

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 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!)*

### **JUNE WEATHER**

Well – at last! The weather in June has been excellent, albeit pretty hot, and very good flying weather that has enabled extensive light aircraft flight training and general PPL hire to operate for virtually the entire month. Much of a change for us all following the poor and unpredictable conditions that have been present for several months until now....

Hopefully this will now continue for a good few months so that we can all enjoy our hobby at last...

### **A SAD LOSS**

Recently there have been a sad loss of a friend of Biggin Hill Airport.....

### **BARRY WILLMOTT**

Sadly our friend, Barry Willmott, who owned the Manor at the top of Saltbox Hill, passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> May this year. He was a great friend of many old Biggin Hill'ites for many, many years.

His funeral was on 12<sup>th</sup> June and was attended by his wonderful family and lots of close friends.

Many will remember that he ran what was originally the Saltbox café which he developed extensively over the years – even having an open-air swimming pool that many residents of Biggin Hill used when in their teens. The improved facilities became known as “The Manor”, which had a very popular bar and excellent restaurant, and a hall that was used for many parties and social gatherings and celebrations.

Rest in Peace Barry, you will never be forgotten

His name will be added to the BigginHillReunited Roll of Honour as a positive Biggin Hill'ite

### **JOE MERCHANT**

Our old mate and very much a true Biggin Hill'ite, Joe Merchant, the former owner of the Pilots Pals Club Bar and now a resident in Spain, had a heart attack on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and was rushed into hospital out there, where he apparently had a stent fitted within an hour or so of arrival. He is now recovering well and has returned to his Spanish home, where he is being cared for by Val and his neighbours.

So Joe, from all your many old friends and Biggin Hill'ites, please look after yourself, and take great care and stay well – I'm sure all your friends would like me to pass on to you their best wishes.....

## **AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS**

A normal quick review of the various Airport developments/improvements, more details of which can be seen in the Airport's CEO section below.....

The "Landings Hotel" is now fully open, and the bar and restaurant facilities have received very positive reviews. So not only does the hotel provide excellent accommodation for aviation related people, but also members of the public. If you want to take advantage of the restaurant or bar facilities, please do phone up to reserve what you are seeking. (The Hotel's website does display the various menu's so you can see what is available to you and your guests – I'm sure you will be very pleasantly surprised at what they offer whether you are just seeking afternoon tea, bar snacks, or impressive full meals)

Taxiway "Bravo" joining the "Foxtrot" taxiway to the current "Alpha" taxiway just north of the Heritage hangar has now been fully completed and in operation.

As previously reported and undoubtedly seen by many of the regular visitors to the airport, the South camp roadway from the roundabout on the Westerham Road all the way around the airport to the Heritage Hangar on the far side, is fully resurfaced and has good road markings and lighting. With the expected new security building planned soon close to the entrance to Jetex and the industrial estate, everything is looking most impressive.

## **NINE LIVES: THE STORY OF BIGGIN HILL**

Just a reminder, if you haven't yet read this excellent book written by Alex Martin that I included details of in the Newsletter back in May, I'm sure you will find it really impressive and very well illustrated too. Definitely a good choice to add to your collections....

It is available online via Amazon as a hard back book, but also via other retailers – for full details go to: [Title Detail: Nine Lives by Alex Martin \(unicornpublishing.org\)](https://www.unicornpublishing.org/).

## **JULY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of July 2023 are:

£1:84.8 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)

£0:79.9 per litre for Jet A1

Sustainable Aviation Fuel currently out of stock...

**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) )

## **FALCON / EFG**

Greetings from all at Falcon / EFG

They say a propellor is a fan that keeps the pilot cool, they only start to sweat when the propellor stops spinning.... though I doubt they've experienced heat like we have this June!

Despite the rather oppressive heat we've managed to keep flying with students adding various milestones to their flying careers!

This month marks the start of our work experience programs with 4 students joining us over the summer in EFG.

With a long history of working with youth in Aerospace and Aviation we and continuously striving to encourage all people to come and join in the fun!

Thank you to everyone who has kept flying. Till the next time, Stay blessed, fly safe, have fun!

Anoop Singh Bamrah

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

After a somewhat uncertain start to the month, June has proved to be a very busy and productive month. Whilst movement figures remain behind this time last year, average weight and sortie length have continued to increase, as has the associated fuel uplift. This trend is likely to continue throughout the rest of the year as movements stabilise after the peaks created in the post COVID period in 2022. That said, the Airport continues to attract a range of new customers who seeing the investment in infrastructure and the benefits of our close proximity to London.

I am pleased to report that the Landing Hotel is continuing to exceed our expectations regarding occupancy levels and customer feedback. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month the Hotel launched its new summer menu and I would encourage everyone to take the opportunity to experience the incredible food produced by Air Culinaire in the Approach restaurant. On 5<sup>th</sup> June Bravo taxiway was brought into full operation and this highlights the Airports continued commitment to invest in improving our infrastructure. The Airport continues to progress its plans for the redevelopment of West Camp and hopefully these plans can be shared with the community as soon as practicable. The Airport continues to see a strong demand for additional hangars and is meeting this demand through emerging contractual discussions.

After the success of the European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE) in May, the Airport's commercial team attended the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) convention in New York this month. This outreach engagement is critical in attracting new customers and ensuring London Biggin Hill Airport has global reach, selling the Airport, London and the UK.

Work continues at pace with Marshalls regarding the establishment of the Marshalls Skills Academy and the Airport is working hard to ensure this project is delivered as quickly as possible. In the meantime, we are proving demand through the increased utilisation of the training hub and would encourage everyone to engage with the Airport to make best use of the training facility.

As previously reported last month, the Airport continues to progress the new ACP to deliver a 03 RNAV approach and will shortly hold its first engagement meeting with the CAA and other operational stakeholders. This first meeting will ensure any potential design aligns with both FASI and the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS).

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.....

Three pilots are walking through the forest when they come upon a set of tracks.

The Air Force pilot says, "Those are deer tracks."

The Army pilot says, "No, those are elk tracks."

The Navy pilot says, "You're both wrong! Those are moose tracks."

The pilots were still arguing when the train hit them...  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Teacher: "Why did you laugh?"

Boy: "I saw a strap of your bra."

Teacher: "Get out! Don't come to class for the next 1 week. Another boy laughs..."

Teacher: "Why did you laugh?"

Boy: "I saw both straps of your bra."

Teacher: "Get out! Don't come to class for next 1 month."

The teacher bends to pick a chalk and little Johnny starts walking out of the class.

Teacher: "Why are you going out?"

Johnny: "With what I saw I think my school days are over."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman was at her hairdresser's getting her hair styled for a trip to Rome with her husband..

She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded:

"Rome ? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowded and dirty.. You're crazy to go to Rome .. So, how are you getting there?"

"We're taking BA," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"BA?" exclaimed the hairdresser.. "That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome ?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome 's Tiber River called Teste."

"Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump."

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and maybe get to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the hairdresser. You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant. Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it..."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome

"It was wonderful," explained the woman, "not only were we on time in one of BA's brand new planes, but it was overbooked, and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot.

And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a £5 million remodelling job, and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They too, were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I bet you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder, and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me.

Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me"

"Oh, really! What'd he say ?"

He said: "Who the F\*\*k did your hair?"  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....  
What did the cheese say to itself in the mirror?

"Halloumi"  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....  
Eating in the 50's - For those of you who are old enough to remember, enjoy. For the rest, treat this as a history lesson! Very surprising how time and memory has taken its toll. Have things really changed this much in our time?

CONSIDER THAT:

Brown bread was something that only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

Only Heinz made beans.

Pasta had not been invented.

Curry was a surname.

A takeaway was mathematical problems.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain. The only choice was whether to put salt on or not.

Rice was milk pudding and never part of our dinner.

Condiments consisted of salt, pepper, vinegar, and brown sauce.

Frozen food was called ice cream.

Prunes were medicinal.

None of us had heard of Yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were found only in India.

Seaweed was not recognised as a food.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin. We only saw a photo of a real one.

Kebab was not even a word, never mind a food.

Water came out of a tap. Suggesting bottling it and charging for it would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing we never had on our table was our elbows!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

These are actual complaints received by a holiday company from dissatisfied customers – the mind boggles!

1. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
2. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."

14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."

16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."

18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

19. "My fiancée and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

We received about 20 inches of snow this week. So.....

8:00 am: I made a snowman.

8:10 - A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman.

8:15 - So, I made a snow woman.

8:17 - My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified women everywhere.

8:20 - The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it should have been two snowmen instead.

8:22 - The transgender man / woman / person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 - The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and are not to be used to decorate snow figures.

8:28 - I was being called a racist because the snow couple is white.

8:30 - I used food colouring to make one of the snow couple a different colour and be more racially inclusive.

8:37 - Then I was accused of using a black face on the snowperson.

8:39 - The middle eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be completely covered.

8:40 - The police arrived saying someone had been offended.



8:42 - The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needed to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 - The 'council on equality' officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 - TV news crew from ABC showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I replied "Snowballs" and am now a sexist.

9:00 - I was on the news as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobe, and sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.

9:29 - Far left protesters offended by everything, marched down the street demanding that I be arrested.

9:45 - The boss called and fired me because of the negative association with work that had been all over social media.

10:00 - I cry into my drink because all I wanted to do was build a snowman...

Moral: There ain't no moral to this story. It is what this world has become because of a bunch of snowflakes.

.....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"...)