

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Airport Users Database. Due to me being away for most of the month, probably a much briefer one than normal, so my apologies for that. 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!)

MAY WEATHER

I have been away in Portugal for my daughter's beach wedding for most of the month of May, so I'm not sure of the conditions experienced this month. Fortunately a colleague of mine, Stuart Taylor, kindly gave me some insight into the flying conditions experienced by you all. Apparently the first part of the month could have been much better as the conditions were not the best for light aircraft flying and training, but the second part of the month has been significantly better and allowed light aircraft flying to get going. The northerly wind has made the use of runway 03 much more common than normal. So, not a bad month as moving towards Summer flying conditions now – hopefully...

FRANCESCA WILLIS AND MATT WILLIAMS

Following on from my comment above in the May Weather section, for many of you out there who have known them for many years, my daughter Francesca got married to her long-term partner, Matt Williams, on the beautiful beach at our family's second home in Salema, Portugal, on Saturday 20th May 2023. The weather was fantastic, and the service and reception lived totally up to our expectations, thanks to Paulo and his wife Irene at the Boia restaurant overlooking the beach and many other Portuguese friends from our frequent stays there for some 41 years (in my case!).

Family from both sides and loads of Frankee and Matt's closest friends flew out to participate in the wedding, which was very emotional for all of us....

For the many old Biggin Hill'ites Francesca will be remembered for her involvement in many social events at the airport, as well as when she worked at the Old Jail pub frequented by many of us over the years.

Congratulations Frankee and Matt on your wedding, we are all very proud of you both.

PETER THOMSON

(My grateful thanks to Alouette's former Committee member and club pilot for his obituary for his long-term close friend who sadly passed away on 16th May – Ed...)

It was with great sadness that I recently learnt of the untimely passing of my good friend and fellow aviator Pete Thomson who I first met at Alouette Flying Club where we both learnt to fly and served on the committee together.

When I first met Pete I had no idea of his medical history and the fact he had been through so much with bowel cancer. He never even mentioned it until one day he casually told me he needed to empty his stoma bag! The last time I saw him, earlier this year at the Alouette closing down party, he also casually mentioned his hip operation – it was typical of Pete to play such major events down!

We often flew together from Biggin and Pete's professionalism and ability shone through. He once rescued us from a possible overnight stay when the weather clamped down and he was the only one with an IMC rating which got us safely back to Biggin. It may have been the first time he had used that rating in anger but you would never have known, such was his ability and modesty.

Whatever Pete did, he did it to the best of his ability, be that learning to fly, playing golf or going shooting with his gun dogs. We all remember Mavri, his faithful Labrador, who would go flying with him at Alouette wearing what Pete called his Mutt Muffs (ear defenders to those who don't know).

Pete passed peacefully away on the 16th of May with his wife Liz and two sons Ian and Paul by his side, it was his wish that it should be that way.

People often say that someone lived life to the full, in Pete's case that statement is most certainly true. Rest in peace my friend.

Graham Dewey

Pete's name has been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited website Roll of Honour - So sad to lose you Pete – great friend of many – R.I.P. Peter Thomson

GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY AWARENESS EVENING

On the evening of 11th May 2023; Biggin Hill Airport, in conjunction with EFG Flying School hosted its inaugural General Aviation Safety Awareness Evening. Attended by over 25 current General Aviation Pilots, based at Biggin Hill, the evening saw several seminar sessions outlining the Airport's Noise and Safety procedures/processes to keep the GA community flying safely, as the airport continues to expand. The Airports Head of Safety and Compliance, Ben Spiers, stated; "It was fantastic to see the GA community come together and support keeping our pilots flying safely; as the complexity of using the aerodrome continues to increase. The evening was an opportunity to engage with all and open up communication streams to continually improve the Airports processes." The evening included elements surrounding Staying Safe on the Ground, Flight Preparation and Planning (hosted by EFG flying school), compliance with Noise Sensitive areas and Air Traffic departure and arrivals processes including Biggin specific case studies.

Based upon the successes of the evening; the Airport shall be looking to now conduct 2 sessions per annum with the GA community. Should you wish to attend, or be included into the Airports Integrated Management System for Airport Notices, communications and to raise safety reports; then operators should contact safety@bigginhillairport.com.

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

A normal quick review of the various Airport developments/improvements, more details of which can be seen in the Airport's CEO section below.....

The "Landings Hotel" is now open. Not only offering excellent accommodation for aviation related people, but also members of the public, and it also offers excellent bar and restaurant facilities.

Taxiway "Bravo" joining the "Foxtrot" taxiway to the current "Alpha" and "Charlie" taxiways is now completed and is expected to enter operational service on around 5th June.

As the CEO says below, the airport plans for the construction of the Churchill Way security gatehouse are close to completion so we can expect to see that appearing in the not too distant future. Additionally there are significant potential businesses seeking further hangars, so these too may well start to be constructed in due course.

JUNE BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of June 2023 are:

£1:84.7 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)

£0:79 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:55.5 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 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)

FALCON / EFG

Hi from the Falcon Camp

Another busy month here with both flight training and maintenance working hard to keep our birds in the sky.

This month saw the inaugural Airport Safety evening co-hosted by Falcon. There was a strong presence with the light GA community and all the topics of the day were on point and well received. A big thanks to Ben Spiers and the rest of the airport for the great engagement, and of course our very own Carmen, Philippa and Mark.

PPL training remains strong but with focus on rising costs Falcon works tremendously hard to remain competitive and offer the best possible service to all our customers.

We shall be soon releasing information on our CRM and Personal Leadership and Development Courses so keep your eyes and ears tuned as the modules could well support your current and future growth.

In the meantime - Fly safe, be blessed, have fun - Anoop Singh Bamrah

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

May very much matched April in seeing a slight reduction in movements when compared to the same period in 2022 but this was still well ahead of pre pandemic movements in 2019. The Airport continues to see a ‘stabilisation’ of movements after the post pandemic release of latent demand in the early part of 2022. Again, the Airport is seeing a higher utilisation of assets and an increase in the sector lengths being flown, which results in an increase in fuel uplift.

The Landing Hotel continues to prove to be a great success and continues to receive glowing feedback from residents and visitors to the Approach bar and restaurant. The Airport has now finalized the design of the Churchill way gatehouse and will start construction shortly. The Airport continues to progress its plans for the redevelopment of West Camp and hopefully these plans can be shared with the community as soon as practicable. The Airport continues to see a strong demand for additional

hangars and is meeting this demand through emerging contractual discussions. Construction of the new taxiway Bravo is now complete and is planned to be fully operational on 5th June.

A team from the Airport attended European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE) between 23 -25 May in Geneva. The event is the premier event and annual conference and exhibition for the European business aviation community. The event was a great success and provided the Airport with an opportunity to promote the Hotel, the investment in airport infrastructure and the Airports sustainability initiatives.

Regarding the establishment of a permanent training facility, the Airport is delighted to report it has made significant progress in its discussions with Marshalls. Both parties are keen to establish a Marshalls Skills Academy, with a link to the university technical college system, by September 2024. In the meantime, the Airport continues to see a sharp increase in the use of its training hub established in the old Jota facility.

The Airport continues to progress the new ACP to deliver a 03 RNAV approach and has held a very constructive initial meeting with Gatwick regarding the operation of controlled airspace to the south of the Airport. Any potential design must align with both FAS1 and the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS). The Airport will be engaging with a range of key stakeholders that will include the GA flying community.

I want to thank those members of the GA Community that joined the Airport and EFG in attending the inaugural General Aviation Safety Awareness Evening. Ben Spiers, Head of Safety & Compliance, comments above on the evening in this newsletter.

Thank you!

Regards
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.....

Best wishes

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 amusing short stories....

I would like to thank everyone for sending their contributions for this section. To avoid me running out of jokes, please keep them coming by email to john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk

QUOTE.....

She whispered in his ear "carry me upstairs"
"I'd rather not" replied the lighthouse keeper...

She whispered in his ear "Turn out the light"
"What about all the ships?" replied the lighthouse keeper

They stood outside their front door. She said to him "I think our relationship is on the rocks"
"I think you're right" replied the lighthouse keeper.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Terrible news: At the chocolate Nestle factory today, a member of staff was seriously injured when a pallet of chocolate fell more than 50 feet and crushed him underneath. He tried in vain to attract attention, but every time he shouted, "The milky bars are on me," everyone cheered.

Also did you know Pedigree Chum went into liquidation on Friday. They are calling in the Official Retriever on Tuesday

Continuous music was chiming from an Ice Cream van in our Road. When we looked inside the vendor was laying on the floor covered in hundreds and thousands. Police think he probably topped himself

Almost as bad as the time someone fell into a large vat of muesli and drowned, apparently, he was pulled down by a strong currant

Almost as sad as the recent incident at Sambrook's brewery when an inspector of the prized ale slipped and fell into a 10,000-gallon vat of Wandle Beer. When asked by reporters if he suffered the brewery replied "they didn't think so; he got out twice to urinate!!!
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

When Boris was our Prime Minister. Boris was looking for a lady of the night. He found one such girl in a local pub.
He said to her, 'I'm the Prime Minister of England, how much would it cost me to spend some time with you?

Her reply was, 'Mr Prime Minister, if you can get my skirt as high as my taxes, my pants as low as my wages, your manhood as hard as the times we are living in, and keep it rising like the price of petrol, and then screw me the way you have the pensioners and the Armed Forces, then it won't cost you a single penny.
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

One Man's Views on A Perfect Marriage

01. Twice a week we go to a nice restaurant, have a drink, good food and companionship; She goes on Tuesdays; I go on Fridays.

02. We also sleep in separate beds. Hers is in Aberdeen, and mine is in Plymouth.

03. I asked my wife where she wanted to go for our anniversary. She said Somewhere I haven't been in a long time! So, I suggested the kitchen.
04. We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.
05. She has an electric blender, electric toaster and electric bread maker. She said There are too many gadgets, and no place To sit down! So, I bought her an electric chair.
06. My wife told me the car wasn't running well because there was water in the carburettor. I asked where the car was, and how she knew this? She told me it was in the River Trent!
07. She got a mud pack, and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.
08. We Both Said 'I Do'. We have not agreed on a single thing since!
09. She ran after the rubbish truck, yelling, Am I too late for the rubbish? The driver said, 'No, jump in!'
10. Remember: Marriage is the number one cause of divorce.
11. I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her First name was Always.
12. I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months; I don't like to interrupt her.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Beat Bobby was patrolling late at night in a large park. He sees a couple in a car, with the interior light brightly glowing. He carefully approaches the car to get a closer look.

Then he sees a young man behind the wheel, reading a computer magazine.

He immediately notices a young woman in the rear seat, filing her fingernails.

Puzzled by this surprising situation, the police officer walks to the car and gently raps on the driver's window.

The young man lowers his window. 'Uh, yes officer?'

The policeman asks: 'What are you doing?'

The young man says: 'I'm reading my magazine officer.'

Pointing towards the young woman in the back seat the policeman says: 'And she, what is she doing?'

The young man shrugs: 'Sir, I believe she's filing her fingernails.'

Now, the Policeman is totally confused. A young couple, alone, in a car, at night on lover's lane; And nothing obscene is happening!

The policeman asks: 'What's your age, young man?' The young man says: 'I'm 20, sir.'

The policeman asks: 'and the young lady, what's her age?'

The young man looks at his watch and replies: 'She'll be 16 in 11 minutes'.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

All I'm saying is that the difference between humans and animals is that animals would never allow the dumbest of the herd to lead them!

Nobody told me that, when you get a husband, the ears are sold separately

The inventor of autocorrect died - the funnel will be held tomato

Archaeologists excavating a pyramid in Egypt have found a mummy covered in chocolate and hazelnuts....

They believe it to be Pharaoh Rocher

I have my very own built in alarm clock.

It's called a bladder and it does not have a snooze button.

When I Was a Young Boy the doctor told me I had a lazy eye.

By the time I was 20, it had spread to the rest of my body.

Life: Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder - I used to have a handle on life, but it broke

Did You Know. Illegally parked Toads, get Toad Away!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

My local chip shop still wraps everything in newspaper. Yesterday I had a plaice in the Sun.

I went to a fetish restaurant last night. I got toed in the hole.

If someone calls you fat, don't respond negatively. You're bigger than that.

My wife thinks it is weird that in a rainstorm I keep looking through the window. It would be a lot less weird if she would unlock the door and let me in!

I complained to the restaurant manager that our salads were a bit on the dry side. It was a situation that needed addressing.

My girl-friend asked me what I was doing on the computer. I told her I was looking for cheap flights. 'I love you!' she said. She ripped her clothes off and we had the most amazing sex. Which is odd because she's never shown an interest in darts before.

My Friend Told Me She would not eat beef tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. So, I gave her an egg!

.....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" ...)