

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Welcome to the January 2020 Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Users Database – The first one for the New Year. 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 are aware that some email providers, particularly “gmail”, have been preventing the Newsletters from reaching the intended recipients. So, if you have not received your copy within 24 hours of the beginning of the month, please check the club website (www.bigginhillclub.co.uk) where you can find and draw down the current newsletter for yourselves - and of course back copies as well!)

DECEMBER WEATHER

Although not actively flying myself, it would appear that a major proportion of December has not been the most user friendly for light aviation, with many days having strong gusty crosswinds, low clouds and rain, or poor visibility for much of the month. Often far from VFR flying conditions!

Let’s all hope that 2020 will be significantly better once we get over the initial couple of winter months.

CROYDON AVIATION COLLECTOR’S FAIR

An event for your diaries:

The Croydon Aviation Collectors Fair will be held again on Sunday 5th January 2020, from 10.30 to 2pm at the Croydon Aerodrome Hotel (Hallmark), 680 Purley way, Croydon, Surrey.

With 35 stalls, all located Indoors, there will be something for everyone...

For more details, contact the organiser, Dave Sutton on 07973 885754

JANUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1.56 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)

£0.649 per litre for Jet A1

PETER TAWSE

I was informed during this month of the sad loss of another old Biggin Hill’ite, Peter Tawse.

Peter apparently learned to fly at Surrey and Kent in the late 70’s, and continued to fly there into the early 80’s. Biggin Hill’ite Simon Rooney said “We’d both been plane mad school friends, and lost touch. I was so pleased to discover his name on G-AXSD’s booking sheet!”

Peter then moved over to Ireland to instruct, and subsequently became airport manager at Waterford, before returning to instruct at Wexford.

Peter, and another colleague, died when their Rollason Condor aircraft crashed on the 6th October 2019.

Peter's family have been very touched by the level of respect and affection that has been expressed by the light aviation community - not just in Ireland.....

Another sad loss – His name has been added to the BigginHillReunited Roll of Honour

R.I.P. Peter...

DAVID ORME

An old Biggin Hill'ite, Mark MacWilliam, notified me earlier this month of the passing of another old friend some time ago, David Orme.

David will be remembered fondly by many as the guy that ran "Jock" Maitland's Airport Hire Company (VW Caravanette hire service) in the 1970's from Biggin Hill Airport.

David, together with his wife Sue and their two daughters, moved from Forgefield to the village of Marhamchurch in North Cornwall, when Dave's health deteriorated. He now rests in the churchyard of St Morwenne in Marhamchurch. His gravestone apparently carries the simple inscription "He made us laugh".

David's name has now been added to the BigginHillReunited Roll of Honour

R.I.P. David

MARTIN JEFFREE

Readers will recall last month's announcement of the sad passing of old Biggin Hill'ite, Martin Jeffree.

It has been pointed out by several people that I incorrectly referred to him in the article as Martin Jeffries, rather than his correct name of Martin Jeffree.

My apologies for the incorrect spelling of the surname, which has now also been corrected on the Roll of Honour at www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk

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

The students are still keen, the instructors are ready, all we need now is a decent horizon!

Until then the mulled wine will flow. Talking of which, come along to our club on New Year Day for a wine and nibbles. All free and everyone welcome!

Alouette has taken on another instructor, making five active. So we are geared up for some concerted training in 2020.

Our PPL's are still able to fly when they want due to our "internet First Come First Served" booking system.

We continue negotiations with the airport management to make our G.A. flying easier from Biggin; with some success.

Don't feel left out of the flying community; join Alouette for a club atmosphere and events.

Keep an eye out for our "January Sale" on costs. We intend to surprise you all. Remember our remit is to make flying accessible to everybody,

Lastly

Happy New Year to you all.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As this year draws to a close, I cannot believe 10 months has passed since I joined the Airport on the 1st March 2019. It is a year that has seen significant growth at the Airport and changes that position it and the whole Airport community for further growth and change over this coming decade. My fingers remain crossed that the weather doesn't hold a nasty surprise at the start of this coming new year.

Despite the market remaining challenging over the past 12 months, the Airport continues to hold its own and maintain just short of 20% of the London market. The Airport continues to attract traffic, reinforcing our position as London's Business aviation gateway to the capital and a home base for both private and commercial operators. That said, the Airport must maintain its focus on providing outstanding customer service and adapting to our customers changing demands.

Now that Hotel taxiway is fully operational, our attention can turn to other areas of the manoeuvring area that require re surfacing and repair. During the upcoming year we need to focus on delivering the new GPS 03 Approach and replacing the ILS on Runway 21. Additionally, we will be progressing the GPS approach for Runway 21.

The Airport will continue to review its investment priorities over the next 12 months. Next year will see significant developments 'break ground' across the Airport including the Airport hotel, Technical College and hangar facility.

I look forward to the Light Aviation Steering Group increasing its influence next year and helping to shape the future integration of light aviation at Biggin Hill. We will continue to explore ways in which we can improve our communications and engagement across the Airport site.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone 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.

All there is left is for me to wish everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

That's it for this month and, of course, for 2019.....

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 married man was having an affair with his secretary.

One day, their passions overcame them in the office and they took off for her house. Exhausted from the afternoon's activities, they fell asleep and awoke at around 8 p.m.

As the man threw on his clothes, he told the woman to take his shoes outside and rub them through the grass and dirt.

Confused, she nonetheless complied and he slipped into his shoes and drove home.

"Where have you been?" demanded his wife when he entered the house.

"Darling," replied the man, "I can't lie to you. I've been having an affair with my secretary. I fell asleep in her bed and didn't wake up until eight o'clock."

The wife glanced down at his shoes and said, "You liar! You've been playing golf!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blonde, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire herself out as a handyman-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighbourhood.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for her to do.

"Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?"

The blonde said, "How about 50 dollars?"

The man agreed and told her that the paint and ladders that she might need were in the garage.

The man's wife, inside the house, heard the conversation and said to her husband, "Does she realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?"

The man replied, "She should. She was standing on the porch."

A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money.

"You're finished already?" he asked.

"Yes," the blonde answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats.

"Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50.

"And by the way," the blonde added, "that's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'

'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?'

'Twelve thirty.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A beautiful young girl is about to undergo a minor operation. She's laid on a hospital trolley bed with nothing on, except a sheet over her. The nurse pushes the trolley down the corridor towards the operating theatre, where she leaves the girl on the trolley outside, while she goes in to check whether everything is ready.

A young man wearing a white coat approaches, lifts the sheet up and starts examining her naked body. He puts the sheet back and then walks away and talks to another man in a white coat. The second man comes over, lifts the sheet and does the same examinations. When a third man does the same thing, but more closely, she grows impatient and says: "All these examinations are fine and appreciated, but when are you going to start the operation?"

The man in the white coat shrugged his shoulders: "I have no idea. We're just painting the corridor."

.....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" ...)