

Hi everyone

Welcome to the June 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

(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!)

I need to apologise that this Newsletter is a little briefer than usual, but there's not that much written by me as I've been away for a major part of the month of May. Hopefully this will not upset the group's members too much.....

MAY WEATHER

The weather at Biggin during the month of May has been so much better than many of the previous months, which has been great for students, and pilots, plus of course private owners and other airport users.

At last, brilliant weather - Let's hope that these improvements will now continue from now on through these summer months.

DECEASED JOE MERCHANT'S SERVICE & GATHERING FOR HIS FRIENDS

Dear all, thank you for all of your condolences.

We are planning a service for Dad on Friday the 1st August, at the RAF Biggin Hill chapel at 13.00. Followed by one very last party!

I am still working on details of the venue.

I will contact some people directly, some via Facebook pages and obviously in next month's newsletter too.

It would be great if I could have an idea of numbers etc. to ensure I plan this to work for us all. So, if you would like to attend, please send me an email at: gflymerchant@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing many of Dads old friends. Gary Merchant

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

Lots of building work going on now:

In the field east of the Bombardier hangar, just over the road that allows access to all the hangars and facilities to the east side of the runway, there is special maintenance facilities

getting ready for the eventual resurfacing of runway 21/03. I understand that, once started, the intention will be to resurface at night (I believe around 200 metres at a time) and allow it to be ready for use again at the morning's airport opening time. Once all done, it is also apparently planned to have runway centreline lighting installed.

Additionally, of course, there is an additional new Hangar facility currently being constructed for Bombardier as a state-of-the-art aircraft respraying facility. The building is now already extensively built and is obviously very large.

So, it is good to see that the airport's facilities are now clearly expanding....

As previously discussed, we are all expecting the new instrument approach on runway 03 to eventually become formally available to attempt to remove the need for aircraft, including quite large incoming jets, to do the approach on the runway 21 ILS and then do a relatively low circling manoeuvre around to land on runway 03.

The airport is also planning to formally introduce a new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system, and therefore also a 24-hour automated METAR reporting. That should be a tremendous improvement for us all.....

So, lots of significant improvements at Biggin Hill coming up.....

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.....

THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED BY SENDING JOKES TO USE HERE

As I said last month, it was getting to be difficult to think of jokes I could use on the final Newsletter's end section every month, as I was literally running out of ideas to use, since late 1998 when I started the Newsletters.

Please do keep them coming (ideally just emails, or texts, but not graphics please!)....

JUNE 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 June 2025 are:

£1:65.60 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)

£0:77.80 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 fabulous start to spring/summer flying season! In this unusually sunny and warm May, it's been a busy month with lots of student achievements to celebrate.

We are excited that our new arrow G-TORC is now on the fleet, with lots of take up from our members on the Arrow conversion course.

MEP training on our new Seneca V begins Mid- June, do get in touch with operations if you have any requirements, we would be delighted to help: ops@flyefg.co.uk.

Our CFI Carmen Gardien, had the pleasure of taking up a reporter from the Evening Standard, Rosalyn Wikeley, who had great apprehension to flying and conquered her fear of flying by taking a flying lesson herself! What a wonderful experience to be able to calm someone's nerves showing them a passion we all share and seeing them enjoy the skies as much as we do! The article she wrote has been published in the link below:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/travel/fear-of-flying-course-help-biggin-hill-b1220634.html>

Our Falcon Flying Club, led by CRI's Neil Passmore and Paul Sodagar, has been growing in popularity, with some great flyouts planned for the summer including France, Holland and The Channel Islands.

We are looking forward to more great weather as we get into our busy season, until next time!

Be blessed, fly safe, have fun

Best Regards
Singh, Shonu, Anoop and your Falcon Family

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE

May has very much mirrored April with periods of excellent weather, increased movements and strong financial performance. The Airport has made a strong start to the financial year, albeit it is still very early days, but still impressive when you consider the global uncertainty around Ukraine, Gaza, and the impact of US 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 cladding for the new Bombardier Paint facility well advanced. 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 with the deeper interventions more than 75 % complete and the resurfacing works due to start towards the end of June. The Airport is pleased to announce the introduction of 24-hour automated METAR reporting this month, which further demonstrates our commitment to constantly improve our operational infrastructure. 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 potential heating solutions.

The simulation runs for the new London Biggin Hill RNP RWY 03 (Trial) were undertaken in May and concluded that the new approach was flyable. An additional simulator run is required to tweak data, and this will be concluded in June. Live flight validation will be complete by August, and it remains the intention to commence the full trial in Q3 of this year.

The Airport remains pleased with the development and progress of the newly formed Private Pilots Group (PPG) and held its second meeting in May with minutes to be published shortly. 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.

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.

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

QUOTE.....

I met an attractive 60-year-old woman at a bar last night. She was very sexy looking so I thought to myself if she has a daughter, she wouldn't look too bad either.

We had a few drinks together and then she asked me if I'd ever had a thing called a Sportsman's Double?

"What's that?" I asked.

"It's a mother and daughter threesome," she replied.

I was really thinking this could be my lucky night, so we drank a little more. Then we went back to her place. When we got in the front door I couldn't contain my excitement

and then she shouts upstairs, "MOTHER, ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An air traffic control tower suddenly lost communication with a small twin-engine aircraft. A moment later the tower landline rang and was answered by one of the employees.

The passenger riding with the pilot who lost communication was on a cellular phone. He yelled, "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday!" The pilot had an instant and fatal heart attack.

I grabbed his cell phone out of his pocket, and he had told me before we took off, he had the tower on his speed dial memory. "I am flying upside down at 18,000 feet and traveling at 180 mph. "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday!"

The employee in the tower immediately put him on speaker phone and said, "Calm down, we acknowledge you and we'll guide you down after a few questions. The first thing is not to panic. Remain calm!"

He began his series of questions:

Tower: "How do you know you are traveling at 18,000 feet?"

Aircraft: "I can see that it reads 18,000 feet on the altimeter dial in front of me."

Tower: "Okay, that's good, remain calm. How do you know you're traveling at 180 mph?"

Aircraft: "I can see that it reads 180 mph on the airspeed dial in front of me."

Tower: "Okay, this is great so far, but it's heavily overcast. So how do you know you're flying upside down?"

Aircraft: "The pee from my pants is running out of my shirt collar."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

On a golf tour in Ireland, Tiger Woods drives his BMW into a petrol station in a remote part of the Irish countryside.

The pump attendant, who obviously knows nothing about golf, greets him in a typical Irish manner completely unaware of who the golfing pro is.

"Top of the mornin' to yer, sir" says the attendant.

Tiger nods a quick "hello" and bends forward to pick up the nozzle. As he does so, two tees fall out of his shirt pocket onto the ground.

"What are those?", asks the attendant.

"They're called tees" replies Tiger.

"Well, what on the god's earth are they for?" inquires the Irishman.

"They're for resting my balls on when I'm driving", says Tiger.

"Feckin Hell", says the Irishman, "BMW thinks of everything !"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

DAD: "Masturbation will make you go blind son"

SON: "I'm over here dad"

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TEACHER: "I have a green ball in this hand and a green ball in this hand. What do I have?"

PUPIL: "Kermit's undivided attention"

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Wife visits husband in prison:

WIFE: "I've baked a cake for you and hidden something inside that'll be of use to you in here"

HUSBAND: "Like a file or a hacksaw blade?"

WIFE: "Nah, a jar of Vaseline"

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The only time I get asked for sex is on application forms 🙄

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No matter what you're going through, it is important to always be helpful to other people.

So, for example, avoid saying "sod off", and instead say, "how can I assist you to sod off" 😊

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Call to Aussie helpline:

"Godday mate Aussie helpline here"

"Ah, thank goodness mate, bit of an emergency, I'm up in Darwin having sex with the Misses and she got stung in the genitals by a spider and her vagina has completely closed up"

"Bummer mate"

"Thanks mate, hadn't thought of that, bye"

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Did you know that "HE FARTS" is an anagram for "FATHERS".

Coincidence?

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What's the difference between "IRON MAN" and "IRON WOMAN"?

The former is a title; the latter is a command.

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I knocked over a pot plant in my kitchen. Unfortunately, my cat saw me. So, I had to spray myself with water to show that the law applies to everyone.

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Apparently, a new study has shown that Uranus may contain far more methane than previously thought.

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I'm starting a new vibrator repair business. I'm calling it 'Inspect her Gadget'.

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Different perspectives: -

TRUMP: "I just had a conversation with President Sheinbaum of Mexico. She will stop rapists and criminals coming here."

SHEINBAUM: "I told President Trump the best way to make rapists, and criminals, feel unwelcome in the US, is for their citizens to stop electing them."

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A woman with a flat chest buys a finely carved mirror at an antique shop and hangs it on her bathroom door.

The next morning, she playfully says, "Mirror, mirror, on my door, make my breasts size 44."

There is a flash of light, and her boobs grow to enormous proportions.

She runs to tell her husband what happened, and he races up to the bathroom and stands in front of the magic mirror.

The husband takes a deep breath, crosses his fingers and says, "Mirror, mirror, on the door, make my manhood touch the floor."

There's a flash of light, and.....

.....both of his legs fell off.

.....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"...)