

Hi everyone

Welcome to the May 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!)*

## **APRIL WEATHER**

As many will know, I was off sick for a couple of weeks this month so I haven't really known too much about this month's weather. Having said that, the weather at Biggin during the month of April has apparently been significantly better than many of the previous months, which has been a great improvement for us all.

Let's hope that these improvements will now continue from now on through these summer months. Do now take full advantage of these weather improvements to enable you to enjoy your flying again, at last...

## **LES DICKSON**

I received information that Les Dickson, who was a former Police Officer, and one of the long-term 4 member security officers in the 80's and 90's, sadly passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> April in hospital..

May old Biggin Hill'ites with undoubtedly remember Les, as he was a lovely man and worked well with us all...

Les retired from that position about two decades or so ago, and he was given the freedom of the airfield by the airport management. He was known to many of us, and was often seen around the airport after he retired, normally accompanied by his two big dogs, and he was apparently always a serious fan of Burmese Mountain Dogs....

R.I.P. Les – you will be remembered by us old friends of yours at the airport for those many years.....

## **DENNIS KNAPP**

I have recently been advised of the sad loss of an old Biggin Hill'ite, Dennis Knapp, a short while ago.

Dennis originally lived in Challock Close in Biggin Hill and was an active light aircraft pilot at Biggin Hill Airport for a number of years. I have been led to believe that he may have even owned a light aircraft at Biggin many years back. His wife, Olive, sadly passed away quite young, and she originally worked at the airport so will probably be known by many Biggin Hill'ites...

Dennis eventually moved to Newton Abbot, where he lived for some years. During all these years he maintained contact with a number of Biggin Hill'ites, before sadly passing away in hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at age 92.

R.I.P. Dennis – your many Biggin Hill village residents and airport friends will be sad to hear of your passing.....

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

An update about the building work discussed last month:

In the field east of the Bombardier hangar just over the road that takes users to the Falcon maintenance hangar and several other aircraft hangars, and of course to the Heritage Hangar, there is a very significant special maintenance and equipment supply facility that is there to cope with the eventual resurfacing of runway 21/03 soon, as I previously advised will be happening...

Bombardier's new aircraft spraying facility is now well under way to produce their new state-of-the-art aircraft paint facility. That building is now clearly visible as a large hanger frame that they are constructing in between their own current hangar, and the old Fairflight hangar and the adjacent airport's "hub" building.

So, the airport's facilities are clearly expanding quite dramatically...

As described last month, the airport's advance planning for the new instrument approach on runway 03 will soon hopefully become formally available to attempt to remove the need for aircraft, including some of the quite large incoming jets, to come down the current 21 ILS and then do a relatively low circling manoeuvre round to 03.

This should hopefully eliminate any concerns that a lot of local residents have, especially those on the north side of the main runway, who are often worried about the noise of such relatively low flying aircraft circling for 03 after coming down the 21 ILS currently.

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 Airport are clearly now underway.....

Our Airport's CEO, David Winstanley, will include his regular monthly section, which is present towards the end of this newsletter, in order to keep us fully up to date with any airport plans that may affect us.....

## **THANKS EVERYONE WHO'S SENT ME JOKES TO INCLUDE IN THE NEWSLETTER**

As I said, it had got difficult to find jokes I could add to the Newsletter's end section every month as the Newsletter has been running since late 1998.

So thank you all who've sent some jokes to me this month. Please do keep them coming (ideally just texts, not graphics please!)....

## **MAY 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 May 2025 are:

£1:66.00 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)

£0:79.60 per litre for Jet A1

*(As we explained regularly, the government had mandated that all JetA1 fuel to 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).

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

April has turned out to be a very strong month for the Airport, with excellent weather towards the end of the month ensuring increased movements and a very strong start to the financial year. The Airport closed the previous financial year well ahead of budget despite overall movements being lower than forecast.

Anyone who has recently visited or flown from the Airport will notice the significant development underway across the Airport site. The steel frame for the new Bombardier state-of-the-art paint facility is well advanced and the scale of the build is clear to see. The runway resurfacing project is picking up pace with night works already underway in preparation for resurfacing to start by the end of May. The new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system has now been in operation for over 2 months and we will be introducing 24-hour automated METAR reporting by the middle of May. This introduction was delayed due to one of the sensors being replaced and the data recalibrated. 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.

Post the CAA decision on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to approve the IFP design packages V1.0, V1.1 and V1.2 of the London Biggin Hill RNP RWY 03 (Trial) and simulator validation plan, the focus over the first quarter of this calendar year has been to programme simulation and flight validation trails. The Airport is pleased to announce that the simulations were undertaken on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of April and the results proved that there were no flyability issues identified and that the procedure worked well. The full trial is scheduled to commence in Q3 of this year.

The Airport remains pleased with the development and progress of the newly formed Private Pilots Group (PPG) and announced earlier this month that the PPG will replace the now disestablished Light Aviation Steering Group. This further demonstrates the Airport's continued commitment to the GA community. The Airport held a GA Pre-season Symposium at the Hub on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April and, although the turnout was limited, the feedback was extremely positive.

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's passing 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 (and we now do at last finally get mainly decent 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.....

The waitress asks them for their orders.

The truckie says, 'A hamburger, chips and a beer please,' and turns to his pal. 'I'll have the same,' says the emu.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order. 'That'll be \$9.40 please.' He reaches into his pocket and pulls out the exact change for payment.

The next day they return and the truckie orders a hamburger, chips and a beer, and the emu says, 'I'll have the same.'

Again the truckie reaches into his pocket and pays with the exact change.

This becomes routine until the two enter again.

'The usual?' asks the waitress.

'No, it's Friday night, so I'll have a steak, baked potato, salad and a martini,' says the man. 'Same,' says the emu.

Shortly the waitress brings the order and says, 'That will be \$32.62.'

Once again the man pulls the exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress cannot contain her curiosity any longer.

'Excuse me mate, but how do you manage to come up with the exact change in your pocket every time?'

'Well love, a few years ago I was cleaning out the back shed when I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it, a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes.

My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, I would just put my hand in my pocket and the right amount of money would always be there.'

'That's brilliant!' says the waitress. 'Most people would ask for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!'

'That's right. Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact amount is always there.'

The waitress asks him, 'So what's with the bloody emu?'

The truckie sighs, pauses and answers, 'My second wish was for a tall bird with a big arse and long legs who agrees with everything I say.'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A newlywed couple were caught getting frisky in the cloak room at church.

The pastor told them if they could not learn to control themselves, they would have to leave.

As a test they were instructed to abstain from relations for one week.

The following Sunday the pastor asked if they succeeded.

The man said, 'I'm sorry we could not. We refrained until Friday but when I saw her bent over in front of the freezer, I was so overcome by my passion that I took her on the floor right in front of it.'

"I'm sorry my son, you clearly love your wife, but we cannot have you in this church." the pastor exclaimed.

"We understand," the man replied. "They don't want us back at the grocery store either."  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I bought a dalek egg timer. After 3 minutes it shouts 'Eggs-terminate'

If slow old men use walking sticks, what do fast old men use? Hurry canes.

Seen on the back of a (dirty) delivery van: Single white van seeks single yellow sponge for dirty weekend fun!

What do you get if you bend down in a chicken run? Your aspect (ass pecked)!

If there are no ups and downs in your life it means you're dead!

Being male is a matter of birth, being a man is a matter of age, being a gentleman is a matter of choice.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Two mature ladies drinking cocktails in a bar.

Lady A: Name something you're too old to do?

LADY B (smirking): Give a shit!"

Teacher: "what does this sign % mean?"

Me: "Lady wearing a seat belt"

"A blind woman told me I had the biggest penis ever".

"I think she was pulling your leg".

A stock market crash is worse than a divorce. You still lose half your money but your wife's still around.

Prince Charles is visiting a nursing home and asks a 93-year-old lady 'have you been bed ridden since you've been here?'

She replied 'a couple of times but I prefer being shagged on the sofa'.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

John: "Dad, there's a girl I like. She's beautiful. I want to go out with her."

Dad: "Who?"

John: "The girl across our street, Nina."

Dad: "Oh no, you can't. Don't tell Mom but she's your sister."

John was furious, but a week passed and he fell in love again.

John: "Dad, I think I'm in love. She's prettier."

Dad: "Who?"

John: "She lives beside our house, name's Ana."

Dad: "Oh son, I pity you but you can't date her. She's your sister as well. I'm sorry but it happened more than once."

John was furious. He decided to talk to his mother.

John: "Mom, I hate dad! I can't date the 5 ladies I fell in love with just because they're dad's daughters to different women."

Mom: "Oh, don't mind what your father said. You can date whoever you want, he's not your father!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

When I was at school I was taught: -

PUSSY was a CAT

SEX was a GENDER

BITCH was a FEMALE DOG

DICK was a NAME

BANG was a SOUND

RUBBER was an ERASER

ASS was an EQUINE ANIMAL

SCREW was just A TOOL

HEAD was part of THE BODY

BALLS were ROUND TOYS

NUTS were a DRIED FRUIT

69 was just a NUMBER

..... then I met all you dirty so-and-so's, and my education was ruined forever!  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

.....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"...) )