

Hi everyone

Welcome to the relatively brief February 2026 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

(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! Feel free to email me and notify me of your current email address and full name so I can recheck your entry in the database membership records and amend where applicable)

JANUARY WEATHER

The January weather has been relatively erratic and mainly pretty poor, which is obviously usual at this time of the year of course.

But, not unexpected, as I'm sure most of us will have been expecting but undoubtedly this month has not been at all good and suitably flyable for private pilots and students during this month. Mainly unflyable for private flying and training.

So, let's just hope that we do have some reasonable flyable conditions during the month of February.....

Not that long before we reach the Spring and hopefully better weather...

STEPHEN HAYE

Stephen who was originally a member of 600Sqd flying club in the early days at Biggin Hill, sadly died on January 26th 2025 after a long decline into Alzheimer's disease. His daughter, Victoria, who knew he flew a long time ago at Biggin Hill, managed to locate myself and let me know of her father's passing.

Stephen actually learnt to fly in an Auster in the late 50's at Thrupton.

He went on to instruct at Biggin in the 70's (and even taught Dave Perrin of the Rothmans aerobatic team) on Chipmunks with a flying club called 600 Squadron, and then with Surrey & Kent Flying club on the Beagle Pup. He was great friends with Cobby, who is still a Biggin Hill legend from those days of light regulation and lots of flying freedom.

Having decided to make flying his career, he put himself through the ATPL and joined the airlines, initially with Lloyd International on Britannia's, before an early conversion to the Boeing 707. He stayed flying 707s for most of his career, for an assortment of air-freighting companies around the world. A short spell at Monarch Airways back in the UK on the Boeing 737, confirmed that he hated short haul passenger flying, so back to Africa he went.

Stephen always maintained his light aircraft flying, mostly at Redhill, with the Tiger Club, and in his own shared Tiger Moth. After moving to Cornwall in the early 1980s, he flew with The Cornwall Flying Club at Bodmin where he based his Rollason Turbulent, in which he flew many hundreds of hours.

Eventually, he joined the flying club Board and become the Airfield Manager, a post he held until his retirement. His eldest son, George, inherited Stephen's love of flying, and now owns and flies a MKIX Spitfire - @thesuffolkspitfire.

His funeral will be held towards the end of February in Callington, Cornwall and will be interred next to his wife, Brenda Haye.

R.I.P. Stephen – you will be really missed by all your old aviation friends.....

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

I trust you all have got totally used to the new communication changes regarding two frequencies now in use.

So I'm sure you all remember the frequencies but just a brief reminder....

“Biggin Ground” frequency 121.630 for ATC taxiing clearance and departure route and clearance for IFR departures, and then when instructed after requesting take off clearance a frequency change to monitor “Biggin” frequency 134.805, who clears departure when appropriate.

And in reverse on rejoining of course, contacting “Biggin” on 134.805 for joining and landing, and then once clear of the runway, “Biggin Ground” on 121.630 for taxiing instructions etc. until shutdown.

The airport's new instrument approach for runway 03 is now being used by certain specific operators/aircraft when appropriate.

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.....

PLEASE KEEP THE JOKES COMING TO ME.

Thanks for the jokes that many of you are sending me by email, please do keep them coming.

(By the way, a reminder, only send emails or texts, but no photo's or graphics please!)....

FEBRUARY 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 February 2026 are:

£1:59.50 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)

£0:85.20 per litre for Jet A1

(As we explained recently, the government has mandated that all JetA1 fuel must be sold with an increased 3.6% blend of Sustainable Aviation Fuel as of 1st January 2026 (up from last year's blend of 2.0%). 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 - To aid clarity and transparency, the airport have included this to be displayed as a separate line on the invoices.)

Just a brief reminder, the credit/debit card payment system remains in operation for Self-Refuelling at the Self Refuelling Pumps using your cards.

FALCON / EFG

Hi All,

It hasn't been the best January for our students. Lots of weather cancellations and sitting around looking at the clouds! Luckily, our PPL students are a resilient bunch and have been getting on with exams, ready for better weather. IMC students and night ratings have had a little more luck, with passes this month, congratulations to all!

If anyone still needs to book a night or IMC rating, we would be delighted to help. Get in touch with our ops team: ops@flyefg.co.uk.

Big thanks to our wonderful maintenance team led by Ashley, our chief engineer. They have been working hard getting all the checks and maintenance tasks completed and ready for the good weather.

Keeping everything crossed for February and some better weather and longer daylight hours ahead.

Best Regards
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and the Falcon Family.

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE

Although not as busy as expected, January was a solid month for the airport with movement figures ahead of the same period in 2023/2024 and tracking similar to the previous year.

The Airport's share of the London market increased in December and it is hoped this trajectory can be maintained throughout 2026. The Airport continues attract new customers, inward investment and create jobs.

Despite the significant capital investment in 2025 including the runway resurfacing, the introduction of centre line lighting, upgrading of approach lights and runway edge lighting, the introduction of the 03-approach trial, lead on and lead off lights at the 03 threshold, new IRVR, automated 24hr METAR, the re calibration of the PAPIs and ILS and the ground/Tower operational trial, the Airport is looking at further infrastructure improvements in 2026.

The state-of-the-art Bombardier paint facility is due for completion in August this year and the Airport continues to explore options for the development of additional hangar capacity. The demand remains high and the Airport intends to meet this demand through improvements to existing hangar assets and, subject to planning, the construction of further hangars.

The Landing Hotel continues to perform well and, across all operational areas, continues to exceed expectations. The festive season programme was particularly successful with the Hotel helping many tenant companies and local residents to celebrate in style. The Hotel team continue to deliver outstanding service whilst constantly looking at ways to improve the overall experience. Crew feedback remains extremely positive.

The integration of the Hub into the hotel booking system continues to prove to be a great success and points to a potential need for additional similar facilities. Tenant companies are benefiting from

the use of an ideal, on site, learning and development facility and the combined offer of hotel accommodation is proving to be very successful.

The newly formed UK Airspace Design Service (UK ADS) is slowly getting to grips with the enormously challenging task of leading the modernisation of London airspace. The Airport continues to play a prominent role in protecting it's and resident's interest. Whilst LAMP is focused on routes primarily above 4000ft, they must integrate with the existing London Airports.

Turning to the introduction of the 03 Radius to fix instrument approach, whilst the trial formally commenced on 13th November, due to weather favouring runway 21 and the limited number of aircraft identified within Phase B of the trial, only one flight has flown the new 03 radius to fix approach. That said, the flight met all the trial objectives. The Airport has met with the CAA to review the trial and request an increase in the number of aircraft included in Phase B and flexibility to move to phase C as soon as practicable. The CAA has now formally agreed that Netjets US and Vistajet EU can join the 03 RNP trial, subject to certain provisions being met regarding crew briefings.

As previously mentioned, engagement with the PPG continues to be extremely productive and has significantly improved communications between the Airport and the non-commercial GA community. This improved engagement and face to face meetings with pilots has seen a marked increase in compliance with NAP noise control measures.

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

(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)

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated full list of database members is always viewable online on the main website at: 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.

There are quite a lot of people who have been prior members of Biggin Hill Reunited and used to get the Newsletters each month, but who's email addresses now bounce back as no longer available or invalid. If any of you have friends who you can contact and ask them to send their name and new emails and contact numbers to me so I can amend the records and ensure they start to regain the receipt of the monthly Newsletters from Biggin Hill Reunited.

That's it again for this month. Do continue to enjoy your flying as we hope to start to regain some flyable weather at times..... 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

QUOTE.....

I finally got a girlfriend long enough that I felt confident enough to visit my parents.

We used her car and got a flat tire on the way.

In case they were worried I called them up and said, " Hi Mum, I'm going to be late, my girlfriend's got a puncture."

"Oh" she sighed. "I thought you were bringing a real one"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An elderly man walked into a confessional, and addressed the Priest:

Man: 'I am 92 years old, have a wonderful wife of 70 years, many children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.'

Yesterday, I picked up two college girls, hitchhiking. We went to a motel, where I had sex with each of them three times.'

Priest: 'Are you sorry for your sins?'

Man: 'What sins?'

Priest: 'What kind of a Catholic are you?'

Man: 'I'm Jewish.'

Priest: 'Why are you telling me all this?'

Man: 'I'm 92 years old I'm telling everybody!'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A police officer stopped 87-year-old Bob Needham for speeding in Biggin Hill village.

When he looked at Bob's driver's license, he was surprised to see that it included a permit to carry a hidden weapon. Horrified, he asked if he had a weapon in his possession.

Bob replied in his creaking old voice that he had a Browning 45 automatic pistol in his glove compartment.

The officer then asked if he had any other weapons, to which Bob replied that he also had one 9mm Uzi machine pistol in the centre console together with a Mills hand grenade.

Finally, the shocked officer asked, "What are you afraid of in sleepy old Biggin Hill?"

Bob smiled and replied, "Not a thing mate, not a single F**ing thing."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A balding, white-haired flying instructor from Biggin Hill, Kent, (guess who)? walked into a jewellery store in the village on Friday evening, accompanied by a much younger woman.

He told the jeweller he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

After showing the couple a few rings, the jeweller then presented a stunning 20,000 Pound ring. The woman's eyes sparkled, and she trembled with excitement at the sight.

The old man smiled and stated confidently, "We'll take it."

When the jeweller inquired about payment, the man replied, "By cheque. I realize you'll want to check on the funds, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank on Monday. I'll return to collect the ring."

On Monday morning, the jeweller furiously called the old man. "You have only \$25 in your account!" he shouted.

"I know," replied the old man with a laugh. "But let me tell you about MY GREAT WEEKEND!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

After a very busy day, a commuter settled down in her seat and closed her eyes as the train departed London for Liverpool. As the train rolled out of the station, the guy sitting next to her pulled out his mobile phone and started talking in a loud voice:

"Hi sweetheart, it's Eric, I'm on the train, I know it's the six thirty and not the four thirty but I had a long meeting, no, honey, not with that floozie from the accounts office, with the boss. No sweetheart, you're the only one in my life, yes, I'm sure, cross my heart."

Fifteen minutes later, he was still talking loudly, when the young woman sitting next to him, who was obviously angered by his continuous babble, yelled at the top of her voice:

"Hey, Eric, turn that stupid phone off and get yourself back into bed!"

A blind pilot walks onto a plane waving his white cane ...

... The passengers look at each other in disbelief. The flight attendant gets on the PA and says, "Ladies and gentlemen, as you can see, the captain is legally blind, but rest assured, he's one of the best pilots in the world with over 6,000 successful flights."

Next, the co-pilot makes his way to the plane. He's also blind and he uses his walking stick to make it to the cabin. The flight attendant then says, "Ladies and gentlemen, as you can see, the co-pilot is also blind, but rest assured, he is the second best pilot in the world with over 5,000 successful flights."

At this point the plane begins to take off on the runway it gains speed and the passengers grow tenser. The plane keeps accelerating faster and faster and as it approaches the end of the runway, it still hasn't left the ground.

The plane is approaching the end of the runway at a really high speed and the passengers start to scream, "Oh my god oh my god we're all going to die!"

Suddenly the plane takes off and begins its ascent. The pilot turns to the co-pilot and says, "The day they stop screaming we're screwed."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The Horse and the Chicken were friends. One day the two were playing, when the horse fell into a bog and began to sink.

Scared for his life, the horse whinnied for the chicken to go get the farmer for help.

Off the chicken ran, back to the farm. Arriving at the farm, he searched and searched for the farmer, but to no avail, for he had gone to town with the only tractor. Running around, the chicken spied the farmer's new Harley. Finding the keys in the ignition, the chicken sped off with a length of rope hoping he still had time to save his friend's life.

Back at the bog, the horse was surprised, but happy, to see the chicken arrive on the shiny Harley, and he managed to get a hold of the loop of rope the chicken tossed to him.

After tying the other end to the rear bumper of the farmer's bike, the chicken then drove slowly forward and, with the aid of the powerful bike, rescued the horse. Happy and proud, the chicken rode the Harley back to the farmhouse, and the farmer was none the wiser when he returned.

The friendship between the two animals was cemented. Best Buddies, best Pals.

A few weeks later, the chicken fell into a mud pit, and soon, he too, began to sink and cried out to the horse to save his life.

The horse thought for a moment, walked over, and straddled the large puddle. Looking underneath, he told the chicken to grab his hangy-down thing and he would then lift him out of the pit.

The chicken got a good grip, and the horse pulled him up and out, saving his life.

The moral of the story? (Yep, there is a moral.)

When you're hung like a horse, you don't need a Harley to pick up chicks.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

When creation was brand-new, God called Adam over and said, "I have a task for you."

Adam nodded eagerly, "Sure, Lord! What do You need?"

God pointed off into the distance. "First, you must travel into that low place."

Adam blinked. "Uh... what's a 'low place'?"

After describing what a valley was, God continued, "Then you will have to cross the moving water."

Adam frowned. "Moving water?"

So God patiently explained rivers. Then He added, "Once you've done that, climb the raised land."

Adam scratched his head. "Raised land?"

Again, God explained-this time, hills. Then He said, "Beyond that, you'll discover a hollow place in the rock."

Adam sighed, "And that is...?"

"A cave," God said, explaining yet again. Finally He added, "Inside, you will meet a woman."

Adam looked confused. "Woman?"

God described women, and then finished with, "And with her, you shall reproduce."

Adam's eyes widened. "Reproduce? How?"

God muttered softly, "Good grief..." before spelling that out too.

So Adam set off: down into the valley, across the river, over the hill, and into the cave. He found the woman just as God said.

Five minutes later, he shuffled back looking frustrated.

Barely holding onto his patience, God said, "What now?"

Adam shrugged and said... "What's a headache?!"

.....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"...)