

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 2020 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. With so little flying taking place, there is not a great deal to write about, so a fairly short Newsletter this month.

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

(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!)

STOP PRESS

Just before publishing this Newsletter, the Government has finally published confirmation that the GA leisure flying and Flight Training and clubs/schools are approved to recommence from 4th July 2020, subject to the restrictions included within their website. The CAA then confirmed the changes.

See the confirmation in the Government site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation/coronavirus-covid-19-recreational-general-aviation>

JUNE WEATHER

As has been the case since we have been under Lockdown, June has been a perfect month virtually every day for light aircraft VFR flying. Unfortunately no training has been permitted, only solo flying! But of course, most private pilots who hire from clubs do not have the current recency that would be required for that, and instructor check flights were not possible.

Sods law says that, as soon as we can start flying normally again and training, the weather will become non-flyable just to stop us enjoying our hobby again – that's the way these things tend to work!

GENERAL AVIATION RESTRICTIONS EASING?

As I write this Newsletter, the UK's Department for Transport has literally just indicated that the restrictions on General Aviation flying and Flight Training are about to be eased. The DfT letter says that we should be able to get back to leisure flying, and Flight Training, from 4th July, albeit with some restrictions yet to be published.

The DfT's statement has appeared on the AOPA website and is being quoted across the aviation industry by flying clubs and schools etc. See:

<https://www.aopa.co.uk/news-media/selected-news/item/622-covid-19-flight-training-can-resume-from-4-july-2020.html>

However the CAA seems to currently be in denial of the existence of this relaxation of the restrictions applied by them under DfT instruction some months ago! As at this moment, the CAA does not accept anything has changed!

See also the STOP PRESS at the start of this Newsletter

So at long last, once the CAA do get their act together, it seems probable that we will actually be able to enjoy our hobby again shortly.

JULY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of July 2020 are:

£1.36 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)

£0.49 per litre for Jet A1

BOMBARDIER NEW HANGAR AND FACILITY

As regular users of the airport will, of course, realise, the huge new facility being built by Bombardier at the airport is well under way.

The complex will occupy the land between the self-refuelling facility and the old, now closed, Runway 29 in front of where the old civilian control tower of the 60's was located by the South East Apron.

In the last week or so, the metal internal structure has started to be erected, and the associated office facilities and ramp space will follow.

A great coup for the airport in these difficult times.....

JOHN CHRISTLIEB

Just a few days ago we were informed of the sad passing of another old Biggin Hill'ite, John Christlieb. Although I do personally remember John from those early days at the airport, I will leave one of our airport's old flying instructors, Harry Harris, from Vendair Flying Club, to tell of John's long involvement with Biggin Hill and with his personal close friendship over 60 years....

Quote..... John and I first met around 1962 when he came to our Vendair Flying Club to take lessons. He was a very rich businessman running a highly profitable import/export business based in Lagos Nigeria. He made numerous trips back to the UK on business. He had just got divorced from his first wife and was looking for something to do to fill the vacuum.

Later on when he was just about ready to go solo and whilst doing some touch & go's on Rwy 23 another aircraft, a 4-engined DH Heron was also doing some training T&Gs on the long runway. The pilot had stopped both starboard engines and with full flap down attempted to go-around - he never made it! The Heron hit some lamp standards on the main road and turned upside down crashing in the valley below killing both pilots. John of course witnessed all this but I still sent him on his first solo later on before he had time to reflect on it.

I was also teaching a young university student called Juliette Thomson to fly at the same time. For her 21st birthday her rich father bought her our lovely Auster 5 (G-AKXP) and we operated it for her. Both John and her later got married but divorced around 18 months later.

During his numerous UK business trips he always found time to visit Biggin and finished up joining us at our evening sessions playing brag at Sid's 'Stick & Rudder' bar adjoining Surrey & Kent's offices. One day I persuaded him to do a parachute jump out of XP. He later claimed to have done two jumps - his first and his last!

John was also a very adept yachtsman who owned his own yacht. He made at least two trips across the Atlantic in it. On one occasion he sailed through the rivers and canal system of France to the

port of Marseilles and whilst docking it he accidentally scraped another yacht moored there and owned by an experienced Dutch yachtswoman called Etonella. To placate her he not only footed the repair bill but also invited her to join him for dinner at an exclusive restaurant to which she agreed. They later on got married, which lasted 45 years until his untimely death two days ago (no details of his funeral as yet). They produced a daughter named Ejola who later became a successful lawyer.

As well as owning a salubrious marina called Melfort Pier on the west coast of Scotland where he and Etonella spent their summers, he also owned a luxurious property at Palm Beach Florida where the pair of them spent their winters before returning back to Scotland in the Spring.

Unfortunately in his later years John developed Peripheral Neuropathy in his feet and was confined to a wheelchair. This didn't stop the pair of them from swanning around the globe in luxurious ocean liners on which they invariably had dinner at the captain's table.

A few years back my Thai wife Tuk and I visited John and Etonella at Melfort Pier. They were very impressed with Tuk.

Having now known John for almost 60 years during which time we had many a tale to tell each other of our experiences I feel a great loss at his departure.

Laurie (Harry) HarrisUnquote

John's name has been added to the Roll of Honour. R.I.P. John

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

Freedom appears just round the corner !

As I write this for the Newsletter, July 4th is apparently the date at last for light aircraft operations and flying training to recommence – albeit returning to a sort of a "New Normal", the details of which have yet to be published by the C.A.A. The DfT approval letter has however been circulating on many websites, including on the AOPA website, so it would appear to be correct even if the CAA has yet to accept the fact that the DfT have relaxed the restrictions....

So, until we receive the official approval to restart and the restrictions that we must apply, we continue our "Lockdown". Watch this space!

Of course Alouette has put in place materials, procedures and risk assessment to be ready for the day we fly again. Over the next few days we will be advising our members and guests what to expect and more importantly what we expect from them.

Alouette is doing everything to make flying with us as safe as practical. Of course it is still a matter of personal choice to take part or not.

As well as flying our Bar and Social Events are still taboo. Again we hope July 4th is the start of the season.

So watch these pages and visit www.alouette.org.uk for the latest moves.

Or email bookings@alouette.org.uk to see when to start again.

Regards
Bruno Bruniges - Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

I opened last month's submission to the newsletter with a reference to whether you were optimistic or pessimistic about the lifting of lockdown measures and the potential for a second spike and I find myself doing the same this month. I am pleased that the restrictions on General Aviation have been further lifted and that flying training will commence in the next few days and I wait with great anticipation to hear formal confirmation of the establishment of travel corridors to ease the industry out of full quarantine. Again, wherever you position yourself, our industry will not return to pre COVID-19 levels for some time if at all.

As I stated in my update last month, London Biggin Hill airport remains open as part of the national transport infrastructure in line with government guidelines. Operationally, the number of flights has increased throughout June although we still remain well below the traffic levels we would normally expect at this time of year. Although we have fared better than most scheduled airports, we continue to trade at a loss.

Notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19, those of you who have been at the Airport will have seen the start of the steel structure for the Bombardier Hangar start to raise from the ground. This is a welcomed sight and, together with confirmation that the new ILS will be installed in October, it is further proof of the Airport's commitment to expand and provide enhanced facilities for its tenants and operators. We hope to see the ground works for our Hotel start towards the end of September this year.

Although there are clear signs that lockdown restrictions are easing, the Airport continues to engage with central government, DfT and the CAA regarding quarantine measures. The Airport continues to engage with its customers to ensure they are fully aware of the measures that have been taken to ensure their safety whilst travelling from the Airport and I will, very shortly, be announcing a further initiative to reinforce this.

I would like to end by wishing all the very best in these trying times and hope that you remain safe and well.

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.

That's it again for this month –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.... Please keep them coming by email to john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk .

QUOTE.....

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes. (O.M.G.!!!)

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death. (Creepy. I'm still not over the pig.)

The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off. (Honey, I'm home. What the...?)

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field. (30 minutes. Lucky pig! Can you imagine?)

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds. (What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day. (I still can't believe that pig ...quality over quantity.)

Butterflies taste with their feet. (Something I always wanted to know.)

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump. (Okay, so that would be a good thing.)

A cat's urine glows under a black light. (I wonder how much the government paid to figure that out.)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (I know some people like that.)

Starfish have no brains. (I know some people like that, too.)

Polar bears are left-handed. (Talk about a southpaw.)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure. (What about that pig? Do the dolphins know about the pig?)

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A suspected Covid-19 male patient is lying in bed in the hospital, wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth and nose. A young student female nurse appears and gives him a partial sponge

bath. "Nurse," he mumbles from behind the mask, "are my testicles black?"

Embarrassed, the young nurse replies, "I don't know, Sir. I'm only here to wash your upper body and feet." He struggles to ask again, "Nurse, please check for me. Are my testicles black?"

Concerned that he might elevate his blood pressure and heart rate from worrying about his testicles, she overcomes her embarrassment and pulls back the covers. She raises his gown, holds his manhood in one hand and his testicles gently in the other. She looks very closely and says, "There's nothing wrong with them, Sir. They look fine."

The man slowly pulls off his oxygen mask, smiles at her, and says very slowly, "Thank you very much. That was wonderful. Now listen very, very, closely: "Are - my - test - results - back?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

12 Commandments for the more mature

- 1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice
- 2 - "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
- 3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- 4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- 5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- 6 - "On time" is when you get there.
- 7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
- 8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
- 9 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- 10 - Growing old should have taken longer.
- 11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- 12 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

And one more: "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A German Shepherd, Doberman and a Cat died. In heaven all three faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in.

The German Shepherd said "I believe in discipline, training and loyalty to my master".

"Good" said God. "Sit at my right side".

Doberman said "I believe in love, care and protection of my master" he replied.

"Aha" said God. "You may sit on my left".

God turned to the cat and asked the same question, to which the cat replied:- " I think that you are sitting in my seat"

Overheard in a Supermarket:-

A lady was looking at frozen turkeys, but couldn't find one big enough.

She asked the assistant in that section "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The assistant replied with a straight face " No madam, they are all dead! "

Canine and Feline paralysis:- The condition in which a person is unable to move due to the presence of a dog or cat in his or her lap.

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, Amateurs build the Ark, Professionals built the Titanic !!

I hate it when I see some old person struggling to reach something on the low shelves in a Supermarket and then realise we went to school together.

I'm not sure if I washed the spider down the drain when I took a shower, or if he looked at me naked and then leapt willingly to his death.

The first rule of cleaning whilst listening to music - - - The toilet brush is never ever the microphone – never !

What do we learn from Cows, Elephants and Buffalos ?? It is impossible to reduce weight by eating green grass and salads and walking.

If you eat well, and get lots of sleep, and do exercise, and drink lots of water - You'll die anyway! Open the wine !!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Paraproductians:

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian; any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

1. Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.
2. Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
3. Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
4. Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.
5. Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.
6. Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.
7. Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are dressed totally inappropriately or you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
8. Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

9. Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

10. Law of the Theater & Football Stadium - At any event, the people whose seats are farthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

11. The Coffee Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

12. Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

13. Law of Physical Surfaces - The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug

14. Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

15. Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

16. The 50-50-90 Law - Whenever there's a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability that you'll get it wrong.

17. Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

18. Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

19. Laws of Centrifugal Malfeasance The likelihood that a wrench will slip and mar the surface is directly proportional to the newness of the surface.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS...

1 The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

2 I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

3 She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

4 A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.

5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

7 A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blown apart.

8 Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

- 9 A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: You stay here; I'll go on a head.
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: Keep off the Grass.
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says Dam!
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again, that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, I've lost my electron. The other says Are you sure? The first replies, Yes, I'm positive.
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did

.....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"...))