

Hi everyone

Welcome to the October Newsletter (issue 289) 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 simply 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!)*

## **SEPTEMBER WEATHER**

As many people know, I have spent virtually the whole of September away in Portugal, so personally haven't really known how the weather has been. But thanks to responses to my request to other Biggin Hill aviators, I was lucky to get a message back on the subject from Stuart Taylor.

He let me know that the weather has been pretty poor generally most of this last month. As he described it – the first week was a complete write off every day, then very convective thunder stormy days for the next week. Then apparently there was a little bit of an Indian summer a couple of weekends ago, then back to grey dreary misery. Thanks for your help Stuart....

Let us hope that October will be somewhat better for us in GA flying, so that we can all keep our flying practice up to date before the Winter sets in and stops most of the flying again like most Winters....

## **ALAN CORNWALL**

The month of September has sadly been the loss of yet another old Biggin Hill'ite, Alan Cornwall.

Alan was a very active member of the flying fraternity at Biggin Hill Airport for many years. He was known to lots of us oldies, including Singh Bamrah, Dave Flashman (who sadly passed away some time ago) and his son James, Joe Merchant and the Pilots Pals Bar, and Mick Ronayne, plus others including me....

Many of us were aware that Alan actually left the UK several years back and moved to France, but remained in contact relatively regularly with lots of us oldies...

His son, Neil, notified the Biggin Hill community via a Facebook posting on about 22<sup>nd</sup> September to let us know that Alan had sadly passed away a couple of weeks earlier.

I fortunately managed to make email contact with him just a few days before this Newsletter publication date. During that communication he asked me to let Biggin Hill'ites know the details of the funeral arrangements.

Alan's funeral will be held on Thursday 17th October, at 3pm, at the Bluebell Crematorium, in Sevenoaks, Kent. Anyone who wishes to attend the funeral and/or wake, please could they email his son, Neil, at [cornwell82@live.com](mailto:cornwell82@live.com) to let him know that you would like to attend, so he can get an idea of numbers for planning purposes.

## **DAVID QUIRK**

Many Biggin Hill'ites were advised in last month's Newsletter of David Quirk's serious condition that caused him to be hospitalised for a period of treatment and observation.

I have been asked by some of you if I can introduce you to a method of getting in touch with him so you can get hold of your old aviation mate.

Unfortunately, David's partner, Barbara, is no longer into emails and nor is David, but she has chatted to me when I called her just before this Newsletter went out.

She said that David is significantly improved after being released from hospital. He is apparently doing OK but is not really very mobile any longer. He is now back at home and has daily Carer's coming in every morning and evening to assist him with dressing and getting mobile within his home. He is not able to hear that well so phoning can be difficult according to Barbara, but she says he still has a sense of humour and he does try to cope with the phone.

I asked her about some friends had asked me if I could let them know how to make contact, and Barbara has agreed that I can pass her phone number to old aviation friends so they can speak to her and possibly put them into direct contact with David. So, if you do want to make contact with your old friend, please email me at [john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk](mailto:john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk) with brief details of your background involvement with David back in those old times, and I will check with her if I can give you her phone number – then if she is OK for that, I will contact you again and give you the number to call....

I hope this helps his old friends to make contact with him....

## **BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT**

As I've said earlier, I have been away for almost all of September, so not a vast amount I can add this month.

But I have seen entries in LinkedIn describing this month's Air Charter Expo - ACE25 hosted by Biggin Hill Airport for the Air Charter Association back on 10<sup>th</sup> September, which I'm sure many of you were aware of and possibly also attended..

Robert Walters, Biggin Hill Airport's commercial director, was quoted in the Air Charter Association's website: "The Air Charter Expo has been another phenomenal success bringing the global business aviation charter sector together in the UK. With a wide range of international exhibitors, an impressive static aircraft display and valuable conference sessions, this record-breaking event once again showcased the best the industry has to offer. London Biggin Hill Airport is proud to be the home of ACE and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for ACE 2025 on 9th September."

While I was away, I did receive comments from some airport GA users that, yet again there were some issues preventing light aircraft PPR being issued (not sure when, but probably when the above ACE25 was on I guess), which is almost certainly genuinely the result of significant exhibition traffic movements. But I would hope that the airport does take into account the need for light aircraft based operators and owners to continue to have access (albeit with some limited and inevitable traffic issues) to enable them to at least depart and arrive with minimal restrictions even when there is an exhibition or other function going on there.

## **THE LIGHT AVIATION STEERING GROUP**

As many of you have said to me and my colleague, John High, that you want to have some involvement in the light aircraft steering group so you can discuss things that may concern you or

things that you have heard about but not able to discuss and express your views about. It is, of course, very useful to hear about plans that could maybe affect you as aircraft private owners.

So, as also mentioned below in the section provided by the airport CEO, David Winstanley, we do believe it would be a good policy for light aircraft owners to attend the Steering Group that is every other month. In fact, people who attend regularly do receive notification of the date and time of each meeting so that people do not miss out on the opportunity to know airport's plans and have the ability to question the plans or discuss them with the relevant airport personnel.

BUT, unless you let the Group Administrator that you would like to be added to the members list, you will not know when the meetings are being held!

So, my suggestion is, if you are a private aircraft owner, or an instructor or examiner based at the airport, please message Kathryn Scott by email at [kathryn.scott@bigginhillairport.com](mailto:kathryn.scott@bigginhillairport.com) and request that your name, and function at Biggin, and your email address, is added to the member list for the Light Aviation Steering Group, so that you are notified of the dates of the meetings and are able to then notify her if you intend to attend once notified of the date of the next meeting.

Just for your information, the next meeting is on Tuesday 8 October at 1.30pm. So, if you want to attend, contact Kathryn Scott so she can add you to the potential list to keep you informed. But I do understand that not everyone can actually attend every meeting, but your potential involvement in that meeting will obviously depend on the actual main subject matter for discussion.

## **OCTOBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

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

£1:67.2 per litre for 100LL Avgas if from the Fuel Bowser (*BP updated October price on 1/10/24*) (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)

£0:78.5 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1:02 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 all

So, a turbulent September but we have had some great accomplishments by our members! From skills test passes to first solos, it's been business as usual.

Our Seneca V has been getting some previous multi rated pilots back in the air again but for those who have never tried twin engine flying our dual rate starts at £560 Inc making it the cheapest aircraft in its category in the country.

The hangar team at Falcon have been working hard as the summer season draws to a close but one last project sees them working on our-soon-to-be on the fleet complex aircraft.

So, for all your maintenance, PPL, IR, Multi or CPL ratings, you can always trust your Falcon Family.

Till the next time.

Fly safe, have fun, don't over fly Keston NSA unless you've been sequenced by ATC, or it is for safety!!!

Best Regards  
Anoop

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

September rains have left us in no doubt that Autumn has arrived and preparations have already started to ensure the Airport is ready for winter operations! Despite the rain, September saw the Airport build on what has been a successful first half of the year, with movements following the same positive trend set in the previous 7 months. Notwithstanding the continuing and growing global instability, aviation appears to be riding out the storm and the sector continues to demonstrate its resilience.

The Airport continues its development programme to improve existing infrastructure and improve its service offering to customers. Having installed the new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system, which will eventually 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 already on site. The Airport continues to work with a key tenant to progress the Aviation College on site and deliver engineering accommodation.

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.

Towards the end of this year and early next, the Airports intends to progress the 2nd phase of its Air Quality Monitoring initiative. The new monitors, which we installed earlier this year will 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 ARNAF to see how the Airport might report on Air Quality in the future.

Again, I would also like to encourage private owners to attend the Light Aviation Steering Group, which was established over 3 years ago to ensure the private pilots had a voice and could 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 of the new 03 instrument approach will take place in the fourth quarter of this year. The Airport is already preparing for simulation and procedure validation flights.

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

QUOTE.....

An elderly couple returns to a Mercedes dealership where the salesman has just sold the car they were interested in to a stunning, tall, and busty blonde.

"I thought you said you'd hold that car until we raised the \$75,000 asking price," said the man. "Yet I just heard you closed the deal for \$65,000 with that lovely young lady there. You insisted there could be no discount on this model."

"Well, what can I say? She had the cash ready, and just look at her, how could I resist?" replied the grinning salesman.

Just then, the young woman approached the elderly couple and handed them the keys.

"There you go," she said. "I told you I'd get the jerk to lower the price. See you later, grandpa."

Never underestimate the elderly! 😊

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A guy goes into a fancy Seafood restaurant and asks to see the 'live dishes' of the day ..

The Waiter leads him over to a large tank , and the man examines the fish ..

"I'll have the little green squid - the one in the corner with the hairy lip , please" , says the man ..

"O.K." replies the Waiter and calls out "Gervais!!"

A little French chef appears with a large knife, the Waiter instructs the chef to kill the little green squid with the hairy lip..

Gervais is just about to slice at the poor squid when he notices the sad look on its face ..

Gervais is touched, and admits that he hasn't the heart to kill the squid ..

"Not to worry", says the Waiter , and calls out "Hans!!", at which an enormous German bloke comes out of the kitchen ..

"Sir", says the Waiter, "this is Hans, our dishwasher .. Hans, kill that squid ...!"

The dishwasher catches the squid , and wielding a huge rolling pin is just about to bludgeon the little green fella with the hairy lip, when it cringes back and gives a little cry..

"I am sorry sir, I just cannot kill the squid .." Hans admits, his lower lip trembling ..

"Well sir," says the Waiter , "it just goes to show ..

{wait for it .....}

That Hans that do dishes, can be soft as Gervais, with mild green hairy lip squid....."

Come on Peeps admit it you sang the last bit....

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An Irish man walks into a pub.

"What'll you have?" the bartender asks.

"Give me three pints of Guinness, please," says the man.

The bartender brings him three pints, and the man proceeds to sip them alternately - the first one, the next one, and then the third one, until they're all gone. He then orders three more.

"Sir," says the bartender, "I know you like them cold. You don't have to order three at a time. I can keep an eye on you, and when you get low, I'll bring you a fresh cold one."

"You don't understand," the man says. "I have two brothers, one in Australia and one in the States. We made a vow to each other that every Saturday night we'd still drink together. So right now, my brothers have three Guinness Stouts too, and we're drinking together."

"What a wonderful tradition," the bartender says, smiling.

Every week after that, the man comes into the bar and orders three beers. But one week, he orders only two. He drinks them and orders two more.

"I know what your tradition is," says the bartender sadly, "and I'd just like to say that I'm sorry that one of your brothers died."

"Oh, me brothers are fine," says the man. "I just quit drinking."  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I was at my bank today waiting in a short line. There was just one lady in front of me, an Asian lady, who was trying to exchange yen for dollars. It was obvious she was a little irritated.

She asked the teller, "Why it change? Yesterday, I get two hunat dolla of yen. Today I only get hunat eighty? Why it change?"

The teller shrugged his shoulders and said, "Fluctuations."

The Asian lady says, "Fluc you white people too!"  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband.

Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen.

'Careful,' he said, 'Careful! Put in some more butter! Oh my gosh! You're cooking too many at once. Tooo Many!'

'Turn them! Turn them now! We need more butter'.

'Oh my gosh! Where are we going to get More Butter?'

'They're going to stick! Careful, Careful! I said be Careful! You never listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you Crazy?'

'Have you lost your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the! Salt. Use the salt! I said use the salt!'

The wife stared at him. 'What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?'

The husband calmly replied, 'I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving'.  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek.

Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred.

Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Playing a game," the boy replied.

"What is your name?" the officer questioned.

"Mind Your Own Business."

Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!"

The boy replied, "Why, yes".

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Four worms and a lesson to be learned! A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup..

The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol . . . . . Dead .

The second worm in cigarette smoke . . . Dead .

The third worm in chocolate syrup . . . . Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil . . . Alive!!!

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration?"

Maxine was sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said . . . "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A little girl and boy are fighting about the differences between the sexes, and which one is better.

Finally, the boy drops his pants and says, "Here's something I have that you'll never have!"

The little girl is pretty upset by this, since it is clearly true, and runs home crying.

A while later, she comes running back with a smile on her face. She drops her pants and says, "My mommy says that with one of these, I can have as many of those as I want!"

.....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"...) )