

Hi everyone

Welcome to the April 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 most of you will have seen in the posting on the BigginHillReunited Facebook group, of which many of you are members, I decided I needed to delay this month's Newsletter until 2<sup>nd</sup> April. This was due to the fact that, as we all realised, the last day of March actually was on Easter Sunday. For that reason, it was simply not possible to get things like the April fuel prices until everyone returned to work after the Easter Bank Holiday, and also difficult during such a holiday period to get any further information that I could include in this Newsletter.

It was also difficult for me as I was away in Portugal for around half of the month of March, which didn't help – so sorry folks.... Here it is now.....

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!)*

### **MARCH WEATHER**

Well, I realise that Spring is meant to be with us now, and of course the clocks have changed to British Summer Time so our available daylight flying time is increased, even though our flying times are normally recorded in the Summer in GMT / UTC times and not in BST / Local time...

As I was away for much of March, I can only comment on what I've heard from many of you. It sounds as if the weather has not been that brilliant during this last calendar month, but clearly there were some days, in between adverse weather days, that were fine and allowed users to try to keep in current flying practice ready for hopefully the Summer months that are now imminent.

### **BIGGIN HILL REUNITED FACEBOOK GROUP**

For all the Biggin Hill Reunited Database Members, who receive this monthly Newsletter, and who also have Facebook accounts, please feel free to join our Facebook Group, which is called "Biggin Hill Reunited" (which currently has 447 members!).

Whilst you are logged into your own Facebook account, you can do a group search for us and apply to join it. Once the application is made, I will receive an email request to accept the membership, which I will of course do for any Database members...

Once you are a group member, you can then feel free to make aviation postings that can be viewed by all the other group members – mainly just aviation related postings though please...

### **UK PASSPORT VALIDITY WHEN GOING TO THE EU**

For those who haven't seen the major issues being experienced by UK residents who are going to EU countries for holidays etc. Lots of folks are not being carried because of the EU's version of the rules regarding Passport validity.

The EU only accept the Passport validity to be a maximum of 10 years from the indicated issue date and that they need to have at least 3 months available still from the date when they are scheduled to return to the UK from the EU.

The problem is that, when applying for a Passport renewal prior to the expiry date, which many of us do to avoid running out, the UK authorities will usually issue the new Passport with 10 years from the actual application date but show the issue date of the new Passport as the original expiry date.

For example:

My personal original Passport expiry date was July 2016 but, in November 2015 (ie. early) I applied for a Passport renewal.

The New Passport showed the date of issue as November 2015 but the expiry date to be 10 years from the date of the old one's expiry date (ie. to July 2026) which is about 10 years and 8 months validity.

But, under EU law, they only accept 10 years validity from the issue date – in my case then the EU only accepts the Passport as valid up until November 2025 (Not the Passport expiry date shown, which is showing as July 2026!)

So, in this example, allowing the three months before expiry as far as the EU are concerned, the latest I should be returning to the UK from the EU would be August 2025 (ie. three months before the EU's own version of the Passport expiry date) otherwise I would be refused entry into the EU even though it actually looks like the Passport is current until July 2026!

So – to be safe – look at the Passport “issue date” and add 10 years to that – that equals the final expiry as far as the EU is concerned! Then take 3 months off that EU's assessment of the expiry, and that is the latest you should plan to depart from the EU to return to the UK.....

Not easy I know, but currently there are literally many hundreds of people every month who are having their holiday departures refused if the EU would not accept the expiry date in the actual Passport!!!!

Sorry to make it look so very complicated, but I hope it helps you to check yours and your family member's EU version of the expiry dates.....

## **THE AIRPORT DURING MARCH**

Whilst the airport itself has been quite active and the much-improved facilities that have been carried out in recent times have enabled the Corporate traffic to increase significantly.

The airport has had significantly good corporate jet aircraft movement numbers, whilst still enabling General Aviation Training and flying to continue and fit in with that traffic. When speaking to light aircraft pilots who operate from elsewhere, it seems that some are not at all happy operating into and out of an airport that many treat as if it is a Heathrow style place. Having said that, I personally believe that those who learn to fly here or simply rent club touring aircraft regularly are not generally put off by the traffic types and numbers using the airport and airspace here.

Just a brief reminder again 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 instead of the old security code operated locks that have all now virtually disappeared.

As previously advised in recent Newsletters, 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 all 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...

### **APRIL BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

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

£1:86.2 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)

£0:90.2 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1.12.8 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**

Happy Easter Bank Holiday folks!

Well we've finally had some good weather for some flying, admittedly some of the days we rather blustery nonetheless we preserved where possible!

The Night Rating season draws to a close and we've had a bumper cohort of pilots completing their training.

IRR Ratings are the pick for the day at the moment, with many pilots opting to further their experience and get some fantastic readiness under their belts.

Our ab-initio students continue to push forward through the seasonality we face here, but apparently "spring has sprung" so fingers crossed for some clear and consistent days.

The hangar is busy with a multitude of different types, so make sure you book in early and speak with Singh, Shonu and Ashley.

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

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

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

As the financial year draws to a close, the Airport has enjoyed a relatively strong last quarter and movement figures for the month compare well against the previous year. Overall, the traffic mix throughout the year has mirrored previous years, showing an increase in business aviation and a slowing reduction in GA traffic.

It would be easy to forget that the Airport's positive performance is against a backdrop of global instability with the conflicts in both Ukraine and Israel having an impact on our industry. Although interest rates have stabilised, many of us are still feeling the impacts of rising costs, standard of living challenges and an uncertain economic outlook. Despite this backdrop and whilst the Airport is still awaiting the CFMU data, we expect our market share of the London market to have stabilised around 22%.

Given the challenging economic environment, the Airport has recently published its annual review of fees and charges, which reflect the challenges of running a variable income, fixed cost business. Additionally, the Airport continues to invest significantly in improved facilities and infrastructure.

Overly the next 12 months the Airport will look to continue its development programme to improve existing infrastructure and improve its service offering to customers. Progress continues towards the introduction of an Aviation Technology College and the provision of onsite engineering accommodation. Additionally, the Airport is looking to upgrade several hangars for existing and new tenants together with the roll out of 24-hour automated METAR reporting.

As previously mentioned, 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 is delighted to confirm that it has now submitted the full trial documentation for the 03 RNAV approach. The trial plan contains the revised IFP design together with trial objectives. It is hoped that, subject to CAA approval, that the trial could commence in September of this year.

The Airport continues to work hard to roll out the 2nd 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.

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 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.....

Sarah goes to school, and the teacher says, "Today we are going to learn multi-syllable words, class. Does anybody have an example of a multi-syllable word?"

Sarah waves her hand, "Me, Miss Rogers, me, me!"

Miss Rogers says, "All right, Sarah, what is your multi-syllable word?"

Sarah says, "Mas-tur-bate."

Miss Rogers smiles and says, "Wow, Sarah, that's a mouthful."

Sarah says, "No, Miss Rogers, you're thinking of a blowjob."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Josey wasn't the best pupil at Sunday school. She often fell asleep.

One day while she was sleeping, the teacher asked her a question. "Who is the creator of the universe?"

Joe was sitting next to Josey and decided to poke her with a pin to wake her up.

Josey jumped and yelled, "God almighty!"

The teacher congratulated her.

A little later the teacher asked her another question, "Tell me who is our lord and saviour?"

Joe poked Josey again and she yelled out, "Jesus Christ!"

The teacher congratulated her again.

Later on the teacher asked, "What did Eve say to Adam after their 26th child?"

Joe poked Josey again and she shouted, "If you stick that thing in me again, I'll snap it in half and stick it up your ass!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Instead of "the John," I call my toilet "the Jim." That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning.

What does an air conditioner have in common with a computer? They both lose efficiency as soon as you open windows.

Does anyone remember the Swatch, a watch made in Switzerland? Thank God Croatia didn't come up with the idea first.

Just imagine if someone were to ask you what time is it? "Oh pardon me while I look at my crotch."

Scientists have proven that there are two things in the air that have been known to cause women to get pregnant: their legs.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A family is at the dinner table.

The son asks the father, "Dad, how many kinds of boobs are there?"

The father, surprised, answers, "Well, son, a woman goes through three phases. In her 20s, a woman's breasts are like melons, round and firm. In her 30s and 40s, they are like pears, still nice, hanging a bit. After 50, they are like onions."

"Onions?" the son asks.

"Yes. You see them and they make you cry."

This infuriated his wife and daughter.

The daughter asks, "Mom, how many different kinds of willies are there?"

The mother smiles and says, "Well, dear, a man goes through three phases also. In his 20s, his willy is like an oak tree, mighty and hard. In his 30s and 40s, it's like a birch, flexible but reliable. After his 50s, it's like a Christmas tree."

"A Christmas tree?" the daughter asks.

"Yes, dead from the root up and the balls are just for decoration."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An atheist was seated next to a dusty old cowboy on an airplane and he turned to him and said "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger"

The old cowboy, who had just started to read his book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no heaven or hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

"Okay," he said, "Those could be interesting topics, but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer, all eat the same stuff – grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you think that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the old cowboy's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the cowboy replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven, and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know shit?".....  
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A brunette goes into a doctor's office and says that her body hurts wherever she touches it.

"Impossible," says the doctor. "Show me."

She takes her finger, presses on her elbow, and screams in agony. She pushes her knee and screams, pushes her ankle and screams, and so it goes on; everywhere she touches makes her scream with pain.

The doctor says, "You're not really a brunette are you?"

She says, "No, I dyed my hair. I'm naturally blonde."

"I thought so," he says. "Your finger is broken."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Jaques was born in England of French Parents who worked in England. So, when war broke out, he wanted to join the French army made up of escaped French men from France. These men were invited to meet De Gaulle in his office in England.

De Gaulle came into the office, intrigued by these men and ask one single question to the first men of the line. "So, soldiers how did you get here"

The first man promptly tells a full story on how he was in the Vichy Air Force and decided to steal a fighter plane and nearly crashed in Gibraltar so he could join his movement.

De Gaulle shook his hand and ask the other man who was just beside him and ask the same question. "And you soldier how did you get here?"

The 2nd man said another story, on how he jumped from a train transporting him to a POW camp and how he crossed the Franco-Spanish border without being caught by the Spanish.

De Gaulle, astonished by all those stories finally met the last one, who was Jacques Remmigler and De Gaulle promptly ask his question. "And you soldier, how did you get here?"

Jacques rumbles for a second and mutters a phrase that is almost unheard due to the stammering.

"Well sir... I took the bus to get here.."  
.....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"...) )