

■ Tekst 2

The captain, the passenger and one ironic comment

1 **P**assenger Clive Warshaw was barred
from a Virgin flight last week after
making an ironic comment to a pilot
who turned up late for a flight
5 already delayed by 13 hours.

2 Is this pilot power gone mad? Warshaw,
who paid £3,500 for his business-class return
to Miami, thinks so. “You have to question
the captain’s psychological balance. He
10 looked as if he’d just been dragged out of bed
and was clearly in a foul mood. All I said was
‘well done’. If that’s all it takes to make him
crack, you wonder how he’d cope under
pressure at 33,000ft.”

3 15 Virgin, which has offered £2,000 and
80,000 air miles as compensation, stands by
its man and says: “The captain felt Mr
Warshaw’s behaviour suggested he could be
disruptive during the flight. He was therefore
20 fully justified in not letting him board.”
Warshaw is unrepentant: “I have three
witnesses from the flight who’ve written to
Virgin in my defence – one of them works for
the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).”

4 25 Was the pilot acting lawfully? According
to the CAA’s Air Navigation Order, “every

person in an aircraft shall obey all lawful
commands which the commander of that
aircraft may give for the purposes of securing
30 the safety of the aircraft ... or the efficiency or
regularity of air navigation”. Was Warshaw
disobeying commands? Clearly not. Was he a
threat to the “efficiency or regularity of air
navigation”? He says no, the captain says
35 potentially yes, end of story.

5 So far, so lawful, but was the pilot being
fair? “It doesn’t sound like it,” says Tony
Dixon, editor of *Airliner World*. “If all Mr
Warshaw said was ‘well done’, well, it is a bit
40 harsh, isn’t it?”

6 Dixon believes a tabloid thirst for “air
rage” reports may have made pilots more
twitchy than in the past. Ironically, CAA
reports suggest a decline in disruptive
45 behaviour on UK airlines (last year you had to
fly 36,000 times to encounter a serious
incident). But in this case at least, it seems the
pilot was taking no chances. You have been
warned – an ironic comment could see you
50 left on the runway.

Jeremy Lazell

The Sunday Times

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- “The captain, the passenger and one ironic comment” (titel)
- 1p **2** Wat was dit “ironic comment”? Geef antwoord door middel van een citaat uit de tekst.
- 1p **3** ■ Which of the following does Clive Warshaw express in paragraph 2?
1 Concern about the pilot’s ability to remain calm in an emergency.
2 Displeasure at the high price of the flight.
A Neither 1 nor 2.
B Only 1.
C Only 2.
D Both 1 and 2.
- “Passenger Clive Warshaw was barred from a Virgin flight” (regels 1-2)
- 1p **4** Op grond van welk argument van de piloot steunt zijn luchtvaartmaatschappij zijn beslissing?
- 1p **5** ■ How could the sentence “Warshaw is ... (CAA).” (lines 21-24) also begin?
A Besides, Warshaw...
B However, Warshaw...
C Indeed, Warshaw...
D In short, Warshaw...
- 1p **6** ■ How is the pilot’s decision to bar Clive Warshaw characterised in paragraphs 4 and 5?
1 As in accordance with the rules.
2 As severe.
A Neither 1 nor 2 is right.
B Only 1 is right.
C Only 2 is right.
D Both 1 and 2 are right.
- 1p **7** ■ Which of the following appears to be a function of this article?
A To advise people against flying Virgin.
B To criticise British aviation policies.
C To express disapproval of irresponsible passengers.
D To report on a remarkable incident.