

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 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!)*

### **JULY WEATHER**

The weather at Biggin during the month of July has definitely been pretty good most of the time. Admittedly there have been some days that had quite strong'ish winds at times, and also the odd days that were not that suitable for flight training and touring, but, in general, it has been a nice month for most of us all to enjoy our flying again....

Let's hope that the nice days will remain with us through the remaining summer months.....

### **DAVID PARRY**

As you all know our friend and long term Biggin Hill'ite, (Dave) David Parry, sadly passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. His very well attended funeral was held in Bluebell Crematorium on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July followed by a gathering of lots of us all at the Crown public house near the airport.

R.I.P. David, you will of course always be remembered, and missed by all your old mates....

### **DECEASED JOE MERCHANT'S MEMORIAL SERVICE & HIS FRIENDS JOINING US**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August, many of Joe's former close friends are attending a memorial service for him, arranged by his son, Gary, before they all get together afterwards in a marquee and bar to celebrate Joe's lifetime with all his airport friends and colleagues.... R.I.P. Joe

### **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

The runway Resurfacing Project has now been commenced at night, and the airport appreciates your continued patience and understanding as they complete this essential project.

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

The airport now also has the new automated METAR system, which operates before the airport opens up each day, and that provides the weather before the ATC staff are on duty. That also then allows an actual TAF to be generated too.

This system is good for us users, but also great for long distance inbound aircraft, that are due to arrive here quite early, to know what the current weather is, and also the anticipated forecast conditions that may be likely for their arrival.

The huge new Bombardier hangar, that is being constructed between the main Bombardier huge facilities and the original Fairflight hangar, that is also now used by Bombardier too. This is designed to enable up to two large jets to simultaneously be resprayed there. The construction of the facility is progressing quite quickly, and is expected to actually be available for use towards the end of this year, or the beginning of 2026.

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT – NEW PLANNED LEGAL CHANGES**

The following new operational changes that all who operate there needs to be aware of to prevent any unintended consequences.

**NEW AIRPORT STOP BARS/LIGHTS:** Stop-bars are intended to help protect the runway against inadvertent incursions. A stop-bar consists of a single row of flush or semi-flush inset lights installed laterally across a taxiway showing red towards the intended direction of approach. (CAP 168, 6.104)

The Global Action Plan for the Prevention of Runway Incursions (GAPPRI) recommendation ADR20 states: *“In cooperation with ANSPs, implement H24 stop bars operation or other lighting systems”*

The recommendation encourages aerodromes to operate stop bars throughout their published operating hours, regardless of weather conditions. This ensures all entry points to the runway are protected by illuminated stop bars, which are often referred to as ‘the ring of red’.

Due to the historical taxiway network design at London Biggin Hill Airport, additional stop bars, which are **not** associated with any holding points, have been installed on the runway link taxiways to ensure the runway remains protected by stop bars and help reduce controller workload.

London Biggin Hill Airport has stop bars installed at the following locations:

- 1) Associated with holding points: A1, A2, A3, D1, D2, D3, C, H1, F1, J1, and F4
- 2) Not associated with holding points: A2 Link, A3 Link, D3 Link and D2 Link

Depending on the type of ATC operation (e.g., normal operations or low-visibility operations), certain stop bars will be activated/illuminated. In all configurations, entry to the runway will involve passing an active stop bar that is being controlled by ATC.

Operational Requirement:

Pilots and airside drivers must not cross illuminated red stop bars unless contingency procedures are in force. For example, when directed by ATC to cover cases where the stop bars or controls are unserviceable. If instructed to cross a red stop bar, challenge the controller to switch off the stop bar, or provide an alternative routing.

*(Written and issued by Craig Alchin 7/7/2025 – planned start 14/7/2025 although a further delay has occurred, but the actual start is imminent.....)*

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.....

### **NEWSLETTER JOKES ALWAYS STILL NEEDED**

As I have been saying in recent months, it is becoming quite good to receive jokes from many of you that I can include at the end of the newsletter. Thank you for those who are helping, and do please keep them coming (ideally just emails, or texts, but not graphics please!)....

### **AUGUST 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 August 2025 are:

£1:67.80 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)

£0:82.30 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 Folks

What a start to the summer we have had! With a tropical start to our busy flying season, its been nice to have temperatures cool down over the past few weeks. Our wonderful students have been making the most of the weather, with our solo flight numbers reaching double digits and PPL skills test passes nearly there also!

We have had 3 very successful club flyouts this summer to Goodwood, Compton Abbas and Duxford. With a mixture of licence holders and PPL students stretching their boundaries. Next stop is Bembridge Isle of Wight in August.

It's been a busy month hosting lots of local Primary Schools, for tours of the aircraft and the airport fire crew supporting us, inspiring the next generation of pilots. We have also hosted many work experience spaces over the summer, giving an insight into the busy operation of the flight school and maintenance hangar.

Congratulations to Seamus one of our flight instructors, who is now working with Silver Aviation, on the PC12, as well as inspiring our students to progress further after their PPL.

Stay Blessed, Stay Current, Stay out the NSAs!!!

Best Regards  
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and your Falcon Family

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

July has proved to be a very busy and successful month for the Airport, which continues the positive trend from the first quarter this year. Whilst global uncertainty remains around Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, and ongoing tariffs agreements, the business aviation sector continues to demonstrate its resilience and adaptability.

Developments across the site continue at pace, and most readers will have noticed that the roof of the new Bombardier Paint Facility is substantially complete, and good progress is being made on the cladding to the main frame. Drainage works and apron works are ongoing. The car park is largely complete and has now received basecourse asphalt. The project remains on time, and the facility is due for completion in August 2026. The runway resurfacing project is progressing well, with over a 3rd of the runway now resurfaced and grooved. The ducting works for the new lighting is keeping pace with the resurfacing and the overall project remains on track for completion by mid-September. 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. Importantly, it is yet another example of how the airport has listened to its customers, attracted investment and generated jobs for local people. 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.

Progress towards the introduction of the 03 PBN RNAV radius to fix trial remains positive, and the next activity is a live flight validation, which is scheduled to take place in August, and a validation plan has been presented to the CAA for that flight. The CAA need to approve the live flight validation plan before it can take place. It is anticipated the flight will take place sometime in August 2025. An exact date cannot be confirmed as it is dependent on the aircraft, pilot and Air Traffic Control rostering and weather conditions. Whilst a specific

implementation date is still subject to Flight Validation, the Airport is targeting a commence 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 latest Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, and the Airport is delighted with the continued success of this initiative. The focus of the meeting was the update on the 03 PBN RNP Radius to Fix approach trial, and the terms of reference for the 2 ARNAF working groups. The working groups are to be chaired by ARNAF members with an airport lead assigned to both groups. Their purpose is to formulate recommendations to make the complaints process more accessible, transparent, and understandable for residents

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 now we actually have 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.....

A German hunting party arrived in Botswana, excited for the safari they had booked six months earlier.

But when they checked in at the lodge, the manager broke some news: the guide they had booked was no longer available. Instead, they were offered a guide dog-free of charge.

The hunters were less than thrilled, but before they could protest, the manager reassured them, "This isn't just any dog," he said. "This is Copilot! He's special - finds whatever you want, fetches whatever you shoot, pitches tents, watches for danger, starts fires, puts out fires, heck, he'll even handle your luggage if you ask him. Copilot does it all!"

The Germans were sceptical but figured, why not? They had come this far.

The manager whistled, "C'mon, Copilot! Here, boy!" Copilot came bounding over, tail wagging!

And so, off they went on their safari. Turns out, the dog was a marvel! The group had the best safari of their lives. By the end, they were convinced Copilot could probably fly a plane if given the chance. Naturally, they booked him again for the next year.

Fast forward 12 months, and the group returned, eager to see their old friend Copilot. They rushed into the lodge, but the manager greeted them with a grim look.

"Bad news, guys," he said, shaking his head. "Copilot's... not the same anymore."

"What do you mean? We booked him again!" they protested.

The manager sighed. "Well, you can still take him if you really want to, but I've got to be honest... he's completely useless now."

"What happened?" they asked, baffled.

"Well," the manager began, "a couple of months ago, some other group accidentally started calling him 'Captain'... and ever since, he just sits around and barks!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Three women went to Mexico one night, had too much to drink, and woke up the next morning in jail. They were told they would be executed, but none of them could remember what they had done wrong.

The first woman, who had red hair, was strapped into the electric chair. When asked if she had any last words, she said, "I went to Grace University, and I believe that God will protect the innocent." They pulled the switch, but nothing happened.

Everyone around dropped to their knees, begged for her forgiveness, and let her go.

Next, the second woman, a brunette, was put in the chair. She said, "I went to the Creighton School of Law, and I believe that justice will protect the innocent." They pulled the switch again, and once more, nothing happened.

Again, the people fell to their knees, asked for her forgiveness, and let her go too.

Finally, the last woman, a blonde, was brought in and strapped into the chair. She said, "I just graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and I can tell you right now, this thing isn't going to work unless you plug it in."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Commas save lives!

My three favourite things are eating my family and not using commas.

A politician should have 3 hats:

One for throwing in the ring, one for talking through and one for pulling rabbits out of, if elected.

There's a girl who eats plants - you've probably never heard of herbivore.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Three pilots die and arrive at the Gates of Heaven, where they are greeted by Saint Peter.

They want to continue flying in Heaven, but they are each asked one question: "How many times have you cheated on your wife?"

The first one says:- "Never, in 25 years of marriage!"

"Well done", answered St. Peter. "For this, you are rewarded with an Airbus A380".

The second answers: "Three times in 12 years".

"Yeah, ok, let it be. For honesty, you get a Boeing 737 MAX".

The third one says: "I... about nine or ten times in total".

"Oh! Very bad of you! But because you also told the truth, you get a Piper Cherokee".

After some time, the one with the Cherokee accidentally meets the one with the Airbus, whom he sees crying bitterly. "What happened to you, my friend?"

"I saw my wife in Heaven earlier... also a pilot".

"And... aren't you happy she's here too? Why are you crying?"

"She was in a glider!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blonde wanted to try out ice fishing. She went out and purchased all the gear she would need and headed to a local spot to try to catch some fish.

She went out onto the ice with her gear and after getting comfy on the stool, she started to cut a circular hole in the ice as she had seen on the internet.

As she was cutting, she heard a voice from the heavens speak out, saying, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE."

The blonde was startled. She stood up and looked around but saw no one. Cautiously, she moved a little further out onto the ice and set up in a different spot.

She sipped some hot chocolate from her thermos and then started cutting another hole.

Again, the voice called out, seemingly from all around her. "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE"

Now feeling quite scared and starting to get a bit frustrated, she moved all the way to the far end of the ice and laid out all her gear, sat upon her stool and started cutting another hole.

Right away, the heavenly voice boomed out, this time louder than ever, "THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!".

She jumped off her stool and looked all around her. She shouted to the heavens, "IS THAT YOU, LORD?"

The voice answered, "NO. THIS IS THE MANAGER OF THE ICE SKATING RINK. THERE ARE NO FISH UNDER THE ICE!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Miss Beatrice, the church organist, was in her eighties and had never been married.

She was admired for sweetness and kindness to all.

One afternoon the pastor came to call on her and she showed him into her quaint sitting room. She invited him to have a seat while she prepared tea.



As he sat facing her old pump organ, the young minister noticed a cut-glass bowl sitting on top of it. The bowl was filled with water. In the water floated, of all things, a condom!

When she returned with tea and scones, they began to chat.

The pastor tried to stifle his curiosity about the bowl of water and its strange floater, but soon it got the better of him and he could no longer resist.

"Miss Beatrice", he said, "I wonder if you would tell me about this?" pointing to the bowl.

"Oh, yes" she replied, "isn't it wonderful?

I was walking through the park a few months ago and I found this little package on the ground. The directions said to place it on the organ, keep it wet and that it would prevent the spread of disease. Do you know I haven't had the flu all winter!".

.....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"...)