

Hi everyone

Welcome to the July 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!)*

## **JUNE WEATHER**

The weather at Biggin during the month of June has definitely been great most of the time.

Admittedly there has been occasional strong winds, and a few non-flyable days, but, in the main, it has been a great month for us all to commit aviation....

Let's hope that these improvements will now continue from now on through these summer months.....

## **DAVID PARRY**

Our friend and long term Biggin Hill'ite, (Dave) David Parry, sadly passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. He was born in Castle Donnington on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1945 but sadly didn't quite make it to age 80 by passing away just 6 days short.

Dave married his wife Jeannie in 1970 and they had 3 daughters, 2 granddaughters, and also one great-granddaughter.

In the early 1970's he started to take an interest in light-aircraft and later twin-engine aircraft. He obtained his Private Pilot license, and hence then moved to Biggin Hill in 1977, spending much of his time on the airfield! Their first home was in Challock Close, before moving to Sunningvale Avenue in 1986.

(He also got a Commercial Pilots License, although he never actually flew commercially, he just wanted to learn more.) He regularly flew friends and family for meals to places like Headcorn and Le Touquet and others.

In his working life, he was an electrician by trade, but he started that ability early by dismantling his family's electrical items to teach himself how to fix them. When he was 16 he worked in a TV and Radio Rental and Repair shop, and then shortly after formed his own business, panel beating, spraying and welding cars, in his lock-up garage in Plumstead.

He also bought damaged sport cars (for example: TR2, TR4, TR, and E-Type Jaguars) and rebuilt them back to perfection, often seeing these cars at car shows for decades later. So, his working life over all those years included being: a car mechanic, a panel beater and sprayer, a bus driver, an HGV class 1 and 2 driver, a driving instructor, a TV and video engineer, and finally, of course, an electrician.

His passion for motorbikes and cars continued throughout his entire life, and he owned his first motorbike at the age of 16 and continued riding them right into his late 70's.

Dave lived his life to the full, he was one of a kind, a real legend. He would say he had never worked a day in his life as he enjoyed it all, and when asked quite recently what more he wanted to do, he simply said, he'd done it all....

He passed away peacefully at home with his wife Jeannie, and his girls, daughter Tracey and granddaughter Leia by his side, with his favorite music channel on in the background.

Dave's funeral will be held in Bluebell Crematorium on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 12.30pm, and afterwards at the Crown public house near the airport. If he was a personal friend and you would like to attend his funeral, please make direct contact with his daughter, Tracey, on her email: [t.parry@ntlworld.com](mailto:t.parry@ntlworld.com)

## **DECEASED JOE MERCHANT'S SERVICE & GATHERING FOR HIS FRIENDS**

Hi everybody,

Thank you for the people that have contacted me directly regarding my father's memorial service.

I'm expecting up to 200 people to attend. Please bear in mind that the chapel can only accommodate around 100 people with limited parking.

The service will start at 13.00.

With the help of Colin Hitchins and Hannah Gray of Biggin Hill Airport, thanks guys! They have organised a marquee in the garden of the Kings Arms pub at Leaves Green and will have extra parking just behind the car park. This will be from 14.00 with a bar in the marquee and a Pig Roast for all.

As you will all know, my father was somebody who loved life, he had always told me that when the time comes it must be party, a fun and celebratory affair rather than a sad occasion of a wake, so wear what you like, but be respectful if coming to the Chapel.

I look forward to seeing everybody who can attend.

Any questions please email me at [gflymerchant@gmail.com](mailto:gflymerchant@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing many of Dads old friends. Gary Merchant  
(Thanks Gary, John)

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

### **The runway Resurfacing Project**

Following the successful completion of the various deeper repairs stage, the airport is soon moving into the next phase of the runway resurfacing project.

The details of the project and timings is reported by David Winstanley below, so I am refraining from duplication the details in this section too.

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

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

(My understand is that, once started, the runway resurfacing will be carried out at night, around a couple of hundred metres or so at a time, and then it should be then ready for use again at the morning's airport opening time. Once all done, I believe it is also the intention to have runway centreline lighting installed.)

As we have included in the last couple of newsletters, the construction of the new Bombardier Hangar, which is to be used as a major aircraft respraying facility, appears to be getting very close to completion. So, it looks as if it will soon be able to be used by them quite soon.

As previously mentioned, David's section explains the progress and testing of the new instrument approach on runway 03, which will be taking place soon to enable the introduction of the new formal approach procedure for inbound aircraft when runway 03 is in use.

(Once licenced, this new instrument procedure will avoid the necessity for aircraft, including quite large incoming jets, to do a relatively low circling manoeuvre around the airport to land on runway 03 after the initial instrument approach being made to 21, which has been taking place in recent times. This will obviously be a good thing for the local residents on the live circuit side.)

The airport appears to be now testing the new 24-hour automated METAR system, which is currently providing the weather before the ATC staff are on duty. That is of course seemingly then allowing the actual TAF to be generated long before the ATC is staffed. Until this became available, the METAR's only started to be available when staff were on duty, and that METAR information only then allowed the TAF's to start being issued after the second METAR has been published.

Bearing in mind that many aircraft arrive quite early having completed a long-distance flight, so it does mean that they will be able to review the likely Biggin weather even before the ATC is staffed....

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 said last month, it was getting to be difficult to find jokes to include in the Newsletter, so please do keep them coming (ideally just emails, or texts, but not graphics please!)....

## JULY 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 July 2025 are:

£1:68.10 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)

£0:80.90 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

Ho Ho Holy smokes, that was warm! Well, it appears summer has decided to turn up and what amazing days we have had.

The school has been filled with PPLs flying all over the UK, new students starting their aviation journey and the steadfast Falcon Faithful's who have continued to fly with us during good weather and not so good (but still VMC!).

Our new to us Arrow has been a real hit with those wishing to fly further afield, or gain their SE-IFR ratings. With Avidyne and Garmin avionics, she's the perfect platform to upskill.

Our Piper Seneca V has started to take bookings and being the only MEP, with 3x Garmin G1000s, under an Approved Training Organisation in the South-East. Do make sure you take advantage and see how amazing twin flying truly can be!

The hangar, simply put, hasn't stopped. Between scheduled maintenance, project work, and defect rectification, on a wide variety on SE and MEP aircraft, the boys have been super busy to keep you flying. Thanks to all the engineers!

So, for all those looking to fly, renew ratings, or just want to say hi, your Falcon Family is always here for you.

Till the next time.

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

Best Regards  
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and your Falcon Family

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

June has ended on a high point in terms of both aircraft movements and the temperature! The Airport continues to make a strong start to the financial year despite the continuing uncertainty and escalation around Ukraine, Gaza, Iran and tariffs. The positive performance demonstrates the resilience of the Airport and the sector.

Developments across the site continue at pace with the steel works and outer cladding for the new Bombardier Paint facility almost complete. This state-of-the-art paint facility is the perfect example of the Airport's continuing drive to attract external investment, generate real economic value and create sustainable jobs. The runway resurfacing project is picking up pace following the successful completion of the deeper repairs stage, which allows the Airport to move into the next phase of our runway resurfacing project. The upcoming phase involves the asphalt resurfacing of the runway, which marks a significant milestone in the works. To keep fully up to date on these projects, please keep an eye on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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.

The Airport has now successfully completed the final simulation run for the new London Biggin Hill RNP RWY 03 (Trial) and can now move full steam ahead for the live flight validation trials. These validation flights will take place in July/August subject to CAA approval of the validation plan. This is yet another significant step towards introducing the trial in Q3 of 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.

As previously mentioned, the Airport is delighted with the continued success of the Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) in ensuring the Airport listens to the concerns of residents and, critically, brings together residents and the flying community. The work

focused on the Keston NSA continues and I am grateful to the GA community for its support in this work.

Finally, congratulations to everyone who participated in our Sunrise Challenge on Sunday 22 June. The event saw over 400 runners (a record year!) take on the 5K run along our runway. It was a beautiful morning for our charity challenge; bringing together colleagues, local community members, and supporters to raise vital funds for our three charity partners: Aerobility, RAF Benevolent Fund and Scotty's Little Soldiers. Thank you to everyone involved in making the Sunrise Challenge happen and raising an incredible £9,500, which will be divided between the charities. A special shout-out to those colleagues, members of aviation community and friends who went above and beyond to help on the day.

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 man shows up at work on Monday with a black eye. His co-workers obviously ask what happened.

"Well, I went to church yesterday morning and the preacher asked us to stand. I noticed the woman in front of me was wearing a skirt that was tucked into her bum crack, so I pulled it out for her. She didn't appreciate it and slugged me in the eye. I won't ever do that again."

Next Monday he shows up and the other eye is black. Co-workers ask about it.

"Well, I went to church and the same lady was sitting in front of me. The preacher asked us to stand and again her skirt was tucked into her bum crack. The guy beside me pulled it out. I knew it was going to piss her off, so I tucked it back in."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A doctor, an engineer and a salesman, together with their dogs were in the local boozer at a Friday lunchtime.

The men were extolling the cleverness of their pets and to prove his point, the doctor said "Stethoscope", for that was his dog's name, "You see that pile of old bones in the corner? Well, you do your thing."

With that the dog rushed over to the corner and within a few minutes had arranged the bones to form a human skeleton.

"Impressive" said the engineer, "but watch this." He called his pet and said "Micrometer," for that was the engineer's dog's name, "You do your party trick."

With that, the animal tore down the skeleton and shortly had assembled a model of the Forth Bridge.

The doctor expressed admiration for this feat but the salesman was disdainful .

"That's nothing great" he said and called over his dog. "Expense Account", for that was his creature's name, "Now it's your turn."

The salesman's dog promptly screwed the other two dogs and took the afternoon off.

.....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 tells her in a mocking tone and showed her a big smile...

"Well, that seems to be an interesting topic, 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 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

QUOTE.....

A weasel walks into a bar.

The bartender asks 'what can I get for you?'

'Pop' goes the weasel!

The skunks got divorced. She took every scent he had!

Five out of six people agree that Russian Roulette is safe.

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.

Q: Why did the witches' team lose the baseball game?

A: Their bats flew away.

.....UNQUOTE



QUOTE.....

A husband and wife were driving through Louisiana. As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argued back and forth, then they stopped for lunch.

At the counter, the husband asked the blonde waitress, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?"

She leaned over the counter and said, "Burr-gerrr Kiiing."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man goes to a female dentist to have a tooth extracted. She pulls out a large syringe to give him an anaesthesia shot.

"No way, no needles! I hate needles!" the man exclaimed.

So she starts to hook up the nitrous oxide tank, and the man says, "I can't do the gas thing either. Just the thought of having a mask on my face suffocates me!"

The dentist then asks the patient if he has any objections to taking a pill.

"No", he says, "I'm fine with pills." So, the lady dentist gives him two little blue pills, and he swallows them.

"What are those?" he asks.

"Viagra," she calmly replies.

"I'll be damned," said the man, "I didn't know Viagra works as a pain killer."

"It doesn't," says the wise lady, "but it'll give you something to hold on to when I pull your tooth!"

.....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"...) )