



Meeting 2014C of the BHPA Executive Council

These minutes of the meeting are not to be taken as a full record of the Meeting of the Directors of BHPA Ltd.

Meeting held on Sunday 16th November 2014 at the BHPA Office, 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ

Present:

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Ed Cunliffe
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langford
John Nash
Adrian Thomas
Angus Pinkerton

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Michelle Lanman
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Paul Dancey and John Welch.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2014B - 31 July 2014

12.7 Delete first sentence.

With the above amendment the minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2012 – B3	Continuing
2013 – A2	Continuing
2013 – B2	Closed.
2013 – B12	Continuing
2014 – A4	Continuing
2014 – B1	Closed
2014 – B2	Continuing
2014 – B3	Closed
2014 – B4	Continuing
2014 – B5	Continuing
2014 – B6	Martin B had circulated a draft of his PowerPoint presentation and he asked for details of the various BHPA Panels so that he could add them to the presentation. Exec members agreed that Martin was doing an excellent job on the presentation. Continuing
2014 - B7	Closed.

ITEM 4: STAFF SALARIES

Exec resolved that the F&GP should review staff salaries.

ITEM 5: SUBSCRIPTIONS

Angus L presented the accounts to 31 March 2014 and said that there was a profit of £57k which was good for our reserves. The accounts were approved.

Angus L expressed some concern about the figures for the fees in advance produced by our computer system as he did not believe that these were correct. He said that he and Michelle would be looking at this. He expects the surplus for the current year to be around £23k and said that we need to consider increasing fees for next year; he suggested an increase of £4. It is two years since fees were increased and would therefore only be an inflation level increase. Subscriptions would be given further consideration by the F&GP.

At some point in the future we will need to replace the membership system but this will not be within the next year or two.

ITEM 6: RENEWAL OF PREVIOUSLY FLAGGED MEMBERS

6.1 A member of Exec had suggested that we should expel a member.

6.2 It was finally agreed that the member should be allowed to renew his flying membership if he wished but if he acts in a manner which brings or may bring the BHPA or the sport in general into disrepute, then his membership will be reconsidered.

ITEM 7: SSSR AEROTOW

Bill explained the background to the CAA deregulation of SSSRs and said the result is that so long as you adhere to the basic design criteria you can do almost anything with them. Bill felt that we should pursue the use of SSSRs for aerotowing; we have ageing tugs and members are wondering why we do not get on with it.

Dave said that Tom Hardie is adamant that using SSSRs for towing would be illegal. Mark agreed and pointed out that the CAA categorise this as aerial work and SSSRs would be illegal; therefore we cannot encourage our members to do it.

Mark went on to explain that we now have a new GA Manager at the CAA so we have a point of contact where we can pick this back up. Our contact seems to change every six months or so and there has been no continuity but he said the first step is to talk to them.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C1) Mark Dale to arrange meeting with new GA Manager at CAA.

Bill was concerned that the CAA may view this as counter productive. As far as they are concerned they have deregulated so may not be happy with someone going back wanting to change things.

There followed a lengthy discussion on the way forward. Marc said that we are of the view that this is currently an illegal activity and therefore our Technical Manual does not provide for it and insurers will not cover it. He wondered if there was a way in which we could cover this, maybe by amending our TM so that insurers will cover it. Bill said we should amend the TM so that the only remaining impediment is the CAA.

Martin said we could take this up with the insurers.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C2) Mark Dale to advise Martin Heywood of changes required in TM for SSSRs.

Angus P said that we could not recommend that our members should be doing it and Marc replied that we do not want to prohibit them from doing it either. We do not think that it is unsafe but that it is illegal.

ITEM 8: SPEED FLYING

Dave gave some background information, explaining that Gordon Oliver had been trialing a syllabus produced by FSC for speed flying for some time. This was intended for people with no previous experience of paragliding to take up speed flying from scratch. However, the only people who have tried it so far are skydivers and kite surfers. As there have been no raw beginners, we are still at the stage where this has not really been trialed.

Mark said maybe we should lower our standard of evidence as the trial that we have approved is not actually doing what we wanted it to do. We do not want people to just go out and do this without any training. It seems we are training people to go down an Alp or Scottish mountain but actually they only want to do it down a hillside.

Marc pointed out that there are 560 members on the UKSF Facebook page but we only have just over a hundred members with this qualification.

The Exec accepted the view of the FSC that long descents were unnecessary and smaller hills may be suitable.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C3) Dave Thompson to contact all schools re extending the speed flying trial.

ITEM 9: FLYING SHOW

Marc said the Flying Show had gone back to Telford; the BMAA were no longer running it and it had become quite interesting. Bill believed that we should have had a stand there, if only for insurance purposes. We have missed an opportunity this year but should look at it for the future. It is not well known that we cover SSDRs and he felt that we would pick up a lot of new members.

Marc gave details of the original show, when BHPA and BMAA were running it jointly. It was very successful for several years but was gradually taken over by microlights and the number of our members attending decreased.

The Show had become interesting for us again because it had been suggested that our policy might be extended to cover all Microlights, not only SSDRs.

Our broker had suggested that we make a per capita payment to our insurers to cover these. We have had considerable difficulty getting statistics for microlights but had done some research, our insurers are interested and it is possible that next year our insurance cover may extend to microlights. Bill felt that this would be very good for us as we would be able to pick up new members from the power flyers.

There were some questions regarding hull insurance and liability insurance which were normally bought together but we would not be able to provide hull insurance.

The cost of insurance was discussed, Angus L said that if individual insurance for a microlight is £200 then we would not be charging enough. Marc agreed that if the insurance was included in our normal insurance then we would be under pricing it. Brett suggested that we could introduce a microlight category at £50 more than the normal membership.

It was agreed that we should have a stand at the Flying Show next year. John said he would first want to make sure that the numbers attending the show would make it worth our while. Marc added that next year we want to be in a position to turn up with a computer and get people on to the membership and covered by our insurance straightaway.

ITEM 10: REPORTS

10.1 Finance

This had already been covered in Item 5 above.

10.2 FSC

10.2.1 Angus reported that he had been looking at succession planning earlier this year. Both our Technical Officers are getting older, which is why we had put an advertisement in the August Skywings. We wanted someone to work in parallel with Mark Dale and be up to speed by the time he wanted to retire. Mark has now decided to leave rather earlier than we had anticipated so we need someone to take over as soon as possible, which means they will be nearer to Mark's age and looking at retiring in the not too distant future. We will therefore also need a much

younger person to train up.

The details of this need to be carefully considered, maybe the 'new' Mark will need to be on a fixed term contract. The advertisement was sufficiently general to attract applications from both young and more experienced people.

10.2.2 Top landings had caused a bit of a kerfuffle because we had only consulted the trainers and some members had complained that they had not been asked for their views. Nobody has come up with a good argument as to why the changes should not go ahead so it will come in from 1st January 2015 as planned. It should result in people arriving on the hills with more currency because they have continued flying, rather than sitting around waiting for the right weather to do top landings.

10.2.3 Brett asked how the new modules were progressing and Angus replied that the scheme is progressing well. It has turned out to be a much bigger job than David Thomson had anticipated and he could really do with some more help to write the modules. Brett said he would contact David to see if he could be of any assistance.

10.2.4 There was some discussion about radio frequencies used by us, particularly in competitions. Marc agreed to contact Rod Buck to make sure that he is on top of this.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C4) Marc Asquith to contact Rod Buck re radio frequencies.

10.3 Insurance

Martin H reported that he expected nothing other than a smooth renewal otherwise we would have heard by now. Insurers have also suggested that we renew for another two years, which is good news.

We have not yet received the policy document for the current year although Martin H said he had received a draft for checking. He had noticed one or two errors so the document would have to be sent back for amendment.

Marc reported on the Macey claim and explained that it had been struck out and we were awarded costs of £25k, although we are unlikely to receive anything and it would go to our insurers anyway.

Re the Johnson claim, Marc reported that our insurers had declined to cover him but the Scout Association had stepped in to cover him.

10.4 Sites

10.5.1 Martin B reported that the sites database had temporarily stalled because Andrew Wakelin has been abroad and unable to do any work on it.

10.5.2 Michelle reported that the sites donation form has now been updated to include a standing order form.

10.5 Skywings

Paul Dancey was unable to be at the meeting so Joe reported that advertising revenue is up 10%, although postal costs had increased too. Paul continues to keep as many pages as possible.

There was some discussion about the cost of Skywings and whether a 10% increase in the budget would make much difference. Joe said that a 10% increase would result in substantially more pages and would mean that articles would not have to be pushed back due to lack of space.

The possibility of an electronic version of Skywings was also discussed. John N said the important thing is to do the sums and work out whether this would actually be cost effective or not. Joe pointed out that if the print run drops then the cost per copy would increase, so having an electronic version instead of a paper copy would mean that the cost of Skywings would increase. This is something that is on the horizon and Joe said he and Paul would be keeping an eye on the situation.

10.6 Website

Joe said there was nothing to say other than what was contained in Paul's written report.

10.7 Competitions

10.7.1 Bill reported on a possible bid for the Paramotor World Championships in 2016. Also, the Hang Gliding World Championships would be held in Mexico next year and there had

been some occurrences of kidnapping of foreigners. He had had assurances that it would be safe to go but would be keeping an eye on the situation.

10.7.2 There was some discussion regarding a BHPA member who is transgender and has caused a major issue for the competitions committee. This will have to go to the FAI and Marc said he would pursue it through the RAeC.

10.7.3 It was noted that although the BPC is healthy, the BCC is not. It was suggested that maybe there was only a need for one competition.

10.8 External Rep.

John N gave details of a forthcoming promotion and marketing seminar and asked if anyone was interested in attending. He also reported that the FAI will be issuing new Mission and Vision Statements.

10.9 School Liaison

John Welch was not at the meeting and there was no discussion.

10.10 Paramotor Liaison

Mark reported that we have responded to the CAA setting out possible options open to them. The problem with the CAA has been caused by numerous staff changes but the new person in charge seems to be on the case.

10.11 Admin

Bill asked if we have a number for how many SSDRs we have. Mark said that this is not possible as we do not keep this information. Marc added that if we are going to pay a higher premium for microlights we are going to need this information.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C5) Michelle Lanman to consider how to collect information on the number of SSDRs.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 There was a short discussion about FAI records and it was agreed that Adrian should put in a formal complaint at the plenary meeting.

11.2 Bill asked about Non-Flying Membership fees in respect of volunteers. Marc said that this had not been resolved yet and needs careful consideration as he does not want it to affect Skywings subscriptions.

11.3 It was agreed that members standing for re-election at the AGM would be: Ed Cunliffe, Brett Janaway, Angus Pinkerton and Adrian Thomas.

11.4 Dave wanted it to be acknowledged that Paul Dancey had put in a great deal of work to make it possible for online incident reporting now that we are using the European database.

11.5 Brett said that he did not have any information re the Richard Westgate trophy other than it would be XC League for the longest straight flight.

Bill mentioned the Sites Fund and suggested that members should be able to leave a bequest to it. He felt that we do not want more cups and trophies and we should have something available such as a plaque to put on the gate to a hill. Angus P suggested a page on our website.

Martin H is working on setting up a trust for the Sites fund and it was agreed that we should make it easy for people to make a bequest.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – C6) Marc Asquith to reply to Pam Westgate.

11.6 Bill had attended a hang gliding competitions committee meeting where there was concern that hang gliding is “withering on the vine”, despite a number of good young pilots coming into the system. Bill noted that the number of hang gliding pilots on the membership is probably twice the number who are actually active pilots. Marc said the place where hang gliders gather together is the British Open Series so they should get people to join in and have some coaching. Bill replied that this is essentially what Club Class is, although slightly higher up; he felt it would be difficult to get coaching for people below club class.

Dave added that unless something radical happens with the design of hang gliders it is not going to grow as paragliding will always be easier. He said that wind surfing had had the same

problem with kite surfing and skiing had had a problem until they had designed better skis. Mark pointed out that the average age of our members has now increased to 45 as younger people do not have the money any more.

11.7 Martin B said that Tom Hardie had proposed that we should rejoin GASCo and he agreed with him. Marc explained that we dropped our membership about 15 years ago.

Angus P did not have any strong views on this but said that if we are going to get involved with microlights then the £300 fee is worth it. Mark pointed out that if we are members then we have to send someone to the meetings and this could be expensive, particularly if Tom has to fly down from Aberdeen. Angus replied that although Tom is keen on GASCo, he is not sure that he is the person to be our representative. We had had an agreement with GASCo that we did not have to attend meetings, we would just get all the papers etc.

After further discussion it was agreed that BHPA would rejoin GASCo and Bill agreed to be our representative initially, although he stressed that he did not want to take this on permanently.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 15.20.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Ed Cunliffe	2012 - B3	Check if paramotor paperwork suitable for template for Comps Directors Handbook.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2013 - A2	Check Comps Director's Handbook from legal point of view.	Continuing
F&GP	2013 - B12	Consider reducing NFM when reviewing membership fees.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2014 - A4	Speak to CIVL re speed gliding on skis as Olympic sport.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2014 - B2	Look into travel insurance for members.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2014 - B4	Write something for schools re PA insurance.	Continuing
F&GP	2014 - B5	Consider membership subscriptions.	Continuing
Martin Baxter	2014 - B6	Produce PowerPoint presentation.	Continuing
Mark Dale	2014 - C1	Arrange meeting with CAA.	Opened
Mark Dale	2014 - C2	Advise Martin Heywood of changes required to TM.	Opened
Dave Thompson	2014 - C3	Contact all schools re extending speed flying trial.	Opened
Marc Asquith	2014 - C4	Contact Rod Buck re radio frequencies.	Opened
Michelle Lanman	2014 - C5	Consider collection of information on SSDRs.	Opened
Marc Asquith	2014 - C6	Reply to Pam Westgate.	Opened