

Hi everyone

Welcome to the January 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](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!)*

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

This Newsletter is significantly shorter than normal because of the December Christmas and New Year period, with all the normal social gatherings etc. I hope you've all had a great Christmas...

But at least, I felt I should take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy New Year for 2024!

### **DECEMBER WEATHER**

Well, what can I say – December weather has been pretty erratic from a GA training point of view, so I guess all I will add is that we all hope for a bit of an improvement in the next month or so, to enable GA flying to continue, albeit obviously short days and winter weather conditions much of the time..

Spring will soon be with us, and the clock change again in late March will increase the useable daylight periods for pilot training and general GA flying....

### **JAMES (JIM) GIBBS**

Sadly on 11<sup>th</sup> December we apparently lost another long-term Biggin Hill'ite, Jim Gibbs.

His wife, Carol, notified me over Christmas (having been able to trace Jim's contacts when in the UK). She confirmed that Jim's passing was very sudden during a short stay in hospital in Cyprus suffering from a respiratory failure followed by cardiac arrest. A recent Postmortem established that he had suffered from a heart condition, which they were already aware of. Jim was 87.

For the old Biggin Hill'ites who will almost certainly have known Jim back in the 60's and 70's he will be remembered as a keen aviator. He flew initially at Vendair Flying Club with Harry Harris and Charlie Vaughan, whilst I was flying myself at Experimental Flying Group with Rex Nicholls and Peter Elliott. We often met up, particularly in Dillow's Café near to Surrey and Kent Flying Club and Bill Webb's hangar. I remember him virtually always flying with his dog, once he had his licence.

Originally Jim lived in Chislehurst in his family's home near to the station, and subsequently had a home near to Gatwick, before moving to Cyprus, where he and Carol married and have lived for many years, albeit coming back to the UK every so often, particularly when there were air shows at Biggin to partake in the social scene.

There was also a memorial service that was held in Cyprus on December 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews Church, Kyrenia, which can be viewed by his old friends using the following link:

<https://evt.live/memorial-service-for-william-james-gibbs-jim-21-08-1936-11-12-2023>

(Press the button to hear/see the service....)

Please do feel free to post personal messages in the Guest Book there.....

The funeral itself will now take place at 1.30pm on Monday January 22nd at St Barts Church, Horley RH6 8AB. Followed by a reception at the Farmhouse, Ladbrook Rd, Langshot, Horley, RH6 9LT.

Anyone who knew Jim is most definitely very welcome to attend, but please contact Carol directly via email at [carol@cansigorta.com](mailto:carol@cansigorta.com) to let her know so she can book the catering arrangements.

His name has now been added to the Biggin Hill Reunited "Roll of Honour".

Rest in Peace Jim, you will be very sadly missed and never be forgotten.....

### **JANUARY BIGGIN HILL POSTED FUEL PRICES**

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

£1:75.9 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)

£0:88.2 per litre for Jet A1 and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (while in stock...)

**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 New Year folks!

Well, the year has certainly blown past.

From all at Falcon and EFG, we would like to extend our heartiest thanks to everyone at the airport from ATC to Ops, to the Refuellers, to Security, to Management, and everyone else!

Thank you to our Chief Engineer Ashley Soares and his fabulous team keeping you all running smoothly.

To Roger, Carmen, Anna, and the team at EFG, a thank you for keeping our pilots safe and under a watchful eye.

John, thank you for keeping us all informed and in touch with each other.

From Singh, Shonu and Anoop - Keep flying, stay safe, be blessed.

The Falcon Family.

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

As 2023 draws to close, we can reflect on a successful but challenging year for the Airport that has seen us all navigate through a changing economic landscape and a standard of living crisis. Whilst the first half of the year saw solid traffic movements, the last quarter has been leaner and the Airport has had to balance cost control with continued inward investment. That said, we saw the successful opening of the landing Hotel, completion of the new Bravo taxiway, improved FBO facilities, increased use of the Hub and further infrastructure developments across the Airport site.

As we look towards the new year, the Airport has several projects underway that are planned to be delivered throughout 2024. These should include an additional completions hanger, Training Academy, further runway repairs, a new IRVR and METAR system and hopefully the introduction of the 03 RNAV operational trial.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the aviation community for its support in adhering to the Airport's noise abatement procedures and ensuring the Airport remains a good neighbour.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and I trust and hope you get to celebrate with your loved ones.

Best 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. 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.

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR DATABASE MEMBERS & YOUR FAMILIES**

That's it again for this month. Do enjoy your flying - 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.....

An organization is like a tree full of monkeys, all on different limbs at different levels.

The monkeys on top look down and see a tree full of smiling faces.

The monkeys on the bottom look up and see nothing but assholes.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Josey wasn't the best pupil at Sunday school.

She often fell asleep and 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 savior?"

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.....

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.....

The Heart Attack

A blonde gets home from work early & hears strange noises coming from the bedroom. She rushes upstairs only to find her husband naked lying on the bed, sweating and panting.

'What's up?' she asks.

'I think I'm having a heart attack,' - cries the husband.

The blonde rushes downstairs to grab the phone, but just as she's dialling, her four-year-old son comes up and says, 'Mummy, Mummy, Auntie Shirley is hiding in the wardrobe, and she has no clothes on'

The blonde slams the phone down and storms back upstairs into the bedroom right past her husband. Rips open the wardrobe door and sure enough, there is her sister, totally naked and cowering on the floor.

'You rotten B\*\*ch', she screams. 'My husband's having a heart attack, and you're running around naked, playing hide and seek with the kids!!

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Today I was Beaten Up by a woman.

I was in the lift when a busty lady got in with two bags in both hands.

I was staring at her boobs, when she said, would you please press 1?

So, I did. I don't remember much afterwards. Recovery time 4 - 6 weeks.

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

A Beautiful Woman loved growing tomatoes but couldn't seem to get them to turn red.

One day, Whilst taking a stroll, she came across a gentleman neighbour who had the most beautiful garden full of huge red tomatoes.

She asked him 'What do you do to get your tomatoes so red?'

He replied 'Well, twice a day I stand in front of my tomato garden naked in my trench coat and flash them. My tomatoes grow red from blushing too much.

The woman went home and decided she would try doing the same thing. So twice a day for 2 weeks she flashed in her garden.

She met her gentleman neighbour one day and he asked if she had tried his method 'Did your tomatoes turn red?'

She replied 'No but my cucumbers are enormous'

.....UNQUOTE

QUOTE.....

Reporter: "Excuse me, may I interview you?"

Man: "Yes!"

Reporter: "Name?"

Man: "Abdul Al-Rhazim."

Reporter: "Sex?"

Man: "Three to five times a week."

Reporter: "No no! I mean male or female?"

Man: "Yes, male, female... sometimes camel."

Reporter: "Holy cow!"

Man: "Yes, cow, sheep... animals in general."

Reporter: "But isn't that hostile?"

Man: "Yes, horse style, dog style, any style."

Reporter: "Oh dear!"

Man: "No, no deer. Deer run too fast. Hard to catch."

.....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"...) )