

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 for Database subscribing members, even if your Newsletter doesn't arrive by email at the beginning of the month, 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

As I was away in Portugal for around half of this month, I missed out on most of the weather that you all experienced – but it did appear that whilst I was away, I didn't miss much flying! Since I returned, it has been reasonable much of the time, but significant poor weather interspersed between the good bits. And there have been some quite significant crosswinds that has restricted some flying training.

Let's hope we may see more significantly stable summer weather so we can enjoy our flying for a few months again. Let's hope the nice weather will continue to last.....

JANET NICHOLLS

It is with great sadness that I must let you all know of the passing of the wonderful Janet Nicholls on 16th June 2022, after a brave three-year battle with cancer.

Janet was married to the late Rex Nicholls, a former flying instructor with Experimental Flying Group, and subsequently with Alouette Flying Club.

From a personal point of view, I first met Janet at Experimental when I was about 13 or 14 when both I and Janet spent most weekends together trying to get passenger trips with various flying club members. Janet and I became great friends and frequently took it in turns to fly in the front alongside the pilot, with the other one in the back seat. This carried on for several years until I eventually got my licence (having been taught to fly by Rex). Our close friendship continued right until Janet's passing.

Janet became friends with so many Biggin Hill'ites, and also with many serious aviation enthusiasts at aviation groups like those at Croydon Airport and similar historic aircraft associations. she always remained a regular at Biggin Hill Airport and was a regular attendee at the many social functions at Biggin Hill Airport, and inevitably became known by so many of us right to the end.

Janet was diagnosed with cancer some three years ago, and just given three months to live. But she pressed on regardless with life, in between periods of treatment for her condition. She attended the Alouette Social evenings most months, and functions at Shipping and Airlines and made so many more friends, all of whom have always expressed what a lovely person she was.

The news of her passing has hit so many people hard. For me, she came up to the club just about three or four weeks prior to her passing – just for a chat about old times, and our trying to share flying in our youth...

Janet lived locally in Bromley and leaves her family consisting of Ivor, Clive, Laura, and Gemma behind to remember their wonderful mother.

The funeral and celebration of her life will be held on Tuesday 5th July at 12.30pm, at Beckenham Crematorium, Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent. BR3 4TD, with a reception afterwards at Shirley Park Golf Club, Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7LB to be attended by family and close friends. Family flowers only, with donations if you wish, to St Christopher's Hospice in memory of her.

(if you wish to make contact with Janet's family please feel free to email them at: JanetNichollsFamily@gmail.com)

Please feel free to pass on as appropriate

Janet's name has been added to the Roll of Honour on the BigginHillReunited.co.uk website.

R.I.P. Janet – your many, many, old friends will always remember and miss you.....

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Airport developments are continuing at a very impressive pace,

The new "Landings Hotel" adjacent to the Lookout Café is now starting to look relatively impressive and appears to be very much on target for it's December opening.

The work alongside the entrance to the hotel to move the Battle of Britain special garden and memorial statue from the RHS Garden Show. The garden designed by John Everiss, features a four metre high statue of a WWII pilot, constructed from 1,200 layers of 8mm stainless steel plates. The artist had apparently requested that the garden should be located at the Airport. There had been many people wanting the garden to be situated near the Airport's Museum next to the RAF Chapel, but as the garden and statue is a very large display, there was simply insufficient space for it there.

The main interior roadway, Churchill Way, is now complete from the entrance right round to the Heritage Hangar, and the new street lighting along the length of the road is almost finished too....

The new Bombardier Hangar and complex is now completed. We all anticipate the company to make the transition very soon from the existing hangar by the South Camp entrance...

There has not been a decision yet on the construction of the new security office on the site of the original Old Armoury building near the industrial estate entrance road. But it is still thought there will be a new building there in due course.

JULY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£2:47.2 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)

£1:23.4 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:70.5 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 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

Whilst we have had a very busy month of aviating, all of us at Alouette were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Janet Nicholls. Janet was an incredible character and always lightened up our social evenings with her tales. Her involvement with Alouette, and indeed Biggin Hill, stretches back a long way, but for the short time I had the privilege of knowing her she amazed me both with her stories from the past, and her attitude toward the future. She will be sorely missed by many.

Saturday 25th saw myself, my wife, Alouette stalwart Paul and our illustrious instructor Corina take on the Biggin Hill Sunrise Challenge. This was a 5km run down the runway and looping back up past the tower, kicking off at 0630. I dislike getting up at 0430 at the best of times, but to do so to go for a run was new to me. However, it was all in aid of Aerobility, who are a fantastic bunch, and I got a bacon sandwich at the end, so my complaints were minimal.

Being pilots, it is rare for us to see the runway in such a way. It certainly feels shorter with an engine in front of you! The event was very well attended and I believe raised a significant amount for the charity. I also remembered my air law and was sure to wait until all of my breathless, sweating frame had crossed the stop bar at Delta Two before I collapsed in a heap and had a minor cardiac event.

Our monthly social evening will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesday 6th July from 19:30. As ever, you are all invited. We will have the usual blend of cheap drinks and aviation chatter, and we will of course be raising a glass to our dear departed friend, Janet.

Until next month, blue skies and tailwinds to you all. Happy flying!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE

As I write this monthly update, I am looking across an extremely busy Western Apron, a scene that has become increasingly common throughout this first financial quarter. Whilst my narrative might appear repetitive regarding the Airport's performance against a backdrop of significant increases in the cost of living and the ever-present risk of escalating inflation, but it is a reality. What has often been referred to as a 'Business Aviation bounce back' is now a sustainable growth in traffic and one where the trajectory does not look like easing any time soon.

Again, as I have stressed previously, any suggestion that the continued growth in traffic levels provides an indication that the sector is unaffected by the current economic challenges, would be an oversimplification. The continued increase in commodity prices has now had the resultant increase in the cost of Jet A1 and Avgas as I predicted last month. However, the Airport faces a more acute challenge regarding the recruitment and retention of its workforce in an extremely demanding labour market. The Airport is actively recruiting across a range of role.

That said, the Airport continues to reinvest to improve infrastructure and continue to attract inward investment. We look forward to the completion of the operational transfer of Bombardier's maintenance operation from Hangar 510 to their new facility, Hangar 401. The hotel construction continues at pace and the airport is delighted to announce it is now actively recruiting for hotel managerial positions. The Airport continues to engage with Pentridge, English Heritage and the London Borough of Bromley regarding the potential redevelopment of elements of West Camp. The

enhancements to Churchill way are almost complete and work continues to finalize the design of the new entrance and gate house. The redevelopment of hangar 710 is progressing in line with the construction programme and discussions continue regarding future hangar expansion across the site.

The Airport has now completed its further review of the Noise Action Plan and submitted additional information to the London Borough Bromley yesterday. We look forward to working with LBB officers to investigate further ways in which we can enhance the NAP whilst ensuring safety remains our top priority.

Finally, the Airport would like to thank the Airport Community for its support to the Sunrise Challenge. It was great to see so many people taking up the opportunity to run or cycle on the airfield and raise money for the Aerobility charity.

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 - 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 ever intended!). - a few relatively clean but amusing short stories....

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.....

We hang petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. ~ *Aesop, Greek slave & fable author*

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. ~ *Plato, ancient Greek Philosopher*

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river. ~ *Nikita Khrushchev, Russian Soviet politician*

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. ~ *Quoted in 'Clarence Darrow for the Defence' by Irving Stone.*

Politicians are people who, when they see light at the end of the tunnel, go out and buy some more tunnel. ~ *John Quinton, American actor/writer*

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other. ~ *Oscar Ameringer, "the Mark Twain of American Socialism."*

I offered my opponents a deal: "if they stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about them". ~ *Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952.*

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country. ~ *Texas Guinan. 19th-century American businessman*

I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians. ~ *Charles de Gaulle, French general & politician*

Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. ~ *Doug Larson (English middle-distance runner who won gold medals at the 1924 Olympic Games)*

I am reminded of a joke: What happens if a politician drowns in a river? That is pollution. What happens if all of them drown? That is a solution!

I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two are lawyers and three or more are the government. ~ *John Adams (1735 - 1826)*

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Government. But then I repeat myself. ~ *Mark Twain (1835- 1910)*

I don't make jokes. I just watch the Government and report the facts! ~ *Will Rogers (1879- 1935)*

I contend that for a nation to try and tax itself into prosperity, is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. ~ *Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)*

A Government which robs Peter to pay Paul, can always depend on the support of Paul! ~ *Will Rogers (1879- 1935)*

The problem we face today is because the people that work for a living are outnumbered by those who vote for a living. ~ *George Bernard Shaw (1856- 1950)*

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, thousands of soldier's deaths, and four U.S. presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of - it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

So, you've been eating hot dogs and McChickens all your life, but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it?

Sometimes the Universe puts you in the same situation again to see if you're still a dumbass.

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is, once you get old you stop being polite and start being honest.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Donald Duck and Daisy Duck were spending the night together in a hotel room. Donald wanted to have sex with Daisy.

The first thing Daisy asked was, 'Do you have a condom?'

Donald frowned and said, 'No.'

Daisy told Donald that if he didn't get a condom, they could not have sex. 'Maybe they sell them at the front desk,' she suggested.

So Donald went down to the lobby and asked the hotel clerk if they had condoms.

'Yes, we do,' the clerk said and pulled a box out from under the counter and gave it to Donald. The clerk asked, 'Would you like me to put them on your bill?'

'No!' Donald quacked, 'I'll thuffocate'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Irish Viagra.

An Irish woman who lived in Ilkeston of advanced age visited her physician to ask his advice on reviving her husband's libido.

'What about trying Viagra?' asked the doctor.

'He won't even take an aspirin'.

'Not a problem,' said the doctor. 'Give him an Irish Viagra.'

'What on Earth is Irish Viagra?' she asked.

'It's Viagra dissolved in his morning cup of coffee. He won't even taste it. Let me know how it goes,' he said.

She called the doctor the very next afternoon.

'How did it go?' he asked.

'Oh faith, bejaysus and begorrah, doctor, it was terrible. Just horrid, I tell ya! I'm beside meself!'

'Oh, no! What in the world happened?'

'Well, I did the deed, Doctor, just as you advised. I put the Viagra in his morning coffee, and he drank it. Well, you know, it took effect almost immediately, and he jumped straight up out of his chair with a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye and his pants a-bulging. Then, with one fierce swoop of his arm, he sent the cups, saucers, and everything else that was on the table flying

across the room, ripped me clothes to tatters and passionately took me then and there, right on top of the table. T'was a nightmare, I tell ya, an absolute nightmare!

'Why so terrible?' asked the doctor. 'Wasn't the sex good?'

'Freakin jaysus, it was the best sex I've had in me last 25 years, but sure as I'm sitting here, doctor, I'll never be able to show me face in Wetherspoons for my breakfast again!'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Catholic Coffee Morning Four Catholic men and a Catholic woman were having coffee.

The first Catholic man tells his friends, 'My son is a priest, when he walks into a room, everyone calls him 'Father'.'

The second Catholic man chirps, 'My son is a Bishop. When he walks into a room people call him 'Your Grace'.'

The third Catholic gent says, 'My son is a Cardinal. When he enters a room everyone says 'Your Eminence'.'

The fourth Catholic man then says, 'My son is the Pope. When he walks into a room people call him 'Your Holiness'.'

Since the lone Catholic woman was sipping her coffee in silence, the four men give her a subtle, 'Well?'

She proudly replies, 'I have a daughter, slim, tall, beautiful with 38D breast, 24' waist and 34' hips. When she walks into a room, people say, 'Oh My God.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

RUSSIA v, NATO

A Russian Wife turned to her husband and asked, 'What's this Special Military Operation our glorious leader keeps talking about?'

Her Husband replied, 'It's a proxy war between Russia and NATO over Ukraine.'

Wife. 'Oh, right. How's it going?'

Husband. 'Well,' he replied, 'so far we've lost 24,000 soldiers, 2,000 tanks, 200 aircraft, numerous helicopters, and loads of armoured vehicles and artillery pieces and our Flag ship along with other naval pieces ships & equipment'

Wife. 'Wow! What about NATO?'

Husband. 'They haven't turned up yet.'

.....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"....)