

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 2020 Newsletter for the Biggin Hill 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 ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and also all the original Biggin Hill "Bugles" written by our own John Bryan (JB), by visiting the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://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!)*

## **FEBRUARY WEATHER**

What can I say about the weather this last month? Probably one of the worst months that I can remember – Heavy and fairly continuous Storms, almost continuous heavy rainfall, gale force winds, Hail and some Snow, and major life changing floods in many parts of the country. Still we haven't had any sandstorms yet!!! Most grass airfields are seriously waterlogged..... Appalling month for light aviation – especially flight training.

It has surely to get better one day?

## **MARCH BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of March 2020 are:

£1.490 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser

(if uplifted using account card or credit card from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0.590 per litre for Jet A1

## **DOUGLAS FIELD**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February saw family and many friends, including those from aviation, attending the funeral for our friend Douglas Field. The service was held in St Margaret's Church in Halstead, Kent. Following the service, there was a private family burial, and subsequently to a gathering in the Cock Inn in Halstead to further celebrate Doug's life.

A good send off for our friend.

He will be much missed by his many aviation and airport colleagues. R.I.P.Douglas

## **NEW MAJOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT**

As many will have seen, the new very large Hangar and other facilities for Bombardier has now commence construction. Situated to the South of the self-fuel facility in the centre of the airport and across the old runway 29, this huge complex will be the main European Bombardier support centre.

Much of the eastern side of the runway 11/29 from Lima 1 has now been dug up in preparation for the build.

Such a development is a clear feather in the cap for Biggin Hill Airport, and should help to secure the long term future of the airport for GA, both light and corporate, and the management should be congratulated for this contract that I suspect was secured against significant competition from other UK and European airports.

## **THINKING OF BECOMING AN AIRCRAFT OWNER?**

If you are thinking of becoming an aircraft owner, I have a Biggin Hill based 1967 Piper PA28-180C that I am considering selling outright, or possibly looking to find a couple of additional people who want to become a part-owner of an aircraft.

The aircraft is excellently equipped with an Aspen Glass cockpit, Garmin 430 (8.33 KHz) Nav/Com, a second 25 KHz King Nav/Com, a Mode S Transponder with ADSB. An Autopilot with nav coupling and Roll Steering to automatically follow your pre-programmed nav routing. It has an electronic fuel flow meter with built in EGT.

The 4 seat aircraft has only 8,700 airframe hours total since new, and the engine has total 1,330 hours since overhaul (TBO is 2,000 with a potential 10% additional extension, but on condition operation thereafter for private non-commercial use). It has winglet wing tips with two hi-intensity wing tip landing lights and a single hi-intensity LED nose taxi light. It has a brand new Annual Check just completed, and the flap spar mods carried out during the annual.

A great private owner's touring aircraft, with updated navigation equipment to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For price and further details, email John Willis [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

## **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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

## **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

The 'Pace' is picking up as more and more souls take to the skies with Alouette. The windsock is slowly going limp and dry, so Pilots are dusting off their licences and getting back in the air.

At Alouette there is still some room for you to join in the fun; with two immaculate C172s and eager instructors waiting, come and join the only club at Biggin with a licenced bar and active social meetings.

For £150 per year you can join as a pilot or student and your partner receives a complimentary Social Membership (usually £35)!

Come and check us out Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7:30 for 8pm at our clubhouse (last building at the end of the perimeter road). You'll meet like-minded people who are friendly and keen.

Remember, Alouette promotes 'Affordable flying for all'. We are run by volunteers (so no wages to pay) and are designed not to make a profit !! That's how we keep our prices so low.

Already a member of another club? Come talk to us about how Alouette can still save you hundreds of pounds over the year.

Hope to see you all soon.

Regards  
Bruno Bruniges - Club Chairman

## **MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE**

Well, by the time you read this update I will have been in post almost a year to the day and what a year it has been. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past 12 months.

Whilst January seemed to pass us by with relatively little adverse weather, February has roared in with storms, torrents of rain and even snow. This sharpens our focus to ensure the Airport community as a whole look at robust winter operations and the continuing drive to ensure we maintain a 'clean wing' policy at Biggin Hill. This again increases the importance of our investments in the 03 GPS approach, the 21 overlay and the replacement ILS. With regard to the ILS, I am pleased to report that the Board has approved its replacement which will be targeted for full operational use by the Autumn of this year.

The Airport continues to perform well against the back drop of a declining UK/London market, where we continue to hold our own! The uncertainty regarding the final negotiated deal with our European partners does not seem to have had a material impact on the Airport, although it is still early days. The building pressure in terms of the environmental impact of Business Aviation is clearly prominent and the Airport is actively looking at the development of a robust sustainability policy as part of our CSR programme.

At last, this month saw the formal announcement of the Bombardier Hangar development, which is great news for not only the Airport but for the economic benefits it will bring to the region as a whole. Many of you will have already noticed the start of the civil works for the hangar and, together with the Hotel and College, later this same year, this is an exciting time for the Airport.

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](http://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](mailto: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.....

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.... Please keep them coming by email to [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) , as soon as you can, as my stock for the newsletter is getting quite low now....! )

QUOTE.....

It is important for men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of housekeeping as when they were younger. When you notice this, try not to yell at them.

My name is Ron. Let me relate how I handled the situation with my wife, Carol.

When I retired a few years ago, it became necessary for Carol to get a full-time job, along with her part-time job, both for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed.

Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf club about the same time she gets home from work. Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her. Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table.

I generally have lunch each day in the Men's Grill at the Golf Club, so eating out is not an option in the evening. I'm ready for some home-cooked grub when I hit that door. She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating. But now, it's not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner. I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this, as it does seem to motivate her to get them done, before she goes to bed.

Another symptom of aging is complaining, I think. For example, she will say that it is difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour. But, boys, we take 'em for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two, or even three days. That way, she won't have to rush so much. I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then wouldn't hurt her any (if you know what I mean). I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

When doing simple jobs, she seems to think she needs more rest periods. She had to take a break, when she was only half-finished mowing the front lawn I try not to make a scene. I'm a fair man... I tell her to fix herself a nice, big, cold glass of freshly squeezed lemonade and just sit for a while. And, as long as she is making one for herself, she may as well make one for me, too.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support Carol. I'm not saying that showing this much patience & consideration is easy. Many men will find it difficult. Some will find it impossible! Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older. However, guys, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your aging wife because of this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

*EDITOR'S NOTE:*

Ron died suddenly on January 31 of a perforated rectum.

The police report says he was found with a Calloway extra-long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver II golf club jammed up his rear end, with barely 5 inches of grip showing, and a sledge hammer lying nearby.

His wife Carol Anne was arrested and charged with murder...

The all-woman jury took only 10 minutes to find her Not Guilty, accepting her defense that Ron, somehow without looking, accidentally sat down on his golf club.

A hole in one, so to speak!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A nun is Confessing to her Mother Superior. " Mother, I have sinned. I used some really foul and horrible language this week and I feel absolutely terrible about it."

"When did you use this awful language?" asks the elder.

"Well, I was golfing with the parish priest and it was a beautiful day. We were discussing God and his wonders when I hit an incredible drive that looked like it was going to go over 280 yards, but it struck a phone line that was hanging over the fairway and fell straight down to the ground after going only about 100 yards."

"Is that when you swore?"

"No, Mother," says the nun. "After that, a squirrel ran out of the bushes and grabbed my ball in its mouth and began to run away."

"Is THAT when you swore?" asks the Mother Superior again.

"Well, no". says the nun. "You see, as the squirrel was running, an eagle came down out of the sky, grabbed the squirrel in his talons and began to fly away!"

"Is THAT when you swore?" asks the amazed elder nun.

"No, not yet. As the eagle carried the squirrel away in its claws, it flew near the green and the squirrel dropped my ball."

"Did you swear THEN?" asked Mother Superior, becoming impatient.

"No, because the ball fell on a big rock, bounced over the sand trap, rolled onto the green, and stopped about six inches from the hole."

The two nuns were silent for a moment. Then Mother Superior sighed and said, "You missed the f.....ing putt, didn't you?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital..

While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "Is my time up?"

God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth!

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance?"

God replied: "I didn't bloody recognize you."

.....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" ...)