

Hi everyone

Welcome to the first 2019 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. A relatively brief Newsletter this month as for me, along with all of you I'm sure, the festive season and all associated with that has rather taken over quite a lot of my 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 JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle", by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

BIGGIN HILL WEATHER IN DECEMBER

In the beginning, quite a poor month for light aircraft flying again this month with seemingly far more non-flying days than flyable ones. On the few days that were suitable, everyone, clubs and private owners alike, took every opportunity to get up there.

I will give up suggesting that things can only get better, as I fear that, with January and February now approaching, things often do actually get worse...

But let's look forward hopefully to a great flying year in 2019 once the winter is over.

JOHN BRYAN (JB)

Our friend JB (and writer of the Biggin Hill Bugle's that we read monthly for many years) suffered another fall about a couple of weeks before Christmas and was again admitted to the Princess Royal Hospital in Farnborough where he remained up to yesterday (30th) when his wife managed to get him out and returned home.

JB sound to be in much better spirits now he is home and he is determined not to fall again....

Currently he is waiting for a new SIM card to arrive for his new mobile (same as usual number 07867 544142) so he will not be contactable until about Thursday this week, but after that, he will be happy to hear from old Biggin Hill friends and colleagues...

JB, all your many airport friends wish you a speedy recovery....

JACQUI NEILSON

Many of us were very shocked to hear of the loss of friend and former airport staff member, Jacqui Neilson on 5th December. Jacqui was apparently taken seriously ill with Kidney failure just two weeks earlier before succumbing to the condition...

Jacqui left Biggin Hill some years ago to live in Switzerland with her partner, Willie Herren, a corporate jet captain she met whilst working at the airport.

R.I.P. Jacqui

JOHN DOW-SMITH

In early December we received the sad news that Jonathan Dow-Smith (always known to all at Biggin Hill as JDS) passed away.

JDS had always had a passion for aeroplanes and eventually gave up his career and learnt to fly at Surrey & Kent at Biggin Hill Airport, gaining his fixed wing PPL in 1978. In 1988 he went on to gain his Helicopter Pilots Licence at OATS, and that became his passion like nothing else had before. He went on to become a fixed wing flying instructor and also ran the Biggin Hill Flying Club, which became Biggin Hill School of Flying when it became part of the Cabair Group of companies. JDS became a director of Cabair until 1990.

Unfortunately due to failing health, he had to stop flying in the early 1990's, but his love of flying was ingrained into his soul by then, and this love of aviation remained with him for the rest of his life.

JDS was very much a fighter. He never gave up despite numerous hurdles that he had to overcome. Renowned as a quite harsh taskmaster when running BHSF, he was, nevertheless a thoroughly decent man who was respected by almost all who came into contact with him.

His funeral was held on Tuesday 11 December at Kemnal Park and was attended by several old Biggin Hill colleagues.

R.I.P. JDS – you will be fondly remembered.

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

Hi Everybody,

Alouette start the New Year with effort and purpose. We will be flying on the Tuesday 1st January to "get that date in the log book" and will supply limited free food and mulled wine from midday onwards. (Fly before the wine!)

We will also have free hotdogs at our usual first Wednesday of the month Clubhouse social from 7:30pm on the 2nd January. So come and join us at our bar to see what we are all about; we don't bite and are quite welcoming and sociable. Chat to others and check out our two aircraft.

Get ready for a year of flying. See you all there.

Until next time, safe flying

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Alouette Chairman

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from all at Alouette and Falcon.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

A mild end to the year has led to some great days and chances for some patient students to finish their licences. As we see the end of 2018, we welcome 2019 and look forward to another a year of flying.

Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year.

Stay blessed.

Singh, Shonu, Anoop and all at Falcon & EFG

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

Following a very average October and November, December has been a busy month for business aviation with movements up 15% on December 2017. Light aviation has been hampered by the weather, but has put in an average showing for the time of year.

There is really very little to report this month. Work continues on the runway 03 approach lighting system with a gantry to be installed on the other side of the road in the early New Year. It will not be visible as it will be located on the brow of the steep bank that lies south west of the threshold. Once installed, the lighting should make the runway easier to locate at night and in poor weather. The GPS approach for runway 03 sits with the CAA pending approval, we hope, in due course.

Our IRVR system has had a software upgrade and should now meet CAA requirements and enter service at last. The work on the Hotel taxiway has been tendered and prices received. Final contractual adjustments are being made and we then hope to commence work, ideally to be completed before the busy summer period. We have elected to defer the link taxiway on the basis of time available, so this will follow later.

There have been no major safety issues to report, but an AA5 burst a nosewheel tire on landing and various people were vocal regarding the cause of the damage, citing the runway condition as the cause. However, a short time after this incident, a piece of FOD was discovered on the runway during and inspection. It appears to be a conical nose wheel bearing of the type fitted to an AA5 nosewheel. This therefore becomes an aircraft maintenance issue and the SANARB has asked the airport Safety Manager to investigate the matter further and trace it back to the maintenance provider and follow it through its internal safety system.

We decided to open on Boxing Day this year, but for turbine and piston twin types only. This was to minimise noise nuisance to local residents who are used to the airport being closed on Boxing Day. We will review this after the New Year and decide whether to open on Boxing Day 2019 and if so what types to accommodate.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year!

Until next month, 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.

All that there remains for me to do, is to wish all members a very Happy, Prosperous, and Successful New Year for 2019 from me....

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.....

It had been snowing all night. So at

8:00 I made a snowman.

8:10 A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.

8:15 So, I made a snow woman

8:17 My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified snow women everywhere

8:20 The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snowmen instead

8:22 The transgender person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts

8:25 The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.

8:28 I am being called a racist because the snow couple is white..

8:31 The Muslim gent across the road demands the snow woman wear a burqa

8:40 The Police arrive saying someone has been offended

8:42 The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needs to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role

8:43 The council equalities officer arrived and threatened me with eviction

8:45 TV news crews show up. I am asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I reply, "Snowballs" and am called a sexist.

9:00 I'm on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobic sensibility offender bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 I am asked if I have any accomplices...My children are taken by social services

9:29 Far left protesters offended by everything are marching down the street demanding for me to be beheaded

Moral: There is no moral to this story. It's just the world in which we live today and it's only going to get worse.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A golfer is in a competitive match with a friend, who is ahead by a couple of strokes.

"Boy,I'd give anything to sink this putt", the golfer mumbles to himself.

Just then, a stranger walks up beside him and whispers, "Would you be willing to give up a quarter of your sex life to sink the putt?"

Thinking the man is crazy and his answer will be meaningless, the golfer also feels that maybe this is a good omen, so he says, "Sounds good to me," and promptly sinks the putt!

Two holes later, he mumbles to himself again, "Gosh, I wish I could get an eagle on this one."

The same stranger is suddenly at his side again and whispers, "Would it be worth giving up another quarter of your sex life to make an eagle?"

Shrugging, the golfer replies, "Okay." And, amazingly, he makes the eagle.

On the final hole, the golfer needs another eagle to win. Without waiting for him to say anything, the stranger quickly moves to his side and says, " could winning this match be worth giving up the rest of your sex life?"

"Definitely," the golfer replies, and sure enough he makes the eagle and wins the match.

As the golfer is walking to the club house, the stranger walks along beside him and says, "I haven't really been fair with you because you don't know who I am. I'm Satan, and from this day forward you really will have no sex life at all."

"Nice to meet you," the golfer replies. "I'm Father O'Malley."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman was having a daytime affair while her husband was at work. One rainy day she was in bed with her boyfriend when, to her horror, she heard her husband's car pull into the driveway.

'Oh my God - Hurry! Grab your clothes and jump out the window. My husband's home early!'

'I can't jump out the window. It's raining out there!'

'If my husband catches us in here, he'll kill us both!' she replied. 'He's got a hot temper and a gun, so the rain is the least of your problems!'

So the boyfriend scoots out of bed, grabs his clothes and jumps out the window! As he ran down the street in the pouring rain, he quickly discovered he had run right into the middle of the town's annual marathon, so he started running along beside the others, about 300 of them.

Being naked, with his clothes tucked under his arm, he tried to blend in as best he could. After a little while a small group of runners who had been watching him with some curiosity, jogged closer.

Do you always run in the nude?' one asked.

'Oh yes!' he replied, gasping in air. 'It feels so wonderfully free!'

Another runner moved a long side. 'Do you always run carrying your clothes with you under your arm?'

'Oh, yes' our friend answered breathlessly. 'That way I can get dressed right at the end of the run and get in my car to go home!'

Then a third runner cast his eyes a little lower and asked, 'Do you always wear a condom when you run?'

'Nope...just when it's raining.'
.....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"...)