



## 2018 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at the Nottingham Belfry Hotel, commencing at 11.00am.

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

### Present

Marc Asquith  
Martin Baxter  
Bill Bell  
Ed Cunliffe  
Ian Curren  
Martin Heywood  
Angus Langford  
Michelle Lanman  
Joe Schofield  
Mark Shaw  
Dave Thompson  
John Welch

### In attendance:

8 Voting members of the Association

### Apologies:

Paul Dancey  
Brett Janaway  
Angus Pinkerton  
Richard Shaw  
Adrian Thomas

### ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

BHPA Chairman, Marc Asquith, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Percy Moss who was a former chairman of the British Hang Gliding Association. Marc informed those present that the meeting would be transmitted live over Facebook for the first time.

Marc explained the agenda and that the election was uncontested this year.

### ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

#### 2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2017 be approved.

Before voting commenced Angus Langford gave a brief overview of his financial report included in the AGM pack.

Angus explained that the Association has a policy of maintaining reserves in real terms over the medium term so that surpluses in one year make up for losses in others. In the current financial year (ending March 2018) membership has continued to grow however inflation is beginning to impact so a much-reduced surplus is expected at the end of the year. This has resulted in the decision to increase subscriptions from April 2018 to ensure reserves are maintained.

Members voted unanimously in favour of approving the accounts and the resolution was carried.

#### 2.2 That five members be elected to the Executive Council from the following five candidates: M Asquith, E Cunliffe, M Meadows, A Pinkerton, A Thomas.

Marc Asquith explained that Brett Janaway had made the decision to step down due to work commitments. Marc thanked Brett for all his hard work. Members present at the meeting who had not already sent in a proxy vote were asked to vote by a show of hands.

Marc welcomed Mark Meadows to the Executive Council.

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

Members voted unanimously in favour and the resolution was carried.

### ITEM 3: AWARDS

Marc Asquith showed members present the NXCL Club Trophy, which had been refurbished, and explained that the Association is happy to look after any other trophies, which may be in need of some work.

3.1 The Wings Over a Cloud award for the best article in Skywings during 2017 was awarded to Signe Knudsen for her article 'Pursuing Acro: A Beginner's Perspective' printed in June.

3.2 Paul Allmark was nominated for an Award of Merit, by Melvin Leggett, for his services to the sport. Unfortunately Paul was unable to collect his award.

3.3 Alan Robertson was also nominated for an Award of Merit for his services to Joint Services Paragliding Centre, from where he retired recently. Unfortunately Alan is currently on a tour of Switzerland so Matt Tandy collected the award on his behalf.

## **ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Reports from Exec Members were included in the AGM folders and members now had the opportunity to ask questions.

### **4.1 Chairman**

Marc Asquith's report gave an overview of what has been happening within the Association during the last year and thanked Exec Members and Staff for their work.

### **4.2 Treasurer**

Angus Langford's report had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **4.3 Insurance**

Martin Heywood reported that there had been a 10% rise in our annual premium, however due to our current claims history this was not unexpected.

We have just completed our first year of cover with our new underwriter XL Catlin. We have a good relationship, so far, and they are proving responsive to our gradually evolving needs. We currently have £5m across the board but are beginning to see some landowners asking for £10m indemnity levels for sporting activities taking place on their open areas.

### **4.4 FSC**

Angus Pinkerton's report was included in the AGM folder.

### **4.5 Sites**

Martin Baxter explained how the sites database is key to his role and that he has spent the last four years bringing it up to date. It has been a long slow process but we have now validated data from 91% of our clubs / schools.

Martin also explained that he is working on two issues, which were handed over by Tom Hardie. The first, marking our sites on military sites and the second addressing the shortcomings of the current Civil Aircraft Notification Procedure (CANP).

Kevin Gay asked whether anyone was about to buy a site. Martin confirmed that there have been enquiries but there is nothing in the pipeline at present.

### **4.6 Skywings**

Paul Dancey's report was included in the AGM folder.

### **4.7 Website**

Paul Dancey's report was included in the AGM folder.

## **4.8 Competitions**

Bill Bell mentioned that live streaming has reached the competitions, giving it a wider audience. This is being aided greatly by Oliver Chitty.

Acro has featured for the first time in competitions. It currently comes under the PG Panel but has great potential because of its excitement factor.

## **4.9 Admin**

Marc Asquith's report was included in the AGM folder.

## **4.10 Emergency Parachute Systems**

Bill Morris raised the issue that reserves outside their warranty date continue to be used. This is happening less frequently than it did but we still need to educate members. A current reserve over the warranted lifetime represents a small annual investment as a lifesaver.

## **4.11 Paramotor Liaison**

Ed Cunliffe apologised for the late submission of his report, which was not included in the AGM pack.

He thanked the Technical Team who continue to work on bringing some of the independent Paramotor schools under the auspices of the BHPA.

## **4.12 External Representation**

In Adrian Thomas's absence Marc Asquith explained that Adrian represents the BHPA at CIVL and is also our Royal Aero Club delegate.

Marc Asquith and Angus Pinkerton also attend the EHPU, and are trying to change the culture to that of a more active lobbying group.

## **ITEM 5: QUESTIONS**

Reports completed the floor was opened for questions.

5.1 Bill Morris asked who moderated the BHPA's Facebook site and asked whether the post, which advised members not to talk to the police after an incident, had been wise.

Marc Asquith explained that there were several moderators within the Association and that any posts deemed inappropriate were removed if requested. Marc explained that he had written the post in question after obtaining legal advice. Martin Heywood commented that the video posted with it (although American) showed clearly how someone can dig a hole just by trying to be helpful. Law is about evidence and not always truth and justice. Marc confirmed that the Association is advising members involved in an incident not to make statements only until they have obtained legal advice.

5.2 Kevin Gaye asked why the concessionary rate is being raised from 60 years of age to 67.

Marc Asquith explained that the Association has an aging

membership and that the 60-age break had been introduced some time ago. In view of the range of differing retirement ages now in force it had been decided to move the concessionary rate to 67. He confirmed that members

already on the over 60 rate will continue.

The Chairman thanked members present for attending and closed the meeting at 11.50 am.