

Hi everyone

Welcome to the October Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database. Apologies for the very slightly shorter Newsletter than normal, as I was away on holiday for the first half of September.

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!)

SEPTEMBER WEATHER

Whilst I was away for the first half of September, I believe that September has been OK for light aircraft flying and training. But of course, with the approach of Autumn and Winter, the days are beginning to get shorter, and that will of course accelerate substantially when the clocks change at 2am on Sunday 30th October.

Let's all try to make the most of the flying weather before the days become even more restricted for the reduced periods of daylight – but then I guess we can all consider renewing our night ratings then to keep the ability to safely get back home if our return flights are delayed...

H M QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The 19th September 2022 saw virtually the entire United Kingdom and many Commonwealth Countries, and others around the world showing their respects to Queen Elizabeth at her State Funeral in London. This followed her sad death whilst staying in Balmoral on the 8th September aged 96, after reigning for a record 70 years. A completely amazing woman who gave her life to the people of the UK and the Commonwealth.

R.I.P. Your Majesty – Thank you for your service

God Save the King

JOHN BRYAN (JB)

You will all of course remember the terrible news last month of the sad passing of our friend John (JB) Bryan last month.

For those of you that have not received the notification of the date and time for the Memorial Service to celebrate JB's amazing life, the following are the details:

The Memorial Service will be held on Monday 10th October 2022 at St George's Memorial Chapel on Main Road, Leaves Green TN16 3EJ (adjacent to the Spitfire and Hurricane static display) at 11.30am, which will then be followed by a celebration of his incredible and exciting life to be held at The Crown Public House and Restaurant located on Leaves Green Road, Leaves Green, Keston, BR2 6DQ.

Christine and Briony invite you all to say your goodbyes, and to reminisce on happy memories and the good times we all shared with JB.

(If you haven't already done so, they would really appreciate if you could let them know as soon as possible if you will be attending on this special day, in order that they know the numbers to expect, by emailing or calling Briony on her mobile 07886 966014 or by email to brionyclare@hotmail.com

Rest in Peace JB – you will remain in our hearts and minds forever.....

MARTIN CAIN

Sadly we say goodbye to yet another old friend, Flying Instructor Martin Cain passed away after a period of illness on 14th September 2022.

Alouette's former Chairman, Bruno Bruniges, very kindly wrote the following for us:

QUOTE.....

I got to know Martin better when we studied together at Cranfield University. He made the time there fun with his infectious laugh and dry wit. Coming from a background as a Proof-Reader, he often dodged the tutor's questions by saying such as "Why is there a semi colon when it should be a full stop?!"

Flying from Alouette we made many trips together; including one where on approach to Deauville he points me towards a horse racetrack instead! It's hard to land when riddled with laughter. He gained an instructor rating and started helping others. First at Classair, then Alouette, Surrey and Kent, and EFG.

His knowledge of the training subjects was outstanding. I often asked him to explain to my student rather than me look dumb in front of him. After which at the Alouette bar he would continue to teach to whoever was serious to learn.

Not afraid to speak his mind on any subject, especially if he had a beer in hand; he will be greatly missed.

There's less laughter about now. Bruno
.....UNQUOTE

Martin's Funeral will be held on 7th October 10:40 at: North East Surrey Crematorium, Cemetery Lodge, Lower Morden Lane, Morden, SM4 4NU - Followed by a Wake at The Greyhound Hotel, 2 High St, Carshalton SM5 3PE from 11:45

If anyone wishes to make a donation, there is a special Donations page at: https://www.love2donate.co.uk/inmemory/identify_name.php?bc=360

If any of his old friends and colleagues wish to attend, could they please let Martin's son, Simon, know so he can get the right numbers for catering. His contact information is: Mob: 07947739801 Email: scain@btinternet.com

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

The various Airport developments are progressing very well as described last month.....

The "Landings Hotel" is well underway and appears to be on schedule for opening just after the New Year.

The sculpture and the Battle of Britain special garden and memorial statue, designed by John Everiss, was scheduled for a formal opening in mid-September, but these plans were postponed following the death of our Queen a few days before the planned date. For those visiting the airport since then, the garden and statue (albeit covered up) had been part-visible from the main road and the entrance to the

South side of the airport. The formal official opening was on Friday 30th September and then it will be opened to the public to view from Saturday 1st October.

The Churchill Way is now complete from the entrance right round to the Heritage Hangar, and it also features new street lighting along the length of the road all the way to the Heritage Hangar....

The new Bombardier Hangar and complex is now completed, and virtually all services have now been moved from the original facility by the South Camp entrance. The original Bombardier hangar has now been taken over by a new company.

The wonderful and most popular Lookout Café is now fully open and attracting many of the local population as was the case pre-Covid closure.

The construction of a new security office on the site of the original Old Armoury building near the industrial estate entrance road has not yet been commenced, but it is expected to commence in the not too distant future.

OCTOBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:95.8 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)

£1:06 per litre for Jet A1

(or £1:53.1 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).

CROYDON AIRPORT AVIATION COLLECTORS FAIR

The annual Croydon Airport Aviation (Military, Aviation, and Model) Collectors Fair is available once again on Sunday the 8th January 2023, starting at 10.30am.

It is being held at the former Croydon Airport Hotel, (next door to Airport House), and which is now actually known as the Hallmark Hotel, Purley Way, Croydon Surrey CR9 4LT

Entry fee for adults is £4, but children under age 10 are free. There is free car parking available too.

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

The sweltering heat of summer may be over, but that hasn't stopped the keen aviators in our corner of Biggin Hill from taking to the skies and putting our two wonderful aircraft through their paces.

Here at Alouette we think of ourselves as a club for all seasons and are well placed to take advantage of the many wonderful flying days a British autumn can offer. Thanks to Biggin Hill's year-round runway operations, club flying and tuition can carry on even after the sorts of rainfall or bad weather that can shut some airfields for days or even weeks.

We have very good availability of aircraft for all needs - our Cessna 172 is the perfect trainer and skills builder, while our PA28-180C makes a great tourer for PPLs thanks to its powerful engine and superb avionics fit, including an Aspen primary flight display and a Garmin 430 nav/com and GPS.

Our students have been making excellent progress across the board and special mention has to go to our very own Andy Hogan who (for a brief moment at least) became the world's newest PPL. Very well done Andy - hugely well-deserved and we know you'll have many happy flying hours ahead.

In other news, if you've been keen to know more about Biggin Hill air traffic control but were scared to ask (and best not to try that while holding at Alpha 1 anyway), we've persuaded one of our esteemed friends from the tower to come over to Alouette for a special presentation evening.

Chris Luton, one of the fantastic air traffic controllers at Biggin, will be giving a talk at the clubhouse and taking questions afterwards on October 14, starting at 1900. All are welcome and the event is free - if you could RSVP by dropping me a quick email at chairman@flyalouette.com that would be very much appreciated. Come over - the bar will be open!

At Alouette we believe you can never have too much of a good thing so we'll also be opening the bar for our usual monthly social evening - held at the clubhouse on Wednesday 5th October from 19:30. As ever, everyone is invited for the usual cheap drinks and aviation chat.

Until next month, blue skies and tailwinds to you all. Happy flying!

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

Notwithstanding yet another excellent set of results for the Airport, the uncertainty regarding the long-term impact of the current cost of living crisis remains and this makes it more challenging to judge whether or not Business Aviation is riding a wave that will suddenly run out of energy or continue to feed itself. As in previous months, the Airport continues to see an increase in transatlantic traffic with a corresponding uplift in fuel revenue.

The labour market remains challenging and, whilst not everyone is motivated by money, many sectors are seeing significant increases in wage demands. The cost-of-living crisis and the increasing concerns regarding the stability of the UK economy, pose still further changes to both the Aviation Sector and all business across the UK.

Developments on the Airport continue to progress quickly, and the Airport remains committed to keep this level of investment up to ensure we continue to improve our infrastructure. The community can see first-hand how quickly the Hotel is progressing. The windows are now in place, the scaffolding has been removed and the landscaping is taking shape. The Hotel is on track to be opened in January 2023. The airport has completed enhancements to its road infrastructure at the main terminal site and will shortly complete its enhancements to Churchill Way.

The Airport continues to engage with stakeholders regarding the potential redevelopment of elements of West Camp and the demand for additional hangars and apron space remains high. The conversion works of Hangar 170 remain on target and it is hoped the hangar will be fully operational by mid-November.

The Airport was pleased to formally open the Strongest Link Garden on 30th September, and we were delighted that Randolph Churchill joined us at an emotional event to unveil the commemorative plaque.

We were pleased to see so many resident companies join us for the event. The garden opens to the community on 1st October.

Turning to airspace change, the Airport continues to engage with the CAA regarding the flyability of the approach design given the complexity of the airspace to the south of the Airport. The Airport have now been advised that the CAA should be in a position to make a final decision by the end of Quarter 4 this year.

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

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 clean but amusing short stories....

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 few quickies for you.....

Stress Reliever Girl: 'When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden.'

Boy: 'It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles.'

Girl: 'Well that's because we aren't married yet.'

A Newly Married Man asked his wife, 'Would you have married me if my father hadn't left me a fortune?'

'Darling,' the woman replied sweetly, 'I'd have married you, no matter who left you a fortune!'

What is the definition of a 'Mistress?'

Someone who comes between the Mister and the Mattress!
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man met a beautiful lady and decided he wanted to marry her right away.

She said, "But we don't know anything about each other."

He said, "That's all right, we'll learn about each other as we go along."

So she consented, they were married, and off they went on a honeymoon at a very nice resort.

One morning they were lying by the pool, when he got up off of his towel, climbed up to the 10 metre board and did a two and a half tuck, followed by three rotations in the pike position, at which point he straightened out and cut the water like a knife. After a few more demonstrations, he came back and lay down on the towel.

She said, "That was incredible!" He replied, "I used to be an Olympic diving champion. You see, I told you we'd learn more about each other as we went along."

So she got up, jumped in the pool, and started doing lengths. After seventy-five lengths she climbed out of the pool, lay down on her towel and was hardly out of breath.

He said, "That was incredible! Were you an Olympic endurance swimmer?"

"No,' she said, 'I was a prostitute in Liverpool, but I worked both sides of the Mersey".
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old Pilot sat down in Starbucks and ordered a cup of coffee.

As he sat sipping his coffee, a young woman sat down next to him.

She turned to the pilot and asked, 'Are you a real pilot?'

He replied, 'Well, I've spent my whole life flying biplanes, Cubs, Aeronca's, Neiuports, flew in WWII in a B-29, and later in the Korean conflict, taught 50 people to fly and gave rides to hundreds, so I guess I am a pilot - what about you?'

She said, 'I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about naked women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about naked women. When I shower, I think about naked women When I watch TV, I think about naked women. It seems everything makes me think of naked women.'

The two sat sipping in silence.

A little while later, a young man sat down on the other side of the old pilot and asked, 'Are you a real pilot?'

He replied, 'I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian.'
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Older Couple is lying in bed one morning. They had just awakened from a good night's sleep.

He takes her hand and she responds, 'Don't touch me.'

'Why not?' he asked.

She answered, 'Because I'm dead.'

The husband asked...'What are you talking about? We're both lying here in bed together and talking to one another!'

She said, 'No, I'm definitely dead.'

He insisted, 'You are not dead. What in the world makes you think you're dead?'

'Because I woke up this morning and nothing hurts.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

How the Internet Started.

A revelation with an Incredibly Big Message (IBM): Well, you might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the True Story.

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband: 'Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?'

And Abraham did look at her; as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: 'How, dear?'

And Dot replied: 'I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS).'

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures; Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabi did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But, he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted, for insider trading.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say: 'Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others.'

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel , or eBay as it came to be known. He said: 'We need a name that reflects what we are.'

And Dot replied: 'Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators.'

'YAHOO,' said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it Yahoo Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (Google).

And that is how it all began. Honest!

.....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"...)