be nothing more than a social club.

From all of us at Alouette, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Until next time, safe flying

Regards
Josh Reeves
Alouette Chairman

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from the Falcon Camp

Well - what a November! Normally we're all sunshine and rays over here, but it really has been wet and windy! Alas, fear not, as the days progress we get closer to cooler crisper flying days.

Don't forget the night is still young and ratings will still happen whilst the weather allows. For those of you who aren't current, you will need a checkout for night flying, give ops a call on 01959 540 400 so we can arrange this!

Despite the bad we weather we had 3 more PPL passes this month with more lined up. As a training provider committed to excellence and safety in a fun and professional environment we are proud of all our guys and girls, and indeed the support from you all.

Ray has been busy with Multi Engine work and Class Rating Instructor Courses. With one of the most experienced instructor/examiner and indeed Pilot in the country we are all fortunate to have his firm hand guide us. Call Ray on 01959 540 400 to upgrade your rating!

So as we delve in to the depths of winter, we have our de-icing equipment at the ready, ops team booking you in, instructors imparting their knowledge and planes keeping you flying.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for a calmer December.

We bid farewell to another year. Let us remember those both past and present. We are grateful for the safe skies, good friends and pray for plenty of fantastic flying days in the New Year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all at Falcon.

Stay blessed.

Anoop Singh Bamrah
Falcon and EFG

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

November has been another average month for business aviation as Brexit uncertainty begins to delay decisions and the 'movers and shakers' wait to see where the chips will fall. Meanwhile light aviation has been average but at this time of year, is obviously suppressed by weather.

In the brave new world of Performance Based Regulation or PBR (the new CAA regulatory regime for airports and AOC operators) we are required to ensure our own compliance with regulations. PBR has created the need for extra staffing to cover the compliance function and has added considerably to the costs of operating the airport this year. In fact, if we divide our current annual fixed aerodrome costs by the total number of landings, we find that each landing carries a fixed cost, to the airport operator, of £190. So please remember this statistic before complaining too much about our landing fees or parking charges!

We have been working on the detail design of the hotel and to help us get it right first time, we have now appointed a hotel development and management partner. We now expect to be starting the building around Q2 or Q3 2019. Following much negotiation with third parties and the CAA, the runway 03 GPS approach is very close to the point at which the CAA makes its final regulatory decision. It has been a tortuous process and of course, we hope we very much hope that we will gain approval at the end of it. Meanwhile work has been taking place this week for the approach lights in preparation.

Bids have been received and carefully assessed in respect the work to repair and resurface Hotel taxiway. The work will take place in the New Year and will cost around £2.5 million. There will likely be reduced airport capacity for VFR traffic at peak periods whilst the taxiway is closed so the aim is to finish sometime around Easter 2019 before the spring weather begins in earnest.

Have a very Happy Christmas and until next time - safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

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.

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All that there remains for me to do, is to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous, and Successful New Year for 2019 from me and of course JB, who is slowly recovering from a bad year, health wise.

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.....

Teacher: How old is your father
 Kid: He is six years old
 Teacher: What? How is that possible?
 Kid: He became a father only when I was born
 (Logic!! Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

Teacher: Maria - go to the map and find North America
 Maria: Here it is
 Teacher: Correct - Now class, who discovered America?
 Class: Maria

Teacher: Glen - how do you spell 'crocodile'
 Glenn: K-R-O-K-D-I-A-L
 Teacher: No, that's wrong
 Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it..
 (Love this child...)

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water
Donald: H I J K L M N O
Teacher: What are you talking about?
Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your Brother's. Did you copy his?
Clyde: No Sir; It's the same dog
(I want to adopt this kid!!!!)

Teacher: What do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?
Harold: A teacher

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Murphy, a furniture dealer from Dublin, decided to expand the line of furniture in his store, so he decided to go to Paris to see what he could find. After arriving in Paris, he visited with some manufacturers and selected a line that he thought would sell well back home. To celebrate the new acquisition, he decided to visit a small bistro and have a glass of wine.

Before long, a very beautiful young Parisian girl came to his table and asked him something in French (which Murphy could not understand) so, he motioned to the vacant chair and invited her to sit down. He tried to speak to her in English, but she did not speak his language.

After a couple of minutes of trying to communicate with her, he took a napkin and drew a picture of a wine glass and showed it to her. She nodded, so he ordered a glass of wine for her.

After sitting together at the table for a while, he took another napkin, and drew a picture of a plate with food on it. She nodded and they left the bistro and found a quiet cafe that featured a small group playing romantic music.

They ordered dinner, after which he took another napkin and drew a picture of a couple dancing. She nodded, and they got up to dance. They danced until the cafe closed and the band was packing up.

Back at their table, the young lady took a napkin and drew a picture of a four-poster bed.

To this day, Murphy has no idea how she figured out he was in the furniture business.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

For all of you men who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine!

Wayne, was driving home from one of his business trips in Northern Queensland when he saw an elderly Aboriginal man walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, he stopped the car and asked the Aboriginal man if he would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the **old** man got into the car.

Resuming the journey, the old man just sat silently, looking intently at everything he saw, studying every little detail, until he noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Wayne.

'*What's in the bag?*' asked the old man.

Wayne, looked down at the brown bag and said, ...'*It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my wife.*'

The Aboriginal man was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, he said: '*Good trade...*'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Being British is about driving a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then on the way home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab to sit on a Swedish sofa and watch USA shows on a Japanese TV.

Oh and..... Only in in Britain.... Can you get a pizza to your home faster than an ambulance. Only in Britain do banks leave both doors open and chain pens to the counter.

Supermarkets make sick people walk to the back of the shop for prescriptions, while healthy people get their fags at the front

We might be British but by God... We're funny!!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A beautiful young girl is about to undergo a minor operation. She's laid on a hospital trolley bed with nothing on, except a sheet over her. The nurse pushes the trolley down the corridor towards the operating theatre, where she leaves the girl on the trolley outside, while she goes in to check whether everything is ready.

A young man wearing a white coat approaches, lifts the sheet up and starts examining her naked body. He puts the sheet back and then walks away and talks to another man in a white coat.

The second man comes over, lifts the sheet and does the same examinations.

When a third man does the same thing, but more closely, she grows impatient and says: "All these examinations are fine and appreciated, but when are you going to start the operation?"

The man in the white coat shrugged his shoulders: "I have no idea. We're just painting the corridor."

.....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"...)