

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May Newsletter for the Biggin Hill Users Database. Welcome also to any new Database members who may be receiving this regular Newsletter for the first time.

You are reminded that, even if you ever fail to receive your Newsletter by email, you can always view it online, as well as back copies of this Newsletter and JB's Biggin Hill "Bugle", by visiting the club website at [www.bigginhillclub.co.uk](http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk)

### **APRIL WEATHER**

This last month has seen lots of changeable conditions, particularly affecting light aircraft at Biggin. We have experienced periods of the classic "April showers" on occasions, but also periods of several days of extremely poor visibility with anticipated improvements in the forecast that simply didn't happen until so late in the day as to be too late for most people to take advantage of.

And yet, we also had some periods of record temperatures for the time of year, with the Easter Bank Holiday weekend proving to be excellent for family functions even if the visibility was not the best for us flyers.

So all in all, a very changeable month with some highs, and some lows... Summer is surely on its way.

### **THE NEW FEES AT BIGGIN FOR LIGHT AIRCRAFT**

As we move towards May, the new, much higher, landing fees introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April showed signs of biting.

There were periods during April when, with very few jet movements at certain times, Biggin Hill somewhat resembled a ghost town, with virtually no aircraft around anywhere. Certainly something I have never experienced at Biggin before in my almost 60 years at the airport. That's not to say that it is always quiet, of course, but certainly very noticeable at times.

The new rates have certainly had an impact on flying at Biggin (which some would say was what the airport wanted, although I'm not sure they wanted it that quiet!). As an owner, even though the new prices will not currently persuade me personally to sell the aircraft, or move it elsewhere, it certainly has an effect. The odd, spur of the moment, "oh, sod it – lets go flying" has become, "oh, do I really want to spend getting on for 50 quid for the landing fee, just to go for a 20 or 30 minute flutter around the local area" – and I have to say, in the main, I haven't bothered!

From private pilots, and flying club members point of view, I think it has been instrumental in getting people to re-assess whether Biggin Hill is actually worth flying from at all, when it is so much cheaper elsewhere.

We have always said that learning to fly at Biggin Hill is excellent, as it gets new pilots used to flying within a busy commercial environment from day one, and is one of the reasons (in my opinion) that nowadays very few problems are experienced at the airport with "Biggin

based, or Biggin trained” pilots – although we are all aware the same cannot always be said for visiting, “non-based” pilots when they come to Biggin.

My fear is that, in the South East corner of the UK, this reduction in Biggin trained general aviation pilots will result in even more problems for the airport into the future with people skirting around the edge of Biggin, or when visiting the airport.

Time will tell.

### **NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT BIGGIN**

Biggin Hill Airport’s new CEO, David Winstanley, has certainly been very active in meeting people and canvassing views and opinions from many people around the airport in his first full month in the job.

Clearly he is not going to be able to change everything to take all our views into account, but it is good that he is actively seeking dialogue with all interested parties. He has positively said at several meetings that light aircraft are assured a continued future at Biggin Hill, which is encouraging of course. But that future is unfortunately at a cost that many will simply not be able to justify and may seek to relocate to more GA user friendly and cost effective airports.

So, having been thrown into the deep end at an airport so different from the one he came from (Birmingham International), he has certainly made himself available to interested parties to sound out views. Reports from those that have been able to sit down with him, are, in the main, very positive.

### **FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT**

The festival of flight dates for your diary are 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August.

No Red Arrows this year as they are away on a North American tour, but the show has secured the excellent Breitling Jet Team, and some good RAF participation, plus others.

For a full and constantly updating programme of items expected – go to:

<https://yourairport.co.uk/airshow2019/>

### **AIR SHOW OWNERS, USERS & TENANTS MARQUEE**

Unfortunately, as we speak, in spite of requests, the air show organiser has said there are no plans to provide a special Marquee and viewing area for airport users and tenants, preferring the more expensive (£55 a head) catered public marquee with bar, and shared with non-airport people that they had last year.

Clearly, from the comments I received last year, where we struggled to even reach the maximum 100 place allocation given to us, instead of the getting on for 200 we normally had for the basic marquee (£18 to £20 a head, excluding show entry tickets) in the previous years, this facility simply is not what we all wanted. As a result, I am not planning any involvement in the show this year.

If any of you have any particular views or ideas about this, I would be interested to hear them – please email me at:

[john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

### **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) )

### **ALOUETTE FLYING CLUB**

Greetings from Alouette..

Was that you we saw in the Marathon? Or were you running to get to Alouette to grab one of our flight packages?

Obviously we are busy now the season is here, yet there is still room for you to fly here. Either as a student or as a PPL our rates are good and the aircraft popular.

Come to the clubhouse Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 8pm to meet and discuss your flying needs and wishes with us.

Join our club flyaways; 18<sup>th</sup> May to Compton Abbas and 13<sup>th</sup> July to Le Touquet.

Alouette; independent and keen to promote flying. Or simply e-mail me - Bruno: [alouettechairman@gmail.com](mailto:alouettechairman@gmail.com)

Regards  
Bruno Bruniges

### **FALCON FLIGHT ACADEMY (inc EFG) & FALCON FLIGHT SERVICES**

Greetings from all at Falcon

A good month of flying, albeit at tad windy at times! Nonetheless our team have been working hard providing all manner of flight training and maintenance.

Huge congrats to former Operations Administrator Koray Unlu who successfully completed his Multi Engine Rating!

In accordance with recent aerodrome policy we have successfully implemented a no ab-initio solo policy at Biggin, with our students conducting solo flying at Lydd, Redhill and Headcorn, whilst managing the procedures here at Biggin for GH, Nav and everything in-between.

The hangar has been busy as ever. G-BSVM returns having had a fantastic new paint scheme completed by our local paint specialists RAS Completions. The interior has been completely refurbished with new carpets and seats by Falcon making her look quite the part!

In the meantime, for all your maintenance needs, please call Singh or Shonu on 01959 572 339.

Till the next time. Fly safe, be calm and don't forget to PPR.

Best Regards  
Singh, Shonu, Anoop  
and all at Falcon & EFG

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

Fifty plus days in post and I am slowly getting my feet under the table and learning quickly regarding different aspects of Business and General aviation. The warm welcome I received in my first few days has continued and I am very grateful for the patience shown by the London Biggin Hill Airport community in bringing me up to speed. That said, I am acutely aware that 'talk is cheap' and I need to demonstrate I am listening and balancing the needs of all users of the Airport.

Turning to development news, I am pleased to report that the resurfacing works on Charlie taxiway are now due to commence early May. These works are essential enabling works that will precede the resurfacing of Hotel taxiway, which is due to commence by mid-May. The Hotel taxiway works should take approximately 22 weeks and Temporary Operating Instructions will be issued shortly. Work continues to deliver the GPS approach for Rwy 03 and most of the community will notice the works to fit the new approach lights.

Wider afield, I am pleased to report that both the Hotel and Aerospace College remain on track with planning approvals proceeding as planned. Hopefully, the community will see the start of these developments towards the end of the year.

I had hoped to visit with more of the community than I have done to date; however, I am currently spending time 'back to the floor' with teams across the Airport company ensuring I understand as much as I can about London Biggin Hill.

Cheers  
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) please let me know or tell them about us – Database membership is, of course, free.

That's it for this month.....

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 intended!). Thanks to everyone for sending their contributions.... )

QUOTE.....

A few Irish jokes to lighten up your weekend!

Paddy and Murphy walking down the street.

Paddy found a mirror and picked it up and said to Murphy, "I know that face but I just can't put a name to it!"

Murphy took the mirror from Paddy, looked and said, "Paddy you daft idiot it's me!"

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Paddy says to Murphy, "Have you seen the news? 3 cliff walkers have fallen to their deaths!"

"Unbelievable!" says Murphy, "I can't believe they all had the same name!"

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Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company.

One day the dog died and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father Do ya think 5,000 euro's is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Church Ladies are back! These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

\*The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.\*

\*The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.\*

\*Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.\*

\*Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you\* .

\*Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.\*

\*Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.\*

\*For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs\* .

\*Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.\*

\*Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.\*

\*A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.\*

\*At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.\*

\*Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.\*

\*Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.\*

\*The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility..\*

\*Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.\*

\*The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.\*

\*This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.\*

\*Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.\*

\*The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.\*

\*Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.\*

\*The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.\*

\*Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.\*

\*The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man goes in for an interview for a job as a TV news broadcaster. The interview went quite well with one problem - he kept winking at the camera.

The interviewer said, "Although you have a lot of the qualities we're looking for, the fact that you keep winking is a real problem. I'm afraid we won't able to hire you unless you get it under control."

"Oh, that's no problem," said the man. "If I take a couple of aspirin I stop winking for a couple of hours. More than enough time to get the broadcast done."

"Alright, show me," said the interviewer.

So the man reached into his pocket. First he put his hand in his right pocket, and as he took it out he pulled out loads of condoms of every variety and size, but no pills.

Next he dug into his left pocket, and again pulled out an embarrassing amount of condoms in all shapes and colours before finally finding the packet of aspirin. He took the aspirin and the second take went without a single hitch.

The interviewer said, "That's amazing, I'd hire you on the spot, except that we're not in the habit of hiring such womanizers. We've had too many sexual harassment suits."

"Excuse me!" exclaimed the man, "I'm a happily married man, not a womanizer!"

"Well how do you explain all the condoms, then?" asked the interviewer.

The man sighed. "Have you ever tried going into a pharmacy, asking for aspirin and winking all the while?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Doctor was addressing a large audience in Brisbane .

"The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago.

Red meat is awful. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realises the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water.

However, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said,

"Wedding Cake."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

One day a florist went to a barber for a haircut. After the cut, he asked about his bill, and the barber replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.'

The florist was pleased and left the shop.

When the barber went to open his shop the next morning, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen roses waiting for him at his door.

Later, a cop comes in for a haircut, and when he tries to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you, I'm doing community service this week.'

The cop was happy and left the shop.

The next morning when the barber went to open up, there was a 'thank you' card and a dozen doughnuts waiting for him at his door.

Then a Member of Parliament came in for a haircut, and when he went to pay his bill, the barber again replied, 'I cannot accept money from you. I'm doing community service this week.'

The Member of Parliament was very happy and left the shop.

The next morning, when the barber went to open up, there were a dozen Members of Parliament lined up waiting for a free haircut.

And that, my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and the politicians who run it.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Following on from the above theme - With the current Westminster political fiasco at the moment, I couldn't resist including the following in this Newsletter – it was from a posting in Social Media in early 2016...

Why We Need to Change all our Members of Parliament Regularly.....

If you start with a cage containing four monkeys, and inside the cage hang a banana on a string from the top, and then you place a set of stairs under the banana, before long a monkey will go to the stairs and climb toward the banana. ALL the monkeys are then sprayed with cold water.

After a while, another monkey makes an attempt with same result -- As soon as he touches the stairs, you spray ALL the monkeys with cold water.

Pretty soon, when another monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will try to prevent it.

Now, put the cold water away. Remove one monkey from the cage and replace it with a new monkey. The new monkey sees the banana and attempts to climb the stairs. To his shock, ALL of the other monkeys beat the crap out of him. After another attempt and attack, he knows that if he tries to climb the stairs he will be assaulted.

Next, remove another of the original four monkeys, replacing it with a new monkey. The newcomer goes to the stairs and is attacked. The previous newcomer takes part in the punishment – with enthusiasm - because he is now part of the team.

Then, replace a third original monkey with a new monkey, followed by the fourth. Every time the newest monkey takes to the stairs, he is attacked.

Now, the monkeys that are beating him up have no idea why they were not permitted to climb the stairs. Neither do they know why they are participating in the beating of the newest monkey.

Finally, having replaced all of the original monkeys, none of the remaining monkeys will have ever been sprayed with cold water. Nevertheless, not one of the monkeys will try to climb the stairway for the banana.

Why, you ask? Because in their minds, that is the way it has always been!

This is how today's members of Parliament operates; and this is why, from time to time, ALL of the monkeys need to be REPLACED AT THE SAME TIME!

DISCLAIMER: This is meant as no disrespect to monkeys.

.....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"...) )