

Hi everyone

Welcome to the December 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. As a result of a distinct lack of GA activity this last month, this Newsletter is a relative brief one....

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!)

NOVEMBER WEATHER

As I'm sure most of you will probably realise, the November weather has been fairly changeable, as is normal at this time of year. But, it was, for most of light aviation, somewhat immaterial as the British Government put us all under Lockdown from 5th November and none of us could fly for leisure or training purposes anyway. Roll on the 2nd December.....

UK COVID LOCKDOWN

As mentioned above, the month of November saw the full Covid lockdown introduced by the Government from midnight on 5th, lasting right through to 2nd December.

Severe restrictions were placed on any forms of social interaction and non-essential travel, with all pubs and restaurants and other hospitality facilities closed except for takeaway or home delivery meals. Most health clubs and pools etc., were closed. Sports facilities prevented from having fans attending games. Most retail facilities had restricted opening and operation.

The Department for Transport (DfT) also issued a restriction on any flying schools and driving schools from carrying out training and declaring that no Sport or Leisure flying was permitted, except for mandatory maintenance or airworthiness flights. (formal Commercial Flight Training for the purpose of the issue of professional pilots licences was however permitted to continue during the lockdown.)

As I write this Newsletter, information is just being released regarding what will apply after 2nd December when the lockdown ends, and what is likely to be permitted during the Christmas period. *[after this lockdown ends, Biggin Hill as part of Bromley will apparently be in "Tier 2" area of restrictions as a part of London – whereas our neighbours in Kent will be in the more restricted "Tier 3"]*

STOP PRESS – POST LOCKDOWN CHANGES

General Aviation Flying and training after 2nd December 2020 has now been just cleared by the DfT and CAA, subject to certain considerations and basic rules:

DfT

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-general-aviation/coronavirus-covid-19-general-aviation?fbclid=IwAR3At7ihsMPoqVxvX4tdqBlx4ODcn8xpZyBjgeyxg_7U2aticV7Wi_GVIWk

CAA – CAP1919

https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP1919%20GA_RTS_ADVICE_E2.pdf

CAA – CAP1925

<https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP1925%20COVID%2019%20Preparing%20to%20return%20to%20flying%20or%20GA%20pilots%20E2.pdf>

GRAHAM WRIGHTSON

It was with great sadness that I was advised of the passing on 19th November of old Biggin Hill'ite, Graham Wrightson, at age 94. He was happily married to Dee for some 72 years, and they had three children. He also had three Grandchildren and three Great-Grandchildren, all of whom will of course miss him massively.

Graham learnt to fly at Biggin Hill and was an active member of Sportair Flying Club, where he learnt to fly in 1971 (I actually did his PPL issue final handling flight test in October 1972!). He always loved flying and was also a member of the Tiger Club when it was based at Redhill many years ago.

After serving in the Merchant Navy he joined a large London advertising agency, before starting his own, Beckenham based, PR Agency.

Besides his love of flying, he had many other hobbies, which included music of all kinds, and he played drums, piano, and latterly learned the Saxophone. He also loved boats and the sea in general. He played golf, did wood carving, and had a general interest in everything going on and in people.

An absolute gentleman, who stayed in regular contact with many old Biggin Hill'ites, and was a member of the Biggin Hill Reunited database since its formation back in 1998.

His name has been added to the Roll of Honour at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

He will be missed by his many airport friends.

R.I.P. Graham

DENNIS KENYON

Readers will remember that we gave details of the sad sudden death of Helicopter display pilot, Dennis Kenyon, in late October.

His funeral was held on 18th November. As Covid restrictions prevented many of Dennis's friends from attending, the very emotional full service was streamed live for others to join the proceedings on the day.

For those that were unable to take the live feed on the day, the service can still be viewed (or it is also possible to request a copy of the video file online) until approximately midnight on 15th December.

The URL is: <https://www.obitus.com> and the Username = Raqi8867 with Password = 092394

ADAMS AVIATION IS MOVING

The originally Biggin Hill based Adams Aviation Supplies Ltd, who left Biggin Hill to move to Mercury House, in Vulcan Way, New Addington around 10 years ago, is moving again.

They have advised that, in the second weekend in December, they are now moving to Crawley, very close to Gatwick Airport. That planned date may of course have to change because of the second lockdown and any other restrictions that may follow.

They have advised all customers that they should note, with the possible exception of a very urgent AOG, whether it be the second week in December as planned, or another weekend if forced to change the date of the move, they will not be able to ship on the Friday immediately prior to the actual move, as they will have to concentrate on physically preparing and shipping their stock to the new warehouse. If you are able to order in advance to avoid the Friday they would be very grateful.

Their new address following the move will be: 2 Kelvin Lane, Newton Rd, Crawley RH10 9TY

We would like to take this opportunity to wish them every success with their move. We will be sorry to see them go after all those years at Biggin Hill and close by in New Addington.

DECEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:36.25 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

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

It has been a quiet month for Alouette with no flying allowed due to the lockdown, however it has given us a chance to work things out behind the scenes and look to the future.

We have a whole new committee and our intention, among other things, is to bring back the social scene in the new year by opening up the bar to social and flying members on a more regular basis.

Our aircraft is fresh out of its Annual so if you want to get some flying in before the festive season, you know where to find us!

From all of us at Alouette, we wish you all a great Christmas and a happy New Year!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Another month has passed and we now find ourselves on the brink of exiting our 2nd national lockdown but about to enter the confusion of the national tier system. Whilst I appreciate this is frustrating, I am also aware that this comes on the back of the fact that many within the GA community will not have been able to fly and the hope of clear blue skies must be extremely strong!

They say a week is a long time in politics and we have seen in only a month that we have endured the 2nd national lockdown, progressed ever closer to our exit from Europe and heard that vaccines are on the horizon.

The economic challenges for the industry remain and we continue to hear of redundancies across the larger UK Airports. The Global Travel Task Force established by the government to look at how the industry can react to the current crisis continues to work on adapting the quarantine measures. Whilst the 'test and release' is a welcomed step forward it still does not go far enough to start a meaningful recovery for the industry.

November has been an extremely challenging month with relatively low traffic movements that fell below those experienced in 2018 and 2019. We have our fingers crossed that the last quarter of the year will prove more promising and help lift the gloom in the new year. That said, the Airport continues to 'buck the trend' and stills shows an increase in our market share of the London business aviation traffic.

Notwithstanding the clear economic challenges, developments at the Airport continue at pace and, most notably, the external cladding of the Bombardier hangar is almost complete. The project remains slightly ahead of schedule and it is hoped the building will be fully water tight in the next few weeks. The replacement ILS remains in the schedule for April 2021 and we are still holding our breath regarding a decision on the 03 RNAV approach. The Operations Director is also starting to advance the taxiway resurfacing programme, which will include works on Alpha, Delta and Foxtrot.

Finally, you will have seen that the Airport has opened a COVID testing facility at the lookout. This initiative, together with 'return to the skies' and 'contactless travel', have further cemented the resilience of business aviation and the innovation needed for businesses to survive these challenging times. I hope that everyone who feels they need a test will use the Mansi Suite at the Lookout.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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.

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All there is left is for me to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Have a great one everybody!

That's it for this month and for 2020..... 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.....

A lady decided to give herself a big treat for her 90th birthday by staying overnight in a really nice luxurious hotel..

When she checked out the next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for £250.00.

She demanded to know why the charge was so high "I agree it's a nice hotel, but the rooms aren't worth £250:00 for just an overnight stay - I didn't even have breakfast!"

The clerk told her that £250.00 is the 'standard rate,' and breakfast had been included had she wanted it.

She insisted on speaking to the Manager.

The Manager appeared and, forewarned by the desk clerk, announced: "This hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use."

"But I didn't use them."

"Well, they are here, and you could have."

He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which they were so famous.

"We have the best entertainers from all over the world performing here."

"But I didn't go to any of those shows.." She Pleaded.

"Well, we have them, and you could have." was the reply.

No matter what amenity the Manager mentioned, she replied, "But I didn't use it!" and the Manager countered with his standard response.

After several minutes discussion, and with the Manager still unmoved, she decided to pay, wrote a cheque and gave it to him.

The Manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque. "But Madam, this check is for only £50.00"

"That's correct" she replied "I charged you £200.00 for sleeping with me."

"But I didn't sleep with you madam!" said the manager

"Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have."!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young South London woman was so depressed that she decided to end her life by throwing herself into the sea but just before she could throw herself from the wharf, a handsome young man stopped her.

"You have so much to live for," said the man. "I'm a sailor and we are off to Australia tomorrow. I can stow you away on my ship. I'll take care of you, bring you food every day and keep you happy."

With nothing to lose and the prospect of going to Australia, the woman accepted.

That night the sailor brought her aboard and hid her in a small but comfortable compartment in the hold.

From then on every night he would bring her three sandwiches, a bottle of red wine and make love to her until dawn.

Two weeks later she was discovered by the captain during a routine inspection.

"What are you doing here?" asked the captain.

"I have an arrangement with one of the sailors," she replied. "He brings me food and I get a free trip to Australia."

"I see," the captain says.

Her conscience got the best of her and she added, "Plus, he's screwing me."

"He certainly is," replied the captain. "This is the Woolwich ferry."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Father asked his 10-year old son if he knew about the Birds and the Bees.

"I don't want to know," the child said, bursting into tears. "Promise me you won't tell me."

Confused, the Father asked what was wrong.

The boy sobbed, "When I was Six, I got the 'There's no Easter Bunny' speech...

At Seven, I got the 'There's no Tooth Fairy' speech.

When I was Eight, you hit me with the 'There's no Santa' speech.

If you're going to tell me that grown-ups don't really Shag, I'll have nothing left to live for."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In the capital of Ethiopia there is a famous nightclub, sponsored by an equally famous sports brand, that plays only the music of Sweden's most popular band.

It's Addis Ababa's Adidas Abba Bar . .
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The recent Bahrain F1 Grand Prix reminds me of the story that a Hollywood Studio was trying to sell its cartoon back catalogue to TV stations in the Middle East.

They thought they'd start with "The Flintstones" and were puzzled to discover that the locals in Bahrain just don't get the humour, whereas those in Abu Dhabi Do !

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old man calls his son and says, "Listen, your mother and I are getting divorced. Forty-five years of misery is enough."

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," he says. "I'm sick of her face, and I'm sick of talking about this, so call your sister and tell her," and he hangs up....

Now, the son is worried. He calls his sister.

She says, "Like hell they're getting divorced!"

She calls their father immediately. "You're not getting divorced! Don't do another thing. The two of us are flying home tomorrow to talk about this. Until then, don't call a lawyer, don't file a paper. DO YOU HEAR ME?" She hangs up the phone.

The old man turns to his wife and says, "Okay, they're both coming for Christmas and paying their own airfares!"

.....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"...))