

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February 2020 Newsletter for the Biggin Hill 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

(we know some email providers, particularly "gmail", have been preventing the Newsletters from reaching the intended recipients. 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!)

JANUARY WEATHER

Not a great start for the new year as January weather was very changeable, with a few beautiful flying days, but many pretty unpleasant for light aircraft VFR flying and for student training.

It was so changeable that, at one point the high pressure broke all records, with 1050 Hectopascals at one point, the highest recorded since 1932 apparently!

Still, Spring and Summer will soon be here – we hope.

FEBRUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1.55 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)

£0.645 per litre for Jet A1

DOUGLAS FIELD

I was shocked to hear that old Biggin Hill'ite, Douglas Field, passed away quietly at home on 23rd January with his family by his side.

Douglas owned and flew a VariEze which I believe he built from a kit many years ago. Unfortunately he had an engine failure on the approach into Dunkeswell and landed heavily in a field, receiving severe back injuries. Douglas's wife Mavis was also on board the aircraft, and although injured, she was not badly hurt. He was airlifted to a local hospital, before moving to Stoke Mandeville for further treatment. Douglas eventually returned home but remained paralysed and wheelchair bound.

Ex-Army and MoD man, Douglas was also very active at Biggin Hill Airport, he actively participated on all the monthly airport meetings - including the Airport Users and Tenants group as well as serving on the Airport Consultative Committee, and the SANARB, and he looked after Hangar 504 for the airport's tenants there.

The family indicated that Douglas had become quite ill towards the end in spite of gallantly fighting it. He died at 1am as they said, with much dignity.

He will be much missed by his many aviation and airport colleagues. R.I.P.Douglas

A NEW LIGHT AIRCRAFT GROUP AT BIGGIN HILL – INTERESTED?

Long term Biggin Hill'ite, and one of our database members, is looking for 3-4 like-minded pilots to form a group around a 6-seater SEP(A) at Biggin Hill Airport.

Paul has been based at Biggin for many years and he feels things are now in a good place for GA here.

If you're genuinely interested and are looking for a share in the order of £25-50k, please get in touch with him, providing some more details about yourself.

Contact: Paul Sodagar on 07738313961 or email paul.sodagar@gmail.com

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

Took the kids to school this morning and it was freezing! Perhaps there's snow on the way. But that's no bad thing, because that often means clear blue skies, once the snow has landed.

Sure it will be cold until you get that heater on but the views will be spectacular. So let's shake off that winter dust and get back into the air.

Here at Alouette we have two excellent Cessna 172s and instructors waiting for you.

1) For PPL holders....

We have special rates for anyone already holding a PPL:

Free membership until April if you are a paid member of any other flying club

A discounted hourly hire rate:

£175 per tacho hour (equivalent to about £140 per chock to chock hour) plus landing fees – plus instructors fee when appropriate.....

2) Flight Training for Students... (Minimum age 14)

For students, whilst the normal rate is £195 per tacho hour (equivalent to about £156 per chock to chock hour) plus landing fees and the instructors fee, we do offer new potential students the following:

A single one hour chock to chock Trial Lesson for £199 which includes the landing fee and instructor fee.

And after, there is still a subsidised five hour pack available:

5 hours chock to chock flying in the club aircraft

5 hours instruction plus ground briefings

5 landing fees at Biggin Hill

A Pilots Logbook

An aircraft checklist

Free club membership whilst on the 5 hour course for a cost of :-

£1,040

Now that's good value! All landing fees and instructor are included!

After that, assuming you want to continue flight training (which we are sure you will of course), at this point you need to join the club and your subsequent flying is at the normal rate of £195 per tacho hour (equivalent to about £156 per chock to chock hour) plus landing fees and the instructors fee.

Come and try us out - Hope we will see you at our club soon.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As I write my update the question that springs to mind is 'When is it too late to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year'? Too late I hear you cry, but I feel compelled to do it never the less! So, Happy New Year to all!

A month into the new year has already seen challenges regarding the weather, instrument approaches and the increasing demand for de-icing. As I look out of the window, I see the Airport clouded in low mist, which increases the need for us to invest in a new ILS and progress the 03 GPS Approach. Both of these are key targets for the Airport within the next 12 months.

Despite the continuing narrative of a flat or decreasing market, the Airport continues to perform well against this back drop. Despite a slow start to the year, we see January's movements ahead of both 2019 and 2018. This is promising when you consider this is in the run up to Brexit which is literally just over 24 hours away. We have taken this opportunity to remind our customers and the wider Airport community that it is 'Business as Usual' and we expect to see no immediate impact of Brexit.

This year will see the start of a series of significant developments across the Airport. In February we will see the commencement of the OEM hangar facility south of the RAS hangar. In September we will see the enabling works start for both the Hotel and College, and some of you will already have seen the work underway on taxiway Lima. Together with the work on improving our navigational facilities, this represents a significant investment that will benefit the whole airport community.

The lively debate during our most recent Light Aviation Steering Group regarding what the future of GA at Biggin Hill might look like, was challenging but ultimately constructive. Whilst we all will have very differing views about the future, what is vital is that those debates are now taking place, and that slowly a strategy will emerge.

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.....

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 , as soon as you can, as my stock for the newsletter is getting quite low now....!)

QUOTE.....

A family are driving behind a garbage truck when a dildo flies out and thumps against the windscreen.

Embarrassed, and to spare her young son's innocence, the mother turns around and says, "Don't worry. That was an insect."

To which one of the boys replies, "I'm surprised it could get off the ground with a cock like that!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Three guys go on a skiing trip together.

When they get to the ski lodge there aren't enough rooms, so they have to share a bed.

In the middle of the night, the guy on the right side of the bed wakes up and says, "Wow, I had this mad dream I was getting a hand job."

The guy on the left side of the bed has also woken up and says that he's had the same dream, too.

The guy in the middle says, "Wow that's funny, I dreamed I was skiing."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In the morning Tom calls to his boss:

"Good morning, boss, unfortunately, I'm not coming to work today. I'm really sick. I got a headache, stomach ache, and my both hands and legs hurt, so I'm not coming into work."

The boss replies:

"You know Tom; I really need you today. When I feel like this I go to my wife and tell her to give me sex. That makes me feel better, and I can go to work. You should try that."

Two hours later Bob calls:

"Boss, I followed your advice, and I feel great! I'll be at work soon. By the way, you got a nice house."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man goes to a job interview and the interviewer begins with the question, "What do you think is your biggest weakness?"

The man thinks for a moment, then says, "I think my biggest weakness is my brutal honesty."

The interviewer says, "I don't think that's a weakness."

The man then says, "I don't give a #%^& what you think!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man goes to the doctor, concerned about his wife's hearing.

The doctor says, "Stand behind her and say something and tell me how close you are when she hears you."

The man goes home, sees his wife in the kitchen, cutting carrots on the countertop.

About 15 feet away he says, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Nothing.

He gets halfway to her and repeats the same question.

Nothing.

Very concerned, he gets right behind her and asks again "What's for dinner?"

She turns around and says "For the THIRD time, beef stew!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A couple of One liners – please don't blame the messenger.....!

A bloke was killed by a shark whilst on his honeymoon.

Thankfully he didn't suffer much though as he was only married for 10 days.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common: they should both be changed regularly... and for the same reason.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Very Brave Man Jokes.....

1 - What is the difference between a battery and a woman?

A battery has a positive side.

2 - How do you make 5 pounds of fat look good?

Put a nipple on it.

3 - Why do women fake orgasms ?

Because they think men care

4 - Why do men pass gas more than women?

Because women can't shut up long enough to build up the required pressure.

5 - If your dog is barking at the back door and your wife is yelling at the front door, who do you let in first ?

The dog, of course. He'll shut up once you let it in.

6 - Scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90%...

It's called a Wedding Cake"

.....UNQUOTE

SORRY - I TOLD YOU I WAS RUNNING OUT OF JOKES!

Please send more of them to me again!

(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"...))