

Hi everyone

The November "Bugle" from JB is now available on the web site at <http://www.pilotspals.co.uk>

Just click on the Newsletter link on the home page as normal...

A few things that may be of interest to members:-

Skype

For those of you that like to chat but also hate to spend money, I would like to introduce the totally free internet phone system called SKYPE. I know some of you are already using it, but there has been much chat about this recently in the bar. I have been experimenting with this for about 2 months and felt it might be helpful to share my experience with you all.

Skype is what is known as a VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) system. There have currently been just under 300 million downloads of their free software, and at any one moment there are currently around 7 to 8 million people signed in on line. To use Skype you need to first download the free software and install it. You then need to activate the account (very simple) giving yourself a unique user name. You need a microphone and speakers or a headset fitted to your PC (or even better a cordless VOIP phone - more about that later!).

Once connected, you can speak for free to any other Skype user anywhere in the World for as long as you like (I had a chat the other week to Brian Stevens - ex Sportair - who lives in Brazil - very acceptable quality and totally free!). You can use Skype to have an on- screen typed chat with anyone who is signed on but doesn't have a microphone/speakers, and you can even send files (such as photos) to any Skype user anywhere instantly. The system uses the internet to connect the users together, hence no costly landlines are used.

If you want to call someone who is not on Skype, you can do so but you have to have a credit in "Skypeout" - as little as £10 will start you off. Calls to UK numbers are 1.2 p a minute which is OK but not the best around, BUT - it only costs 1.2p a minute to call USA Australia etc... (rates do vary according to destination, but they are always very cheap!). They do this by initially routing your call via the internet - the free bit - then calling locally the number you want on the normal phone system, so you just pay their specially negotiated landline rate in that Country for a local connection. Good eh? In nearly 2 months, I have made extensive calls to the USA, France, and Portugal for business and pleasure, and I still have more than £8 credit left..... (I note that, up to 31st December, anyone placing £10 credit on Skypeout will automatically get free UK landline calls for 6 months as well on Skypeout, so worth signing up just for that anyway!)

I found the system good, but a bit cumbersome to use until I went out and bought myself (from Skype) a "Cordless Dualphone" - this is essentially a normal cordless phone, but it has two connecting leads - one connects to your normal landline wall socket, and the other to your USB port on the PC. The phone has 2 green dial buttons instead of the normal 1 - one of them is used to make or receive normal landline calls over your standard phone system, and the other is used to make or receive Skype calls (whether direct to another user or a dialled call using Skypeout). Incoming calls can be answered whether they come from Skype users or from the normal landline, and you can have a different ring tone for

each one so you know which it is. The only downside is that you need to have your PC on and connected to the internet in order to use Skype - but in these days of broadband, most people are permanently on anyway. The Dual Phone from Skype cost me £47 from the Skype shop.

So, if you want to chat with friends for free, why not try it - go to <http://www.skype.com> for your free software download, and once you are online and set up, give me a quick call - my Skype ID is "johnswillis" - note the "s" in the middle. If all the database users get on Skype we can all communicate across the database for free (I would be happy each month to send out a list of new Skype ID's for anyone who wants others to know they are on the system...

Biggin Hill Airport Ltd

The Airport have recently released their new marketing brochure. I know a copy is available in the bar for members to see. The brochure is, I thought, a professionally produced document that sells well the facilities available to the prospective business aircraft operator looking to fly to London. It makes mention of the extensive maintenance facilities offered by Biggin Hill based companies, which is pleasing to see, of course. It does not mention at all the extensive training and club flying aspect of the airport, but I guess it is understandable why not in such a document. Clearly the airport wishes to expand and develop as London's premier Business Airport (especially with the 2012 Olympics on the horizon), and at least that bodes well for the survival of the airport itself if this can be achieved. What we must hope for is that the smaller operations and clubs will continue to have a place in this more commercial environment. Time will tell, I guess.

The Nanny State.

There have been lots of comments in the bar and elsewhere recently about the way things are going in the UK - some I agree with and some I don't, but I did like the press stuff I was passed recently regarding the Australian view of things. I did feel that it echoed the sentiment expressed by the less vociferous members who express more reasoned views on relatively recent events. I do not want this Newsletter to become a political platform as that is clearly not my place and I would not wish to offend those with views that are perhaps contrary to my own. I simply show below the recent release of comments in Australia by Peter Costello, Australia's Finance Minister, as I did find the sentiments similar to my own, and purely for the interest of members.

Thanks again to John Bryan for his Monthly Bugle, I know this is read all around the Globe and I hope it is a source of amusement for us all.....

regards

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

FORWARDED EMAIL TEXT FOLLOWS:.....

At last someone with the backbone to speak out.

Why Can't The Brits Be Like The Australians?...

Muslims who want to live under Islamic Sharia law were told on Wednesday to get out of Australia, as the government targeted radicals in a bid to head off potential terror attacks.

A day after a group of mainstream Muslim leaders pledged loyalty to Australia and her Queen at a special meeting with Prime Minister John Howard, he and his Ministers made it clear that extremists would face a crackdown. Treasurer Peter Costello, seen as heir apparent to Howard, hinted that some radical clerics could be asked to leave the country if they did not accept that Australia was a secular state, and its laws were made by parliament. "If those are not your values, if you want a country which has Sharia law or a theocratic state, then Australia is not for you," he said on national television.

"I'd be saying to clerics who are teaching that there are two laws governing people in Australia: one the Australian law and another the Islamic law, that is false. If you can't agree with parliamentary law, independent courts, democracy, and would prefer Sharia law and have the opportunity to go to another country, which practices it, perhaps, then, that's a better option," Costello said.

Asked whether he meant radical clerics would be forced to leave, he said those with dual citizenship could possibly be asked to move to the other country. Education Minister Brendan Nelson later told reporters that Muslims who did not want to be Australian, accept Australian values, or understand them, should basically "clear off!"

Separately, Howard angered some Australian Muslims on Wednesday by saying he supported spy agencies monitoring the nation's mosques quote: "IMMIGRANTS, NOT AUSTRALIANS, MUST ADAPT. Take It, or Leave it. I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Bali, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Australians."

"However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the 'politically correct' crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to Australia".

"However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand. This idea of Australia being a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Australians, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle."

"This culture has been developed over two centuries of struggles, trials and victories by millions of men and women who have sought

freedom".

"We speak mainly ENGLISH, not Spanish, Lebanese, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language!"

"Most Australians believe in God. This is not some Christian, right-wing, political push, but a fact, because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture."

"We will accept your beliefs, and will not question why. All we ask is that you accept ours, and live in harmony and peaceful enjoyment with us."

"If the Southern Cross offends you, or you don't like " A Fair Go," then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. By all means, keep your culture, but do not force it on others".

"This is OUR COUNTRY, OUR LAND, and OUR LIFESTYLE, and we will allow you every opportunity to enjoy all this. But once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about Our Flag, Our Pledge, Our Christian beliefs, or Our Way of Life, I highly encourage you take advantage of one other great Australian freedom, 'THE RIGHT TO LEAVE.'"

"If you aren't happy here then LEAVE. We didn't force you to come here. You asked to be here. So accept the country YOU accepted."

Maybe if we circulate this amongst ourselves, UK citizens will find the backbone to start speaking and voting the same truths!

Pass it on if you agree.

.....END OF FORWARDED EMAIL TEXT