

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April 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.

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 where you can find and draw it down for yourself!)*

## **MARCH WEATHER**

March's weather has been a bit erratic, with quite extensive periods of poor visibility, rain and low cloud, plus fairly strong winds that were quite across our single runway. But from an operational point of view, because of the wind direction, Biggin Hill has made quite extensive use of Runway 03 this month.

But we are now entering April, and the clocks went to British Summer Time (one hour ahead of UTC now of course) and we are moving into Spring and on towards Summer, and hopefully much better weather, plus significantly longer daylight hours will enhance the available time for GA flying training.

## **AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS**

A normal quick review of the various Airport developments/improvements.....

The "Landings Hotel" is now completed and has now formally opened to the public. A perfect facility for visiting aircrew who are here for a few days before their next departure. It also provides an excellent facility for the many staff who work at the airport for some of the large new maintenance organisations, and who are often significantly distant from their own homes and their families.

It looks very smart and with the special Battle of Britain statue and gardens looking stunning, it will certainly all look very impressive from the road.

Taxiway "Bravo" joining the "Foxtrot" taxiway to the current "Alpha" and "Charlie" taxiways is progressing well, and it is targeted to be completed and into operational service towards the end of May or thereabouts. It is designed to improve access for the airport's much larger corporate jets to taxi safely to and from Runway 21 for Jetex and Bombardier, without having to use the current, much narrower, "Alpha" taxiway.

The Airport's new "Hub" training facility was formally opened in mid-February and this coincided with a very successful careers day that attracted well over 120 potential future aviation employees. (This facility remains a short-term solution to address the more strategic need for an Aviation Training College here.)

Biggin Hill Airport certainly looks more and more impressive than things were in the past, ensuring that our wonderful ex-Battle of Britain airfield is likely to always remain operational into the long term. Our airport management should be congratulated in ensuring the Airport's long-term future, and which has prevented the plans that some anti-airport people had to try to close it down and turn it into a massive and unwanted housing estate.

The airport has indicated that they still intend to be supportive of General Aviation aircraft operations at Biggin, but clearly the commercial nature of the airport that will clearly ensure its long term future, will almost certainly mean that it will never be the cheapest place to operate from.

From an operational point of view, it is imperative that all light aircraft operations do continue to make sure we all follow the various noise abatement routings and avoid the NSA's (Noise Sensitive Area's),

which is of course something the airport management has accepted that our based aircraft do always strive to do.

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT FEES (FROM APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023)**

The latest published airport fees from the beginning of April can be viewed using the following URL link:

[PAD793 Fees and Charges 2023 V5 \(bigginhillairport.com\)](https://www.bigginhillairport.com/PAD793-Fees-and-Charges-2023-V5)

But for the benefit of light aircraft owners and operators, the landing fees for aircraft up to maximum all up weight not exceeding 1,700 Kgs from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 has been increased to £55 plus VAT.

### **APRIL BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

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

£1:86.5 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)

£0:87.3 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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) )

### **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

And so the sun has now set on Alouette Flying Club, the longest continuously operational flying club at Biggin Hill after sixty four wonderful years. Our grateful thanks to all the past and present club members for their support since the start in 1959. Our thanks also to all past and recent members who donated their time and effort as the club's operating committee, and to all those who gave their time as flying instructors for the member's benefit...

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

March has been yet another solid month for the Airport in terms of traffic movements, although these were slightly down on March 2022. This still consists of a very good end to the financial year. The continuing economic uncertainty remains a concern for the aviation industry, especially those scheduled Airports that are still well below pre COVID movement levels. That said, concern regarding the challenging labour market has stabilised and the Airport is extremely well placed for what we hope will be another very busy summer period.

This month saw the formal opening of the Landing Hotel and feedback so far has been outstandingly positive. Remarkably, the Hotel experienced its first 100% occupancy only 3 weeks after opening and we have been delighted that many local residents have made lunch and dinner reservations. The Airport continues to enhance the entrance to Churchill Way with the completion of the landscaping around the hotel and the Strongest Link statue.

As regards the regeneration of West Camp, the Airport continues to engage with Mr Ecclestone, the London Borough of Bromley and Heritage England. Demand for hangar developments remains high and the Airport are currently in talks with a number of potential new tenants to add to our ever-increasing eco system.

Works to complete the new Bravo taxiway proceed at pace and the taxiway is targeted for completion towards the end of May. Finally, the Airport will soon embark on the redevelopment of a section of our existing FBO to provide improved crew facilities.

The Airport's new Hub training facility, which was opened on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, has already proved to be very popular with several local companies booking training space throughout March. This remains a short-term solution to address the more strategic need for an Aviation Training College. Discussions continue with training providers to seek their interest in a long-term solution.

The Airport continues to engage with NATS, ACOG and the CAA, regarding a new ACP for an IFR approach to 03. The ACP for the 21 RNAV overlay has now successfully passed Stage 2 and external consultations will be held very shortly.

Finally, I would once again like to thank the Airport community for its continued support in adhering to the Airport's Noise Abatement procedures and in helping the Airport to continue to act as a good neighbour. I am particularly impressed with the adherence to the Biggin Hill/Tatsfield NSA where we have seen a significant reduction in infringements when compared to the first quarter last year.

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](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 at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

QUOTE.....

Horace, age 92 and Judith, age 89, are excited about their decision to get married so they go for a stroll to discuss the wedding and on the way, they pass a Chemist. Horace suggests they go in.

Horace addresses the man behind the counter: "Are you the owner?"

The Pharmacist answers: "Yes"

Horace: "We're about to get married. Do you sell Heart Medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course we do".

Horace: "How about Medicine for Circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds".

Horace: "Medicine for Rheumatism, Scoliosis?".

Pharmacist: "Definitely".

Horace: "Medicine for Memory Problems, Arthritis, Jaundices?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety.... the works!"

Horace: "What about Vitamins, Sleeping Pills, Antidotes for Parkinson's?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely".

Horace: "You sell Wheelchairs and Walkers ?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes. Why do you ask? Is there something that I can help you with?"

Horace says to the Pharmacist: "We'd like to nominate your store as our Bridal Gift Shop.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man walks into a bar, notices a very large jar on the counter and sees that it's filled to the brim with \$10 bills. He guesses there must be at least ten thousand dollars in it. He approaches the bartender and asks, "What's with the money in the jar?"

"Well..., you pay \$10, and if you pass three tests, you get all the money in the jar and the keys to a brand new Lexus"

The man certainly isn't going to pass this up, so he asks, "What are the three tests?"

"You gotta pay first," says the bartender, "those are the rules."

So, after thinking it over a while, the man gives the bartender \$10 which he stuffs into the jar.

"Okay," says the bartender, "here's what you need to do:

First - You have to drink a whole quart of tequila, in 60 seconds or less, and you can't make a face while doing it."

"Second - There's a pit bull chained in the back with a bad tooth. You have to remove that tooth with your bare hands."

"Third - There's a 90-year old lady upstairs who's never had sex. You have to take care of that problem."

The man is stunned! "I know I paid my \$10 -- but I'm not an idiot! I won't do it! You'd have to be nuts to drink a quart of tequila and then do all those other things!"

"Your call," says the bartender, "but your money stays where it is."

As time goes on, the man has a few more drinks and finally says, "Where's the damn tequila?!"

He grabs the bottle with both hands and drinks it as fast as he can. Tears stream down both cheeks - but he doesn't make a face -- and he drinks it in 58 seconds!

Next, he staggers out the back door where he sees the pit bull chained to a pole.

Soon, the people inside the bar hear loud growling, screaming, and sounds of a terrible fight -- then nothing but silence!

Just when they think that the man surely must be dead, he staggers back into the bar. His clothes are ripped to shreds and he's bleeding from bites and gashes all over his body.

He drunkenly says, "Now..., where's that old woman with the bad tooth?"  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Woman bought a new £100,000 Jaguar car and proudly drove it off the showroom floor to take home. Halfway home, she attempted to change radio stations and saw that there appeared to be only one station. Unimpressed, she immediately turned around and headed back to the dealer.

Once at the dealership, she found her salesman and began, rather excitedly, to explain that her radio was not working, and they must replace it immediately, since she only had one radio station.

The salesman calmed her down and told her that her car radio was voice-activated, and that she would only need to speak aloud the type of music that she wanted and the car would find it.

She got into the car and started the engine and then said the word "Country Music," and the radio changed to a station playing a Dolly Parton song.

She was satisfied and started home.

After a while she decided to try out the radio and said "Rock 'n' Roll;" the radio station changed and a song by the Rolling Stones came from the speakers.

Quite pleased, the woman continued driving.

A few streets from her house, another driver shot through a red light causing her to slam on her brakes to avoid a collision.

The woman angrily shouted, " Arsehole..!"

The radio immediately tuned into a speech by Sadiq Khan.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

GRAMMAR LESSON: Is it "complete", "finished", or "completely finished"? No English dictionary has been able to adequately explain the difference between these two words - "Complete" or "Finished".

In a recent linguistic competition held in London and attended by, supposedly, the best in the world, Samdar Balgobin, a Guyanese man, was the clear winner with a standing ovation which lasted over 5 minutes.

The final question was: 'How do you explain the difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED in a way that is easy to understand? Some people say there is no difference between COMPLETE and FINISHED.'

Here is his astute answer:

"When you marry the right woman, you are COMPLETE.

When you marry the wrong woman, you are FINISHED.

And when the right one catches you with the wrong one, you are COMPLETELY FINISHED!"

He won a cruise and a case of 25 year old Scotch.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

For those who don't want Alexa listening in on your conversations, they're making a male version..... It doesn't listen to anything.

I asked my wife if I was the only one she'd been with. She said yes, all the others had been nines and tens.....

A cold seat in a public restroom is unpleasant.

A warm seat in a public restroom is far worse.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of..... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

The three hardest things to say are:

I was wrong

I need help

Worcestershire Sauce

Sex after surgery

A recent article in the Daily Post reported that a man, Dave Harper, has sued St Paul's Hospital, saying that after his wife had surgery there, she lost all interest in sex.

A hospital spokesman replied:

"Mrs Harper was admitted for cataract surgery. All we did was correct her eyesight".

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

You'll hit every cone on the highway before I let you merge in front of me because you saw that sign 2 miles away like I did.....

If my kids knew there was a light in the oven, they'd leave that one on too.

If you see me talking to myself, I'm having a staff meeting.

After years of research, scientists have discovered what makes women happy. Nothing.

Me: (sobbing my heart out, eyes swollen, nose red)... I can't see you anymore.... I'm not going to let you hurt me like this again!

Trainer: It was a sit up! You did just one sit up!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

One liners.....

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.

What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.

Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.

If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.

Just so everyone's clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.

My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet'. It's a cover band.

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.

Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't see in the dark.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.

When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, he gave me a blank stare.

Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."

Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

I'm trying to organize a hide-and-seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows, and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.

What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, they're , their.....

I went to the toy store and asked the assistant where the Schwarzenegger dolls are and he replied, "Aisle B, back."

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 15 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Definitions:

ADULT - A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

CHICKENS - The only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE - A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST - Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST - Someone who is usually me deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF - Cold Storage.

INFLATION - Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO - An insect that makes you like flies better.

SECRET - Something to tell one person at a time.

SKELETON - A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE - The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW - One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

YAWN - An honest opinion openly expressed.

OLD - I quietly confided to my friend that I was having an Affair. She turned to me and asked, "Are you having it catered?"

.....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" ...)