

Hi everyone

Welcome to the March 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

(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!)

FEBRUARY WEATHER

Wow, the weather at Biggin during February has been pretty consistent – well, almost continuously rubbish!

The month we've just got to the end of, has not been really good for light aircraft basic flight training. There have been far more days with low cloud, and/or quite poor visibility, and very occasionally even when basically looking OK, there has been quite strong and gusty winds frequently right across the runway. So not the best days for most of us....

From the point of view of Corporate Aircraft operations, it has been just about OK most days, so at least the airport has indeed remained a reasonable airport for that side of aviation, even if sometimes close to limits at times.

So – with us now moving into March, lets hope that the weather will start to seriously improve so that we can all start to get back up to date and, where needed, renew our licences where needed ready for a Spring and Summer return to training and cross country flying again....

It "should" hopefully be better than it has been over the last few months....

R. A. SIMON AMES OBE

Sadly, last month we notified you all of the sad death of Simon Ames, who did so much for the airport for many years. Simon's funeral took place at midday on 20th February 2025 at St Bartholomew's Church, Leigh.

R.I.P. Simon you will be missed by us all....

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT

As we move into the Spring and towards the Summer, there are several improvements being organised for the airport in the next month or so.

The planned new instrument approach for runway 03 is moving forward and it is hoped that the CAA will confirm acceptance for the planned routing and approach procedures to commence shortly for the calibration and testing. It is hoped that it will become formally licenced in a few months. This should help remove some of the ILS approaches on runway 21, when the surface wind is not suitable for a landing on 21, which currently means it is followed by fairly low circling to the north side of the airport often by aircraft (sometimes that

are quite large corporate jets) in order that they can then make an approach and landing on runway 03.

This should hopefully remove the concern that many local residents have, especially those on the north side of the main runway, who are unhappy with the noise of such low flying aircraft on the 21 ILS currently.

In addition, once the instrument approach for runway 03 is licenced and therefore useable, instead of what is currently happening, it will additionally therefore remove quite a few aircraft from coming down the ILS on runway 21 when the wind requires them to land on runway 03.

In addition to the above improvement, Biggin Hill Airport is getting ready to fully resurface runway 21/03 soon. They are planning to carry this out overnight on quite small lengths of the runway, with it then being reopened each day. Then it will be repeated the next night, with that being continued until the whole runway has been resurfaced. In addition, it is intended that the runway will have centreline lighting installed. It is a very major job, but it is very important for Biggin Hill to maintain its suitability as a London based airport for non-scheduled Corporate and Commercial traffic.

The airport is also planning to 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.....

In addition to these major improvements at Biggin Hill by the airport operating company, there is an additional new Hangar being created by Bombardier as a state-of-the-art paint facility. The building will be large and will be constructed in between their own current hangar, and the old Fairflight hangar and the adjacent airport's "hub" building.

So lots of significant improvements at Biggin Hill coming up.....

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.....

I COULD REALLY DO WITH YOUR HELP

As most of you do know, of course, I started this Newsletter in late 1998, and, apart from the first year or so where the Newsletter was only sent when I was trying to pass on information about airport items that would interest airport users, I have since been sending them every month for about 25 years.

As most readers are aware, I have always added a section right at the end of each month's Newsletter which consists of several jokes. The reality is that finding jokes to include each month is quite difficult.

So, a request to you all – please can you try to send me ever month of so, a few jokes that may be able to be used in the Newsletter when I run out of ideas.

Please try to help me complete the final joke section each month..... Thanks so much....

MARCH 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 March 2025 are:

£1:72.6 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)

£0:86.0 per litre for Jet A1

(As you should already be aware, from 1 January 2025, the government has mandated that all JetA1 fuel 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, we will be introducing a SAF levy on JetA1 sales from 1 January 2025. To aid clarity and transparency, we intend for this to be displayed as a separate line on your invoices. Thank you for your understanding.)

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

February has seen a reduction in aircraft movements, primarily down to weather and reduced utilisation. That said, performance throughout this financial year remains very strong. Overall business jet activity into London remains –0.5% compared to the same period in 2024, with North America remaining strong and bucking the overall trend. Notwithstanding the continuing and growing global instability, business aviation appears to be riding out the storm and the sector continues to demonstrate its resilience.

Our continued commitment to improve infrastructure continues and, as previously mentioned in last month's update, 2025 will see the delivery and start of a range of critical developments. The runway resurfacing, including centreline, edge and lead on/off lighting will start in April and the construction of Bombardier's state-of-the-art paint facility has already started. The new Instrument Runway Visual Range (IRVR) system is now in operational and we are looking forward to the introduction of 24-hour automated METAR reporting in March. To keep fully up to date on these projects, please keep an eye on our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

The Airport remains committed to achieving carbon neutral status by 2029 and, as part of this journey, we recently achieved our Carbon Reduction Level 2 Accreditation with the Airport Carbon Accreditation. We have now established our Environmental Oversight Committee, who will contribute towards our wider environmental action and carbon management plans.

As previously mentioned, our on-site training and events centre, The Hub, continues to be utilised by local businesses and organisations. The space offers several rooms that can be tailored to suit any purpose, including meetings, events, team building and training courses. [Take a virtual tour of the facility here.](#)

As many readers will acknowledge, the Airport established the Light Aviation Steering Group to demonstrate its continued support to light general flying at the Airport. Whilst the steering group has at times suffered from a lack of attendance, the principle behind its established has been cemented. That said, the emergence of the Private Pilots Group provides an ideal opportunity for engagement to move to the next level and, moving forward, the Airport will look to consolidate engagement in the most effective way possible.

The Airport is pleased to report 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 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 to: 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

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 (if we finally get some 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

QUOTE.....

Back in the woods, a redneck's wife went into labour in the middle of the night, and the doctor was called out to assist in the delivery.

Since there was no electricity, the doctor handed the father-to-be a lantern and said, "Here, you hold this high so I can see what I'm doing."

Soon a baby boy was brought into the world.

"Whoa there," said the doctor. "Don't be in a rush to put the lantern down..... I think there's yet another one to come."

Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered a baby girl.

"No, no, don't be in a great hurry to be putting down that lantern.... It seems there's yet another one in there!" cried the doctor.

The redneck scratched his head in bewilderment, and asked the doctor, "Do you think it's the light that's attractin' 'em?"

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blond man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts, "Did you find the shampoo?"

He answers, "Yes but I'm not sure what to do.... It's for dry hair and I just wet mine."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blond man spots a letter on his doormat. It says on the envelope., "DO NOT BEND."

He spends the next two hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.....

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I just took a leaflet out of my mailbox, informing me that I can have sex at 73.

I'm so happy, because I live at number 71. So it's not too far to walk home afterwards, and it's the same side of the street, so I don't even have to cross the road!

.....UNQUOTE

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.....

A man joins a soccer team and his new teammates inform him, "At your first team dinner as the new guy, you will have to give us a talk about sex."

The evening arrives and he gives a detailed, humorous account of his sex life. When he got home, his wife asked how the evening went and not wanting to lie, but also not wanting to explain exactly what happened, he said, "Oh, I had to make a talk about yachting,"

His wife thought this a little peculiar but said nothing more and went to sleep. The next day she bumped into one of his new teammates at the supermarket and asked, "I heard my husband had to make a speech last night. How did it go?"

His mate said smiling, 'Oh, it was excellent! Your husband is clearly very experienced!."

The wife looked confused and replied to his mate, "Strange, he has only done it twice and the second time he was sick."

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Why did I get divorced?

Well, last week was my birthday. My wife didn't wish me a happy birthday. My parents forgot and so did my kids.

I went to work and even my colleagues didn't wish me a happy birthday.

As I entered my office, my secretary said, "Happy birthday, boss!" I felt so special.

She asked me out for lunch. After lunch, she invited me to her apartment. We went there and she said, "Do you mind if I go into the bedroom for a minute?"

"Okay," I said.

She came out 5 minutes later with a birthday cake, my wife, my parents, my kids, my friends, & my colleagues all yelling, "SURPRISE!!!" while embarrassingly I was waiting on the sofa... naked!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A blond man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"

"Is this her first child?" asks the doctor.

"No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!"

.....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"...))