

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June 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. Apologies if it is a little briefer than usual...

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!)

MAY WEATHER

Sadly this month has been somewhat changeable, with periods of quite strong gusty winds, and significant periods of low cloud and rain. It actually seemed we were getting April showers significantly later than normal.

But notwithstanding that, there were also lots of parts of the month where light aircraft were able to commit aviation at last....

Let us hope that the promised good weather for the near future is indeed forthcoming and that we have to opportunity of all getting back into flying practice again and to be able to enjoy our hobby after being prevented from doing so for so long.

AEROBILITY AND THE ARMCHAIR AIRSHOW 2021

Courtesy of Jon Windover, a founder of Aerobility, a few words about the charity and their recent unique online event:-

I write this to you still reeling from the success of yet another UK first from disabled aviation charity, Aerobility! The charity has pioneered a number of projects in the past, aiming to change lives through the magic of flight.

On Saturday (29th May), we delivered our most ambitious yet! We staged the first combined live and virtual air show, right here at Biggin Hill. A 3-hour aviation extravaganza was broadcast live from hangar 2 at the airport around the world. Exclusive interviews with notable aviators, insights into the world of display flying, and much more was put together by a big team made of Aerobility volunteers and Biggin Hill Airport staff. This was a non-public event, purely a live stream, allowing us to get our aviation fix, in spite of current restrictions.

None of this would have been possible without the support of David Winstanley and his team, and the belief in our project. Safe to say, the reviews have been tremendous! All this to raise money for Aerobility.

£100 funds a one hour flight to allow a disabled person to take to the air. So far, we've raised over £25,000, and the money is still coming in - so that's 250 disabled people who can take to the air. Or put another way, our fuel bill for 6 months! The event is over, but you can still support Aerobility if you wish, by going to our website and pledging as much or as little as you wish to help us get through these difficult times. You can watch the livestream via facebook or YouTube by searching up Aerobility Charity, or at www.aerobility.com

Cheers, Jon Windover

UK ROADMAP – AN UPDATE

The UK Government's "Roadmap out of Lockdown" is now well and truly established and we entered Step 3 back on the 17th May as previously predicted.

So, apart from the ability for us to fly our light aircraft and for flight training to continue, many UK airlines and Tour Companies have restarted some flights for holidays in Europe, but with substantial restrictions in many Countries as a result of the UK Government's "traffic Light" system.

Indeed, additionally with the increased problems in the UK from the "Indian" variant (oops – can't say that can I...!) from "Strain B.1.617", many Countries are placing substantial restrictions on visitors from the UK being allowed into their Countries. (Maybe the UK should have been a bit more positive in controlling the people we allow into the UK, instead of just waffling with such terms as "guidance" until it becomes more serious issue in our Country.)

The UK Government is hesitantly still saying that the final planned step, which is scheduled to commence no earlier than 21st June, MAY still happen (subject to Covid numbers still remaining low and falling). If they do, then this is where the Government hopes to remove all legal limits on social contact, and reopen any remaining closed settings.

Let us hope we may still see a return to some form of normality. But I am not planning to hold my breath!!!!

JUNE BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:60.8 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)

£0:62.4 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! With a mixed bag of weather in May we at Alouette have had bouts of intense flying mixed with long stretches of being grounded.

Despite the weather, all of our students are making good progress and we have had a couple of exam passes to celebrate, along with two members passing their IR(R) skill tests.

The good weather in the last few days of the month saw a couple of our members with a hankering for a Cornish pasty, fly down to Land's End for a taste of the real thing! Which surely is what flying is all about? Yes, it does work out a little more expensive than a Ginsters, but having the freedom and the ability to get to the end of the country and back in a day is priceless.

On a food and flying theme, we are pleased to announce we will be hosting a BBQ family day at Alouette on Saturday 17th July, and another on Saturday 21st August. Details will follow, and of course this is all subject to any change in the rules. But it will be a great opportunity to come and see what we have been up to at Alouette, have a look at our aircraft, or just have a burger and a beer.

Put those dates in your diary and we will hope to see you then. In the meantime, if you need your fix of all things aviation, be sure to get in touch with us.

This food and flying topic has got me wondering if we ought to organise a food-based club flyout. Pizza, anyone?

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

May has turned out to be an extremely challenging month with the projected recovery to 'normality' proceeding slower than we had hoped or expected. That said, our focus on operational readiness throughout April has proved beneficial, with manning levels and operational response times being where we would expect them to be. The limited number of countries that have been included in the red and amber travel categories remains frustrating, although we can all see that the demand for travel restrictions to be further lifted remains extremely high.

Movements levels throughout May have been somewhat erratic, with early May being very slow followed by occasional peaks and troughs and finally a very busy bank holiday weekend. Notwithstanding higher traffic movements over the bank holiday, trading remains challenging and the Airport continues to prudently manage costs whilst continuing to invest in infrastructure improvements.

We have constantly stressed the importance of continuing to invest in the Airport throughout COVID and highlighted the challenges of trying to restart projects once they are postponed or delayed. Furthermore, notwithstanding the challenges that appear to be emerging as a result of supply chain restrictions in a post BREXIT environment, the whole community can see clear investment into Airport facilities. With the new ILS fully operational and the announcement of early completion of the Bombardier hangar in December, we are delighted to have completed the resurfacing of Delta taxiway this month and commenced the resurfacing of Foxtrot. The Airport continues to work with the CAA regarding the 03 RNAV approach approval and progress the Air Space Change for the 21 RNAV overlay.

As the weather improves and restrictions are lifted further, we would like to remind all operators of the importance of adhering to our noise abatement procedures. We ask all operators to respect the Noise Sensitive Areas and ensure that, if safe to do so, you remain well clear of NSAs. The Airport remains committed to acting as a good neighbour and to do all it can to reduce noise impact on local residents.

It would be remiss of me not to address the Airport's proposal to amend its user clause to allow shared flights. We are disappointed that Bromley Council has rejected our request to allow shared flights at Biggin Hill on a limited basis. Shared flights are where small private/business aircraft allow individual paying passengers, on one-off flights, within the existing strict flight and noise limits. This is not scheduled holiday services such as Ryanair or EasyJet! Additionally, it would be remiss of me not to point out that we started to engage with officers from LBB back in October last year and we stressed that we wanted to explore all avenues to avoid a legal dispute.

As the largest employer in Bromley, we remain committed to working with the Council to ensure that local people can continue to benefit from new jobs and investment around the Airport. This is particularly important as we recover from the pandemic.

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 June - 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 man staggered into a hospital with a concussion, multiple bruises, two black eyes, and a five iron wrapped tightly around his throat.

Naturally, the Doctor asked him, "What happened to you?"

"Well," said the man, "I was having a quiet round of golf with my wife, when at a difficult hole we both sliced our balls into a cow pasture. We went to look for them and while I was looking around, I noticed one of the cows had something white in its rear end. I walked over, lifted its tail, and sure enough, there was a golf ball with my wife's monogram on it - stuck in the middle of the cow's butt."

Still holding the cow's tail up, I yelled to my wife, "Hey, this looks like yours!"

"I don't remember much after that."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A wife goes out for the night with her girlfriends.

Just before she leaves, she assures her husband that she won't be home any later than midnight: "I promise, honey."

Unfortunately, that night happened to be ladies' night, which meant the cocktails were only half the usual price. She had a great time, and before she knew it, it had gotten really late.

As she finally arrives home, she closes the door just a little too loudly behind her. She quickly checks her watch. "Damn, it's almost 3 o'clock in the night. I probably woke up my husband with the slamming door and now he's gonna hear the cuckoo-clock strike three. Wait, I got it, I'll wait here for the clock to strike and then add 9 extra cuckoos. He'll think it's just 12 o'clock!"

She does exactly as planned. As the hour strikes, she performs the extra cuckoos with the skill of an absolute master. She goes to bed feeling satisfied that her little scam had worked - even totally drunk she had managed to avoid a fight.

The next morning however, her husband says, "Honey, I think we need a new cuckoo-clock."

The wife puts on her most innocent face and says, "Oh? Why's that?"

"Well, last night the cuckoo-clock said cuckoo 3 times, then said 'Oh shit!', then went cuckoo four more times, giggled, bumped into the wall, went cuckoo two more times and finally fell over the living room table with a loud fart."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Four surgeons were sitting around on lunch break, discussing what kinds of people they like to operate on.

The first surgeon said, "I like operating on librarians. When you open them up, everything is in alphabetical order."

The second surgeon said, "I like operating on accountants. When you open them up, everything is numbered and organised."

The third surgeon said, "I like operating on electricians. When you open them up, everything is colour coded."

The fourth surgeon said, "No no, operating on politicians is clearly the best, and also really easy."

The other three surgeons looked at each other in disbelief. One of them asked why.

The fourth surgeon replied, "Because they are heartless, gutless, spineless, and their arse and heads are interchangeable."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

If you marry an Irish girl....

The first man married a woman from Italy. He told her that she was to do the dishes and house cleaning. It took a couple of days, but on the third day, he came home to a clean house and dishes washed and put away.

The second man married a woman from Poland. He gave his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. The first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day he saw his house was clean, the dishes were done, and there was a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married a girl from Ireland. He ordered her to keep the house clean, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed, and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything but by the third day, some of the swelling had gone and he could see a little out of his left eye, and his arm was healed enough that he could fix himself a sandwich and load the dishwasher. (He still has some difficulty when he pees though.....!)

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Six retired Irishmen were playing poker in O'Leary's apartment when Paddy Murphy loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest, and drops dead at the table.

Showing respect for their fallen brother, the other five continue playing standing up.

Michael O'Connor looks around and asks, 'Oh, me boys, someone got's to tell Paddy's wife. Who will it be?'

They draw straws. Paul Gallagher picks the short one. They tell him to be discrete, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

'Discrete??? I'm the most discrete Irishman you'll ever meet. Discretion is me middle name. Leave it to me.'

Gallagher goes over to Murphy's house and knocks on the door. Mrs Murphy answers and asks what he wants.

Gallagher declares, 'Your husband just lost \$500, and is afraid to come home.'

'Tell him to drop dead!', says Murphy's wife..

'I'll go tell him.' says Gallagher.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing.

The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention, but the drunk continues to sit there.

Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall.

The drunk mumbles, 'Ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A married couple was out in the country on a holiday.

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap.

Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out. She rows out a short distance, anchors, and reads her book.

Along comes a game warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, "Good morning ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies, (thinking, "Isn't that obvious?")

"You're in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry about that officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up."

"For reading a book?" asked the woman.

"Yes, this is a restricted fishing area."

The woman throws up her hands, "But I'm not fishing, I'm just reading!"

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. You're gonna have to come with me."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you," says the game warden.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

The game warden says, "Have a nice day, ma'am," and leaves.

Moral of the story: Don't mess with a woman who's reading. It's very likely that she can out-think you at the same time.

.....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" ...)