

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 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.

You can always view back copies of this Newsletter as well as past copies of JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle" by visiting the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk

BIGGIN WEATHER IN AUGUST

Still a basically good month for flying although, unlike July, we some periods of wet and windy weather. Temperatures also dropped and made it less extreme than last month. But for the first time in what seems like several years we have experienced a real Summer. And we all seem to have taken full advantage of it...

DOUGLAS FIELD

Just an update on our friend, Douglas Field's, recovery from his flying accident. Doug was transferred some time ago to the Princes Royal University Hospital (Farnborough Hospital to all us oldies!). He has confirmed that he is slowly recovering but progress is inevitably very slow as one would expect after a serious back injury. He is apparently now receiving Physio to help to get him to be able to get out of bed.

We all wish him well with his ongoing recovery.

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Following Doug's accident and resignation from the Biggin Hill Airport Consultative Committee, we advised you last month that, if you wished to put yourself forward to stand as his replacement, then we would need to hear from you by 14th August, otherwise Doug's recommendation, Father Stephen Niechcial would take up the position.

There was a single additional declaration of a willingness to serve in the Role (John High), so both names were passed to the Airport with their personal statements and their aviation and Biggin Hill Airport backgrounds, so the Airport could make their choice of representative for aircraft owners known to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee.

The Airport's chosen representative was John High, who has been an active aircraft owner at Biggin Hill since the mid-1970's and a regular attendee at User and Tenants monthly meetings. John will attend his first meeting in October.

HALF SHARE AVAILABLE IN BIGGIN BASED LIGHT AIRCRAFT

Half share in Tri-Gear Europa G-ROOV for sale. Based at Biggin, Hanger 501. Having moved onto IFR Cirrus flying (also based at Biggin) I am, sadly, selling my share in this lovely aircraft.

Built in 1999 G-ROOV offers two crew, 145kts cruise sipping 20L/hr. With CS prop, turbo and GPS she is a pleasure to fly.

All reasonable offers considered.

Contact Kevin Siggery on ksiggery@mac.com or 07971 193687

WINGLY AND OTHER COST SHARING PLATFORMS

Following on from the various entries here about cost sharing platforms, I can confirm that Biggin Hill Airport's ban of the use of Biggin Hill for cost sharing is going to be promulgated in the UK AIP (Air Pilot).

We expect it to come out when the next update comes out towards the end of this year. So no excuses then for anyone claiming not to know about it.

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT 18th & 19th AUGUST 2018

The 2018 Festival of Flight, celebrating 100 years of the Royal Air Force, took place this month.

Unfortunately the brilliant summer weather that we had been experiencing for around two months disappeared and we experienced much cooler and changeable conditions, although the extremely heavy rain just a couple of days prior to the show, at least held off to allow most of the programme to fly. To some, a disappointing programme featuring very little "heavy metal", there was, nevertheless, an interesting and very full display each day commemorating 100 years of the Royal Air Force. Our own Heritage Hangar collection did the airport proud with a massive set piece including extreme pyrotechnics and many warbirds.

PILOTS AFTER PARTY (PRIVATE PARTY) – AIR SHOW WEEKEND

Thanks to Sharon Millar's organising, the Saturday night of the air show weekend saw an excellent Pilot After Party with great attendance at the Crown Pub in Leaves Green, just down the road from the airport.

Featuring a live band, DJ, and hot and Cold Food, and even a Vodka Luge Ice sculpture a great time was had by all attendees. Thanks to Sharon for her efforts to bring us all together socially over the show weekend.

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 Alouette stand at the Festival of Flight attracted tremendous interest this year and gave keen young aviators a chance to sit in an aircraft and talk all things aviation with some of our members.

I would like to personally thank John Willis, Samantha Westacott, Phil Hobson, Mykhailo & Nina Solodiouk, Graham Dewey, Andy Gray, Noel Baker and Paul Hawkins for their help over the weekend.

I understand from John that one of the five trial lessons actually purchased on the stand at the show has already done his trial lesson and is apparently keen to move on with more in due course.

Meanwhile at the clubhouse, trial flights and training are keeping both aircraft busy, whilst some much needed maintenance and renovation will commence soon.

The position for Alouette at Biggin Hill is a little better than much that you will hear with the local gossip. The airport has given us a new lease, which will secure our situation at the airport for a short time, whilst further discussions and negotiations continue. So, for the winter months at least, Alouette will be remaining in the current premises and continuing to operate as we have done, with some changes particularly regarding the circuits, which are now predominantly carried out elsewhere.

What is important for all of us is that all of us take great care operating at, and in the vicinity of, the airport to understand airport procedures and follow them. Remember that there are potentially financial penalties if you operate outside the track keeping rules. If you are not sure, discuss them with an instructor, as poor airmanship could jeopardise the situation at the airport for all of us!

On the social side, why not come along to the next Alouette social evening on the first Wednesday of every month? New members are always welcome to come in and see us.

Until next time, safe flying

Regards
Josh Reeves
Alouette Chairman

FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES

Greetings from the Falcon Camp

So the temperature has dropped but our students continue to achieve tremendous results with a month of PPL passes and first solos at other airfields.

The Archer G-BRUD has proved very popular both in the school and at the Festival of Flight. With trips to Quiberon, La Rochelle, Islay and of course none other than Lydd she is a firm favourite. All the comforts of the Arrow without the added complexity make sure you contact us to arrange your first flight in her.

For those that came to see use at this year's Festival of Flight, it was a delight! Well done to the airport management for running an extremely well organised show from marshalling cars to the air traffic control keeping our guys and girls safe in the sky.

After two years of exemplary service we wish Koray Unlu nothing but the best in his new job. Don't worry you'll still be seeing him from time to time. We thank you for everything you have done, Koray, we salute you!

For those looking toward their next aircraft check or project look no further than Falcon Flying Services. Singh, Shonu and Ashley are all busy as ever looking after all your maintenance requirements.

Here's hoping there is more sunny days to come.

Stay blessed, fly safe and don't forget noise abatement.

Anoop Singh Bamrah
Falcon and EFG

MONTHLY REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF WILL CURTIS

August, although quieter in relative terms, has been another busy month for business aviation when compared to last year with movements up by around 15%. Light aviation has held its own with private owners doing well and schools unsurprisingly down on last year due to the circuit restrictions at Biggin Hill.

Work on the runway 03 GPS approach continues and tree cutting is in progress and approach lighting installation will begin imminently. The Hotel taxiway work is out to tender and a contractor should be appointed shortly with work commencing as soon after that is possible. The remarking of the former runway 29/11 is now complete as taxiways Echo and Foxtrot.

We will shortly publish our strategy for the future of light aviation, which will include potential investment, by a third party, in a new and dedicated GA centre. The aim is to set a sustainable level of light aviation and at the same time ensure that good facilities are provided to light aircraft owners. Whilst we will retain some pilot training activity, we will not be in a position to facilitate high volume, low cost, ab-initio training at the sort of levels we have in the past. This type of activity is, in any case, always best suited to a low cost and relatively unrestricted aerodromes. As Luton and Stansted continue to become less and less hospitable to business aviation users, the number of business aviation movements at Biggin Hill is expected to increase further. This is an outcome that stems from national aviation policy and the demand for holiday charter and scheduled airline services, which as you already know, we do not and will never permit at Biggin Hill Airport.

So it is important that we set expectations for the future of light aviation. As we have previously mentioned, we believe that the sustainable level of light aviation is between 12,000 and 15,000 movements annually. At this level, we believe that can safely and expeditiously integrate *competent* light aviation with business aviation. I want to stress the 'competent' because it is clear from our SMS that controller workload rises exponentially whenever a less than competent (or occasionally a defiant) pilot has to be dealt with and this obviously impacts safety because it absorbs the controller's time and spare capacity.

I was recently advised that some light aviation users apparently still do not understand the reason and need for the existence of the airport Safety & Noise Abatement Review Board (SANARB). As all aerodrome users should by now be aware, the SANARB is made up of a peer group of Biggin Hill based pilots from various aviation disciplines – helicopters, light aviation including flight instructors and business aviation. It also has representatives/observers from the London Borough of Bromley and the Bromley Residents Federation.

The SANARB considers all safety reports received and all noise complaints received along with all NMTKS derived aircraft track violation reports. Its remit is to ensure that safety and compliance standards at the airport are adhered to as far as reasonably possible and that those who do not adhere to published procedures are dealt with appropriately. I am aware that some airport users are less than enthusiastic about this level of scrutiny and oversight, but I suggest that there are 'other brands of airport available' to those who do not like the manner in which we are obliged (by EASA regulations) to operate this aerodrome today. I have stated before that since we have elected to reduce the level of light aviation in the interests of safety, we may as well begin with those individuals who choose to operate in a manner incompatible with best practice. Consequently, as previously advised, the SANARB will likely have little hesitation in excluding such individuals from the airport. This stance is actually in the best interests of us all because the level of light aviation that we can continue to support at Biggin Hill largely depends upon the demonstrated competence and compliance of light aviation users – the more professionally they operate, the lower the workload they create for our controllers.

Finally, the 2018 Festival of Flight was a great success. We were joined on the Saturday by the Aviation Minister, Baroness Sugg and by the Chair of the CAA, Dame Deidre Hutton. The CAA made our event the subject of an inspection and the result was a good report with only a couple of observations for future improvement. The Festival was well attended by the public and all seemed to have enjoyed the day.

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.

Thanks to those who have contributed to our costs this year - your help is much appreciated.

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.....

"Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl."

The priest asks, "Is that you, little Joey Pagano?"

"Yes, Father, it is."

"And who was the girl you were with?"

"I can't tell you, Father. I don't want to ruin her reputation."

"Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Tina Minetti?"

"I cannot say."

"Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?"

"I'll never tell."

"Was it Nina Capelli?"

"I'm sorry, but I cannot name her."

"Was it Cathy Piriano?"

"My lips are sealed."

"Was it Rosa DiAngelo, then?"

"Please, Father! I cannot tell you."

The priest sighs in frustration. "You're very tight lipped, and I admire that. But you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months. Now you go and behave yourself."

Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, "What'd you get?"

"Four months vacation and five good leads..."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

There once was a religious young woman who went to Confession. Upon entering the confessional, she said, 'Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned.'

The priest said, 'Confess your sins and be forgiven.'

The young woman said, 'Last night my boyfriend made mad passionate love to me seven times.'

The priest thought long and hard and then said, 'Squeeze seven lemons into a glass and then drink the juice.'

The young woman asked, 'Will this cleanse me of my sins?'

The priest said, 'No, but it will wipe that smile off of your face.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two young Florida businessmen were sitting down for a break in their soon-to-be new store in the shopping mall. As yet, the store's merchandise wasn't in -- only a few shelves and display racks were set up.

One said to the other, "I'll bet that any minute now some senior is going to walk by, put his face to the window, and ask what we're selling."

Sure enough, just a moment later, a curious senior gentleman walked up to the window, looked around intensely and rapped on the glass, then in a loud voice asked, "What are you selling here?"

One of the men replied sarcastically, "We're selling ass-holes."

Without skipping a beat, the old timer said, "You must be doing well. Only two left."

Seniors, don't mess with them. They didn't get old by being stupid!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Obituary.....

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion, or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death:

- by his parents, Truth and Trust,
- by his wife, Discretion,
- by his daughter, Responsibility,
- and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers:-

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An American husband's take on Brexit!

'As an immigrant to the UK there's a lot about the never-ending Brexit negotiations I just don't get. Where I came from you could join a country club if you like to play golf. The dues weren't cheap, but it seemed worth the price for the privileges that came with membership.

If after a number of years you decided those privileges were no longer worth the price you were paying, you simply instructed the country club to terminate your membership. There

was no 'negotiation' involved. You said "I'm out!" You even got a refund for a portion of your dues for that year if you left mid-year. Any notion that you would have pay a 'ransom' because you were leaving, or agree to pay towards the club's future financial obligations after you've left, would be laughable.

After you terminated your membership you couldn't play golf at that club, but nothing would stop you purchasing a new set of clubs, or a new golf bag, or 'three boxes of those pink lady golf balls', or a striped hat from their Pro Shop. That's because the Pro Shop was a business and the owner was happy to take your money, rather than have you go elsewhere for your golfing equipment.

Since I am not from an EU country I must apply for residence in the UK through a legal process that is a bit tedious and somewhat expensive (about £5000 altogether). But that process is well established and seems to work very efficiently. Why not announce a date after which ALL immigrants to the UK must go through that well established process I'm going through. No need to 'invent' some new process at all! It already exists and functions well. Why not use it?

One final observation: if I did have to 'negotiate' in order to terminate my country club membership, what possible reason would those who run the club have to agree to any of my demands. Absolutely none that I can conceive of! The club's ONLY interests would be

- 1) getting me to change my mind and continue to pay dues, and /or
- 2) punishing me somehow for leaving, to dissuade other members who might be thinking of leaving as well.

There are a lot of country clubs in the world that would be thrilled to have you as a member. Actually their greens and fairways might be a bit nicer than where you're playing now. They might even have a better Pro Shop!
.....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" ...)