



2014 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 1st March 2014 at the Nottingham Belfry Hotel, commencing at 11.00am

These minutes are not to be taken as a true record without referring to the minutes of the Executive Council meeting at which they were approved.

Present:

Marc Asquith
Bill Bell
Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langford

John Nash
Angus Pinkerton
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson
John Welch

In attendance:
25 Voting members
of the Association

Apologies:
Adrian Thomas

ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman, Marc Asquith, opened the meeting and explained that the company business would be dealt with first, followed by awards and officers' reports

The formal business of the meeting then commenced.

ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2013 be approved.

Members voted unanimously in favour. The Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2013 were received and approved.

2.2 That the following members be elected to the Executive Council: Marc Asquith, Martin Baxter, Bill Bell, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford.

Of the fifty-three postal votes received, two had voted against Resolution 2. Members at the meeting were unanimously in favour.

Marc Asquith, Martin Baxter, Bill Bell, Paul Dancey and Angus Langford were duly elected as member of the Executive Council.

2.3 That Clear & Lane be re-appointed as auditors and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

One postal vote had been received against Resolution 3, all other votes were in favour.

Clear & Lane were therefore re-appointed and the Executive Council authorised to fix their remuneration.

In closing the formal business of the meeting the Chairman said that if anyone was interested in volunteering he would be delighted to hear from them as there are always plenty of jobs that need doing.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

ITEM 3: AWARDS

Mark Woodhams had chosen the series of articles written by Steve Uzochukwu to win this year's 'Wings Over A Cloud' award.

Phil Bartle, Dave Cowan, Roy Dade, and Nick Roberts were all recipients of an Award of Merit. Marc said congratulations were due to all of them and added that without the 'backroom boys' we would get nowhere.

ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS

4.1 Chairman

Marc said that he had nothing to add to his report in the folder. Marc reported that his employment had changed and that he was now employed by the BHPA's solicitors. His work involves defending other air related sports. He will obviously be keeping an eye on any conflict of interest.

4.2 Insurance

Martin Heywood said that since moving insurers we now have £5m indemnity. He explained that this is just the way the market is moving, a trifling £2m is just not enough these days! We did not leave Hiscox with any animosity; they have simply changed their terms. We have a very good broker who has placed us with Liberty and the full policy is in the pipeline; apologies that this is a bit late but essentially all other details of the insurance remain the same.

Martin went on to say the members failing to obey BHPA rules and regulations may not be covered by our insurance.

In response to a question, Martin said that the insurance was worldwide, excluding the USA and Canada. Our insurance does cover Australia and New Zealand although it is a local legal requirement to take out their insurance as well.

4.3 FSC

Angus Pinkerton held up a copy of Standard NF EN 926-2, which he had just received and said it had taken twenty years of work to get to this. He was really pleased that this was now done as it has occupied his time over a long period.

Angus then said that the emergency parachute standard is also being reviewed and this is more difficult than it sounds. A standard for harnesses is also being worked on, including looking at shock absorbing capabilities and side impact protection.

Our own online Incident Reporting system has been in place for a year and worked well. Now the European system has gone live and this allows all the European associations to contribute and will produce anonymised statistics. All the European associations have agreed to use it, although at the moment only the UK, Germany, Switzerland and Italy are doing so.

Angus then answered some questions from members regarding reserves, Competition Class and whether a yearly glider inspection should be mandatory. He finished by explaining that people do silly things because they have not thought things through and BHPA try to educate them to think.

4.4 Skywings

Paul Dancey explained that the Skywings income was going up but not as fast as costs, although it is being kept under control. There were no questions from the floor.

4.5 Website

Paul said he had made some improvements to the website and these seem to have been fairly well received. Quite a lot of work has been required to change our Incident Reporting System over to the European system and to make it a bit more British and a bit less German. This had now been completed and the system was now in use.

Thanks were due to Joe Schofield, Colin Fargher and all the contributors to both Skywings and the website.

4.6 Treasurer

Angus Langford said that our objective is to maintain our reserves and we need to add about £10k per year. For the year ended March 2013 we make a very small loss of £381 but for the current year we will make a decent profit and the organisation is financially solid.

4.7 Competitions

Bill Bell's report in the AGM folder included separate reports from the four disciplines – HG, PG, Paramotor and Accuracy.

Bill gave a brief overview of what had been a difficult year in many respects. He noted that competitions in general, in all disciplines, are becoming more professional and this places a heavier workload on volunteers. We have to try to reach a balance so that it does not become too burdensome to volunteers.

4.9 Sites

Martin Baxter said he had not planned to say anything but as it was the first time in four years that there has been a Sites Officer at the AGM he would stand up.

Martin then spoke about the sites database and said that unfortunately as there had been no hand over he had to try to get things up to date. He also mentioned the questionnaire regarding CANP and said that he would be producing some statistics. He had written a guide for club sites officers, which would be available to anyone who requested it. It is really just a crib sheet at the moment but eventually will be published.

Dave Cowan said that many of the sites in the Peak District were endangered, mainly due to the amount of money demanded for their use and the clubs cannot afford to pay. There are people flying the sites without being BHPA members or paying to use the site. Tom Hardie added that there are also those who are BHPA members but will not pay to fly a site somewhere else.

Marc Asquith suggested that the Peak District clubs should form a federation of clubs as the clubs in Wales have done. Martin invited Dave Cowan to get in touch so that he could get a better picture what was going on.

There followed some discussion on the National Trust and Dave Thompson suggested that they should be approached at national level. However, John Nash said sometimes better results could come from local level. In the case of his own club, they got a National Trust Warden to go out to the site and check memberships and that never would have happened at national level.

4.10 Admin

Marc Asquith said there was nothing to report on Admin, although he did point out that at the time of the amalgamation between BHGA and BAPC there were 10.5 office staff and now the office was running with 3.7.

As usual thanks were due to the office team for their work during the year.

4.11 Paramotor Liaison

Bill Bell informed the meeting that the number of paramotor members had increased significantly and was 25% up on last year. Tom Hardie added that paramotors have a very high profile with the CAA at the moment and there are a number of pilots who need educating about sharing the sky as they have the potential to ruin things for the rest of us.

Marc Asquith explained that we have to work with the BMAA in respect of PPG. More PPG pilots are joining the BHPA for the insurance and we have new members coming from both the BMAA and those who are not members of any association.

4.12 School Liaison

John Welch reported that things had been quite positive over the last year, bearing in mind that previously 20% of schools had been thinking of closing down. The last year has not been too bad and has given schools some breathing space. FSC are doing some good things and these will help to move students through the schools.

As there were no more questions the Chairman thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting closed.