

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 2025 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.

As usual, 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](http://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 so you can find and draw it down for yourself!)*

## **AUGUST WEATHER**

Well, unsurprisingly, the weather during the month of August has been pretty good most of the time. We have had very occasional strong winds and some low cloudy days, but in general most of the month has been good for us to fly, before the now approaching Autumn.

So hopefully we will continue to have a reasonable month's weather in September. Do continue to enjoy all your flying while we continue to have this good weather...

## **STOP PRESS.....**

A sad announcement just came in from Jim Newman – a real Biggin Hill'ite, Mick Ronayne, who was 98 & a half sadly passed away this morning, 29<sup>th</sup> August.

A pleasant detail of Mick's background and passing contributed by Jim Newman....

"It's with great sadness that I report the peaceful passing of Mick (David) Ronayne on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at the age of 98. Born in February 1927, Mick was brought up very close to the old Croydon airport, which inspired his love of aeroplanes.

Just as the war drew to a close, Mick joined the army and was trained as a Paratrooper. Initially thinking they were bound for the eastern theatre, the Japanese war ended, and instead the 2<sup>nd</sup> Paras went to Egypt and spent some time being shot at in Palestine.

One story he told me was that they were living in tents, but their Sergeant made them dig foxholes to sleep in. During the night a truck drove by and machine gunned all the tents!!

Leaving the army, he joined the police force and was stationed in Croydon for 14 years, although I suspect he wasn't the best disciplined of officers!

After leaving the force, Mick bought the first of his three Tiger Moths G-AOES (the red one) and started County Flying Club at Biggin, where many of us had the privilege of learning to fly.

He ended up with three Tigers: in addition to OES there was G-ANKB (the yellow one), which is no longer registered, and G-AOBO (the blue one), which now resides in France in the care of John Shaw.

Over the years at Biggin, a number of other clubs became affiliated or resided with the County F.C. including the Metropolitan Police Group and the Civil Service Flying Club.

Mick operated some interesting types from time to time, including the first of the Isaacs Fury 7/10th scale Hawker Furies, a Rollason Condor, a Kittywake, and even a Topsy Nipper. There were plenty of adventures.

Eventually the cost of operating vintage biplanes commercially became too much, and Mick was forced to close the club.

He then joined the Police Air Wing based in Muscat, Oman, as a Major flying the Pilatus Porter and the Buffalo, where we were able to meet up for a beer or three.

After a few years in the desert, he returned to the UK, living in Ashford with his partner Lorna who sadly contracted dementia. Mick cared for her at home for some years up until a few days before the sad but inevitable end.

Mick lived at The Spires at St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent for the past few years, and a highlight for him was a visit from a number of his old students from the club, including Chris Jesson and Adrian Obertelli, on his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was quite moving for all of us.

Calm winds and clear skies,,

Jim Newman”

*Thank you Jim, really appreciate your contribution to this newsletter – John W....*

R.I.P. Mick – your many friends will miss you.....

### **JOE MERCHANT’S MEMORIAL SERVICE**

As many of you will of course remember, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August, had the special memorial service and social gathering to celebrate Joe’s life following his recent sad passing out in Spain.

The function was arranged by his son, Gary, who organised the wonderful celebration of his father’s very popular aviation life and his social club bar called Pilots Pals, but always referred to as Joe’s Bar between Biggin Hill Aero Club and Kingair.

The religious service was held in the RAF Chapel at the airport with around 200 people attending to celebrate Joe’s life and sad passing.

Then after the service, most went on to the Kings Arms Public House on the main road, just behind the Control Tower and two hangars and at the top of Leaves Green Hill. The gathering was very well organised and enabled everyone to join up in the pub’s garden area where they had quite a large marquee, which was where they provided us all with bar facilities and an excellent supply of nice food for all who attended...

A very good way for all Joe’s friends and colleagues to see him off...

R.I.P. Joe

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

The extensive runway resurfacing project, which operates at night, and during weekdays, is progressing well and is expected to be completed towards the end of September. They basically resurface relatively small sections of the runway each night and then allows the airport to operate again during the normal opening hours each day.

For more up to date information, please feel free to visit their dedicated webpage at <https://bigginhillairport.com/runway-resurfacing/>

Once the resurfacing is completed, then new runway lighting, including centreline lighting, and of course runway markings, will be done.

Once completed, the airport will continue to operate as an excellent facility to cover London and the Southeast commercial and executive flights operation for many years to come..

The airport appreciates your continued patience and understanding as they complete this essential project.

As discussed in the last Newsletter, Biggin Hill Airport now has the new automated METAR system that is operational when the airport is out of hours. Once the airport opens up each day, the standard METARs are provided by the operational ATC staff once they are back on duty. (Outside operational hours, the automated METAR generated information then enables the TAF to be generated overnight too.)

This new system is good for us users, but also definitely great for long distance inbound aircraft, that are due to arrive here quite early. So being aware of the current weather and also the anticipated forecast conditions that may be likely for their arrival is excellent for them.

The building of the very large new Bombardier respray hangar is progressing quite quickly, and according to the airport CEO's report is expected to actually be available for use towards the middle of 2026.

Our Airport's CEO, David Winstanley, will include his regular monthly section, which is present towards the end of this newsletter, to keep us fully up to date with any airport plans that may affect us.....

## **THE NEWSLETTER JOKES ARE ALWAYS STILL NEEDED PLEASE**

Thanks for the jokes that many of you are sending me regularly now....

Please do keep them coming for me so I can add them to the Newsletter's final section.

Thank you for those who are helping, and do please keep them coming (ideally just emails, or texts, but not graphics please!)....

## SEPTEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT and the Jet A1 price also excludes the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Levy, for the calendar month of September 2025 are:

£1:68.90 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 – and an additional 1p per litre off if also paid by Direct Debit)

£0:80.30 per litre for Jet A1

*(As we explained for a couple of months, the government has mandated that all JetA1 fuel be sold with a 2% blend of Sustainable Aviation Fuel. This mandate, which is applicable to all UK airports, is intended to secure and grow UK SAF demand, support the growth of the SAF industry, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions of aviation fuels in the UK.*

*Due to the additional cost of introducing more expensive SAF into JetA1 fuel, as dictated by this compulsory government initiative, the airport has introduced the SAF levy on JetA1 sales since the beginning of this year. To aid clarity and transparency, they have included this to be displayed as a separate line on the invoices.)*

**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).

## FALCON / EFG

Hi From All at Falcon/ EFG

What a month August has been! Our members have been making the most of the wonderful weather days we have had over August. With flyouts and hire trips further afield to Bembridge IOW, Duxford, Le Touquet, Maastricht and Southern Ireland. It's great to see so many of our licence holders making the most of the summer and stretching their boundaries. We have had record number of QXC, Solos and Skills tests this summer, a big thanks to all our wonderful instructors for making this possible.

Our instructors have also been working hard, with Mark Williams gaining ME instructor rating and Dan McGinn gaining the IR(R) instructor rating. Congrats to you both!

Thanks to Bombardier for providing our members a tour and insight into their operation. Our members were in awe of the in future systems they are incorporating into their Jets and operational efficiency.

The Falcon hangar has been busy keeping the aircraft serviceable and, in the sky, those folks really work some magic!

Till the next time. Be blessed, fly safe, watch out for the NSAs

Best Regards  
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and your Falcon Family

## **MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE**

August has matched July in terms of landing volume, fuel uplifts and revenue, which continues the very positive trend this financial year. Again, given the current global tension around Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and UK economic pressures, the Airport continues to demonstrate its resilience and adaptability.

The Bombardier Paint facility is progressing well with the side elevations, cladding and roof all complete along with 80% of the concrete apron and its drainage. The main car park is largely complete and the internal ductwork installation has started. The Mega-doors are on site ready to be installed early next month. The project remains on time and the facility is due for completion in August 2026.

The runway resurfacing project is progressing well with over 900m of grooved new runway in place and a further circa 350m of engrooved binder and surface course laid. The ducting works for the new lighting is keeping pace with the resurfacing and the overall project remains on track for completion by the end of October. Additionally, the Airport will be adding lead off/lead on lights at the 03 threshold and will carry out some limited taxiway resurfacing. To keep fully up to date on these projects, please keep an eye on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Landing Hotel continues to perform well and, across all operational areas, continues to exceed expectations. Feedback remains very positive, which reflects the popularity of the hotel and its importance to the Airport. The new Autumn menu has now been launched and the hotel is already taking bookings for Christmas! The Hotel continues to enjoy periods of full occupancy.

As previously mentioned, the Airport remains on track to achieve carbon neutral status by 2029 and we continue to build on the success of achieving our Carbon Reduction Level 2 Accreditation with the Airport Carbon Accreditation. Our newly formed Environmental Oversight Committee goes from strength to strength, and the Airport is now looking at a concept to generate hydrogen on demand for protentional heating solutions.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Airport is planning to conduct the first live flight trial of the 03 PBN RNAV radius to fix approach in a home-based Lear 75. If the live flight trial goes well then, a validation report will be submitted to the CAA as part of the phased implementation plan for the full trail later this year. This will mark a significant milestone in the introduction of an IFR approach to runway 03 and towards making the Airport all weather capable. The Airport is targeting a commence date for the trial in FYQ3 this year.

The Airport remains pleased with the engagement with the Private Pilots Group (PPG). The Airport is delighted that membership is flourishing and that engagement remains positive. This further demonstrates the Airport's continued commitment to the GA community.

The Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) continues to make good progress towards making enhancements to the Airport's complaints process, and propose KPIs for the handling of complaints. There will be PPG representation with the ARNAF working groups and much of this positive work will be captured within the next review of the Noise Abatement Plan.

Kind 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](http://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 to: [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

## **DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES**

A constantly updated full list of database members is always viewable online on the main website at: [www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

Please remember to let me know if your email address is changed. Also, 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 again for this month. Do continue to enjoy your flying as now we actually have mainly nice weather.

Please do all stay well and stay safe.....

John Willis  
Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

And Finally: As usual, here follows 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!).....

I would like to thank everyone who occasionally does send their help for this section. To avoid me running out of jokes (which keeps happening), please keep them coming regularly by email to: [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

QUOTE.....

Three nuns are driving round London in Ford Puma, Mother Superior at the wheel.

Then crash, bang, wallop !! Three dead nuns are now standing at the Pearly Gates.

They give St. Pater a cheery wave; after all, we're all Brides of Christ. Bound to let us in.

No problemo.

"Hold it right there. Not so fast, girls, We're choc-a-bloc with dead nuns at the moment. You'll each have to pass an Entrance Exam, graded questions." explained the gate-keeping Saint.

Nun Number One steps forward : "Now Sister, what did you do in the Convent?"

"I was only a Novice, St Peter." . . .

"Okay: easy novice question for you. Now tell me, Sister, what clothes were Adam and Eve wearing in the Garden of Eden?"

"It was fig leaves, St Peter" . . .

"Indeed so. Welcome, Sister, to the Kingdom of Heaven."

Nun Number Two steps forward : "Now Sister, what did you do in the Convent?"

"Oh, St Peter, I was the Convent Cook." . . .

"Okay. Medium difficult question for you. What fruit did Eve offer Adam in the Garden of Eden?"

"It was an apple, St Peter." . . .

"Indeed so. Welcome, Sister, to the Kingdom of Heaven."

Nun Number Three steps forward : "Now Sister, and what exactly did you do in the Convent?"

"Oh, St Peter, I was actually the Convent's Mother Superior." . . .

"Really? Top Dog, eh? Right, a really hard question for you. When Eve saw Adam running towards her in the Garden of Eden, for the very first time, what did she say?"

"Oh, St Peter, er, er . . that really is a hard one!" . . .

"Indeed so. Welcome, Sister, to the Kingdom of Heaven."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

bad jokes!

1. What do you call 2 rows of vegetables? A dual cabbage way.
2. Why did the shark spit out the clown? Because he tasted funny.
3. What does a proud computer call his little son? A microchip off the old block.
4. Why did the doctor lose his temper? Because he didn't have any patients.
5. What do you call a gorilla with a banana in each ear? Anything you like as he can't hear you.

Before the crowbar was invented crows simply drank at home!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A mother passing by her son's bedroom was astonished to see the bed was nicely made up, and the room tidy. Then she saw an envelope propped up prominently on the centre of the bed. It was addressed, "Mum."

With the worst premonition, she opened the envelope and read the letter with trembling hands:-

Dear Mum,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing to you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Dad and you.

I've been finding real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice even with all her piercing, tattoos, and her tight motorcycle clothes, and it's not just because she is so much older than I am.

But it's not only the passion, Mum. She's pregnant. Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood enough for the whole winter.

She wants to have many more children with me and that's now one of my dreams too.

Stacy taught me that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone, and we'll be growing it for us, and trading it the other people in the commune, for all the cocaine and ecstasy we want. In the meantime, we'll pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better; she sure deserves it!

Don't worry Mum, I'm 15 years old now and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure we'll be back to visit so you can get to know your many grandchildren.

Love,  
your son, Nicholas

PS: Mum, none of the above is true. I'm over at the neighbour's house.

I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than my school report card which is in my desk drawer.

I love you! Call when it is safe for me to come home.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Extraordinarily Handsome Man decided he had the responsibility to marry the perfect woman so they could produce beautiful children beyond compare. With that as his mission he began searching for the perfect woman.

Shortly thereafter he met a farmer who had three stunning, gorgeous daughters that positively took his breath away.

So, he explained his mission to the farmer, asking for permission to marry one of them.

The farmer simply replied, 'They're lookin' to get married, look 'em over and pick the one you want.'



The man dated the first daughter. The next day the farmer asked for the man's opinion.

'Well,' said the man, 'she's just a weeeeeee bit, not that you can hardly notice; Pigeon-toed.'

The farmer nodded and suggested the man date one of the other girls; so the man went out with the second daughter.

The next day, the farmer again asked how things went.

"Well," the man replied, "she's just a weeeeeee bit, not that you can hardly tell"; Cross-eyed.'

The farmer nodded and suggested he date the third girl to see if things might be better. So, he did.

The next morning the man rushed in, 'She's perfect, just perfect. She's the one I want to marry'.

So, they were wed right away. Months later the baby was born. When the man visited the nursery, he was horrified: the baby was the ugliest, most pathetic human you can imagine.

He rushed to his father-in-law asking how such a thing could happen considering the beauty of the parents.

"Well", explained the farmer, "She was just a weeeeeee bit, not that you could hardly tell. She was Pregnant when you met her".  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two lifelong buddies made a pact back in college:

No matter where life takes them, they'll meet up every 10 years in Florida to play golf and grab lunch.

At 32, they meet up:

"Where you wanna eat?"

"Hooters."

"Why?"

"C'mon... the servers, the shorts, the legs!" "Say no more."

At 42, after their golf round:

"Where we eatin'?"

"Hooters."

"Again?!"

"Cold beer, big screen TVs, and sports betting!"

"Fair enough."

At 52:

"Hooters?"

"Yeah, food's good and there's lots of parking."

"Logical."

At 62:

"Hooters - wings are half off and the food's not too spicy anymore."

"Perfect."

At 72:

"Hooters - they've got handicap spots close to the door and senior discounts!"

"Sold!"

At 82, they meet once again.

"Where to this time?"

"Hooters."

"Seriously? Why?"

"Because we've never been there before." "Good idea. Let's give it a try!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man was sitting on the plane next to a young woman, without further ado he began to talk about all the titles he had and his profound knowledge, the young woman only listened, but the man did not stop showing off all his knowledge.

As the young lady didn't say anything, the man told her: "Let's chat.... I've heard that flights seem less long if you talk to the person next to you".

The young lady who had just opened a book to start reading closed it slowly and said in a soft voice: "What would you like to talk about?"

"Well, I don't know... What about 'nuclear physics'?" he told her in a mocking tone and showed her a big smile...

"Well, that seems to be an interesting topic", the young lady replied, "but first let me ask you a question. A horse, a cow and a sheep eat the same thing: grass; But, why is the sheep's excrement is like small pellets, the cow's is a paste and the horse's looks like a ball of dry grass? Why do you think that happens?"

The man, visibly surprised by the young woman's intelligence, thought about it for a moment and said, "Hmm... I have no idea."

The young lady replied: "Do you really feel qualified to talk about nuclear physics, when you don't even know shit?"

.....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" ...)