

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!)

SAD DAY ON 25th MAY

At the time I was starting to write this month's Newsletter, there was a very sad news story coming through reporting the death of an RAF pilot from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight following the crash of one of their Spitfires at RAF Conningsby. Such a sad announcement, which I'm sure we are all most shocked to have heard...

The deceased pilot has now been named as Sqd Ldr Mark Long - R.I.P.

MAY WEATHER

At last – it seems we have finally got to some semblance of Summer weather, which has actually been flyable more often than not for a change!

It has seemingly become significantly flyable for our based private owners and clubs to start to make use of their aircraft and, in the case of the training organisations, to get their students back into the air, and continue their flight training without so many cancellations due to weather than we have had since the Autumn.

Let's hope the weather will continue to be on our side for several months from this point forward...

ROSS HUMPHRIES

Old Biggin Hill'ite, Ross Humphries, has sadly died at the age of 80. He had been suffering for several years with a heart condition which gradually made physical activity more and more difficult. For the last couple of months, he was virtually housebound and, following a fall at home on 30 April, he was taken into hospital in Torquay, where he passed away on 13 May.

Ross had been named after a very young Canadian pilot, Ross Campbell, who had safely brought home his Bomber Command crew (including Ross's father, who was the navigator) following many raids in World War II.

So, with flying very much in his background, Ross joined Flairavia Flying Club in 1968, at the time when Trevor Prytherch was the CFI, with other instructors being David Quirk, Paul Shires, and 'Gruppenführer' John Marshall. He became close friends with Ian Frazer and Mike Markey and, having completed his PPL, he worked as a mechanic in Bill Webb's hangar and also for Express Aviation, until the early 1970s when a stroke of good fortune landed him the right-hand seat in the Whitbread Navajo Chieftain, captained by Fred Roffey (with whom, curiously, he shared the same birthday).

This was very much his 'dream job', and the following ten or so years were the happiest of his working life. Whitbread bought wines and spirits from all over Europe and Ross greatly enjoyed their regular flights to France, Germany, Holland, and Scotland. The Whitbread job also allowed him to accumulate the hours required to obtain his CPL - although, ironically, this was preceded by his obtaining a Senior Commercial Licence from Canada, whilst staying with friends in Alberta.

During these years he was married to Sharman but, after their divorce in 1985, Ross moved to Devon where, for a while, he worked out of Exeter Airport, flying the Royal Mail around the UK. In Devon, he was introduced to vivacious and spirited Fay; they married and had over 30 happy years together until her death in 2020. Fay encouraged him to travel, and they visited Canada, the Far East, and Australia, as well as many trips to Brittany and the Isle of Arran, where Fay still had family.

Whatever his latest interest might be, Ross made sure that he researched the subject so thoroughly that he became quite the expert, but motorcycles and history (particularly the Plantagenets) were abiding passions. He was a loyal, warm, kind man with a very quick wit and a great sense of humour. Everyone who knew him will remember a generous, charming and amusing companion.

He rightly earns a place on the Biggin Hill Reunited Roll of Honour.

Rest in peace, Ross. You will never be forgotten.

(I am grateful to Ian Frazer for contacting me with information about Ross. Ian was a true Biggin Hill'ite back in the 60s; he now lives in the Borders).

COBBY

As many of us are aware, Cobby, who sadly died back in April, as notified in this Newsletter last month, will be having a funeral arranged by a Council, and without friends or family being able to attend it.

Cobby's daughter, Mel Luck, who announced his sad passing on the Facebook Group, Biggin Hill Reunited, has said she will hopefully at some stage arrange for a gathering somewhere near to Biggin for his friends and family to get together to raise a glass or two in memory of our friend.

I will do my best to make sure that you all are notified of where, and when, this gathering will happen.

RAY WATSON'S SPECIAL DAY

What a totally amazing day Ray had on Friday 24th May - A Special Flight.....!

Ray Watson, one of the airport's favourite and most experienced Instructor/Examiners, and former member of the airport's SANARB Committee, was 91 on 7th February 2024.

Ray was a former RAF pilot and was once a full display pilot in various jet aircraft including the Hawker Hunters. (He was also the Head of the Valiant "V" bomber fleet for the Air Force!)

After subsequently leaving the RAF, Ray initially was the Captain of the main Instrument Approach calibration aircraft for the whole of the UK and Europe. After some time, he then became the Chief Flying Instructor and Examiner for Cabair, Biggin Hill, and subsequently for EFG, before ceasing operations for them last year for health reasons.

Ray's last flight was at the end of February 2023 when he flew with me to renew all my ratings etc. in my PA28-180. Whilst flying then, I asked him if he would actually like to fly himself - "yes please" he said. Whilst flying around in Kent, he just casually said that he hadn't flown for more than 18 months...!

In late 2023, because of some aging health issues, Ray was moved into a Care Home in Sevenoaks, where I (and several other airport people) visit him, in my case about every two weeks to keep him company and to remain in touch with the airport happenings since he ceased flying...

In early 2024, the Care Home asked me if I could take him flying, which of course I said I would love to do. I approached Peter Greenyer at Shipping & Airlines at Biggin (who also owns the MPFC club, where I now instruct following the closure of Alouette, where I was the Head of Training until the closure.) Peter very kindly agreed for me to do a special flight for him. I also approached the airport's CEO, David Winstanley, who kindly agreed to covering the landing fee and some additional costs, to help the care home to minimise their costs, for which I am so very grateful....

So, on 24th May 2024, the Care Home carers, and some of their residents, attended the Lookout Café and when there, I was able to surprise Ray by inviting him to come flying in the AA5, which we had parked outside on the ramp.

We had an amazing flight together which is so incredibly great to see him aviating again after so long since last flying. A wonderful, and most amazing person and pilot... It was a great flight for me to be airbourne again with Ray after all this time...

JUNE BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of June 2024 are:

£1:86.6 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 – and an additional 1p per litre off if also paid by Direct Debit)

£0:87.7 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1:11.2 per litre)

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).

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT – A MAJOR LONDON CENTRE FOR CORPORATE AND GA OPS

Our airport has been showing excellent volumes of Corporate Jet's now operating into and out of Biggin. The success of the airport's encouragement of these corporate movements are going a long way to ensure that our airport is now pretty unlikely to ever suffer from closure at any time.

In addition to the corporate operations, the airport remains an excellent base for light aircraft training and private operations for us all..

I hope most of you will agree, and thank the airport owners and management team for keeping us all able to have a home at the special former RAF Battle of Britain airport... It is, and will hopefully always remain, a great airport for us all to operate from, and participate in our activities there....

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

May has turned out to be a busy month for the Airport with the Champions league final generating significant activity over this coming weekend. The Airport will be operating close to apron capacity and will be utilising taxiway Alpha to park some aircraft. This activity further cements a strong start to the financial year. The Airport continues to attract a range of new home-based business aviation customers and is seeing an increase in general aviation traffic.

Global instability, with the conflicts in both Ukraine and Israel, continue to have an adverse impact on the business and our industry. Notwithstanding this, the London market figures show the Airport's share marginally increased to just under 21%, with Luton at just under 29% ahead of Farnborough at just over 28%.

The Airport continues its development programme to improve existing infrastructure and improve its service offering to customers. Progress continues towards the introduction of an Aviation Technology College and the provision of onsite engineering accommodation. The Airport has now completed the installation of the new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system, which will eventually include 24-hour automated METAR reporting. The new IRVR system will need to undergo operational calibration prior to entering full operational use.

The Airport has successfully launched its campaign to promote the results from its Economic Footprint study. The feedback has been extremely positive and the report has helped to reinforce the important role the Airport plays as a catalyst for inward investment, economic growth and job creation. The Airport site generates a GVA (gross value added) of £200 million to the UK economy and, importantly, £143m (70%) of this is captured within the London Borough of Bromley.

The Airport is pleased to announce that the CAA have provided an update regarding the Airport's submission to conduct an operational trial of the new instrument approach to Rwy 03. The CAA have confirmed the request constitutes a valid trial and is, therefore, both new and innovative. The CAA have acknowledged the Airport's objectives and outlined a phased approach to implement the trial. The Airport continues to work with the CAA to implement the trial by September this year.

As previously reported, the Airport continues to work hard to roll out the 2nd phase of its Air Quality Monitoring initiative with the installation of additional sensors. The monitors will have an increased number of sensors to detect SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide), VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) and O₃ (Ground Ozone). The sensors will also detect Particulate matter 1, 2.5 and 10 micrograms of solid or liquid particles in the atmosphere. The Airport will be working with the newly formed Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum to see how the Airport might report on Air Quality in the future.

Given this weekend will be extremely busy, the Airport would like to thank the Light general aviation community in anticipation of their patience and understanding.

Kind regards
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. Also, 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 again for this month. Do enjoy your flying when the weather is more suitable - 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 amusing short stories....

I would like to thank everyone for sending their contributions for this section. To avoid me running out of jokes, please keep them coming by email to john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

QUOTE.....

A guy goes to the supermarket one day. He's doing his shopping when he notices an attractive young woman waving at him.

She comes over and says hi to him.

He's taken aback because he can't think where he knows her from. So he asks her, "Do you know me?"

She replies, "Yes, I think you're the father of one of my kids."

The guy's mind is whirring now and it travels back to the only time he's ever been unfaithful to his wife.

He asks the woman, "Are you the stripper from the bachelor party that I made love to on the pool table with all my buddies watching while your partner whipped my butt with wet celery???"

She looks into his eyes and calmly replies, "No, I'm your son's teacher."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman catches her husband with another woman in bed and gets angry.

He hurriedly explains, claiming he was just helping the girl.

He says: "The girl was hitchhiking but didn't know her relatives' address, so I took her home to check an old phonebook. When we got here, I saw her shirt was worn out, so I gave her a nice t-shirt you hadn't worn in years. Her shoes were falling apart too, so I gave her one of your pairs that had been sitting unused for three years." She thanked me profusely and then jokingly asked, "Is there anything else in this house your wife never uses?"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman walks around her house completely naked when suddenly she hears the doorbell ring.

She asks "Who is this?"

A man answers "It's the blind man".

Re-assured, the woman, still naked, opens the door.

The man stares at her, hesitates for a second, then says "ok... so where do you want me to install those blinds?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Sarah goes to school, and the teacher says, "Today we are going to learn multi-syllable words, class. Does anybody have an example of a multi-syllable word?"

Sarah waves her hand, "Me, Miss Rogers, me, me!"

Miss Rogers says, "All right, Sarah, what is your multi-syllable word?"

Sarah says, "Mas-tur-bate."

Miss Rogers smiles and says, "Wow, Sarah, that's a mouthful."

Sarah says, "No, Miss Rogers, you're thinking of a blowjob."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A family is at the dinner table.

The son asks the father, "Dad, how many kinds of boobs are there?"

The father, surprised, answers, "Well, son, a woman goes through three phases. In her 20s, a woman's breasts are like melons, round and firm. In her 30s and 40s, they are like pears, still nice, hanging a bit. After 50, they are like onions."

"Onions?" the son asks.

"Yes. You see them and they make you cry."

This infuriated his wife and daughter.

The daughter asks, "Mom, how many different kinds of willies are there?"

The mother smiles and says, "Well, dear, a man goes through three phases also. In his 20s, his willy is like an oak tree, mighty and hard. In his 30s and 40s, it's like a birch, flexible but reliable. After his 50s, it's like a Christmas tree."

"A Christmas tree?" the daughter asks.

"Yes, dead from the root up and the balls are just for decoration."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

With a very seductive voice the woman asked her husband... "Have you ever seen Twenty pounds all crumpled up?"

"No," said her husband.

She gave him a sexy little smile, unbuttoned the top 3 buttons of her blouse, slowly reached down into the cleavage created by a soft, silky push-up bra, and pulled out a crumpled Twenty pound note

He took the crumpled Twenty from her and smiled approvingly.

She then asked him, "Have you ever seen Fifty pounds all crumpled up?"

"Uh... no, I haven't," he said, with an anxious tone in his voice.

She gave him another sexy little smile, pulled up her skirt, seductively reached into her tight, sheer panties, and pulled out a crumpled Fifty pound note.

He took the crumpled Fifty and started breathing a little more quickly with anticipation.

Now," she said, "have you ever seen £25,000 all crumpled up?"

"No way!" he said, while obviously becoming even more aroused and excited, to which she replied ...

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"Go look in the garage!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A true friend is like a penis, he stands up for you in times of need. A genuine friend is like a bra, she supports you at all times. A faithful friend is like a condom , he protects you from all harm. A loving friend is like a vagina, she accomodates you fully despite the size of your problem.

1. Kamasutra says : If you suck one nipple, the woman herself offers the other one. And that was the origin of "buy one get one free"!

2. Did you ever notice: everything on a woman's upper body starts with a "B". Blouse, Bra, Bikini, Boobs & lower body with a "P" Peticoat, panties, pussy... That's origin of "BP"!

3. Before sex, you help each other get naked. After sex, you dress only yourself. Moral: In life no one helps you once you're f****d.
4. Success is like pregnancy. Everybody congratulates you but nobody knows how many times you got f****d to achieve it.
5. Life is like a dick, sometimes it becomes hard for no reason.
6. Practical thought: A husband is supposed to make his wife's panties wet, not her eyes. A wife is supposed to make her husband's dick hard, not his life..!
7. When a lady is pregnant, all her friends touch her stomach and say "Congrats!". But none of them come and touch the man's Penis and say "Well done!".
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Manure... An interesting fact.

Manure : In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything for export had to be transported by ship. It was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a by-product is methane gas.

As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM!

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction ' Stow high in transit ' on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this "volatile" cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term ' S.H.I.T ' , (Stow High In Transit) ,..... "So it's really not a swear word", which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day.

You probably did not know the true history of this word.

Neither did I..... I had always thought it was a golfing term.

.....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"...))