

Hi everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR – ALL THE BEST FOR 2021

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2021 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 a distinct lack of GA activity in December, which was due to the initial lockdown, followed by just a very short period permitting flight training and leisure flying, before again going back into the new Tier 4 (which was effectively another lockdown) stopping all flying again, this Newsletter is a relative 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!)

DECEMBER WEATHER

For the short period where GA flying was permitted, the weather was quite reasonable for light aircraft flying, but as most of you will already realise, the weather became somewhat irrelevant once we were put into Tier 4 which continues through and beyond this publication date.

Let's hope that, when we are once again allowed to resume light aircraft flying we may be blessed with some good flyable weather.

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.

Added to the restrictions on flying, severe restrictions were also placed on any forms of social interaction and non-essential travel, with all pubs and restaurants and other hospitality facilities closed except for takeaway or home delivery meals. Most health clubs and pools etc., were also closed, and sports facilities prevented from having fans attending any games. Most non-essential retail facilities were also closed, with just essential shops, like supermarkets and other food supply shops, remaining open. But not to worry – even if we are all in lockdown to protect us all from spreading the virus, the Government still wants all kids to go to school to give the virus a fighting chance!!!!

BOB STEWART

It was with great sadness that I was advised recently of the passing back in November of old Biggin Hill'ite, Bob Stewart. (Thanks to Robert Burgess for letting me know about Bob's passing and the notes about Bob's life)

Bob and his wife Chines were both PPL holders based at Biggin Hill in the early 1970`s through to the 1990`s. They ran their own company, Stewart Engineering, based in Putney. They owned and operated their Rallye Club G-AXAK through South London Aero Club at Biggin Hill, which they flew to most corners of the UK, and Chines recorded many of the flights in a series of beautifully illustrated sketch books.

They both gave up flying when they sold their aircraft and their engineering business, so that they could concentrate on their other company, Stewart Aviation, which sold hand-held radio transceivers, aviation badges and patches, and masses of other aviation bric-a-brac. Their mobile shop could always be found at airshows throughout the country. This in turn led to a successful mail order business, updating then to an online business.

Bob will be missed by many older Biggin Hill'ites, who will undoubtedly remember them from those early days at Biggin.

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

R.I.P. Bob

JANUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices (**NOTE Avgas duty increase from 1st January 2021**), excluding VAT, for the calendar month of January 2020 are:

£1:41 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) – Includes Duty at the increased rate of 38.2p per litre – i.e. up 0.5p per litre!

£0:54 per litre for Jet A1

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

What a terrible end to what has been an awful year for almost all of us....

As might be expected, given the current Covid related restrictions, we at Alouette have not been able to do much flying over recent weeks and months. The club was actually relatively busy at the beginning of the month between the end of lockdown and the introduction of Tier 4 restrictions just before Christmas, and it was wonderful to see the aircraft flying and our students progressing again - even the weather was on our side for a while!

This quiet time, frustrating though it may be, has provided us with an opportunity to work on some new ideas for the future of Alouette. More details to follow!

I dearly hope 2021 will prove to be a much happier and more prosperous year for everyone. If you want to come and do some aviating, you know where we are.

Happy New Year to you all.

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE

As I write this update, I cannot help but reflect on what has been a challenging year for so many people and in so many ways. As the majority of the country finds itself effectively in a 3rd national lockdown all but in name, those of us in the aviation industry must brace ourselves for a

challenging start to the new year. We find ourselves, once again, referring to 'Essential Travel' and I fully appreciate the frustration this will cause within the GA community. That said, everyone needs to do what they can to combat the virus and ensure we are well placed to make best use of the vaccines that provide some light at the end of what has been a long and dark tunnel.

The return to 'Essential Travel' and the government guidance against international travel mean that economic challenges for the industry remain and we continue to hear of redundancies across the larger UK Airports. The Global Travel Task Force established by the government to look at how the industry can react to the current crisis continues to work on adapting the quarantine measures, expanding the test and release and looking into other initiatives to restore customer confidence. That said, the breakout of the new strain of COVID-19 and the understandable reaction by many countries further delays any form of recovery for the industry.

December, like November, has been an extremely challenging month with relatively low traffic movements that fell below those experienced in 2018 and 2019. We have our fingers crossed that the last quarter of the year will prove more promising and help lift the gloom in the new year.

Notwithstanding this bleak but realistic narrative and clear economic challenges, developments at the Airport continue at pace and, most notably, the Bombardier hangar which remains slightly ahead of schedule. The replacement ILS remains in the schedule for April 2021 and we are still holding our breath regarding the timing of the IFP design for the 03 RNAV approach. Additionally, some of you many have noticed the initial survey work being undertaken on taxiway Foxtrot in preparation for resurfacing works. It is our intention to address Alpha and Delta in the new year.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the COVID-19 testing facility at the Lookout. This facility remains open to support the flying community, tenants and local residents. I hope that everyone who feels they need a test will use the Mansi Suite at the Lookout.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the 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 again to wish everyone a Happy and hopefully Prosperous New Year. Here's to a good 2021.....!

That's it for this month and for 2020..... 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.....

Husband calls the police

Husband : I've lost my wife, she went shopping yesterday and has still not come home.

Sergeant : What is her height ?

Husband : Oh, 5 something . . .

Sergeant : Build?

Husband : Not slim, not really fat.

Sergeant : Colour of eyes?

Husband : Never noticed.

Sergeant : Colour of hair?

Husband : Changes according to season.

Sergeant : What was she wearing?

Husband : Dress/suit/blue jeans -- I don't remember exactly.

Sergeant : Did she go in a car?

Husband : yes.

Sergeant : What kind of car was it?

Husband : 2015 Corvette Stingray 3LT with the Z51 Performance Package, shark grey metallic paint, with the 6.2 litre V8 engine with Direct Injection generating 460 HP. 8-speed paddle-shift automatic transmission, and GT bucket seats, and has a very thin scratch on the front left door.....

at this point the husband started crying...

Sergeant : Don't worry sir.....We'll find your car

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Home Covid Test

- 1 Pour a large glass of red wine. Try to smell it.
- 2 If you can smell the wine, then drink it and see if you can taste it
- 3 If you can taste it and smell it, it confirms you haven't got Covid

Last night I did this test 19 times and all were negative, thank God

Tonight I am going to do the test again, because this morning I woke up with a headache and I feel I may be coming down with something.

I'm so nervous!
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I am giving up drinking for a month

Sorry – actually, that came out all wrong...

I am giving up! Drinking for a month.....
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

This old lady handed her bank card to the teller and said "I would like to withdraw £10".

The teller told her "for withdrawals less than £100, please use the ATM.

The old lady wanted to know why... The teller returned her bank card and irritably told her "these are the rules, please leave if there is no further matter. There is a line of customers behind you".

The old lady remained silent for a few seconds and handed her card back to the teller and said "please help me withdraw all the money I have."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account balance. She nodded her head, leaned down and respectfully told her "you have £1,300,000 in your account but the bank doesn't have that much cash currently. Could you make an appointment and come back again tomorrow?"

The old lady then asked how much she could withdraw immediately.

The teller told her any amount up to £3000.

"Well please let me have £3000 now."

The teller kindly handed £3000 and was very friendly and with a smile to her.

The old lady put £10 in her purse and asked the teller to deposit £2,990 back into her account.

The moral of this story is....

Don't be difficult with old people, they spent a lifetime learning these skills!
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A conversation in heaven:

BETTY - Hi! Wanda.

WANDA - Hi! Betty. How'd you die?

BETTY - I froze to death.

WANDA - How horrible!

BETTY - It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. What about you?

WANDA - I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

BETTY - So, what happened?

WANDA - I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere, and finally I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

BETTY - Too bad you didn't look in the freezer – if you had then we'd both still be alive.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God saw it was good. On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God, again saw it was good. On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good. On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves.

For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family.

For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren.

And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me, I will be on the front porch...

.....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" ...)



Fuel Duty – Aviation Gasoline (Avgas) rate

Who is likely to be affected

Manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers and users of aviation gasoline (Avgas).

General description of the measure

This measure will increase the excise duty payable on Avgas.

The current rate of excise duty on Avgas is £0.3770 per litre.

The new rate of excise duty on Avgas is £0.3820 per litre from 1 January 2021.

Policy objective

This measure will increase the excise duty payable on Avgas across the UK.

Background to the measure

EU Single Market provisions in the Energy Taxation Directive set a minimum level of duty on leaded petrol used for propulsion of 42.1 euro-cents per litre, and Single Market members should ensure their national rate of taxation complies with the minimum rate in euros using the exchange rate as it stands in October.

The Northern Ireland Protocol requires this provision to be followed in Northern Ireland; there is no requirement post-transition for this EU measure to be implemented in Great Britain.

After careful consideration, and on balance, the UK Government has decided that there are merits in consistency across the United Kingdom, to avoid burdens on business and reduce compliance risks for HMRC; the measure will therefore increase the excise duty payable on Avgas across the UK.

Detailed proposal

Operative date

The new rate for Avgas will have effect from 1 January 2021.

Current law

Fuel Duty legislation is contained in the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 (HODA). The rate for Avgas is set out in section 6(1A).

Proposed revisions

Legislation will be introduced in the Taxation (Post-transition Period) Bill to amend the rate of Avgas in section 6(1A) of HODA from £0.3770 to £0.3820 per litre.

Summary of impacts

Exchequer impact (£m)

2020 to 2021	2021 to 2022	2022 to 2023	2023 to 2024	2024 to 2025	2025 to 2026
negligible	negligible	negligible	negligible	negligible	negligible

This measure is expected to have a negligible impact on the Exchequer.

Economic impact

This measure is not expected to have any significant economic impact.

Impact on individuals, households and families

This measure will have an impact on some individuals involved in general aviation and who use Avgas, as the increased duty rate is expected to slightly increase their fuel costs. There are an estimated 27,000 individuals with pilot licences that may be involved in general aviation (of which about 15,000 are estimated to be active at some point during the year). This measure is not expected to have an impact on family formation, stability or breakdown.

Customer experience is expected to remain broadly the same, as the change in the rate of Avgas does not change any processes or tax administration obligations for individuals.

Equalities impacts

It is not anticipated that there will be impacts on groups sharing protected characteristics

Impact on business including civil society organisations

This measure will have a negligible impact on a small number of businesses using specific aircraft as the increased duty rate is expected to slightly increase their fuel costs. For fuel duty payers who supply Avgas, one-off costs will include familiarisation with the new rate and updating their systems. There are not expected to be any continuing costs. Customer experience is expected to remain broadly the same as the change does not affect how businesses interact with HMRC.

This measure is not expected to impact civil society organisations.

Operational impact (£m) (HMRC or other)

HMRC will incur a negligible cost for changing the Avgas rate.

Other impacts

Other impacts have been considered and none has been identified.

Monitoring and evaluation

The measure will be monitored through information collected from tax receipts.

Further advice

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Sonia Swales at sonia.swales@hmrc.gov.uk

Declaration

The Right Honourable Jesse Norman MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury has read this tax information and impact note and is satisfied that, given the available evidence, it represents a reasonable view of the likely costs, benefits and impacts of the measure.