

Hi everyone

Welcome to the November 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

(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!)

THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Just a brief reminder that I am sure most people do know – obviously British Summer Time (BST) ceased from Sunday 27th October at 2am, so the UK local time is now back to Greenwich Mean Time/Co-ordinated Universal Time (GMT/UTC) until next Spring – I do of course realise that all UK residents are fully aware of that, but quite a few of our readers do live outside the UK so this is really just to keep them up to date....

OCTOBER WEATHER

October weather has been quite unsettled. Of course there were some good flying days, sometimes even a few in a row too! But the reality was that there were always lots of adverse weather days regularly this month, after, in some days, just a couple of good weather days. So, the month really has not been as good as we all hoped!

It is now obviously getting to the start of the Winter, and that's when we all know we can't get as much flying, especially student training, as we now move into the next month or so....

So – fingers crossed – let's hope there is a bit more flyable weather to enable us all to keep our flying experience up to date. Let's hope there is at least enough flying to enable the flying clubs and schools to generate sufficient funds to keep them in business.

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

Biggin Hill Airport is very well organized, and they are starting to get ready for a major improvement to the airport's main runway 03/21, where it will be fully resurfaced (mainly overnight) in the early part of 2025 and additionally have runway centreline lighting installed. See also the section, which describes these plans, towards the end of this Newsletter written by the airport's CEO, David Winstanley.

They are also seemingly confident now that the new instrument approach procedure for runway 03 will soon be accepted by the CAA for calibration.

Then hopefully the new 03 instrument approach will be available when that runway is required to be used, which will avoid the circling to land for aircraft to get to that runway. That should

help to minimise the noise concerns that local residents have been experiencing when commercial aircraft have been circling quite low after the instrument approach to 21.

THE LIGHT AVIATION STEERING GROUP

Just another brief note –

If you are a regular Biggin Hill Airport flyer, or if you are a private owner whose aircraft is based at Biggin, then you should consider registering to be able to attend the Light Aviation Steering Group meetings that take place every two months.

To get yourself on the list, and receive notification of the planned date and agenda etc., then I suggest that you make contact with Kathryn Scott via email at:

kathryn.scott@bigginhillairport.com

Advise her who you are, and what your involvement is at the airport – ie. Private Pilot who flies at the airport regularly, or that you are a private owner of the Biggin Hill based aircraft's registration – and tell her that you would like to be able to attend the Light Aviation Steering Group meetings. Do also confirm that you will always acknowledge the email invitation each time for the meetings and state whether you will attend or if you will not be attending so that she can plan accordingly.

NOVEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:70.8 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)

£0:80.5 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1:04.0 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

Happy Halloween to all!

We've had a spookily warm October this year, which has brought some unsettled weather. Nonetheless all our guys and girls have persevered and managed some brilliant achievements.

Hats off to Ben Akhtar and Jack Cunnion on completing their hour building with EFG before embarking on their commercial training - good luck chaps!

Freddie Faulkner has joined us on Ops whilst he awaits his place on the BA Speedbird program and has made a great start!

As the winter approaches don't forget to enquire about your Night Ratings and IRR Ratings.

Good news for those looking to enhance your complex experience as our Arrow gets closer to coming online.

We look forward to seeing those of you joining the Pilot Careers Live Expo this weekend at London Heathrow Sofitel T5.

Till the next time. Fly safe

Best Regards
Anoop

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

As October draws to a close and the clocks have gone back, the Airport has accelerated its preparations for winter operations, whilst keeping our fingers crossed for no snow and a mild winter!! October was a steady, if unspectacular month, for the Airport but it continued the trend of lower movements but solid financial performance. Again, given the continuing and growing global instability, aviation appears to be riding out the storm and the sector continues to demonstrate its resilience. That said, at the time of writing this report the chancellor's budget has not been announced, so let's keep our fingers collectively crossed.

The Airport continues its development programme to improve existing infrastructure and improve its service offering to customers. Unfortunately, having installed the new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system, which will include 24-hour automated METAR reporting, we are still waiting for enough low visual days to calibrate the equipment and obtain CAA sign off. Preparations are well underway regarding the runway resurfacing and introduction of centre line lighting in 2025. The equipment for the batching plant that will supply the raw materials for the resurfacing is under construction. The Airport has launched an information campaign to ensure residents are fully aware of what the Airport is doing and how hard the Airport will be working to reduce any noise impact. The Airport continues to work with tenants and other external operators regarding additional hangar developments and improved facilities.

The Airport continues to focus on engagement with local residents through the Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF), which focuses on direct engagement with Resident Associations. The ARNAF is proving to be an extremely effective forum for ensuring both the Airport and residents focus on moving the noise abatement plan forward for the real benefit of both operators and residents. Critically, we have invited pilots to attend and discuss procedures from their perspective, which residents have found to be extremely helpful.

As previously mentioned, as we look towards the end of this year and early next, the Airport continues to progress the 2nd phase of its Air Quality Monitoring initiative. The new monitors, which we installed earlier this year will detect SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), CO (Carbon Monoxide), VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) and O₃ (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 ARNAF to see how the Airport might report on Air Quality in the future.

I was delighted with the improved attendance at the most recent Light Aviation Steering Group and would like to thank those who attended. The Steering Group ensures home based private pilots have a voice and get the opportunity to engage directly with the Airport on matters concerning the GA community. This is your group and its effectiveness depends on active involvement.

Work continues with the CAA regarding the trial of the new instrument approach to Rwy 03, the removal of dependencies on the VOR DME, and the completion of the 21 RNAV overlay. The Airport remains hopeful that the Trial Plan and IFP design for the 03-instrument approach will be approved in November and that the Airport can then move towards implementing the trial.

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 at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk)

DATABASE EMAIL ADDRESSES

A constantly updated full list of database members can be seen online 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 - Please do 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 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.....

My friend Dave was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. He knew that he would inherit a fortune once his sickly father died. Dave wanted two things:

- to learn how to invest his inheritance and,
- to find a wife to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars."

Impressed, the woman obtained his business card.

Two weeks later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at estate planning than men...
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A young guy from Texas moves to California and goes to a big department store looking for a job.

The manager says, "Do you have any sales experience?"

The kid says, "Yeah, I was a salesman back home in Texas."

Well, the boss liked the kid, so he gave him the job. "You start tomorrow. I'll come down after we close and see how you did."

His first day on the job was rough but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down.

"How many sales did you make today?"

The kid says, "One."

The boss says, "Just one? Our sales people average 20 or 30 sales a day. How much was the sale for?"

Kid says, "\$101,237.64."

Boss says, "\$101,237.64? What did you sell him?"

Kid says, "First I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fish hook. Then I sold him a larger fish hook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing, and he said down at the coast, so I told him he was gonna need a boat, so we went down to the boat department, and I sold him that twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn't think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4X4 Blazer."

The boss said, "A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and truck?"

Kid says, "No, he came in here to buy a box of tampons for his wife, and I said, 'Well, since your weekend's shot, you might as well go fishing.'"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

What is Celibacy?

Celibacy can be a choice in life, or a condition imposed by circumstances.

While attending a Marriage Weekend, my wife and I, listened to the instructor declare; 'It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other.'

He then addressed the men, saying, 'Can you name and describe your wife's favourite flower?'

I leaned over, touched my wife's hand gently, and whispered, 'White Wings Self-Raising Flour, isn't it?'

And thus began my life of celibacy.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

As you slide down the banister of life, remember my mind works like lightning, one brilliant flash and it is gone.

The difference between the Pope and your boss, the Pope only expects you to kiss his ring

The only time the world beats a path to your door is if you're in the toilet.

I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once.

The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice, well, it really chilled the mood.

It used to be only death and taxes, now of course, there's shipping and handling, too.

Definition of a teenager? God's punishment for enjoying sex.

Thought for the day: Be who you are and say what you feel because those that matter don't mind, and those that mind, don't matter!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A woman opened her door to see two policeman standing there.

"Mrs Smith? I'm afraid that I have some bad news for you? Your husband was at work, at the brewery, and it seemed that he fell into one of the vats of beer and drowned."

Mrs Smith fell to her knees, clutching at her chest.

"Tell me, officers, did he suffer at all?"

"We don't think so, Ma'am. He got out five times so that he could pee."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A guy is walking around town when he sees a bar with a sign advertising "All the Beer You Can Drink for \$1!"

He thinks that's a great deal so he goes in, sits down, hands the bartender a dollar, and asks for a beer.

"Sure, right away" says the bartender as he pulls out a tiny shot glass and fills it up halfway.

The man is stunned. "What the hell is this?" he asks.

"That's all the beer you can drink for \$1."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I was standing at the bar in an International Airport when this small Chinese guy comes in, stands next to me, and starts drinking a beer.

I asked him, "Do you know any of those martial arts things, like Kung-Fu, Karate, or Ju-Jitsu?"

He says "No, why the f*** would you ask me that? Is it because I am Chinese?"

"No", I said, "It's because you're drinking my beer, you little f***er."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

My girlfriend told me I'm her 32nd lover.

It turns out what she really meant was I'm her thirty second lover.

If your Uncle Jack was on his roof, and he wanted you to help him down...

Would you help your Uncle Jack off?

I'll admit it, I have a tremendous sex drive.

My girlfriend lives forty miles away.

Dating is a lot like fishing. Sure, there's plenty of fish in the sea.

But until I catch one, I'm just stuck here holding my rod.

.....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"...))