

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.

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!)

JANUARY WEATHER

The weather in January has, as is normal in the winter, been virtually unflyable for most of the month for Light Aircraft flight training. We have had a lot of poor visibility and low cloud days, plus of course several significantly strong storms with very heavy rain, causing flooding and waterlogging in grass airports. In addition many days have had very strong and gusty winds that made it pretty unflyable for the airport's students and even PPL's.

But, apart from some continuing strong winds on some days, the final week or so of January became quite clear and mainly flyable again.

Lets keep our fingers crossed for some more flying days in February....

SO NOT MUCH GOOD STUFF TO TALK ABOUT THIS MONTH

It has been very difficult this month to think of anything significant to write about that has happened GA-wise at the airfield since the start of the New Year – the weather has really not been very suitable much of the time for any General Aviation flying and training (See Anoop's section below for EFG and Falcon which also confirms the same!).

So, I'm sorry but I haven't actually got much that I can tell you all this month, but of course in fairness January, February, and March really are the Winter, so I guess it's not really that surprising. But admittedly this year, as I've written in the weather paragraph above, it really has not been good at all – so definitely not good for much flying activity!

But one good thing is that I haven't been notified of the loss of any of our old Biggin Hill'ite friends this month!

Still, on the weather side, let's hope the extreme conditions will now reduce significantly and allow our aviators to actually achieve some flying again in the lead up to the Spring....

“DOUBLE TROUBLE” – BOEING 707 SERIOUS PROBLEM AND RECOVERY

As most of you will recall, in the recent December Newsletter we reported the sad passing of our old Biggin Hill'ite friend, Martin Emery.

Just recently I watched several National Geographic TV Air Crash Investigation programmes. One that I watched was entitled “Double Trouble”, which was about the Trans-Air Service Boeing 707 flight in March 1992 from Luxembourg to Kano in Nigeria. The first officer was our old friend Martin!

The aircraft, whilst flying over the Alps, lost two engines on the right-hand side.... But not just lost the power from them – the two engines actually tore off the wing and physically parted company from the aircraft!!!

The crew were amazing and managed to get the aircraft under control and make an emergency landing at a French military airport, not far from Marseilles.

For those of you that may not have seen this TV programme, I have located an online location where the programme that was transmitted by National Geographic can be viewed.

The online link to the video is:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=496118868690736>

I'm sure those of you involved in aviation, and particularly those who knew our friend, Martin, who sadly passed away late last year, will find the TV programme well worth watching! They did a magnificent job and (as can be seen right at the end of the programme) were given an award for their handling and operation as the flight crew.

(There are also a number of seriously complementary comments on their handling of the situation, by another friend of many of us – Bob Grimstead, who was a British Airways pilot until his retirement, but still a well-known light aircraft owner and display pilot.

JAMES (JIM) GIBBS

As many of you Old Biggin Hill'ites know of course, James (Jim) Gibbs funeral took place in St Bartholomew's Church in Horley, near Gatwick on the 22nd January. The service was very well attended by many of Jim's family and friends (I personally attended to represent the old Biggin Hill'ites who knew Jim back in his flying days). Jim's wife, Carol, asked me if I wouldn't mind letting those who were unable to attend but knew Jim, have access to the Streaming Video of the funeral service, which can be accessed using the web link below:

<https://www.funeralstreaming.co.uk/viewing-room/39422/>

Jim was a was Warden at St Andrews Church in Kyrenia, in Cyprus, where he lived before his passing. He was an ardent supporter of the Palestinian peoples. His family have decided that he would have wanted any monies that friends donated in his memory to be given to the funding to rebuild the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. The following link takes you to JMECA where friends can make a donation to his memory.

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/25238#!/DonationDetails>

WEATHER WARNING CENTRIK REPORTS

For many of you who still regularly fly at Biggin Hill, I am sure those of you who are registered on the Airport's Centrik system will have started receiving the new "Weather Warning" emails!

These emails don't provide the recipient with the actual information that may be relevant, but simply ask the recipient to follow the link into the Airport's Centrik system, where they can then see what it is that they are warning us about – things like strong and potentially gusty winds, frosts or fog, etc.

But, in my personal opinion (and many others who have expressed similar views), it is genuinely unnecessary for us to be forced to log in to Centrik simply to see what they are actually warning us about!

Since the start of these warnings being generated on 17th January, and up to the point of actually writing this section in the Newsletter, there have been a total of 32 such warning messages in just 10 days!

Whilst I, and many others, are of course perfectly happy to receive these warnings, it is really totally unnecessary for us to have to physically log in to Centrik each time to see what the warning is about. The airport should appreciate that, virtually all pilots view all the relevant METAR's and TAF's that are available every 30 minutes to us through the Met Office Aviation Briefing Service online.

I am personally perfectly happy to receive these warnings of course, but I am not at all happy to be required to log into Centrik just so I can see what it is they are saying!

Why does the airport not simply send the actual warnings out as a brief email to your mailing list showing the what the warning is, rather than suggesting we waste time logging into Centrik for each one, just to see what the warning is about. Most pilots would be happy, I'm sure, to simply receive a brief email that describes the warning being given – not telling us to log into Centrik just to see what it is...!

I am not complaining really, but I have already taken the time to contact the airport and "recommended" that they review the method used to send out these warnings – please do, otherwise what is actually a good practice by those concerned to warn us of things, it is really unnecessary to force us to log in to Centrik each time to see what the warning actually is.....

FEBRUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of February 2024 are:

£1:78.9 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)

£0:90.7 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1.14.2 per litre)

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).

FALCON / EFG

Hi folks.

Well it's been an interesting start to 2024, with challenging conditions for everyone in the air and on the ground, with everything from torrential rain to gale force winds!

Nevertheless all our guys and girls have been working away to ensure your training is up to standard and aircraft receives it's scheduled maintenance.

We are aiming for 2024 to be a great year so watch this space. For now, - Keep flying, stay safe and have fun.

From Singh, Shonu and Anoop, the Falcon Family.

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The Airport has enjoyed a positive start 2024 after a lean last quarter of 2023. The Airport saw an increase in aircraft movements in December last year and that has continued during January. Global business jet activity so far this year is currently 5% behind last year, 18% ahead of comparable January 2019. Through January, European bizjet activity is trending 3% behind last year, 5% ahead of comparable January 2019. Sectors in Germany are down 11% compared to last year, 13% behind January 2019. Similarly, France is behind both January last year and 2019, UK remains ahead of 2019 despite 3% declines versus last year.

The Airport ended last year with just over 22% of the London market, behind Luton at just under 27 % and Farnborough at just under 30%. The top 3 airports increased their collective market share to 78.84%. Whilst the Airport continues to attract inward investment, the current economic challenges require prudent stewardship and careful control of costs. That said, the Airport continues to explore development opportunities and attract additional operators to the Airport.

The Airport intends to launch its Economic Footprint study by the end of January and, as previously reported, the headline figures are extremely positive. Direct and indirect employment has risen to 2,284 jobs and generating a GVA (gross value added) of £181.1 million, up from £70 million when last surveyed in 2012. The Airport hopes to publish the report before the end of this calendar year as this further demonstrates the commitments the Airport made back in 2015.

The Airport continues to progress its submission for a full operational trial for the 03 RNAV approach. The trial plan will be submitted no later than the end of March. Trax Int. (the Airport's Airspace Change Consultant) have been working hard to keep the CAA engaged in the process to ensure a high possibility of the trial being approved. It is critical that the focus is on an innovative design solution using Radius to Fix, which is not currently in use in the UK.

The 21 RNAV ACP Consultation closed last year and the Airport is now preparing the post consultation documentation for submission by 26th January 2024. Part of the submission documentation will be an RNAV to ILS, LNAV/VNAV and an LVP approach. The aim is to implement the procedure by early 2025.

Having completed the initial Air Quality assessment with Envirosuite, supplier of the Noise & Track keeping system Webtrak/ANOMS, the Airport is now entering the 2nd phase of its Air Quality Monitoring initiative with the installation of additional sensors. The monitors will have an increased number of sensors to detect SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide), VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) and O₃ (Ground Ozone). The sensors will also detect Particulate matter 1, 2.5 and 10 micrograms of solid or liquid particles in the atmosphere.

Regards
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. Also, 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 again for this month. Do enjoy your flying when the weather is more suitable - 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 amusing short stories....

I would like to thank everyone for sending their contributions for this section. To avoid me running out of jokes, please keep them coming by email to john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

QUOTE.....

The Mother-In-Law comes home and finds her son-in-law furious and packing his suitcase.

'What happened?' she asked. Son in law:

'What happened? I'll tell you what happened! I sent an email to your daughter saying that I was coming home from my trip today. I got home and guess what I found? My wife, Yes, your daughter, with a naked man in our marital bed! This is the end of our marriage; I will leave forever!

'Calm down!' says mother-in-law, there is something odd about this story. She would never do such a thing!

Wait a minute while I check what happened.

Moments later she comes back with a big smile. 'You see, I told you there must be a simple explanation. She didn't receive your email!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Why did I get divorced?

Well, last week was my birthday. My wife didn't wish me a happy birthday. My parents forgot and so did my kids.

I went to work and even my colleagues didn't wish me a happy birthday.

As I entered my office, my secretary said, "Happy birthday, boss!"

I felt so special. She asked me out for lunch.

After lunch, she invited me to her apartment.

We went there and she said, "Do you mind if I go into the bedroom for a minute?"

"Okay," I said.

She came out 5 minutes later with a birthday cake, my wife, my parents, my kids, my friends, & my colleagues all yelling, "SURPRISE!!!" while I was waiting on the sofa... Naked.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A male whale and a female whale see a fishing boat with a large harpoon. The male whale recognized the ship that caught his dad whale a year ago.

He asks the female whale "let's both get under the boat, blow air out of our air holes, and it might topple the ship."

They go ahead and do it, with success: the fish boat sinks.

However, the seamen from the boat manage to swim away, almost reaching the shore.

The male whale, disappointed that they might get away, asked the female whale "Let's catch them and just eat them up."

But this time, the female whale doesn't want to join in: "Look, I did the blow job just like you asked, but I really don't want to swallow the seamen".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

"My mom died when we couldn't remember her blood type. As she died, she kept telling us to "be positive," but it's hard without her."

"Today, I asked my phone "Siri, why am I still single?" and it activated the front camera."

"Today on a drive, I decided to go visit my childhood home. I asked the people living there if I could come inside because I was feeling nostalgic, but they refused and slammed the door in my face. My parents are the worst."

Why is it that if you donate a kidney, people love you. But if you donate five kidneys, they call the police.

If you were born in September, it's pretty safe to assume that your parents started their new year with a bang.

Two sperm swimming side by side were having a conversation. One sperm asked the other "how far till we reach the fallopian tubes?" The other replied, "No sure but we just passed the esophagus."

An elderly couple was attending a church service. The lady turned towards her husband and said "I just let out a really long silent fart. What should I do?" The man smiled and said to her "honey, your hearing aid needs a battery replacement."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man gets on a bus, and ends up sitting next to a very attractive nun. Enamoured with her, he asks if he can have sex with her.

Naturally, she says no, and gets off the bus.

The man goes to the bus driver and asks him if he knows of a way for him to have sex with the nun.

"Well," says the bus driver, "every night at 8 o'clock, she goes to the cemetery to pray. If you dress up as God, I'm sure you could convince her to have sex with you."

The man decides to try it, and dresses up in his best God costume.

At eight, he sees the nun and appears before her.

"Oh, God!" she exclaims. "Take me with you!"

The man tells the nun that she must first have sex with him to prove her loyalty.

The nun says yes, but tells him she prefers anal sex.

Before you know it, they're getting down to it, having nasty, grunty, loud sex.

After it's over, the man pulls off his God disguise. "Ha, ha!" he says, "I'm the man from the bus!"

"Ha, ha!" says the nun, removing her costume, "I'm the bus driver!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Man & a Woman were traveling in a train.

Woman: Every time you smile, I feel like inviting you to my place.

Man: Awww! Are you single?

Woman: No, I am a Dentist.

Condoms Don't Guarantee safe sex!

A friend of mine was wearing one when he was shot dead by the woman's husband.

Life is Like This.

Two men were discussing popular family trends on sex, marriage, and Family values.

Bill said, 'I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?'

Larry replied, 'I'm not sure, what was her maiden name?'

A Doctor Examining a Woman who had been rushed to the A&E, took the husband aside, and said, 'I don't like the looks of your wife at all.'

'Me neither doc,' said the husband. 'But she's a great cook and really good with the kids.'

Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully,' the divorce Court Judge said, 'And I've decided to give your wife £500 a week,

' 'That's very fair, your honour,' the husband said. 'And every now and then I'll try to send her a few pounds myself.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two Nuns. One of them was known as Sister Mathematical (SM), and the other one was known as Sister Logical (SL). It is getting dark and they are still far away from the convent.

SM: Have you noticed that a man has been following us for the past thirty-eight and a half minutes? I wonder what he wants.

SL: It's logical. He wants to make love to us.

SM: Oh, no! At this rate he will reach us in 15 minutes at the most! What can we do?

SL: The only logical thing to do of course is to walk faster.

A little while later....

SM: It's not working.

SL: Of course, it's not working. The man did the only logical thing. He started to walk faster, too.

SM: So, what shall we do? At this rate he will reach us in one minute.

SL: The only logical thing we can do is split. You go that way and I'll go this way. He cannot follow us both.

So, the man decided to follow Sister Logical. Sister Mathematical arrives at the convent and is worried about what has happened to Sister Logical. Then Sister Logical arrives.

SM: Sister Logical! Thank Goodness you are here! Tell me what happened!

SL: The only logical thing happened. The man couldn't follow us both, so he followed me.

SM: Yes, yes! But what happened then?

SL: The only logical thing happened. I started to run as fast as I could and he started to run as fast as he could.

SM: And?

SL: The only logical thing happened. He reached me.

SM. Oh, dear! What did you do?

SL: The only logical thing to do. I lifted my dress up.

SM: Oh, Sister! What did the man do?

SL: The only logical thing to do. He pulled down his trousers.

SM: Oh, no! What happened then?

SL: Isn't it logical, Sister? A nun with her dress up can run faster than a man with his pants down. And for those of you who thought it would be a different outcome; Shame on you!

.....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"...))