

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May 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.

April – the first month that permitted the restart of General Aviation flight training for leisure and recreational purposes!

You are reminded that, even if you don't get your Newsletter by email, 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!)

APRIL WEATHER

This month, fortunately as the 12th saw the restart of flight training in the UK, has been quite good weather for the resumption of light aircraft flying. Basically most of the month has been good flying weather, albeit with some slightly higher winds than others.

So with the current Government's "Roadmap" now appearing to be working with more relaxations to come, we can only hope for the weather to steadily improve and give us all a good summer to catch up with all that lost time and experience. One senses slowly returning towards normality over the next couple of months....!

ROBIN STOKES

Sadly, 15th March 2021 saw the passing in hospital of old Biggin Hill'ite, Robin Stokes at age 62 after a short illness.

Born in 1958 in Malta, after leaving school, the family moved to Tatsfield, which gave Robin the opportunity of following in his father, Philip Stokes (who flew with Decca, and Euroair at Biggin), passion for all things aviation. Robin worked as an aeronautical engineer at Biggin Hill (companies including Avtech), Aberdeen, and Southend, before moving to Hants and Sussex Aviation at Blindley Heath.

Robin suffered from a leaky heart valve for a decade, but he had a heart murmur for life. He went into hospital early February 2021 after suffering a heart attack and double pneumonia. While at Southend Hospital he couldn't have visitors due to covid. He was moved to Basildon Hospital heart clinic in his last week to try and repair his heart. On his last day he was placed in a coma but unfortunately died on the 15 March 2021, just 2 hours into his coma.

In his last week he caught covid so that was listed on the death certificate as a contributing factor even though he didn't have symptoms

He is survived by his family, Wife Susan, Daughter Alison Rogers nee Stokes, and son Son Richard, plus Grandchildren.... Robin's family funeral was held at Southend Crematorium on the 12th April.

Robin's name has been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited Roll of Honour. R.I.P. Robin

GORDON OHLSON

I was told this month of the sad passing of old Biggin Hill'ite, Gordon Ohlson. Gordon died in early April after a period of ill health. Gordon will be known to many old Biggin Hill'ites as the Chief Engineer at Decca and then Racal for many years.

He trained as an engineer in the RAF, where he spent around 5 years, working on Meteors and Vampires in those early days. He then got a job as an engineer for Decca at Croydon initially, before they moved to Biggin Hill in the early 60's. His boss then was a senior engineer known as Mr Campbell, who we believe may have been ex-British Airways (or whatever it was called in those days).

Decca operated their Percival Prince aircraft from the western side of what was then Air Couriers Hangar near where the self-refuelling is currently. Gordon subsequently became the Chief Engineer in around 1967, working with Captain Bill Poulter who flew the Prince. In around 1974, they also operated an early Jetstream aircraft, which eventually replaced the Prince.

In about 1980 Decca moved its operations across the airport to the Blue RTZ hangar on the South side. Gordon famously rebuilt the Jetstream about twice I'm told. Eventually the Prince went and the company, now taken over by Racal, also operated an HS125.

Gordon remained with the company until it eventually closed in about 1988, at which time he moved to Bournemouth as the Chief Engineer for a local airline there until his retirement.

Gordon's family funeral was held on 23rd April in Poole, Dorset.

He is survived by his wife, Katie, and his two daughters, Dawn and Lesley.

A really lovely man, and a tremendous engineer, he will be missed by many old Biggin Hill'ites of that era.

Gordon's name has been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited Roll of Honour. R.I.P. Gordon

UK ROADMAP - HOW IS IT GOING?

As discussed last month, the UK Government's "Roadmap out of Lockdown" is now well and truly underway.

So where exactly are we now?

STEP 1 This Step commenced on 29th March and allowed licenced pilots who are in recency to fly solo.

STEP 2 This Step commenced on 12th April, and allowed flight training or flights with an instructor to recommence. So at this point flying clubs and schools recommenced operations...

STEP 3 This Step, is hoped to commence no earlier than 17th May, and should principally allow some larger sporting events and similar, to commence subject to suitable social distancing etc.

Meeting others outdoors will hopefully be permitted, but not with groups of 30 or more which will remain illegal. The suggestion is that indoor meetings socially of up to 6 persons or 1 other household MAY be permitted.

STEP 4 This final Step should, hopefully, commence no earlier than 21st June, and is when the Government hopes to remove all legal limits on social contact, and reopen any remaining closed settings.

Normality seems as if it is actually on the way!!!!

MAY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of May 2021 are:

£1:58 per litre for 100LL Avgas if supplied from the Fuel Bowser (if uplifted using account card
Only from the Self-Refuel pumps = minus 4p per litre)

£0:59.8 per litre for Jet A1

SPECIAL NOTES: Users should be aware that credit and debit cards cannot currently be used at the self-refuel pumps. The situation is likely to remain this way for some time, so if you use self-refuelling, please make sure you have your airport H-TEC fuel account card with you when you go 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

What a month it has been! Despite the snowy start (who expected that?!) to the 12th we have been blessed with perfect flying weather almost every day since. Unsurprisingly we have been busy!

Many members have come back to us to refresh their skills with a check ride before heading off for day trips to Shoreham or the Isle of Wight. Our students have restarted and are back getting to grips with circuits and stalls. And absolutely everyone has been enjoying our complimentary biscuits!

Naturally things haven't quite gone back to normal, but everybody has been very sensible with wearing masks, keeping a distance (not always easy in a tin can at 2000ft) and with the aeroplane being regularly sanitised we are confident our flying is as safe as it can be.

So what are you waiting for? The weather is good, our aeroplane is great, our instructors are available and eager for new victims, err, students, so come and fly with us!

Stay Safe

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The focus for the Airport throughout April has centred on operational readiness for a return to increased traffic levels post 17th May. Although there remains some uncertainty regarding the specific details surrounding what countries will be in what traffic light classification as part of the Global Travel Task force recommendations, there is clearly significant latent demand in the sector. That said, there is still no room for complacency and the Airport continues to take a cautiously optimistic view regarding the next few months.

Although April remained a challenging month, we have seen the early signs of recovery. Movements levels were not dissimilar to pre COVID levels for this time of year although the European and Transatlantic markets remain slow to recover. That said, the internal US market, Asia and the Middle East appear to be recovering well.

Turning to development across the site, I am delighted to announce that the Bombardier hangar will be completed ahead of schedule and will be complete in December this year. This is an impressive achievement given the scale of the development and the challenges presented by COVID-19.

Maintaining this positive theme, I am pleased to report the new ILS went into operation on the 1st April and exploratory works have commenced on taxiway Foxtrot. Work will also commence soon extending apron in front of hanger 446 and resurfacing taxiway Delta; these works are planned to be completed by July this year. Unfortunately, progress regarding the implementation of the 03 RNAV approach remains slow and we continue to work with the CAA in getting the IFP design approved.

April has seen a welcome return to the skies for some of our GA community and I would like to take this opportunity to once again stress the importance of addressing any potential skills fade that might have occurred during the lockdown. I hope everyone has seen the Airport notice emphasises aspects of the CAA Safety Notice SN-2021/008 covering aspects for the safe return to normal operations. It is also a timely opportunity to remind everyone of our noise abatement procedures and the importance of avoiding all Noise Sensitive Areas

I notice that many of our home-based GA community have signed up to our Home-Based Aircraft discount scheme. I trust the community considers the scheme is working well; however, do drop me a line if that is not the case.

Finally, I hope you all stay safe and well.

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) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month..... Enjoy your flying again during May

Stay well and please 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 intended!). 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.....

A little five year old girl was usually driven to school by her Grandad, but one day he had a bad cold so her Grandmother took her.

That night the little girl told her parents that the ride to school with Granny was very different.

What made it different? asked her parents.

Well, she replied, Gran and I didn't see a single tosser, blind bastard, foreign prick, or wanker on the whole journey

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The 6th grade science teacher, Mrs. Parks, asked her class... "Which human body part increases to ten times its size when stimulated?"

No one answered until little Mary stood up and said, "You should not be asking sixth-graders a question like that! I'm going to tell my parents, and they will go and tell the principal, who will then fire you!"

Mrs. Parks ignored her and asked the question again, "Which body part increases to 10 times its size when stimulated?"

Little Mary's mouth fell open. Then she said to those around her, "Boy, is she going to get in big trouble!"

The teacher continued to ignore her and said to the class, "Anybody?"

Finally, Billy stood up, looked around nervously, and said, "The body part that increases 10 times its size when stimulated is the pupil of the eye."

Mrs. Parks said, "Very good, Billy," then turned to Mary and continued. "As for you, young lady, I have three things to say:

One, you have a dirty mind.

Two, you didn't read your homework...

... And three, one day you are going to be very, very disappointed."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young couple were in their honeymoon suite and getting ready for their wedding night.

As they were undressing for bed, the husband, a big burly man, threw his pants to his new bride. He said, "Here, put these on."

She put them on and the waist was twice the size of her body, so the pants just dropped to the ground.

"I can't wear your pants," she said.

"That's right," said the husband, "and don't you ever forget it. I'm the one who wears the pants in this family."

With that she threw him her panties and said, "Try these on."

He tried them on and found he could only get them on as far as his kneecaps.

"Hell," he said, "I can't get into your panties!"

She replied, "That's right... and that's the way it is going to stay until you change your attitude."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I have a pencil that used to be owned by William Shakespeare but he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell if it's 2B or not 2B.

Astronomers got tired of watching the moon go round the earth for 24 hours, so they decided to call it a day.

I relabelled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet but the thyme is cumin.

The nurse came in and said doctor there's a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible, what should I tell him? The doctor said tell him I can't see him today.

Before my surgery, the anaesthetist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation.

And the latest government plan is to make everyone scrap their cars as the scientists have assured them this would stop the spread of car owner virus.

I bought my son a fridge for Christmas. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it.

When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.

The king of Spain has been quarantined on his private jet. That means the reign in Spain stays mainly on the plane.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In a Bangkok Temple:

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail Lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Doctor's Office, Rome:

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Dry Cleaners, Bangkok:

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS.

A Nairobi Restaurant:

CUSTOMERS, WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE, OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER.

On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi:

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

On a poster at Kencom:

ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP

In a City restaurant:

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

In a Cemetery:

PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS, FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations:

GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE, OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS, IN BED.

On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant:

OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

In a Tokyo Bar:

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

Hotel, Yugoslavia:

THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

Hotel, Japan:

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID .

In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS, AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY, EXCEPT THURSDAY.

A sign posted in Germany's Black Forest:

IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON OUR BLACK FOREST CAMPING SITE, THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE, MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT, UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Hotel, Zurich:

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen:

WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

A Laundry in Rome:

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND THEN SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

IMMUTABLE LAWSTruer words have never been spoken

1. Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

2. Law of Gravity

Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

3. Law of Probability

The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

4. Law of Random Numbers

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

5. Variation Law

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

6. Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

7. Law of Close Encounters

The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

8. Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

9. Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

10. Law of the Theatres & Sports Arenas

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last.. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

11. The Coffee Law

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

12. Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only 2 people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

13. Law of Physical Surfaces

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

14. Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

15. Law of Physical Appearance

If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

16. Law of Public Speaking

A Closed Mouth Gathers No Feet!

17. Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy-

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

18. Doctors' Law

If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

.....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"...))