

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November 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. The Newsletter is significantly shorter than has previously become the norm. The reason for this will be clear from the final bit of the Newsletter.....

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!)

OCTOBER WEATHER

The October weather was fairly changeable at times, but we did see some good flying weather too between the often very windy periods (particularly significantly across the only runway now available to us since the closure of Runway 11/29!).

Private owners and flying clubs tried to take as much advantage of the better days to get in some flying before the inevitable arrival of typically deteriorating winter weather. That being said, let's keep our fingers crossed that the weather doesn't deteriorate too much in November and continues to allow us to enjoy our GA flying without it being weathered off...

AIRPORT SAFETY AND NOISE ABATEMENT

It is good to see that Biggin based pilots are normally very good at maintaining the correct Noise Abatement routings, and keeping out of the NSA's (Noise Sensitive Areas).

One of the most sensitive areas for the airport is Tatsfield village, so please ensure that after following the Runway 21 initial noise departure route to 2nm on the BIG DME, it is very important that the left turn towards Sevenoaks or Swanley is not made before the ridge of the North Downs (but equally is made before the M25 motorway to keep clear of the Gatwick airspace of course!). Please do not over-turn if routing to Swanley, as it is essential that you do not re-enter the Biggin ATZ and do remain fully clear of it.

Please bear in mind that the Airport's track keeping system automatically reports an ATZ re-entry, or entry into the NSA at Tatsfield, as an infringement that will be investigated by the SANARB. Frequent re-offenders may well receive a financial penalty or worse!

REQUEST FOR HELP WITH MEMORIES OF DON PERCH

It is anticipated that amongst the Biggin Hill Reunited community there may be many who will remember Don Perch, who, as a Flying Instructor, had a very long association with Biggin Hill Airport, and Alouette Flying Club specifically.

As a lasting tribute to Don, his family are providing an award to Alouette Flying Club, to be presented to club members who have particularly distinguished themselves in some way (hopefully in a good way – Don would have appreciated that!)

However, as Don had such a long association with the club (a founder member), the family would also like to compile a written and pictorial history to go with the award, of his flying times, both at Alouette and of his RAF service before, and by this add something to the history of Biggin and Alouette in particular.

His log books, a few photo's and some history are in evidence but it is felt that there could well be folks who have memories of him, of times past, and the aircraft that he flew.

So, if you are one of those people, Don's family would be very pleased to receive any anecdotes, reminiscences, or photo's with Don in, that you might have. (To assist in keeping some chronological accuracy, please provide dates if known – even if only approximate, and names of others in photo's, aircraft, and locations - where possible !)

Please contact Gary Palmer by email: gary@northbyeast.co.uk or call 01892 547259, who would be very pleased to hear from you !

(Photo's will, of course, be handled carefully and returned, and together with any text will be credited.)

Anything anyone can do to help the family would be much appreciated – Ed...

THE AIRPORT HOTEL

As frequent flyers and airport visitors will have seen, the ground work for the new airport hotel (The Landings) has now got significantly underway. So, after many years of uncertainty, the project is now clearly finally going ahead.

BOMBARDIER'S NEW HANGAR COMPLEX

The new Bombardier complex in the centre of the airport is looking very close to being finished.

Ahead of the original planned completion date, the cement supply equipment to the east of the roadway to the East Camp has now been dismantled and the back roadway is now being cleared and cleaned, so the complex is well on the way towards the final completion and opening (which we understand is expected in April 2022).

NOVEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:79.4 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)

NOTE the increased discount that will apply from 1st September

£0:73.3 per litre for Jet A1 (or £1:13.5 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)

ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB

It seems only yesterday that I sat down to write last month's newsletter item! Is it just me or has this year whizzed by? The sweet warmth of spring is still fresh in my mind, and with it the promise of an airborne summer. Yet now the leaves are falling, the temperature is dropping and the nights are drawing in. Summer never lasts long enough!

Once again this month the weather gods found out about our flying plans and decided instead to give us gusty crosswinds and low cloud bases. We've been up as much as we can and our stoic students are using the bad weather days to practice their touch drills or read up on their theory.

Winter flying of course has many benefits - to me a crisp, clear winter morning is the most beautiful time to fly. And with the early sunset brings the opportunity to go night flying. We teach the night rating at Alouette and I found it to be great fun. So if you want to experience the world aloft in darkness and learn to land by the light of a single candle, as it can sometimes seem with the runway lights dimmed, you know where to find us.

Now where did I put my woolly jumper?

Stuart Taylor
Club Chairman

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

With the 'non fuel crisis' behind us and concerns regarding shortages of lorry drivers remaining, in aviation terms we appear to be in the midst of a strong bounce back in the Business Aviation sector. With the US market opening up on the 8th November, there appears sufficient confidence to be cautiously opportunistic regarding the run up to Christmas; however, the 'Plan B' arrangements to manage any potential spike in COVID acts as a sharp reminder we are not out of the woods.

In terms of traffic movements, the Airport has seen a significant bounce back with October movements following the same upward trend observed throughout both August and September. This increase might be the release of suppressed demand due to the restrictions imposed on the industry or an indication of a real change in travel behaviours and a conscious choice to select Business Aviation over the Scheduled services. As reported last month, the mood music remains positive.

Infrastructure and facilities enhancements continue at pace and we remain on track to bring the Bombardier Hangar development in on time and on budget. The construction of the foundations for the Hotel are also proceeding well and it remains our intention to open the Hotel around Nov/Dec 2022.

Discussions continue regarding the construction of additional hangers and the Airport will soon commence the works to enhance Churchill way. The Airport continues to work with the CAA regarding the 03 RNAV approach approval and the progression of the Air Space Change for the 21 RNAV overlay.

The Airport is progressing with the implementation of several recommendations included within our 5-year review of the NAP. These include the confirmation of the accuracy of Webtrak, enhancements to online briefing information pertaining to operating procedures, ongoing discussions regarding helicopter operations and the work to complete the 03 RNAV airspace change process.

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 during November - Stay well and please stay safe.....

John Willis
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally.....)

Although declared to be very popular with many of the more than 850 people on the BigginHillReunited database, who frequently comment very favourably on the jokes at the end of each Newsletter, I recently received a couple of critical emails from people who are ironically not even on the Database Membership list to receive the Newsletter.

These people, who obviously read copies sent to other regular Database members, have decided in their wisdom that such jokes are not appropriate or desirable, and have made it clear they would prefer not to read them in these woke and Pandemic times... Logic does, of course, suggest that the answer to that should actually be that they refrain from reading it at all if the content doesn't meet their opinions of suitability!

(Having been criticised by a lot of Database members previously for removing the "And Finally" section at the start of the pandemic, as there is a suggestion that many people go straight to the joke section before reading the body of the Newsletter, declaring it to be, in their opinion, the best bit. As a result of that criticism, the section was then returned to the Newsletter again – until now!)

But, as a result of this recent criticism, I have decided that the 'And Finally' section will now be dropped completely to satisfy these non-subscribing people's rather unique wishes. This section will therefore not be included in this or future Newsletters unless a significant number of actual registered Database members indicate that they would prefer that the section continues to be included.

Sorry folks, these are strange days indeed.....)