

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of your Biggin Hill Users Database Newsletter. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

JB's March edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" is also now available online on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk> To view it, once in the Bugle section, via the link on the homepage, click on the appropriate month's link.

My apologies that this edition is somewhat briefer than normal. I am currently out of the country, and, in fact, this newsletter is being written whilst on a cruise ship somewhere in the Caribbean...

BIGGIN WEATHER?

Being away, there is not a great deal I can say about the weather, except to say that I do hope that you are all managing to fly during February, and I personally am looking forward to March with ever lengthening days and, of course, hopefully better and more consistent flying weather.

JOHN (JB) BRYAN

JB tells me that his post-operation recovery is going well, and he can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm sure it won't be that long and you'll soon be rushing around everywhere again soon.

LICENCING AND MEDICALS

Just a reminder to everyone that the 8th April 2018 will see many people unable to continue to fly EASA aircraft with their previously held licences (UK National PPL and NPL cease to be valid) unless they have already converted them to Part-FCL. There are also restrictions on GP Medical Declarations. Don't get caught out – if you fly after 8th April with an invalid licence or medical you will probably invalidate the aircraft insurance as well as leave yourself open to CAA action against you. For full details see: www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk/licences.pdf

NEW BIGGIN HILL LANDING FEES

Following on from last month's announcement that the new, post-April, airport landing fees were being published, you should all, assuming you have an account with the airport, have received the new charges. I know we would all prefer that the charges remained unchanged, but, after more than two years of holding the rates constant, this change was inevitable.

I hope that, now you will have been able to assess the effects on you of the changes, you will at least believe that privately owned aircraft will still have a place at the airport and are not actually being priced out, as some would have you believe.

It really is important though that private owners take great care to conduct themselves properly at the airport, and minimise the effect of our operations on the airport's core business, which is clearly the corporate jet market. If we are all careful, and operate within the rules, and respect the need to fit in with these aircraft, we will all have a long term future at our airport. But it is important that we help to educate those that perhaps do not fit in as well as they could, before these owners have a negative effect on all of us. I for one, as a long term Biggin Hill resident, would like to have many years of operation from Biggin Hill, and want to ensure that all is done to ensure our ongoing future 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

Greetings from Alouette.

The new committee has officially changed hands and all roles are now appointed. Between us all there are plenty of fresh ideas planned for the coming months which include social events and charity events.

The PA28 has recently undergone it's 50hr check and the 172's check should be completed this week. So both planes will be fully ready to cope with the start of our British Summer Time peak (we hope) flying period.

If anyone would like to post pictures of days out or updates on the Alouette Flying Club page on Facebook, it would be much appreciated. Keep us in touch with your flying activities with the club aircraft.

I would also like to congratulate Robin Ablett on winning the "Chairman's award" for outstanding service to the club Committee over many years.

Safe flying. Best regards

Josh Reeves
Chairman

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from all at EFG, Falcon and S&K. What a month! We've had highs, lows and everything in-between.

Tensions have been lifted and bottles cracked open as we celebrate new PPL(A) passes, Qualifying Cross Countries and first Solos in a month which has certainly flown by! We've had visits from some of our ex-instructors who have gone on to join the RAF, Captain Ryan Air flights and helm other super-secret stuff and all hark back to their days with EFG. Our pride this month is our ex-student Suss Noori who has been accepted on the Generation Easyjet Pilot training Programme citing EFGs "expert tuition" in aiding him to fly the Airbus A320.

The nights have kept us busy as we have fought to complete Night Ratings. Whilst the time is nearly up don't forget to book in with us early September for this year!

The folks in the hangar have been busy as ever as they prepare our Archer for the EFG fleet. She's looking to be a bit special so keeps your eyes peeled!

Heritage has always played a huge part in any flying school. Our training follows standards set by some of the most experienced in the industry. This year we look at our procedures, training standards and internal SOPs to ensure that we continue this excellence but also evolve as a company. Your experience with all facets of the Falcon Group are top of the list with us!

So, as we eagerly await Spring we bid a happy retirement to John Bishop who has instructed at S&K for over 16 years. I have had the pleasure of joining John for a pint at the bar, and him keeping a watchful eye over me in the skies, both times equally great fun. A tremendous gentleman with stellar personality. John we shall all miss you and wish you all the luck!

Till the next time. Stay blessed, fly safe and don't forget noise abatement!

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

February was another busy month for business aviation with movements up nearly 24% year on year. Light aviation was fairly average for the time of year, with a few nice days making for some good flying conditions.

Unfortunately, there have been further light aircraft/business jet interactions resulting in TCAS Resolution Advisories (TCAS RA) for business jet customers. As previously mentioned, the modern business jet is surrounded by an electronic protective bubble and it is difficult to adequately separate light aviation from business aviation. The old method of ATC advising both parties of each other's existence is still a valid means of avoiding a collision, but the TCAS system does not understand this method as constituting adequate traffic separation. TCAS looks for, essentially, IFR separation (1,000ft vertical /3nm lateral). When this is not provided, it results in, at best, nuisance warnings and at worst a full Resolution Advisory which the business jet crew must obey even if they think they have the conflicting traffic visual. A TCAS RA mandates an MOR and an Air Safety Report to the operating company. It also requires an investigation by us into the performance of the Air Traffic Control Officer (ATCO) concerned to see if controller performance was a contributory factor. A TCAS RA may mean an aircraft breaking off an approach or taking other action, such as climbing above their cleared level to avoid the conflict, resulting in a 'level bust'. All the above dramatically increases the workload on our ATCOs and it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain the levels of light aviation we currently have at Biggin Hill. The CAA have asked us to address mitigate this issue and we must obviously do so - before the busy summer season inevitably makes this issue worse.

Our runway 03 GPS approach continues to make its way through CAA approval although the process is slower than we had hoped due to staff shortages at the CAA. We hope to have a clearer picture by mid-March, but we intend to begin installation of the approach lighting as soon as the weather warms up and we very much hope to have the approach implemented in the early summer. Taxiway Hotel is due to be resurfaced this spring at vast cost and this may lead to some operational restrictions whilst the work is carried out over a period of 8 to 10 weeks. Some night work will be required. The airport is now ready to move to 8.33khz radios and will switch to 8.33khz channel spacing on August 1st 2018. Please note that after this date, you will not be able to use any 25khz radio at Biggin Hill.

As I write, snow is falling on the aerodrome. Hopefully this will be the last cold snap this winter, but please be very careful on the manoeuvring areas as they may not all be de-iced. If in doubt, don't venture out!

Until next month, safe flying!

Best regards
Will Curtis
MD – Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

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.

Having said that, any contributions towards the cost of maintaining the various web servers and domain names etc., would always be gratefully received. (Cheques should be payable to "John Willis" and posted to me at 26, Churchside Close, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3QF). Thanks to those who have already sent in contributions.

That's it for this month.....
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....)

QUOTE.....

I hate it when people ask me, "Where do you see yourself in two years' time?" Anybody would think I have 2020 vision.

Just bought a belt made out of herbs. What a waist of thyme!

I got a rescue dog that used to belong to a blacksmith. As soon as i got it home it made a bolt for the door.

I've ordered some German food over the internet. The sauerkraut has arrived but the wurst is yet to come.

Costume party:

Host: What are you?

Me: A harp.

Host: Your costume's too small to be a harp.

Me: Are you calling me a lyre?

I've just had a new thesaurus delivered from eBay. On opening it I found all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how angry I am.

Just heard they're finally making a movie about clocks and watches. It's about time!

My mum and dad are midgets. All my life they've struggled to put food on the table.

When I first heard that I was dyslexic it was music to my arse.

A man goes into Waterstones and asks the young lady assistant. "Do you have the new self-help book out for men with a small penis? I can't remember the title.

She replies, "I'm not sure if it's in yet."

The man said, "That's the one, I'll take a copy."

I opened the door this morning to find a six foot tall beetle standing there. He punched me in the face and called me a twat. I'd heard there's a nasty bug going round.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

It's not whether you win or lose, but how you place the blame.

We have enough "youth". How about a fountain of "smart"?

A Fool and his money can throw one heck of a party.

When blondes have more fun, do they know it?

LEARN FROM YOUR PARENT'S MISTAKES - USE BIRTH CONTROL

Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you

We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse.

Red meat is not bad for you. Fuzzy green meat is bad for you.

Ninety-nine percent of all lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Xerox and Wurlitzer will merge to produce reproductive organs.

Alabama state motto:- At least we're not Mississippi

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS NO MATCH FOR NATURAL STUPIDITY.

The latest survey shows that three out of four people make up 75% of the population

I think politicians should wear uniforms, you know, like NASCAR drivers, so we can identify their corporate sponsors.

The reason Politicians try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Boeing 777 wide body jetliner was lumbering along at 800km/hour at 33000 feet when a cocky F-16 fighter jet flashed by at Mach 1.5

The F16 pilot decided to show off. On his state of the art radio that is part of his state of the art 3D and million dollar headset the F16 youngster told the 777 pilot, "Hey Captain Watch this!"

He promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep unimaginable vertical climb. He then finished with a sonic boom as he broke the sound barrier as the F16 screamed down at impossible

G's before levelling at almost sea level ...

The F-16 pilot asked the 777 pilot what he thought of that?

The 777 pilot said, "That was truly impressive, but watch this!"

The 777 chugged along for about 5 minutes at the steady 800km/hour and then the 777 pilot came back on and said, "What did you think of that?"

Puzzled, the cocky F-16 pilot asked, "What the heck did you do?"

The 777 pilot chuckled and said, "I stood up, stretched my legs, walked to the back, used the toilet, then got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll and secured a date for the next 3 nights in a five star hotel paid for by the company"

Lesson of life:

When you are young & foolish - speed & flash may seem like a good thing!

When you get older & smarter - comfort & dullness is not such a bad thing! It's called S.O.S. -

Slower, Older and Smarter!

Dedicated to all my friends approaching the S.O.S. category

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Donald is walking out of the White House and heading toward his limo, when a possible assassin steps forward and aims a gun.

A secret service agent, new on the job, shouts "Mickey Mouse!" This startles the would be assassin and he is captured.

Later, the secret service agent's supervisor takes him aside and asks, "What in the hell made you shout Mickey Mouse?"

Blushing, the agent replies, "I got nervous. I meant to shout - - - - -"

"Donald duck!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Wednesday morning the weather was too bad to play golf. I was bored with nothing to do. Suddenly there was a knock on the door.

I opened it to find a young, well-dressed man standing there who said: "Hello sir, I'm a Jehovah's Witness."

So I said, "Come in and sit down."

I offered him a fresh cup of coffee and asked, "What do you want to talk about?"

He said, "Beats the shit out of me. Never got this far before.."

.....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"...))