

Hi everyone

Welcome to the February 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 the entry into Covid "Tier 4" on 19th December, and then lockdown on 4th January, there has obviously been virtually no GA activity since the last Newsletter, so there has not really much to write about this month at all. So again, this Newsletter is a very 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!)

JANUARY WEATHER

The expected, but quite poor, January weather has of course been somewhat irrelevant as we have been unable to fly for leisure purposes, so I think the less mentioned here the better. At least the poor weather has meant we haven't actually missed out on much at all because of the Covid restrictions...

One day we might actually be able to fly again!

UK COVID LOCKDOWN

There really isn't a lot of point in repeating the Covid restrictions in detail here again, save that, as we all know, we can't fly for leisure or PPL /LAPL training yet again, with no real indication at this time of when these restrictions will be relaxed.

TERRY ROBINSON

It was with great sadness that I was advised recently of the passing of Terry Robinson a week or so ago at the age of 90. Many Biggin Hill'ites will know Terry from his regular attendance at meetings of the old Airport Users and Tenants Group as the representative from the Scout Aviation Centre at the airport until a couple of years or so ago. He was the Scout Centre's bookings secretary.

Apparently, Terry had had a fall at Christmas and developed double pneumonia, and finally Covid-19 (not clear if that was the cause of death but it certainly didn't help).

Given the lockdown, there can't be a 'normal' funeral but it is hoped there will be a memorial service post-lockdown when conditions allow.

As well as giving up many hours to help countless young people learn about aviation, Terry had been a pilot in the RAF during the Cold War and helped to maintain the UK air presence in the skies over Berlin flying a Chipmunk.

Terry's name has been added to the Roll of Honour at www.bigginHillReunited.co.uk

RIP Terry.

Thank you to Ian Piper from the Scouts for informing me of Terry's sad passing.

FEBRUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:46.5 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using account card
Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:56.2 per litre for Jet A1

SPECIAL NOTE: Users should be aware that credit and debit cards 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.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO VMC

For those of you who may not have seen this - The UK CAA have just announced that the UK is to revert to previous rules for Visibility and Distance from Cloud Minima for flying in visual meteorological conditions.

From 20 May 2021, the UK will revert to the rules on flight visibility and distance from cloud in class D airspace that existed up to 26 March 2020. The formal changes can be seen here:

<https://www.caa.co.uk/Commercial-industry/Airspace/Rules-of-the-air/Standardised-European-Rules-of-the-Air/>

But to summarise – here is an extract from the relevant section within that webpage:

QUOTE:

Through the Aviation Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2021, on 20 May 2021 the UK will implement an amendment to SERA.5001 Table S5-1 that modifies the VMC visibility and distance from cloud minima in airspace Classes D, F and G. From 20 May 2021, pilots will be deemed to have complied with the requirements of SERA.5001 when operating at or below 3,000 ft AMSL, or 1,000 ft above terrain, whichever is the higher, if they are flying:

Within Class D airspace:

- a) During day only;
- b) Indicated airspeed of 140 kts or less;
- c) Remains clear of cloud with the surface in sight and;
 - (i) For aircraft other than helicopters, with a flight visibility of at least 5 km;
 - (ii) For helicopters, with a flight visibility of at least 1,500 m.

Within Class F and G airspace:

- a) During day only;
- b) Indicated airspeed of 140 kts or less;
- c) For all aircraft, with a flight visibility of at least 1,500 m.

UNQUOTE

That has definitely helped me to pad out what would otherwise have been a very short Newsletter this month due predominantly to the lockdown preventing most GA activity..... [Ed]

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

Well, the endless lack of aviating continues!

Naturally it has been a very quiet month for us at Alouette, but thankfully the weather has been such rubbish, we have hardly noticed. We are, however, getting things in place so that when we are able to open up, it will be in the safest way possible.

Our students and pilots have been very good at wearing masks and keeping the aircraft sanitised, and I'm sure this 'new normal' will continue when flying can resume.

I did manage to take our aircraft for an engine maintenance check flight recently and I grinned the whole way. I will never tire of how the world looks from above, and I hope once we can get back into the skies you will come along to Alouette to scratch your aviation itch. Or at least have a drink with us!

Until then, stay safe, stay happy and wash your hands!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

I seemed compelled to start another newsletter update that plunges straight into the challenges we all face as we endure another necessary national lockdown. The Airport continues to adapt its response to the current crisis; however, the strategy of prudent control of costs, active marketing and clear unambiguous internal and external communications, continue to be effective.

The detection of new variants of the virus and the significant increase in infections rates has presented new challenges for the Airport. We find ourselves, once again, enforcing 'Essential Travel' and adapting the operation to include additional measures enforced by continual changes in government advice and guidance.

The impact upon the wider Aviation Industry remains severe and the closing of several travel corridors and suspension of all non-essential international travel have compounded what was already a bleak situation. Whilst the vaccine presents 'light at the end of the tunnel', it is almost impossible to assess just how long such a tunnel is. The need to obtain a negative COVID test 72 hours before travelling and the discussions regarding the identification of specific quarantine hotels, adds further levels of complexity.

January has been an extremely challenging month for the Airport and will undoubtedly result in a trading loss mirroring that of April last year. Movement levels were well below previous years and it is unlikely there will be a significant improvement before April. Whilst I would love to paint a more optimistic picture, the reality of the economic situation prevents me from doing so.

As I have stressed in all most every other update, developments at the Airport continue at pace and it is important the community know the confidence the Airport has regarding future inward investment.

The Bombardier hangar is progressing extremely well and remains on target for operational completion early next year. The CAA have now confirmed that the 03 GPS Approach has entered its final stage of the approval process. The Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) design stage checks that the designed route matches the route consulted upon and meets the PAN OPS design requirements. It is hoped that the approach will be in operation sometime in May. Furthermore, the Airport has now commenced surface testing works on taxiway Foxtrot and plans to extend its

resurfacing programme to taxiways Alpha and Delta towards the later part of this year and I can confirm that the installation of the new 21 ILS has now been finalised for March 2021.

Some time ago, the Chairman decided to commission a book capturing both the history and the future of Biggin Hill Airport. The author, Alex Martin, is keen to start his research, via zoom, and would welcome any stories or anecdotes that he may wish to explore further. Anyone interested in supporting the project can drop me an email.

Finally, 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..... 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 loud pounding on the door at 3am awakened the man and his wife. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

"Not a chance", says the husband, "it's 3 o'clock in the morning!"

He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?", asks his wife.

"Just some drunk guy asking for a push", he answers.

"Did you help him?" she asks.

“No, I did not. It’s 3 o’clock in the morning and it’s bloody pouring with rain out there!”

“Well, you have a short memory”, says his wife “Can’t you remember about three months ago when our car broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself! God loves drunk people too, you know”.

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, “Hello, are you still there?”

“Yes”, comes back the answer.

“Do you still need a push,” calls out the husband.

“Yes please”, comes the reply from the dark.

“Where are you?” asks the husband.

[oh I do love this part!]

“Over here, on the swing!” replied the drunk.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old man named Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons, are with him.

He asks for 2 witnesses to be present and a camcorder is in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready he begins to speak:

My son, “Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses.”

My daughter “Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end.”

My son, “Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre.”

“Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river.”

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as man slips away, the nurse says, “Mrs Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property”.

Sarah replies, “Property ? the asshole had a paper round!”

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old man was sitting at a bar enjoying an after-work cocktail when an exceptionally gorgeous and sexy young woman entered.

She was so striking that the elderly man could not take his eyes away from her.

The young woman noticed his overly-attentive stare and walked directly toward him.

Before he could offer his apologies for being so rude, the young woman said to him, "I'll do anything, absolutely anything, that you want me to do, no matter how kinky, for \$100 on one condition."

Flabbergasted, the man asked what the condition was.

The young woman replied, "You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words."

The elderly man considered her proposition for a moment, withdrew his wallet from his pocket and slowly counted out five \$20 bills, which he pressed into the young woman's hand.

He looked into her eyes and slowly, meaningfully said, "Paint my house."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young farmer went for a walk past a farm with his new girlfriend and we saw dogs mating.

She said: "How does the male know when the female is ready for sex?"

I replied: "He can smell she is ready. That's how nature works."

We then walked past a sheep field and the ram was mating the ewe.

Again my girlfriend asked: "How does the ram know when the ewe is ready for sex?"

I replied: "It's nature. He can smell she is ready."

We then went past another pasture and the bull was mating with the cow.

My girlfriend said: "This is odd. They are really going at it. Surely the bull can't smell when she is ready?"

I said: "Oh, yes; it's nature. All animals can smell when the female is ready for sex."

Anyway, after the walk, I dropped her at home and kissed her goodbye.

She said: "Take care and get yourself checked by the doctor"

Surprised, "Why do you say that?" I asked her.

She replied: "You seem to have lost your sense of smell."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

John hoisted his beer mug and said, "Here's to spending the rest of my life, between the legs of my wife!"

That won him the top prize at the pub for the best toast of the night!

He told his wife, Mary, "I won the prize for the best toast of the night."

She asked, "what was your toast?"

John said, "Here's to spending the rest of my life, sitting in church beside my wife."

"Oh, that is very nice indeed, John!" Mary said.

The next day, Mary ran into one of John's drinking buddies at the street corner.

The man chuckled leeringly and said, "John won the prize the other night at the pub with a toast about you, Mary."

She said, "Yes he told me, and I was a bit surprised myself. You know he's only been in there twice in the last four years. Once he fell asleep, and the other time I had to pull him by the ears to make him come...!!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A male whale and a female whale were swimming off the coast of Japan when they noticed a whaling ship. The male whale recognized it as the same ship that had harpooned his father many years earlier.

He said to the female whale, "Lets both swim under the ship and blow out of our air holes at the same time and it should cause the ship to turn over and sink."

They tried it and sure enough, the ship turned over and quickly sank. Soon, however, the whales realised the sailors had jumped overboard and were swimming to the safety of the shore.

The male was enraged that they were going to get away and told the female, "Let's swim after them and gobble them up before they reach the shore."

At this point, he realized the female was becoming reluctant to follow him.

"Look", she said, "I went along with the blow job, but I absolutely refuse to swallow the seamen."

.....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" ...)