

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 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.

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!)

JUNE WEATHER

Well – The first half of June was quite good – rather as one would hope to have in Mid-Summer, but, from the 17th it has been very changeable and only intermittently flyable for club and flight training sadly. In fact, as I write this Newsletter, the rain seems to have finally stopped and we have slight signs of broken cloud and even some blue bits.

The weekend just gone saw quite significant fog and low cloud, with extensive rain and drizzle, and that unfortunately put paid to most of the planned Headcorn annual Airshow that was attended by many Biggin Hill'ites, and Headcorn supporters alike... Such a real shame as so much effort goes into organising such events, but the weather really wasn't on-side this year.

Would it be reasonable to hope that that we are now starting to see the last of the disappointing weather, and that we may possibly even see some indications that Summer really has finally started? We can but hope!

INDIVIDUAL SEAT SALES ON CHARTERS

For those of you that follow social media, you will undoubtedly have seen the comments from the "anti-brigade" about the airport's recent request to Bromley Council to allow single seat sales on aircraft, rather than just whole aircraft sole use charters permitted under the lease.

These people immediately started scare-mongering suggesting that this was an attempt to get Easyjet and Ryanair scheduled service flights at the airport.

They really could not have got it more wrong if they tried! (which is quite usual of course!)

The reality was that the airport were seeking to allow Executive Jet operators coming to and from the airport as charters, to allow some single seat purchases from specialist groups to make use of empty seats, particularly on empty sectors.

There was even a foreign Executive Jet operator publicly stating that they intended to operate a "Uber style" regular service into and out of Biggin Hill and Farnborough airports. In spite of their publicity and promotions for a service that is not permitted at Biggin, they still went ahead even suggesting a start date in July.

The airport's CEO, David Winstanley, released a video on social media to deny that this would be permitted. The request for a change to allow individual seat sales on charter aircraft was, in fact, rejected by Bromley Council! He confirmed that there is absolutely no intention to encourage or allow scheduled service operations at Biggin Hill, which has made its mark as one of the prime Executive Airports for London.

The airport may well challenge the decision made by the Council regarding its request, but that is a completely different issue.

AEROBILITY AND THE ARMCHAIR AIRSHOW 2021

The Armchair Airshow, arranged by Aerobility and its founder, Jon Windover, was held at Biggin Hill Airport 29th May and it was, I am assured, a resounding success, generating much needed funds to enable many more disabled flying scholarships to be provided.

Congratulations to all those involved in this unique event. Thank you to the airport and various other sponsors and supporters for their most welcome involvement.

For those of you who were unable to watch this broadcast live, you can watch the whole show by visiting this link: [Armchair Airshow 2021 - YouTube](#)

UK ROADMAP – AN UPDATE

The UK Government's "Roadmap out of Lockdown" was, until this month, running to plan, with Step 3 successfully entered back on the 17th May as previously discussed here.

BUT – the originally planned "Step 4" which was expected to commence on 21st June 2021 was at the last minute delayed and is now hoped to be rescheduled for 19th July instead – always assuming the vaccination programme continues and that there are no significant spikes in cases, or hospital admissions, between now and then.

At last the UK Government does seem to be recognising that the population is not taking kindly to the "one rule for them, and another one for the rest of the population" and are starting to show serious signs that many are starting to ignore the rules (as are many of the political elite), and simply applying common sense and moving on with their lives where they feel it is appropriate. As a result of these impressions in political circles, there is now rumoured to be serious political consideration being given to allowing significant relaxations for those members of the population that have already received their two Covid 19 vaccinations.

Based on the Government's past actions, assessments, and guidelines, I for one will not hold my breath in anticipation of any significant changes – but time will tell I guess!

JULY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of July 2021 are:

£1:65 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using fuel account card Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:65.4 per litre for Jet A1

SPECIAL NOTES: Users should be aware that credit and debit cards still cannot currently be used at the self-refuel pumps. The situation is likely to remain this way for some time, so if you use self-refuelling, please make sure you have your airport H-TEC fuel account card with you when you go there.

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 end of June means summer has begun, the days are long, Wimbledon is on, so naturally the rain is lashing against my window as I write this. Despite the predictably unpredictable weather we have seen a good amount of flying this month. Our students are progressing well, our members have been out on day trips, I even managed to get up to Gamston to try their infamous lunch (delicious - well worth a visit!), we will be needing more aircraft soon!

In the last newsletter I said we are planning two BBQ family days, the first on 17th July, the second on the 21st August. Clearly the extension of the cover restrictions mean we cannot put on the 17th July, however we remain hopeful of being able to share a beer and a burger with you on 21st August. Details will follow when we know more on what we can do.

In more exciting news, **we have a new website!** It has been a long time in the making, but take yourselves over to www.flyalouette.com and let us know what you think.

For those of you who use Instagram, you can also find us with @flyalouette; please like, follow, subscribe, adore us. Though currently our content consists of some images of fields taken in turbulence and a picture of a man eating a pasty.

We hope it won't be too much longer before we can get the clubhouse bar reopened and invite you all in properly. Until then, if you have an aviation itch that needs scratching, you know where to find us.

Stay well and stay safe....

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

I'm not sure whether the phrase 'off again, on again' appropriately sums up the ever changing political and COVID restrictions environment we all currently face. Whilst I remain convinced the overall direction of 'travel' is positive, I would have to accept that, in terms of the Airport, we are probably a month or two behind where we would have expected to be. That said, June has been a solid month and only spoilt to a small degree by the unseasonal weather we have experienced towards the end on the month.

Movement levels throughout June have mirrored those of 2019, albeit in the lighter weight bands reflecting the growth in the PC12 and Citation markets. We have seen the addition of some long-haul traffic which is promising; however, the current restrictions of flights to the US are undoubtably hampering a faster recovery. Understandably, trading remains challenging, but the Airport continues to prudently manage costs whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure improvements.

Infrastructure developments continue at pace and the community will have read how pleased I was to report the completion of the resurfacing of Delta taxiway last month and can now read that I am delighted to report the completion of the resurfacing of Foxtrot taxiway this month. Notwithstanding, the continuing challenges of supply chain restrictions in a post BREXIT environment, I can report that the Bombardier hangar remains on target for an early completion in December of this year. Additionally, the Airport can confirm it has finalised the appointment of the prime contractor for the Hotel and the community can expect to see visible construction in the next few months. The Airport continues to work with the CAA regarding the 03 RNAV approach approval and progress the Air Space Change for the 21 RNAV overlay.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the flying community for its continued support in ensuring compliance with the Airport's Noise Action Plan. We are all aware that safety remains our top priority and I am more than aware that many pilots consider our Noise Abatement Procedures as very restrictive; however, it is vitally important to the Airport that we continue to act

as a good neighbour and work with our local residents. Thank you once again for your continued support.

As outlined in last month's newsletter, the Airport approached the LLB to amend its user clause to allow shared flights. Whilst we were disappointed in the manner in which the decision was taken, the Airport continues to engage with LBB to address the amendment outside of any legal process.

Finally, I would like to reiterate, as one of the largest employers in Bromley, we remain committed to working with the Council to ensure that local people can continue to benefit from new jobs and investment around the Airport. This is particularly important in a post BREXIT environment.

I hope you all stay 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 for this month. Enjoy your flying during July - 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.....

One British National Daily Newspaper asked its readers "What does it mean to be British?"

Some of the emails were hilarious but this one from a Swiss person was a winner...

"Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer. Then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry, or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV.

He buys a holiday home in Spain, Skis in France, fancies Swedish girls and has a Romanian au-pair."

But you know the most British thing of all.....

He is suspicious of anything foreign!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

"Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl."

The priest asks, "Is that you, little Joey Pagano?"

"Yes, Father, it is."

"And who was the girl you were with?"

"I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation."

"Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?"

"I cannot say."

"Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?"

"I'll never tell."

"Was it Nina Capelli?"

"I'm sorry, but I cannot name her."

"Was it Cathy Piriano?"

"My lips are sealed."

"Was it Rosa DiAngelo, then?"

"Please, Father! I cannot tell you."

The priest sighs in frustration. "You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself."

Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, "What'd you get?"

"Four months vacation and five good leads..."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A married couple was out in the country on a holiday.

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She rows out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a game warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")

"You're in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry about that officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"For reading a book?" asked the woman.

"Yes, this is a restricted fishing area."

The woman throws up her hands, "But I'm not fishing, I'm just reading!"

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. You're gonna have to come with me."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

The game warden says, "Have a nice day, ma'am," and leaves.

Moral of the story: Don't mess with a woman who's reading. It's very likely that she can outthink you at the same time.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years.

He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice: picnic tables, horseshoe courts, a volleyball court, and some apple and peach trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming.

One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond and look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit.

As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end.

One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!"

The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked."

Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the alligator."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A few one-liners to end with.....

What's the difference between a tire and 365 used condoms?
One's a Goodyear. The other's a *great* year.

What's the difference between a pregnant woman and a lightbulb?
You can unscrew a lightbulb.

What do a penis and a Rubik's Cubes have in common?
The more you play with it, the harder it gets.

What's long and hard and full of semen?
A submarine.

What's the difference between your boyfriend and a condom?
Condoms have evolved: They're not so thick and insensitive anymore.

How do you make your girlfriend scream during sex?
Call and tell her about it.

Why do women have orgasms?
Just another reason to moan, really.

Know what a 6.9 is?
Another good thing screwed up by a period.

How is sex like a game of bridge?
If you have a great hand, you don't need a partner.

What's the difference between a woman with PMS and a terrorist?
You can negotiate with a terrorist.

What did the hurricane say to the coconut tree?
Hold on to your nuts, this ain't no ordinary blowjob.
.....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"...)