

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June 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!)

MAY WEATHER

Spring finally arrived this month and we are now entering the Summer months – hopefully good for loads more flying....

May has generally been quite good for Light Aviation aside from some quite significant crosswinds that has restricted some flying training.

So at long last, most of us have been able to settle into our flying again after a quite poor winter for flying. Long may the nice weather last.....

MICHAEL CLEGG

Sadly we received notification from long term Biggin Hill'ite, Dave Parry, earlier this month that a friend, neighbour, and another old Biggin Hill'ite, Michael Clegg, passed away in April. Many of us older airport folks will almost certainly remember him from those early days. We understand that Mike became quite ill in the latter part of 2021, and he was moved into a home where he could be properly looked after.

Mike was a very active flyer at Biggin Hill for many years. Dave explained that he used to fly with him quite a lot in the 1990's, going regularly to France and the Channel islands from time to time. *[I personally remember him many years back when he flew at Air Touring. Ed]* He retired from flying at age 70.

From a work point of view, Mike worked for Seismograph in Keston for some 20 years or so. Additionally, his other interest was his Aston Martin Lagonda car, which he owned for many years. He was very knowledgeable about motor engineering, and he also apparently had a lot of knowledge about electrical systems.

Mike, who lived in Biggin Hill valley, left a wife, and four sons, as well as many Grand-children. His funeral was held at the BlueBell Cemetery in Knockholt on the 19th May.

Mike's name has been added to the Roll of Honour on the BigginHillReunited.co.uk website. R.I.P. Mike – your old friends will remember you.....

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Our airport improvements have continued at quite a pace...

The new "Landings Hotel" by the entrance to the South Camp is progressing well and definitely looks like the target opening in December is likely to be right... Another long needed development that has finally moved towards completion after many years of discussion.

We are still awaiting the construction of the new security office on the site of the original Old Armoury building opposite the main industrial estate, and next to the current Bombardier hanger. We can expect some signs of building soon I believe.

The main interior roadway, Churchill Way, is now complete from the entrance right round to the Heritage Hangar – very impressive. The anticipated new external street lighting along by the new pavements appears to be almost ready for installation to be ready by the time the shorter days return later in the year. ...

The new huge Bombardier Hangar and complex is now looking complete, and signage has recently been added... We can expect Bombardier start to transition fairly soon from the existing hangar by the South Camp entrance, to the new complex...

JUNE BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of June 2022 are:

£2:29.5 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)

£1:12.4 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:29.9 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

Despite the current chill in the air and the recent bout of thunder and lightning (very very frightening) it has been a jam-packed May at Alouette. Our students have been racking up the hours and making good progress, and our PPL holders have been off galivanting about and making the most of the sunshine.

In other news, I have signed up for the Biggin Hill Sunrise Challenge. This 5km run up and down our cherished runway is all in aid of Aerobility, which as I'm sure you all know is a fantastic charity. The run kicks off at 06:30 on Saturday 25th June and I encourage any of you keen joggers to come and join me. You get a bacon bap, a cup of tea and a medal at the end, which really is the only reason I'm doing it!

Our monthly social evening remains popular, so if you fancy kicking off the long Jubilee weekend with a few drinks and some chatter amongst airheads, do head over to the club on Wednesday 1st June from 19:30.

I hope to see some of you there. I'm going to dust off my trainers and ask myself why I will do almost anything for a bacon sandwich.

Until next month, happy flying!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Despite the continued pressure we all face as a result of the current increases in the cost of living and the resultant inflation, business aviation continues to buck the trend across the industry in terms of a sustainable recovery. For those of you who will have flown from the Airport over the most recent weekend, you will have seen first-hand how busy the Airport was.

That said, 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 over-simplification. The continued increase in commodity prices will undoubtedly result in increases in the cost of Jet A1 and Avgas. Added to these challenges, the aviation industry and other industries are seeing real challenges in the labour market, so despite the continued overall recovery, calmer waters are still some way off.

Importantly, the Airport continues to reinvest to improve infrastructure and continue to attract inward investment. Work continues to support Bombardier's operational transfer 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 continues to invest in several suitability initiatives and has now completed the transfer of energy suppliers to secure a green tariff making a carbon saving of 55% and 303.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually at our current rate of consumption. Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel has now replaced the red diesel for use in all vehicles capable of operating on HVO. This follows the changes in legislation that governs the use of red diesel. Following the completion of the mapping of the Airport's carbon use, the results have now been verified as required by the Airports Carbon Accreditation (ACA) scheme, by an independent environment company, GEP Environmental, based in Winchester. This has now been passed to ACA, with an expected confirmation that Level 1 has been achieved in June

Finally, the Airport would like to thank the Airport Community for its continued support of the Noise Abatement Procedures and for helping the Airport to fulfil its commitments as a good neighbour.

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

The normal "And Finally" section has been reintroduced by popular request - a few relatively clean but amusing short stories.... (Our prayers remain with the Ukrainian people but less so of course with the lunatic Russians and their psychotic Dictator.)

QUOTE.....

A woman wakes during the night to find that her husband was not in their bed. She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his Coffee.

"What's the matter, dear?" She whispers as she steps into the room, why are you down here at this time of night?"

The husband looks up from his coffee, "I am just remembering when we first met 20 years ago and started dating. You were only 16. Do you remember back then?" he says solemnly.

The wife is touched to tears thinking that her husband is so caring and so sensitive. "Yes, I do" she replies.

The husband pauses. The words were not coming easily. "Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember," said the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

The husband continues. "Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter, or I will send you to jail for 20 years?"

"I remember that too" she replies softly.

He wipes another tear from his cheek and says...

I would have got out today
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

BIOLOGY EXAM:

This is straight from Scotland. Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam.

The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk'. The question was worth 70 points or none at all.

One student, in particular, was hard put to think of seven advantages. However, he wrote:

- 1) It is perfect formula for the child.
- 2) It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 3) It is always the right temperature.
- 4) It is inexpensive.
- 5) It bonds the child to mother, and vice versa.
- 6) It is always available as needed.

And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test, he wrote:

- 7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it.

He got an A+.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

AGING TRUTHS

Reading can seriously damage your ignorance

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Life is all about ass: you're either covering it, laughing it off, kicking it, trying to get a piece of it, busting it, behaving like one, or you live with one.

Happiness is not having to set the alarm clock.

Getting another set of teeth would be much more useful at 60 than at age 6.

Drinking 42 cups of coffee at one sitting will kill you with a caffeine overdose, please stop at 41.

"The starting pay is £40,000. Later it can go up to £80,000."

"Great, I'll start later."

Only in math problems can you buy 60 cantaloupes and no one asks what is wrong with you.

"I'm 85 and my body is full of aches and pains."

"Well, I'm 85 and I feel like a newborn baby."

"Really?"

"Yep, no teeth, no hair, and I just wet my pants."

When the pool re-opens, due to social distancing rules, there will be no water in lanes 1, 3, and 5.

When I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate one of those either.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food; no atmosphere.

If you see me talking to myself just move along. I'm self employed. We're having a meeting.

"Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40 minute flute solo.

I envy people who grow old gracefully. They age like a fine wine.

I'm aging like milk. Getting sour and chunky.

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. She's 5 and it's past her bedtime.

Today's 3 year-olds can switch on laptops and open their favorite apps. When I was 3, I ate mud.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

So you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

"When one door closes another door opens - other than that it's a pretty good car"....

"The guy that invented the USB connector died last week. They lowered his coffin in then lifted it up, turned it over and put it back in....."

"A big nose is no excuse for no mask - I still wear pants".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Woman was at the hairdresser.

Hairdresser was making small talk. "So, what's new?" she said.

The woman replied, " I am about to go on holiday. I've been saving for years and next week I leave."

"Flying or driving?" asked the hairdresser.

"I'm flying Jet Blue."

"Jet Blue? They're awful. The seats are tiny, food is terrible, and they always lose your luggage," complained the hairdresser. "Where are you going, anyway?"

"Rome," the woman replied nervously.

"Rome? That's the worst city. It always rains, there are pickpockets everywhere and the people are rude" said the hairdresser. "I bet you're there to see the pope... good luck with that. Waiting in that crowd of thousands all day to catch a glimpse of him for three seconds. If he didn't wear that hat, you'd never know it was him."

"Oh, my," the lady gasped. "Well, I'll let you know how it goes when I get back." She paid and left.

A few weeks later the woman was back in her hairdresser's chair. "How did the holiday go?" the hairdresser asked.

Beaming, the woman began, "Well, it was awesome. The flight was comfortable, no bags lost. Everything was right on time and easy."

"My goodness," said the hairdresser with a smirk on her face. "And how was Rome?"

"Oh, absolutely fabulous," the woman replied. "The people were so nice, helpful and friendly every time we turned around. I just love that city!"

"How long did you wait to see the Pope?"

"You know," the woman replied, "that was the highlight of the trip! Not only did we see the Pope, we got to talk with him! He was so nice!"

"What did he say?" asked the hairdresser, now engrossed in the woman's story.

"Who the f*** did your hair?"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A jumbo jet is just coming into the Toronto Airport on its final approach.

The pilot comes on the intercom, "This is your Captain. We're on our final descent into Toronto. I want to thank you for flying with us today and I hope you enjoy your stay in Toronto."

He forgets to switch off the intercom, and the whole plane can hear his conversation with his co-pilot.

The co-pilot says to the pilot, "Well, skipper, wotcha gonna do in Toronto?"

"Well," says the skipper, "first I'm gonna check into the hotel and take a big crap then I'm gonna take that new stewardess with the huge knockers out for dinner, then I'm gonna wine and dine her, take her back to my room and put it to her big time all night long!"

Everyone on the plane hears this and immediately begins looking up and down the aisles, trying to get a look at the new stewardess.

Meanwhile, the new stewardess is at the very back of the plane. She's so embarrassed that she tries to run to the cockpit to turn the intercom off. Halfway down the aisle, she trips over an old lady's bag and falls on her face.

The old lady leans over and says: "No need to hurry, dear. He's gonna take a crap first."
.....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" ...)