

BRIAN EDWARD BUSHELL

hereinafter referred to as 'Brian'

General Information and Terms

Assignments

The final decision as to whether or not to take on an assignment will be Brian's and Brian's alone. He will not take on an assignment for which he feels his own experience is not suited (but see Skills etc below). He has a proud record of delivering good systems on time – any delays have usually been due to circumstances beyond his own control, such as hardware failure, management indecisiveness, lack of co-operation from others, or serious domestic problems. He has no wish to see this record tarnished by being associated with new systems which look like being disasters. However, he is happy to look at other people's bad systems and try to sort out the problems with them – but obviously cannot guarantee success. Again, much will depend on co-operation etc. Note in particular that Brian's programming days are over (although if you twist his arm....) – henceforth he intends to concentrate on consultancy and training, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with others. He has no intention of retiring until he is carried away in a box!

Skills etc

When Brian first started in computers, everything was simple and straightforward, and there wasn't much to know. Nowadays, the whole industry is so diverse, nobody can possibly know everything there is to know. Even kids of 10 know more about some systems than Brian does! He concentrates on keeping up to date with software and features relevant to the job in hand. Having said that, he is very quick on the uptake and can usually teach himself how to use new systems quite rapidly. This he proved only last year (2012) when installing a new EPOS system – he programmed the terminals himself, work the suppliers had intended to do (and quoted for). This saved the client £1000. However, Brian's forte remains planning, organising, supervising and trouble-shooting the commissioning of major new systems, as he did with TOPS. Brian Hollingsworth, his boss on TOPS, summed him up perfectly when he said "Brian, you are brilliant at organising other people but hopeless at organising yourself"!!. This is because he is usually so busy concentrating on the job in hand, he forgets about himself! In any area of expertise outside his own remit, he usually has suitably qualified and experienced contacts, including network engineers, website designers etc

Preferred Work

Brian prefers to have one core long-term assignment, but with the flexibility to take unpaid leave from time to time to undertake other work such as running training courses. At the time of writing (Sept 2013), he has one unfinished assignment, close to completion, which may require him to pop up to London occasionally. Faced with only short-term assignments, his fees (see below) will be higher to cover the 'down time' waiting for the next assignment. Wherever he is, he will always answer phone calls from any client, and usually has his laptop with him so that he can remotely hook in to any client's system, for which a nominal fee or retainer will be payable.

Confidentiality

Brian treats any information he gains about a client and their business as confidential (unless he detects illegal activity), and will happily sign any confidentiality agreement requested, subject to his own satisfaction with the conditions contained in it. In return, he expects clients to treat as confidential any information he imparts to them, unless he indicates that it may be made more widely known.

Working Days

Client's in many cases expect their systems to be available 24/7, and Brian's attitude to his work reflects this. He has no family commitments, so one day is just like any other. Once a fee for an assignment has been agreed, he will not charge extra for working bank holidays, weekends, or even Christmas day. This is, of course, subject to any lack of facilities and services which may prevent him working on certain days. So long as he gets at least one day off per week, and the occasional holiday, he is quite happy!

Working Hours

Brian has a similar attitude to working hours, and will work odd hours as the need arises, at no extra charge. However, he is not as young as he used to be (understatement of the century!). Long gone are the 10 to 12 hour days he regularly used to work at Lever's and on TOPS, as is his old willingness to answer middle-of-the-night call outs (although he will consider working nights by prior arrangement).

Fees and Payment

Due to his lack of family commitments, his fees are reasonable – but he knows the 'going rate' for experienced people like himself, and will not sell himself short. There are no set fees - fees will be negotiated with individual clients, based on the nature of their requirements and the length of the assignment. He insists on being on PAYE and will, if necessary, work through an agent on a commission basis, in which case his fees will be higher to reflect this.

Accommodation

Clients will be expected to arrange and pay for his accommodation. However, he does not expect 5-star hotels! On longer assignments, he prefers fairly basic, clean digs. On shorter ones, he prefers good old real-ale pubs with accommodation, full of real people! When working for BRB, travelling regularly to Peterborough, he was entitled to stay on expenses at the Great Northern Hotel, but preferred to stay in the Six Bells, playing dominoes and cribbage with the locals in the bar! Note that on some assignments, he may need to bring a personal assistant with him. In this case, they will travel together by car, and stay at places such as Premier Inns, which are low cost and charge per room rather than per person. (Please enquire regarding assignments outside UK)

Travel

Again, clients will be expected to pay Brian's travel expenses. If travelling by car, he merely expects reimbursement of direct costs. He always drives a beaten up (usually by other people!) old used car, which he keeps going until it falls apart, then buys another one! If travelling by train, given enough notice, he will endeavour to buy cheap advance tickets. On long assignments, if he decides to return home to north Wales, he will do so at his own expense. (Please enquire regarding assignments outside UK)

Liability

Brian undertakes to give clients the best possible advice based on his own extensive knowledge and experience, but he is more concerned with fundamental principles rather than in-depth technical details. Neither Brian, nor any agent through whom he may be acting, will accept liability for any client's decision as to whether or not to accept and / or act upon any advice Brian may give, nor will Brian or his agents accept liability for the consequences of any such decision made by a client acting on Brian's advice. Similarly, any agent acting on Brian's behalf will not accept liability for any action by Brian, or for any advice Brian may give. Fees etc. will still be payable regardless of a client's decision as to whether or not to accept and / or act on Brian's advice.

The very small print Please note that Brian is gay. He does not normally shout about it, but doesn't go out of his way to hide it. Wherever he has worked, he has let it be known that he is gay, for one simple reason – so that he cannot be blackmailed, rather essential in some of the jobs he has had. He finds it quite rewarding, if someone tries to force him to disclose confidential information, by threatening to tell his boss, colleagues, parents or friends, to reply that "they already know" – it's stopped a few people in their tracks! As the Head of Community Strategy on Merseyside Police said to him some years ago, "being honest about what you are is 90% of the battle!" In fact, he 'came out' in Liverpool in 1964, when it was still illegal (if you can cope with that, you can cope with anything!). Ever since then, he has regularly assisted the police with problems in the gay community, and works tirelessly to increase acceptance and understanding of being gay – which is basically an incurable emotional condition which causes people to develop deep emotional attachments (in other words, fall in love) with members of their own sex, not the opposite sex. It should not be confused with being homosexual (Brian basically hasn't been for 37 years) – the two are often not connected. The quickest way to get him (or any other gay bloke) to lose interest in you is to get yourself a girlfriend – or another boyfriend. He will happily talk about the subject (he'll have you in hysterics with some of his stories about the gay life), doesn't bat an eyelid about taking colleagues and friends to gay clubs with him, cracks jokes about it, and takes the mickey out of himself more than other people do. He knows how to look after himself and gives as good as he gets, so don't try and use it against him – you will come off worst! As the old saying goes, "Never cross a queen" – you'll regret it!