

Hi everyone

Welcome to the September 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

It is quite obvious that I have very often simply struggled to think of what to write each of these 288 email Newsletter issues up until the August 24 issue last month. I went back to check the number of issues I have sent you all, starting in 1998, all of which are of course viewable online. It actually quite shocked me to see the number of them that I have actually managed to produce!

I hope you all enjoy receiving and reading the issues (and especially the jokes at the end!) and like what I have managed to actually write about. (Of course, for many years, our old friend John Bryan known to us all as JB, also produced the monthly "Biggin Hill Airport Bugle", from January 2005 to March 2018). Sadly, JB passed away on 29th August 2022.

AUGUST WEATHER

Great – the month of August has had a significant amount of flyable weather at last, albeit with some not so pleasant days occasionally.

So, a good month for the flying clubs and light aircraft private owners too...

Hopefully we will still have a good month's flyable weather through September so everyone can catch up on their flying skills before the winter remember starts again, hopefully towards the end of October at the earliest...

THE BURIAL OF OLD BIGGIN HILL'ITE, DAVID PORTER'S ASHES

As most of you will remember, we organised a private family memorial service and burial of the ashes of our old friend David Porter, who formed and ran the quite famous Flairavia Flying Club back in the 60's and 70's. David, who in recent times lived up in Northeast England for many years, sadly passed away on 20th December 2022 at age 90.

The service we organised for the 5th August (as publicised in the last Newsletter) was attended by David's children, Elizabeth, Kim, and Charles, plus myself and a few more old friends of David from those early years.... The actual service was carried out by the Chapel's Reverend Alison Newman, who is also the Vicar for the St Mark's Church in the village (often known as the Moving Church of course!)

An excellent way of showing our support of David and saying goodbye to our old friend from all those years ago....

Thank you to all those who joined us for the special service.

DAVID QUIRK

Looking back to the early days of Biggin Hill Airport, many of us oldies will remember well our old friend David Quirk, who was a flying instructor with various clubs, in particular Flairavia Flying Club, which was owned by David Porter (see above). He also eventually started and ran his own Training club at Biggin with Paul Shires, which was called QS Aviation.

I was trying from the Monday 19th July to make contact with him, to let him know about the memorial and ashes burial event planned for the 5th August for his old boss. I couldn't establish contact with him or his partner, Barbara, but left a few messages on the phone to try to get a call back. Then, on the Friday just before the Memorial gathering, I got a call from Barbara who told me that on the previous Monday David had suffered a couple of small strokes. On the following day, he was suffering more, so he was admitted to Hospital at the PRU to keep him under check....

Barbara did then say that, although it was not certain, it was probable that he may be allowed home after that weekend, where he would need some care staff to assist.

He is, apparently, fairly good and communicative, but had some leg problems and therefore was finding standing and walking very difficult, meaning he would have to remain on the ground floor at home. He was also suffering from very poor hearing, so would find it difficult to communicate with us all.....,

Good luck David from your very many friends at Biggin

MY PERSONAL HEAD INJURY ANNIVERSARY

As a few people have recently reminded me – 29th August was the five-year anniversary of the date of the head injury I personally had, following a fall in a shower, which apparently seemed, according to my Neurologist, to have been probable to have ended up as fatal. (The TV Chef, Gary Rhodes, had a similar accident and identical head injury that caused him to die within days of my own accident!)

It was, of course, a serious injury, but after two years of regular neurological brain scans, and lots of medical assessments, I was luckily allowed to obtain my aviation medical back and return to instructing.

So this year's five year anniversary was a most amazing event for me, and of course my family and friends.. Thanks everyone for your support....

THE BIGGIN HILL "BUGLE" FROM "JB"

For a bit of entertainment, after several people have been asking for me to write about me personally, which I didn't like the idea of. Instead, I've compromised a bit by pointing out what John Bryan, known always as JB of course, used to write the monthly "Biggin Hill Airport – BUGLE" Newsletter, before he sadly passed away a couple of years ago. These frequently included a personal story about Biggin Hill Airport regular user's airport history.

So, to satisfy the various requests, the link below is for JB's April 2009 issue of the BUGLE – and in this, from the third page was JB's personally written version of the background about "me".....!!

<http://www.johnwillis.co.uk/theclub/april2009.pdf>

SEPTEMBER BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES

The “posted” Biggin Hill Airport fuel prices, excluding VAT, for the calendar month of September 2024 are:

£1:77.0 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)

£0:83.4 per litre for Jet A1 (Sustainable Aviation Fuel £1:06.9 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

As discussed in last month's issue of the Newsletter, Biggin Hill Airport is becoming a seriously busy Corporate Airport close to London, with both small exec jets as regular visitors, but nowadays also quite a steady flow of some of the largest Corporate Jets operating here to and from the USA, Canada, and the Middle and Far East.

It may upset some Biggin Hill'ite oldies, who obviously remember when the airport really only had loads of light aircraft flying, as a result of Croydon Airport closing back in the late 50's.

Some are not overly happy with the relatively obvious ATC restrictions that occasionally apply when the corporate jet traffic is very heavy, but it should be realised that, if it was not for the major Corporate traffic increases, it is almost certain that we would have lost the airport altogether and have all the land becoming a massive housing estate instead!

I know that some BigginHill'ites would prefer it to just be a GA airport for light aircraft, but that simply would never be the case! At least it is still an airport that we are still able to fly from, even though there can be some restrictions from time to time.....

FALCON / EFG

Hi folks - As the summer nears an end, we look back and take great pride in so many huge accomplishments by all our members and students. From first solos, to QXCs, and skill test passes, we've had them all.

Congrats to Mark Williams on becoming a Flight Examiner for the PPL and IRR. A great addition to long time veterans (pun intended) Roger Patterson and Paul T.

The hangar has been flat out with all manner of maintenance and repair. G-CDEF has been fitted with a new interior, which the guys and girls have done brilliantly, thank you.

As part of our commitment to being safe and productive members of the flying fraternity, Falcon Group has been focusing on re-informing all our members and customers on local NSAs. This month has been Keston, if you haven't received our circular, please email ops@flyefg.co.uk and we'll send it on. Dates for the diary is 2nd November for Pilot Careers Live. Drop in and say hi to your Falcon Family!

Till the next time

Best Regards
Anoop

MONTHLY NEWS FROM THE CEO'S OFFICE

August 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 6 months. This mirrors positive trends across Europe providing evidence of the resilience of business aviation notwithstanding the continuing global instability. That said, the summer of major sporting events has played a significant part in ensuring business aviation has enjoyed a bumper summer period.

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.

The Airport continues to focus on engagement with local residents through the Airport Residents Noise Action Forum (ARNAF), established over 10 months to facilitate direct engagement with Resident Associations. The next ARNAF meeting is scheduled for 18th September. A case study focused on Keston, following a similar format to the one undertaken for Tatsfield, is beginning to gain traction and I would ask the community to continue its excellent support in flying in accordance with the NAP.

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.

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.....

While in Spain sipping his tequila a guy noticed a sizzling, scrumptious looking platter, being served at the next table. It looked good. It smelled good.

He asked the waiter, "What's that you just served?"

The waiter replied, "Ah senor, you have excellent taste! Those are bull's testicles from the bullfight this morning. A delicacy!"

The visitor, though momentarily daunted, said, "What the heck, I'm on holiday down here! Bring me an order!"

The waiter replied, "I am so sorry senor. There is only one serving per day because there is only one bull fight each morning. If you come early tomorrow and place your order, we will be sure to save you this delicacy!"

The next morning, the man returned, placed his order, and then that evening was served the one and only special delicacy of the day.

After a few bites, and inspecting the contents of his platter, he called to the waiter and said, "these are delicious, but they are much, much smaller than the ones I saw you serve yesterday!"

The waiter shrugged his shoulders and replied, "Si, Senor. Sometimes the bull he wins."
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

10 Irish Jokes, from Limerick!

A Bloke at a horse race whispers to Paddy next to him 'Do you want the winner of the next race?'
Paddy replies 'No tanks. I've only got a small garden.'

Paddy and Mick found 3 hand grenades, and decided to take them to the police station. Mick: 'What if one explodes before we get there?' Paddy: 'We'll lie, and say we only found two!'

A Coach load of paddies on a mystery tour decided to run a sweepstake to guess where they were going. The driver won £52!

Paddy's racing snail is not winning races anymore, so he decided to take its shell off to reduce its weight and make him more aerodynamic. It didn't work! If anything, it just made him more sluggish.

Paddy finds a sandwich with two wires sticking out of it. He phones the police, and says 'Bejasas! I've just found a sandwich dat looks like a bomb.' The operator asks, 'is it tickin?' Paddy says 'No. I tink it's beef'.

Joe Says to Paddy: 'Close your curtains the next time you're making love to your wife. The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday.' Paddy says: 'Well the joke's on them, stupid, because I wasn't even at home yesterday!'

Mick walks into Paddy's barn and catches him dancing naked in front of a tractor. Mick says, 'Oh, no, Paddy! What ya doing?' Paddy says, 'Well me and Mary haven't been getting on too well in the bedroom lately, & the therapist recommended I do something sexy to a tractor.'

The Irish have solved their own fuel problems. They imported 50 million tons of sand from the Arabs, and they're going to drill for their own oil.

Paddy Says to Mick; 'I'm ready for a holiday, only this year I'm going to do it a bit different. Three years ago I went to Spain and Mary got pregnant. Two years ago I went to Italy and Mary got pregnant. Last year I went to Majorca and Mary got pregnant.' Mick asks, 'So what are you going to do this year?' Paddy replies 'I'll probably take her with me!'

Paddy Says to Mick, 'Christmas is on a Friday this year'. Mick says, 'Let's hope it's not the 13th.'

Paddy's in the bathroom and Murphy shouts to him. 'Did you find the shampoo?' Paddy says, 'Yes but it's for dry hair and I've just wet mine.'
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

World Cup Jokes

Q: What's the difference between England & a tea bag? A: The tea bag stays in the cup longer.

Q: What do you call an Englishman in the knockout stages of the World Cup? A.: A Referee.

Q: Why was Roy Hodgson speeding? A: To get three points.

Q: Why aren't the England football team allowed to own a dog? A: Cos they can't hold onto a lead

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An aeroplane made an emergency landing on water.

An air hostess asked the passengers to slide down to the life rafts, but the passengers refused.

Seeking guidance from the captain, who was very knowledgeable and experienced he advised: "Tell the Americans this is an ADVENTURE, the British this is an HONOUR, the French this is a ROMANTIC ACTIVITY, the Germans that IT IS THE LAW, and the Japanese THIS IS an order".

The air hostess asked, "What about the Pakistanis?" receiving the reply, "Just whisper that THIS IS A SUICIDE MISSION".

After a pause the air hostess asked, "What about the Singaporeans?", receiving the reply "Tell them nothing, once they see a queue they will join it without any questions".

Remembering there were some Indians on the flight, the air hostess asked the captain what she should say to them.

The captain laughed and advised, "Easy, just tell the Indians that this activity is FREE".
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

The young Catholic couple crashed in a car accident on their way to their wedding. The next moment they are in front of the gates of heaven where they are waiting for Peter.

They ask Peter if they can get married in Heaven.

Peter says, "I don't know, this is the first time someone is asking that. I'm going to figure it out. "

The couple are waiting and waiting. Two months have passed, and the couple is still waiting!

"What's it like being married forever, what if it doesn't work out?" they asked themselves, "are we stuck together forever?"

After 4 months Peter finally returns. "Yes," he says, "you can get married in heaven. "

"That's awesome!" says the couple, "but we were wondering, what if our marriage didn't work? Can we also request for a divorce in heaven?"

Peter gets angry and throws his papers on the floor.

"What's the matter?" " " asks the couple anxiously.

"Come," shouts Peter, "it took me four months to find a priest in heaven!
Any idea how long it will take for me to find a lawyer here? "
.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

An old woman walked up and tied her old mule to the hitching post. As she stood there brushing off the worst of the dust from her face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other.

The young gunslinger looked at the old woman and laughed, "Hey old woman, have you ever danced?".

The old woman looked at the gunslinger and said, "No, I never did dance, and never really wanted to".

A crowd had gathered and as the gunslinger grinned and said, "Well you old bag, you're going to dance now" before shooting at the old woman's feet.

The old woman prospector, not wanting to get her toes blown off, started hopping around.

The crowd laughed and having fired his last bullet, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned to go back into the saloon.

The old woman turned to her pack mule, pulled out a double-barrelled shotgun and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air and the assembled crowd immediately stopped laughing.

The young gunslinger had also heard the clicks, stopped and very slowly turned round to find he was looking down the two barrels. The silence was deafening.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered as the old woman quietly said, "Son, have you ever kissed a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and replied..... "No M'am, but I have always wanted to".

There are some lessons to be learned from this little tale.

- a) Never be arrogant.
- b) Don't waste ammunition.
- c) Whiskey makes you think you are smarter than you really are.
- d) Always make sure you know who has the power.
- e) Don't mess with old women, they didn't get old by being stupid.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

I Was Watching a Wildlife Programme with my son today. It was showing how a nymph turns into a dragonfly, by the way of metamorphosis in just a few short weeks.

My son said, 'That's amazing isn't it dad, how it changes into something different within weeks.'

'That's nothing son', I replied, 'When I married your mum, she changed from a nymph into a cow overnight'.

Arguing with a Woman is like being arrested. Everything you say, can and, will be used against you. So, use your right to remain silent

When it's Sunny I think, 'beer garden.'

When it rains, I usually go to the pub for a while.

When it's freezing, I like to sit in front of the TV with a case of beers.

I'm starting to think I have a problem with the weather.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

1. "I was going to sail around the globe in the world's smallest ship but I bottled it." - Mark Simmons

2. "I've been taking salsa lessons for months, but I just don't feel like I'm progressing. It's just one step forward... two steps back." - Alec Snook
3. "Ate horse at a restaurant once - wasn't great. Starter was all right but the mane was dreadful." - Alex Kitson
4. "I sailed through my driving test. That's why I failed it." - Arthur Smith
5. "I love the Olympics. My friend and I invented a new type of relay baton: well, he came up with the idea, I ran with it." - Mark Simmons
6. "My dad used to say to me, 'Pints, gallons, litres' - which, I think, speaks volumes." - Olaf Falafel
7. "British etiquette is confusing. Why is it highbrow to look at boobs in an art gallery but lowbrow when I get them out in Spoons?" - Chelsea Birkby
8. "I wanted to know which came first the chicken or the egg so I bought a chicken and then I bought an egg and I think I've cracked it." - Masai Graham
9. "My partner told me that she'd never seen the film *Gaslight*. I told her that she definitely had." - Zoë Coombs Marr
10. "The conspiracy theory about the moon being made of cheese was started by the hallouminati." - Olaf Falafel
11. "I'm an extremely emotionally needy non-binary person: my pronouns are 'there there'." - Sarah Keyworth
12. "I've got a girlfriend who never stops whining. I wish I'd never bought her that vineyard." - Roger Swift
13. "Gay people are very bad at maths. We don't naturally multiply." - Lou Wall
14. "Keir Starmer looks like an AI-generated image of a substitute teacher." - Sophie Duker
15. "Growing up rich is a hereditary condition. It affects one per cent of people." - Olga Koch
.....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"...)