

The Liaison Council Report

Spring 2015 Newsletter

By Chris Walker

Vacancies on the British Airways Former Staff Liaison Council

The Council has vacancies for membership to serve until 2018.

Candidates should have a strong desire to help BA pensioners.

To apply, please email the selection administrator at the Council for an application form and a copy of our constitution. The address is

Liaison.1.council@ba.com

Your application must be proposed and seconded by two other retired British Airways employees and all three of you must sign the completed application form.

Please e-mail your completed application form back to us so that you can get an acknowledgement.

The closing date for application is 10 May 2015 with a further week allowed for completed and fully signed paper forms to reach us, by post, at the address supplied with the form.

The interview panel will be held on 10 June 2015.

More information about the Council can be found on the Touchdown website and in the FAQs.

Xafinity

Xafinity are responsible for managing the BA UK health schemes. It was announced during their presentation to the Council that the BUPA scheme charges would increase by 6% for the current year. The increase falls below that of other providers currently running at between 8% and 12%. Charges represent over 50% discount from BUPA care base rates. The BA scheme is a 'high level' one in terms of its benefits, provisions, customer services and acceptance of claims.

Any former staff in the BA retiree group scheme having a problem with BUPA however should contact the Council. We can put you in touch with the right person in Xafinity to help.

Hotline

Membership of the new 'Hotline for Former staff through BA Clubs' is currently around 2,200. This is for former staff who have lost their staff travel privileges and thus are unable to log-in to Staff Travel. Those who still have internet access through <http://my.baplc.com> can of course access Hotline in the normal way.

Changes to Hotline fares for domestic and short-haul point to point are now more competitive and better aligned to BA's hand baggage only (HBO) fares. But unlike the HBO fares it includes seat allocation and a free, checked in bag. Club Europe hotline pricing has also been reviewed with increased discounts on the majority of routes.

The terms and conditions for Hotline tickets do vary and should be checked during the booking stage.

Staff Travel

Staff Travel have recommend that all Former Staff and Retirees carry their ID card, when they use Staff Travel. They may be asked to show their ID card to identify themselves. If you do not possess or have lost your ID card contact tel: 01293 462929 or fax: 01293 462697.

In the summer Staff Travel phone open times have been extended on Saturday and Sunday by one hour from 8.00 to 15.30.

Touchdown Team

Thanks to our friends in the BATUC the council have acquired a small increase in the number of West Base car park passes for 'Former Staff' using Staff Travel or Hotline. Apply to the Touchdown Team in the normal way on 020 8513 2528.

Regretfully the Former Staff re-union day planned for 2015 has had to be cancelled. There will however be one in 2016 and every other year from then on.

The official new name for the Concorde Centre site is the (Imperial College) "Heston Centre". BA Club's people continue to use the old name Concorde Centre.

The Pre-retirement Courses (PRC) held at Waterside has continued to be very popular and are over-subscribed. The next one will be held on the 25th of June.

Approximately 100 letters a month go out to Former Staff who have lost Staff Travel when their 'Length of Service' time has run out.

The BA Welfare and Benevolent Fund (BAWB)

The BAWB Trustees tell us that the fund continues to help people who have or are suffering hardship, and 2014 was a record year in terms of applications received and approved for help, either in whole or in part.

Following the closure of the BA Pensioner Contact Scheme (PCS) in 2013, the trustees took steps to ensure applicants seeking assistance would continue to receive help. Firstly a small team of ex-Pensioner Contacts were trained as BA Caseworkers, performing the same function that they undertook under the PCS. Secondly, the Trustees struck an arrangement with SSAFA, (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association), who perform similar work on behalf of all military and forces charities, whereby any applications from BA people beyond the reach of its own BA caseworker team, will be dealt with by a SSAFA caseworker. This new relationship is working well.

Retired or Former staff requesting assistance can make their initial enquiry via BA Touchdown website at:- <http://www.ba-touchdown.com>

