

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.

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!)

APRIL WEATHER

At last – it seems Spring has finally arrived....

Apart from quite strong crosswinds for several days, April has been generally quite good for light aviation so many of us have been able to catch up with our craft and fly again quite regularly. Let us hope that this is the beginning of a nice Summer and a great time to enjoy our hobby.

Get those check rides done and make sure you've got your three take off's and landings recorded within the last 90 days so you can take friends and families up as passengers again.

RAY NOTMAN

Sadly we received notification earlier this month that old Biggin Hill'ite, Ray Notman, passed away in hospital on 21st March 2022 at age 80.

Ray, who was one of the best Avionics Engineers that many of us have ever known, joined the RAF at around age 19, but received an early discharge due to health issues.

He worked for very many Biggin Hill companies over many years at the airport, including A J Whittemore, Air Couriers, Aviation Communications, Express Aviation, Avtech, and Shipping and Airlines. Then, on leaving Biggin Hill, he continued in the aviation industry as a well known and very respected Avionics Engineer, working for the likes of City flyer, British United, British Island airways, Dan Air, British Airways at Gatwick and MCA at Shoreham. He eventually retired at about 65

Ray previously suffered from quite a serious condition for which he was successfully treated, being pronounced in the clear about six years ago. But within the last year or so he was apparently quite unwell and was eventually taken into hospital on the 19th March where he sadly passed away. He leaves behind his wife, Linda, and his daughter, Kerry.

Rest in Peace Ray, your old friends will never forget you.....

Ray's name has been added to the Roll of Honour on the BigginHillReunited.co.uk website.

MILES SAGGERS

As we included in the last Newsletter, our friend Miles Saggars sadly died in late March.

The funeral for Miles was held as a family service, but we are told that it is the intention that a memorial service will be held for his friends and colleagues to show their respects

Once anything is planned, I will let everyone know the details...

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

The various airport developments have been progressing well.

As regular airport visitors will be aware, the New “Landings Hotel” adjacent to the South Camp entrance is seemingly progressing at an impressive pace, with the target opening date of December looking as if it is very much on target.

The original Old Armoury building opposite the main industrial estate and next to the current Bombardier hanger has recently been demolished to make room for a new security office alongside the roadway barriers which will soon show signs of being built.

The main interior roadway, Churchill Way, has recently been completely renewed and pavements added, making it much better access for all of us. It will also have external lighting added shortly as well...

Apparently the new Bombardier Hangar and complex is now complete, and over the next month or two Bombardier will start to transition from the existing hangar by the South Camp entrance, to the new complex...

And finally, of course, the Lookout Café has also opened again after about two years being closed due to Covid restrictions...

MAY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£2:05.5 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)

£1:05 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 USER

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

It has been another pleasant airborne month for us at Alouette. The weather gods have been reasonably kind to us so both our aircraft have been in service and making the most of the flying conditions.

Our students have been hammering the ground school, with several PPL exams passed, including a 100% pass in Meteorology - well done Andy! But the big event of the month was a first solo flight for Sebastian Meznaric. It's a huge moment for every pilot and a fantastic achievement - congratulations Seb!

Our monthly social evenings are also proving a popular pastime for many, so if cheap drinks and aviation chat are your thing then come on down. The next will be Wednesday 4th May (Star Wars Day - May the 4th be with you) kicking off around 1930.

I hope to see some of you at the social next week and, until next month, blue skies and tailwinds to you all!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

The overall performance of the Airport remains strong, despite COVID continuing to nip away at resources, the Ukraine crisis showing no sign of easing and the economic challenges of increases in the cost of living and inflation picking up pace. If this were not enough, the employment market is becoming increasingly challenging, highlighting the importance of retaining talented staff.

Business aviation movements have seen a sharp increase this month when compared to 2021. This increase reflects a higher demand for business aviation verses scheduled aviation and reflects a sector that is more robust and agile. Notably, the Airport has seen an increase in transatlantic traffic with a corresponding uplift in fuel revenue. The Airport has not been significantly affected by the sanctions on Russia and the corresponding closure of UK airspace to Russian aircraft.

The Airport continues its ambitious investment programme and development continues at pace. With completion of the Bombardier Hangar the focus now turns to the operational transition from hangar 510 to the new facility. The construction of the Hotel is progressing extremely well and remains on time for an opening in December of this year. In parallel, the Hotel Team are now looking to confirm the interior fit out of the Hotel and the Airport is pleased to announce that we will shortly be placing recruitment adverts to attract local people to work at the Hotel. The enhancements to Churchill way are well advanced and progressing

according to the programme. Work continues to finalize the design of the new entrance and gate house.

The Airport continues to engage with the CAA regarding the flyability of the 03 RNAV approach design given the complexity of the airspace to the south of the Airport. The intention is to provide additional information to allow the CAA to permit the Airport to proceed to Validation. Whilst this process remains time consuming and the Airport acknowledges the frustration felt by certain communities, it is essential that safety remains the top priority. Additionally, the Airport has completed Stage 2 of the 21 Overlay RNAV ACP and is responding to the initial feedback received from the CAA. The Airport is hoping to achieve Stage 2 approval by the end of this month.

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 hearts and thoughts remain with the Ukrainian people nevertheless.)

QUOTE.....

HOW TO START A FIGHT

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift...

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied,

"Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started...

My wife and I were watching 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' while we were in bed.

I turned to her and said, 'Do you want to have sex?'

'No,' she answered. I then said,

'Is that your final answer?'

She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, 'Yes',

So I said, "Then I'd like to phone a friend."

And that's when the fight started...

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her school reunion and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table.

I asked her, "Do you know him?"

"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My goodness!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

And then the fight started...

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first, the shed, the boat, making beer... always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush.

I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, "What's on TV?"

I said, "Dust."

And then the fight started...

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back; now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible."

My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And, can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

And that's how the fight started....

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds.

I bought her a bathroom scale.

And then the fight started...

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age.

I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home. I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'. So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair.

She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability too.'

And then the fight started..

My wife was standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment."

I replied, "Your eyesight's darn near perfect."
And then the fight started...

I rear-ended a car this morning... the start of a REALLY bad day! The driver got out of the other car, and he was a DWARF!!

He looked up at me and said 'I am NOT Happy!'

So I said, 'Well, which one ARE you then?'

That's how the fight started.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

#8 Life is sexually transmitted.

#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

#6 Men have two motivations: hunger and sex, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

#5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

#2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others; I need to go to the bathroom.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The teacher asked the class to use the word "fascinate" in a sentence.

Molly put up her hand and said, "My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating."

The teacher said, "That was good, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate,' not 'fascinating'."

Sally raised her hand. She said, "My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated."

The teacher said, "Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word 'fascinate'."

Little Johnny raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word "fascinate," so she called on him.

Johnny said, "My aunt Carolyn has a sweater with ten buttons, but her tits are so big she can only fasten eight!"

The teacher sat down and cried."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Did you know that on the Canary Islands there is not a single canary. Same in the Virgin Islands, not a single canary!

When you're dead you don't know you are dead. The pain is only felt by others. The same thing happens when you are stupid.

One way of finding out if you are old is to fall down in front of a lot of people. If they laugh, you're still young. If they panic and start running to you, you're old!

The main function of the little toe on your foot is to make sure that all the furniture in the house is in its correct place.

You never appreciate what you have till it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example.

.....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"...))