

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 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!)*

## **FEBRUARY WEATHER**

Well, as I'm sure most of you will undoubtedly be aware, the month of February has been a winter month with pretty much seriously poor weather for much of the month. There have, of course, been some days that were suitable for private flying and PPL flight training, but many of these days were completely surrounded by unflyable conditions. The only good thing as we are all used to, is that we are now moving towards the Spring and hopefully some decent flying conditions at last.

The month's weather has had days with some very strong and gusty winds, and other ones with very low cloud and some extremely heavy rain, and of course many days with poor visibility too! But hopefully we are getting to the stage of having some decent weather again soon – fingers crossed for substantially more good flying days in March as we move to the clock changes....

## **VALERIE ANAND**

Sadly another old Biggin Hill'ite, Valerie Anand (who was Valerie Stubington back in the 60's), passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> January. She had apparently been ill for some time with lymphoma cancer and died at the Royal Trinity Hospice in London.

For those who were around in those early days, you may well remember her - Valerie was a member of Biggin Hill's Flairavia Flying Club, and she learnt to fly in about 1964 with instructors John George, David St Leger, David Quirk, and Trevor Prytherch.

Her friends, Anne Webb and Alan Walters, have made arrangements for Valerie's funeral at a location within the borough in which Valerie lived, London Road Cemetery Chapel, 59 Victoria Road, Mitcham, CR4 3JB on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2.00pm. Following the funeral, refreshments will be provided at the Toby Carvery 'Park Place', 54 Commonside West, Mitcham, CR4 4HB.

*(Instead of funeral flowers, Valerie expressed a preference for donations to be made in her memory to either the Royal National Lifeboat Institution or the Royal Trinity Hospice, London.)*

Her friends ask any of Valerie's old friends to contact them as soon as possible on 0208 668 3814 (if no answer, please leave a message including your own phone number) or by email to both [anne.web44@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.web44@btinternet.com) and [alan.walters84@hotmail.com](mailto:alan.walters84@hotmail.com) with the names of those who would like to attend the funeral, and whether they would also be attending the wake afterwards, or if you would like to see the video version, if that can be arranged.

Her name has now been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited "Roll of Honour".

Rest in Peace Valerie, you will be very sadly missed by your old airport friends and will never be forgotten.....

## **JEREMY HUGHES**

Sadly, we heard from his family that the old Biggin Hill'ite, Jerry Hughes, passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> January aged 83. We were told that he had been quite unwell for some time, but he died peacefully at home with his family around him.

Jerry was an active flying club member in the 60's (as far as I can recall) at Experimental Flying Group and 600Sqd Flying Group at Biggin, and was known to many of us older airport users.

His funeral was held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 12 noon at Taunton Deane Crematorium, Somerset.

His name has now been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited "Roll of Honour".

Rest in Peace Jerry, you will be very sadly missed by your old airport friends and will never be forgotten.....

## **RAY WATSON'S SPECIAL BIRTHDAY THIS PAST MONTH**

Our old friend, and former Head of Training at EFG, Ray Watson, had his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on 7<sup>th</sup> February. I celebrated it with him at his residential care home.

Ray had been an incredibly experienced pilot, having been in the Royal Air Force as both a display pilot and also the Head of the Vickers Valient V Bomber fleet. On leaving the RAF, he became the Captain of the instrument approach calibration aircraft flying an HS748 at most major civilian airports in the UK and Europe to validate their approaches.

For most of us current Instructors and pilots operating at Biggin Hill Airport (and many others of course), have flown with Ray as the examiner to renew all our various licences.

An amazing man and so very experienced as a flight instructor and Examiner.

Stay well Ray.....

## **NOT MUCH ADDITIONAL STUFF TO TALK ABOUT THIS MONTH**

Being still the winter and having significantly poor flying conditions in recent months, which is actually not too surprising. Having said that, we have been discussing this winter's weather and it seems we all believe that conditions have been pretty much the worst we've had for several years.

The airport though has worked very well and had very good corporate jet aircraft movements justifying all the developments that the airport has carried out in recent years.

For Biggin Hill Airport regular flyers, please do ensure you have got a photo security pass by now, as most security gates to access airside require the passes to open them (the original gates with access codes have almost all now been replaced with card access instead). Please also ensure you are fully up to date with the details of Noise Sensitive Areas (NSA's) to be avoided, and also of course the Noise Abatement procedures to keep local residents on our side.

Users should also make sure you all have a personal login to the Biggin Hill Airport Centrik system to keep yourself fully up to date with safety issues and airport manuals and operational procedural changes etc...

Finally – after our comments in here last month, and at the Light Aircraft Steering Group February meeting, the airport's weather warning emails asking us to log in to view the warning in the

airport's Centrik system each time (often several times daily!) have now stopped. Thank you for understanding what we all felt about it.

### **MARCH BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

The "posted" Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of March 2024 are:

£1:83.5 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)

£0:93.2 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1.16.7 per litre)

**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

Well, we've managed to put the brollies away for today so fingers crossed for some respite from the elements!

As you can imagine things have been fairly quiet, though we've managed to catch up on a fair amount of paperwork here at the school! That said, the evenings have produced some cracking night flying with close to 10 ratings completed this year. Before the season finishes, we hope to get a few more of you up to standard.

The hangar has been busy with not only our own aircraft but yours as well so thank you for continuing to put your trust in us.

A thank you to Becky who leaves us for new pastures on the airport. Becks, you've been a great member for the Falcon Family, and we wish you the best with everything.

Till the next time - Fly safe, have fun, be blessed

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

P.S. don't forget about noise sensitive areas. Thanks.

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

As I start this month's Airport update, I have been reminded that it is 5 years to the day I took up the post of CEO. I will avoid the temptation of what would appear as a self-indulgent reflection on our achievements but to simply say thank you to all the Airport community for their support over the past 5 years.

The Airport continues to enjoy a positive last quarter of this financial year as February has seen an increase in aircraft movements and associated income. This pick up in the Airport's performance is even more encouraging when you consider we are still dealing with the impact of both the Ukraine and Israel conflicts, rising costs, standard of living challenges and an uncertain economic outlook. Additionally, the Airport is bucking trends across Europe that has seen a 3% reduction in traffic when compared to the same period in 2023. France is the top European

business aviation market this year, followed by the UK and Germany but all three markets less busy than last year.

The London market figures show the Airport's share has reduced very slightly, to just above 21%; however, to some extent, the figures mask the fragility in this matrix given a change of one or two landings a day has a disproportionate impact on monthly figures. Farnborough and Luton maintained their share of the market at just under 30% and just over 26% respectively.

The Airport has now finalised its Economic Footprint study and will shortly publish the headline figures, which remain extremely impressive. Direct employment has risen to 1,890 across the Airport site, generating a GVA (gross value added) £200 million across the UK. Critically, for every 1,000 air traffic movements a total of 88 full time jobs are supported.

The Airport continues to progress its submission for a full operational trial for the 03 RNAV approach. The trial plan will be submitted no later than the end of March. Trax Int. (the Airport's Airspace Change Consultant) have been working hard to keep the CAA engaged in the process to ensure a high possibility of the trial being approved.

As previously mentioned, the Airport is now entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of its Air Quality Monitoring initiative with the installation of additional sensors. The monitors will have an increased number of sensors to detect SO<sub>2</sub> (Sulphur Dioxide), NO<sub>2</sub> (Nitrogen Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide), VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) and O<sub>3</sub> (Ground Ozone). The sensors will also detect Particulate matter 1, 2.5 and 10 micrograms of solid or liquid particles in the atmosphere. The Airport will be working with the newly formed Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum to see how the Airport might report on Air Quality in the future.

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. 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 enjoy your flying when the weather is more suitable - Please stay well and stay safe.....

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.....

A few quickies:

Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?

A: Because he was always spotted.

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump.

Woman at Job Interview.

Interviewer: We're looking for someone who can do the work of two men.

Applicant: Oh, so it's only a Part Time Post?

"My girlfriend dumped me, so I stole her wheelchair. Guess who came crawling back?"

What's the difference between a pregnant woman and a lightbulb? You can unscrew a lightbulb.

What do you call a guy who cries when he masturbates? A tearjerker.

What's the difference between a tire and 365 used condoms? One's a Goodyear. The other's a great year.

Jack and Jill went up the hill to have a little fun. But careless Jill forgot her pill and now they have a son.

Why did the snowman suddenly smile? He could see the snowblower coming.

What's a 6.9? Another great thing screwed up by a period.

What did the elephant ask the naked man? "How do you breathe out of that thing?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Three guys go to a ski lodge, and there aren't enough rooms, so they have to share a bed.

In the middle of the night, the guy on the right wakes up and says, "I had this wild, vivid dream of getting a hand job!"

The guy on the left wakes up, and unbelievably, he's had the same dream, too.

Then the guy in the middle wakes up and says, "That's funny, I dreamed I was skiing!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

These are actual complaints received by a national holiday company from Dissatisfied Customers:

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 Vallarta to 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.....

Two Old Jewish men, Sid and Saul, are sitting in a restaurant in London.

One day Sid asks Saul, "Do you know of any people of our faith born and raised in London?"

Saul replies, "I don't know, let's ask our waiter".

When the waiter arrives, Saul asks, "Are there any London Jews?"

The waiter says, "I don't know, Señor, I ask the cook".

He returns from the kitchen a few minutes later and says, "No, Señor, the cook say no London Jews".

Saul isn't satisfied and asks, "Are you absolutely sure?"

The waiter, realising he is dealing with 'Americans,' replies, "I check once again, Señor".

While the waiter is away, Sid says, "I find it hard to believe that there are no Jews in London. Our people are scattered everywhere".

The waiter returns and says, "Señor, the head cook say there is no London Jews".

Saul asks, "Are you certain? I just can't believe there are no London Jews".

The exasperated waiter says, "Señor, I ask Everyone! All we have is Orange Jews, Grape Jews, Prune Jews and Tomato Jews".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

In the United States, there was once a beautiful young female journalist, a shapely ash blonde, whose editor sent her to a Native American reservation to do an article about it.

She was not only beautiful; she was also conscientious and took the time to read about the history and customs of the tribe she was to visit.

When she arrived, she was greeted by a reception committee.

Foremost was the chief, splendidly arrayed in feathered headdress and buckskin suit. Behind him were his braves and the principal squaws.

He greeted her most courteously, in fact, looking at her with great admiration.

The young journalist, remembering what she had read about the tribe, didn't offer him her hand to shake, but raised her right hand, palm outwards, and said: 'How!'

Whereupon the chief considered her with even more admiration and replied: 'I know how. When?'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Little Bruce and Jenny are only 10 years old, but they know they are in love.

One day they decide that they want to get married, so Bruce goes to Jenny's father to ask him for her hand.

Bruce bravely walks up to him and says, "Mr. Smith, me and Jenny are in love, and I want to ask you for her hand in marriage."

Thinking that this was just the cutest thing, Mr. Smith replies, "Well, Bruce, you are only 10. Where will you two live?"

Without even taking a moment to think about it, Bruce replies, "In Jenny's room. It's bigger than mine and we can both fit there nicely."

Mr. Smith says with a huge grin, "Okay, then how will you live? You're not old enough to get a job. You'll need to support Jenny."

Again, Bruce instantly replies. "Our allowance, Jenny makes five bucks a week and I make 10 bucks a week. That's about 60 bucks a month, so that should do us just fine."

Mr. Smith is impressed Bruce has put so much thought into this. "Well, Bruce, it seems like you have everything figured out. I just have one more question. What will you do if the two of you should have little children of your own?"

Bruce just shrugs his shoulders and says, "Well, we've been lucky so far.  
.....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"...) )