

Hi everyone

With 2022 now upon us - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the January Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database, a relatively short one this time as the Christmas and New Year festivities have seriously taken up much of the time since the last month's issue.

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 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

What can I say about the December weather? In general, for our light aircraft, it has been pretty consistent – and mainly appalling!

As stated last month, whilst there have been a few quite pleasant and flyable days, most of the month has been absolute rubbish. Either very low cloud and poor visibility, plus much rain, and also very strong and gusty winds that were frequently at around ninety degrees to the one remaining Biggin Hill runway. Even when it has been possible to fly without being outside the aircraft crosswind limits, there were not many places one could fly to, as most nearby grass airports have been suffering from significant waterlogging, which of course restricted any circuit flying being carried out most of the time. Fortunately, Southend has been very user friendly and has permitted circuit training much of the time.

I will refrain from talking about us all looking forward to better conditions into January, as this certainly would probably jinx it.....

LIGHT AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY IN DECEMBER

Largely as a result of the December weather, described above, there has been remarkably little GA flying activity this last month, which of course, is what one would expect given the conditions. Whilst we all expect poor weather at this time of the year, interspersed with some beautiful clear Winter flying days, albeit short due to the early Sunset time at this time of the year, this December weather has been one of the most consistently poor I can recall for very many years.

As we move into the New Year, I'm sure we are all hoping for better to come, so we can keep our flying current. Here's hoping.....

NOISE ABATEMENT PROCEDURES AND NOISE SENSITIVE AREAS (NSA's)

It is good to realise that most Biggin Hill based aircraft take great pains to follow all the published Noise Abatement Procedures and to avoid all the Noise Sensitive Areas, in order to maintain a good relationship with residents in the immediate local area. *(If you are not sure of the procedures required, contact Biggin Ops, who will be able to provide you with a detailed leaflet detailing all areas and routes to be flown.)*

It is something that we all, as aircraft and airport operators alike, are very proud of. Such a shame that some visiting aircraft frequently ignore what they seem to treat rather as an inconvenience, and almost undo all the good work by Biggin based pilots...

Please keep up all that good work – it does not go unnoticed....

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Regular users and visitors at Biggin will undoubtedly have seen the massive progress on the two main developments at Biggin, namely the Bombardier huge new complex and also the new airport hotel construction.

As is mentioned in the monthly newsletter piece below from the Airport's CEO, David Winstanley, towards the end of this Newsletter, both these developments are progressing well and on schedule. The Bombardier complex is expected to be fully complete and ready for occupation around April, and the new airport hotel "The Landings" construction has now started with the main frame going up quite quickly. It is planned to be ready to be opened towards the end of 2022.

Additionally, the main entrance road from the roundabout all the way round to the Heritage Hangar, is to be resurfaced and having the addition of road lighting. This work is expected to commence at the beginning of 2022.

All extensive improvements that will help to secure the airport's long term future....

All we need now is the return of the Lookout Café where we, as users, and our local residents, can have somewhere to meet over coffee and lunch etc. Indications have been given that this is indeed likely to happen soon.

JANUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of January 2022 are:

£1:70.5 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)

£0:72.2 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:13.5 per litre for "Sustainable Aviation Fuel"!))

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).

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CLUBS, BUSINESSES & OTHER AIRPORT USER

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

MISSING: LARGE FLAMING BALL OF GAS. USUALLY FOUND IN THE SKY. LAST SEEN MID-NOVEMBER. REWARD OFFERED.

What a consistently bleak month we've had. Whilst it just isn't winter without grey skies and lashing rain, it would be nice to have a break once in a while. Some of us are lucky enough to occasionally skip out on top of the cloud and, if only for a moment, remind ourselves that the sky is indeed still blue. For everyone else the patient wait must continue.

We've not been able to do much flying this month as you might expect, however we did host our Alouette AGM. We have a new and exciting addition this year - the Don Perch Award. I don't need to tell you all that Don was a founder member of Alouette and gave a lot of his time instructing. I was approached by his family and we created the award for "outstanding airmanship and devotion to the club". I'm pleased to say our inaugural winner is Phil Hobson. Phil has spent a lot of time flying our aircraft and has given many hours to the club behind the scenes.

Don's family are looking to compile any photographs and/or anecdotes you may have of Don. In particular, they are on the look out for any pictures of a younger Don and any Alouette aircraft, any of the old clubhouse, Air Fair stands, etc. If you have any relevant pictures or information, please email Gary Palmer at gary@northbyeast.co.uk

That's all from me. I wish you all blue skies and a very happy new year!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As 2021 draws to close, I find myself reflecting on what has been another challenging year during which we have all had to face and overcome our own personal and professional hurdles. In many respects 2021 has been harder than 2020, given we have continually had the hope of emerging from this pandemic only to have hopes crushed by false dawns. Our reality is now a collective one where we acknowledge that COVID, in some form, is here to stay! As stated in last month's update, several European countries are initiating lockdowns and civil unrest as a result of vaccine policies and restrictions continues to spread. Against this backdrop, aviation has continued to struggle and Business Aviation was not immune during December.

Traffic levels throughout December have exceeded previous years and we will end the calendar year with the last five months of traffic movements comparable to 2019 pre-pandemic levels. That said, the speed of the spread of the Omicron variant and the variance of European government travel restrictions, means we are again faced with a huge degree of uncertainty regarding what the next four months might bring. There is room for some optimism, but this needs to be surrounded by the realism that the future remains unpredictable.

Development and investment in improved infrastructure proceeds at pace. The Airport remains on track to deliver the Bombardier Hangar development on time and on budget. The steel work for the hotel is progressing well and hopefully everyone can start to get a feel for what the hotel might look like. The new year will see the Airport start the works to upgrade Churchill way and progress a series of hangar development concepts within South Camp. The Airport continues to work with the CAA regarding the 03 RNAV approach approval and the progression of the Air Space Change for the 21 RNAV overlay.

The implementation of several recommendations from the Airport's 5-year review of the NAP continues at pace. The success trials of Webtrak have proved its accuracy beyond doubt, and this now means the Airport can focus on making continual improvements for the benefits of residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for its continued support in adhering to the NAP, and also further encourage the community to respect the noise sensitive areas around the Airport.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the very best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous 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 in the past) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month.

Enjoy your flying if we are lucky enough to get any decent weather in January!

Happy New Year to all our database members and of course to all the airport staff who try to help us all on a day to day basis

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 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 man was caught in a flood.

Two men came by in a boat to rescue him, but he waved them away shouting "NO THE LORD WILL SAVE ME".

One hour later another boat came along, but again the man the man said "NO THE LORD WILL SAVE ME".

Eventually, a helicopter arrived but the man insisted, "THE LORD WILL SAVE ME ME".

Unfortunately the man drowned and at the gates of heaven he asked St. Peter, "WHY DIDN'T THE LORD SAVE ME?"

And St. Peter replied..... "For crying out loud he sent two boats and a helicopter, what more did you want?!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Breaking News!

The High Court ruled that there could not be a Nativity scene at Parliament Square this Christmas season.

This was not for any religious reason. Apparently, it proved impossible to find Three Wise Men in the whole of Westminster Palace and Whitehall. A search for a Virgin continued....

There was, however, no problem finding enough asses to fill the stable!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An American tourist in London decides to skip his tour group and explore the city on his own. He wanders around, seeing the sights, and occasionally stopping at a quaint pub to soak up the local culture, chat with the lads, and have a pint or two of Guinness.

After a while, he finds himself in a very high-class neighbourhood - big, stately residences - no pubs, no stores, no restaurants, and worst of all - NO PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

He really, really, has to go, after all those Guinness's. He finds a narrow side street, with high walls surrounding the adjacent buildings and decides to use the wall to solve his problem.

As he is unzipping, he is tapped on the shoulder by a London Bobby, who says, "I say, sir, you simply cannot do that here, you know."

"I'm very sorry, officer," replies the American, "but I really, really HAVE TO GO, and I just can't find a public restroom."

"Ah, yes," said the bobby..."Just follow me". He leads him to a back "delivery alley", then along a wall to a gate, which he opens. "In there," points the bobby. "Whiz away sir, anywhere you want."

The fellow enters and finds himself in the most beautiful garden he has ever seen. Manicured grass lawns, statuary, fountains, sculpted hedges, and huge beds of gorgeous flowers, all in perfect bloom. Since he has the cop's blessing, he unburdens himself and is greatly relieved.

As he goes back through the gate, he says to the bobby, "That was really decent of you... is that what you call 'English Hospitality'?"

"No, sir" replies the bobby, "that is what we call the French Embassy."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A small boy visits Santa and when asked what he wants for Christmas replied, "A Porsche 911 please".

Santa replies, "Now be realistic please".

The small boy responds, "Ok a cure for Covid".

Santa responding said, "Carrera or Turbo?".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

We received about 2 inches of snow yesterday and:

At 8:00 am - 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 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 man / woman / 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 should not be used to decorate snow figures.

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

8:30 - I used food colouring to make one of the snow couple a different colour and be more racially inclusive.

8:37 - Then accused of using a black face on the snowperson.

8:39 - The middle eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be completely covered.

8:40 - The police arrived saying someone had been offended.

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

8:43 - The 'council on equality' officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 - TV news crew from the BBC showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I replied "Snowballs" and am now a sexist.

9:00 - I was on the news as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobe, and sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.

9:29 - Far left protesters offended by everything marched down the street demanding that I be arrested.

9:45 - The boss called and fired me because of the negative association with work that had been all over social media.

10:00 - I cry into my drink because all I wanted to do was build a snowman.

Moral: There ain't no moral to this story. It is what this world has become because of a bunch of snowflakes!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A drunk is walking home and comes across a broken-down car with the bonnet up.

The drunk asks the driver, 'what's wrong?'

The driver replies, 'piston broke'

and the drunk says, 'yeah so am I'.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The government have decided to change its emblem from the union flag to a condom, because it better represents their core values.

It allows for inflation, stifles production, destroys the next generation, protects a bunch of pricks, and most of all gives you a sense of security when you're actually being screwed.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Airplanes usually kill you quickly - a woman takes her time.

Airplanes can be turned on by a flick of a switch.

Airplanes don't get mad if you do a "Touch and Go".

Airplanes don't object to a preflight inspection.

Airplanes come with manuals to explain their operations.

Airplanes have strict weight and balance limitations.

Airplanes can be flown at any time of the month.

Airplanes don't come with in-laws.

Airplanes don't care about how many other airplanes you've flown before.

Airplanes and pilots both arrive at the same time.

Airplanes don't mind if you look at other airplanes.

Airplanes don't mind if you buy airplane magazines.

Airplanes expect to be tied down.

Airplanes don't comment on your piloting skills.

Airplanes don't whine unless something is really wrong.

However, when airplanes go quiet, just like women, it's usually not good.

.....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" ...)