

Hi everyone

Welcome to the August 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!)

JULY WEATHER

Well, after a seriously unpleasant period of weather pretty much from the Autumn last year, at long last it does seem that the month of July was much better and more flyable.

Although it almost seems unlikely, given what it's been like before, let us hope that we may have a few months that are significantly more flyable, so that private owners, and flying clubs and schools will be able to fly more regularly to enable everyone to keep in current flying practice and, in the case of flying clubs, for them to earn sufficient funds to cover the ongoing period through the Winter months until we return to the Spring next year.

Let's all keep our fingers crossed that the flyable weather will remain with us for a while now to ensure good training and touring continues...

OUR OLD BIGGIN HILL'ITE, DAVID PORTER

Most of you will recall that, just before Christmas in 2022, to be precise on 20th December, our old friend and Biggin Hill'ite, David Porter, sadly passed away. He had reached age 90 back in March of that same year.

Many of the very senior Biggin Hill'ites from back in the 60's and 70's will remember David's club that was called Flairavia, that was very active and popular for both flying and for his very regular social nights...!

David's daughter, Elizabeth, has notified me that they will be holding a small, informal memorial service for her father at St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, at the RAF side of Biggin Hill Airport on Monday 5th August 2024 at 2.30pm. The service will not actually be inside the Chapel but will be outside in the Garden of Remembrance alongside the Chapel.

As she said, if you are an "early Biggin Hill'ite", and one who probably remembers David Porter back then as the founder and owner of Flairavia Flying Club, we would all be pleased to see you at this memorial.

David lived latterly in the North-East, where his funeral service was held, but a memorial service at Biggin Hill seems appropriate and fitting, given his long association with the airfield. He initially served in the Royal Air Force, based at Biggin Hill, before moving across to the civil side.

You may have learnt to fly at Flairavia, and/or been a member of the "social" club and bar, or joined everyone at the annual Flairavia Dinner Dances, or just simply knew David.

Please join the friends and family if you'd like to and can remember David and those 'good old days'.

In order that we can let the Chapel and Elizabeth know who and how many are going to join us, please email me at john@bigginhillreunited.co.uk and let me know if you intend to join us to say our goodbyes to our old friend.

MPFC AND SHIPPING AND AIRLINES SUMMER BBQ

On Saturday 27th July the MPFC club members, and owners, clients, and friends of Peter Greenyer's Shipping and Airline's Hangar and facilities, had another Summer BBQ.

As happens each year, this gathering was excellent, and the BBQ food was wonderful with some great beers and drinks to encourage such a good session with all the friends who attended. Thank you, Peter and Jeff, and of course other staff and members who helped, for all their efforts to make it a great afternoon out as is usual....

AUGUST BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

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

£1:81.9 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)

£0:87.6 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1:11.1 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).

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT – A SERIOUS AIRPORT FOR BOTH CORPORATE AND GA OPS

I know that not everyone is overly happy with the way Biggin Hill Airport has changed from the early days when many of us started there.

But sometimes I think it is important to remind us all that, without Andrew Walter's take over back many years ago (when the airport's closure was actually potentially only weeks away!) and his subsequent development, it is almost certain that the airport would have been closed and become another huge housing estate (probably rather like New Addington).

Whilst of course it will never return to like it was when many of us started our flying back in the 1960's, when everyone was moved here from Croydon Airport, that basis of operation would almost certainly have ensured the airport simply wouldn't have survived....

I do accept that, with the development of a significant "Corporate" airport's position for the London area, it may have caused light aircraft operations here to inevitably change – BUT – at least it is still an airport, and still available for general aviation and particularly light aircraft operations, all be it with some operational limitations, rather than us all having to relocate elsewhere.

As I'm sure I have said personally before, I am very proud of what Andrew Walter has achieved for our airport, as without the changes I'm pretty certain we would no longer be here....

Thank you Andrew and your team for what you have achieved for what was of course previously "The Strongest Link" during the Battle of Britain.....

AIRCRAFT PARKING FEES.....

I have recently been told by some aircraft owners/operators that parking rates have increased substantially, which seems strange as I know the rates haven't changed since the normal annual review back in April this year.

If you have any concerns, can I suggest that you simply contact the airport directly to ask for their guidance on any invoiced charges that you have received. The best means of contact to seek this guidance is to use the contact details that are contained within your actual invoices.

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO's OFFICE

July saw the Airport build on what has been a successful first half of the year, with July movements following the same promising trend in May and June. The overall movements were positively affected by both Wimbledon and the Farnborough airshow, the latter of which resulted in Biggin benefitting from some displaced operators. Where the Airport knows it will have increased activity, it will coordinate with base owners and operators to minimise any distribution.

The pressures on the aviation industry as a whole remain and were further compounded in July with the IT failure that left thousands of passengers stranded at Airports across the UK. Fortunately, Biggin Hill was unaffected. The Business Aviation sector continues to see solid growth and the London market figures show the Airport's share marginally increased to around 22%, with Luton dropping to just under 27% and Farnborough stabilising at just under 28%.

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 now awaiting an opportunity to complete operational calibration. Work also continues to plan for the runway resurfacing and introduction of centre line lighting in 2025. The Airport will soon start to construct the batching plant that will supply the raw materials for the resurfacing project. The Airport continues to work with a key tenant to progress the Aviation College on site and deliver engineering accommodation.

With the new government in place, the Airport is re-establishing its engagement and emphasizing the important role Business Aviation plays in supporting the UK economy and the role Airports play as a catalyst for inward investment, economic growth and job creation. The Airport site generates a GVA (gross value added) of £200 million to the UK economy and, importantly, £143m (70%) of this is captured within the London Borough of Bromley. Furthermore, the Airport is delighted to see it has been identified as a key area for economic growth in the draft Bromley Growth plan 2024 to 2027.

The continues to work alongside 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 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 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 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

(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 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

QUOTE.....

A guy goes to the supermarket one day. He's doing his shopping when he notices an attractive young woman waving at him.

She comes over and says hi to him.

He's taken aback because he can't think where he knows her from. So he asks her, "Do you know me?"

She replies, "Yes, I think you're the father of one of my kids."

The guy's mind is whirring now and it travels back to the only time he's ever been unfaithful to his wife.

He asks the woman, "Are you the stripper from the bachelor party that I made love to on the pool table with all my buddies watching while your partner whipped my butt with wet celery???"

She looks into his eyes and calmly replies, "No, I'm your son's teacher."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A man died one day and went to heaven. As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him.

He asked, "What are all those clocks?"

St. Peter replied, "Those are lie clocks. Everyone on earth has a lie-clock. Every time you lie the hands on the clock will move."

"Oh," said the man as he pointed at one of them, "Whose clock is that?"

St. Peter replied, "That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"That's incredible, " said the man.

St. Peter pointed to another clock, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe only told two lies in his entire life."

The man was impressed, and then asked, "Where's Donald Trump's clock?"

St. Peter said, "His clock is in Jesus' office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A few quickies..

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.

What does the receptionist at a sperm bank say as clients leave?

"Thanks for coming!"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A mother is in the kitchen making dinner for her family when her daughter walks in.

"Mother, where do babies come from?"

The mother thinks for a few seconds and says, "Well dear, Mommy and Daddy fall in love and get married. One night they go into their bedroom, they kiss and hug, and have sex."

The daughter looks puzzled so the mother continues, "That means the daddy puts his penis in the mommy's vagina. That's how you get a baby, honey."

The child seems to comprehend. "Oh, I see, but the other night when I came into your room you had daddy's penis in your mouth. What do you get when you do that?"

"Jewelry, my dear. Jewelry."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place.

Looking up to heaven he said, "lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey."

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, "never mind, I found one."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
"Why did you marry me?"

"Your sense of humour."

"I thought it was because I'm good in bed."

"See what I mean? You're hilarious!"
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
I was mugged by a thief last night on my way home.

Pointing a knife at me.... He asked me "your money or your life!"

I told him I am married.... so I have no money and no life....

We hugged and cried together.

It was a beautiful moment....
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....
The Lone Ranger and Tonto walked into a saloon and sat down to drink a Beer.

After a few minutes, a big tall cowboy walked in and said 'Who Owns the big white horse outside?'

The Lone Ranger stood up, hitched his gun belt, and said, 'I do; Why?'

The cowboy looked at the Lone Ranger and said, 'I just thought you'd like to know that your horse is about dead outside!'

The Lone Ranger and Tonto rushed outside and sure enough Silver was ready to die from heat exhaustion. The Lone Ranger got the horse water, and soon Silver was starting to feel a little better.

The Lone Ranger turned to Tonto and said, 'Tonto, I want you to run around Silver and see if you can create enough of a breeze to make him start to feel better.'

Tonto said, 'Sure, Kemosabe' and took off running circles around Silver.

Not able to do anything else but wait, the Lone Ranger returned to the saloon to finish his drink.

A few minutes later, another cowboy struts into the bar and asks, 'Who owns that big white horse outside?'

The Lone Ranger stands again, and responds, 'I do, what's wrong with him this time?'

The cowboy looks him in the eye and says, 'Nothing, but you left your Injun running'.
.....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"...))