

Club Bulletin 183

January/February 2010



Published monthly. Aimed mainly at club contacts/secretaries. Covers administrative topics and news from the Executive Council. General interest items are repeated in Skywings magazine for all members.

BHPA

1: A Reminder From The Chairman

Thank you to all the clubs who have sent in membership lists for checking. Some clubs had a number of non-BHPA members listed and we would like to remind clubs of the potential problems.

If non-BHPA members use your flying sites, they do not have the third party insurance that goes with BHPA membership. What this means is that if for example they cause an accident, the injured party could be left in a serious situation where they will be unlikely to obtain proper compensation for their injuries.

Secondly, it also means that they do not have insurance cover in respect of the landowner, which could give site access problems in future.

If these issues were not bad enough, when there is an accident caused by a non-member, the injured party or landowner might consider coming after the club committee for recompense, and we would simply have to hope that the goodwill of the insurer might extend to covering that. In addition, non-members fall outside the Pilot Rating Scheme and the Club have no way to prove that any such pilot had the necessary qualification/experience to be safely incorporated into the Club's operation. This is especially important in the case of a tow/aerotow Club, but applies to all club activities in one way or another.

These risks can be eliminated altogether by Clubs ensuring that all their members must also be members of the BHPA - and we'd be happy to confirm who is and isn't on our books if you require. A BHPA registered Club should also have such a clause in their constitution to demonstrate that the issue is taken seriously, and this would be documentary evidence to prove the fact. We think it is unfair that some Club member pilots who do not feel able to join the BHPA, for whatever reason, are putting at risk other club members' livelihoods and hard-won site access; and are simply letting the diligent Club members (volunteers) do the hard work and take on all the risks. It's not too much to ask really. On behalf of all those who love free flying, we would urge you to take action as soon as you can.

Martin Heywood,
Chairman

For more information contact:
Jennie Burdett, 0116 261 1322, jennifer-burdett@bhpa.co.uk

2: ThrillSeeker Database

We have been asked to publicise the BBC ThrillSeeker web site to our clubs and schools. Some of you already have your activities and events listed on the site but for anyone else interested further details can be found at:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thrillseeker/>

3: Map Locations on BHPA Web Site

We can now locate all clubs and schools on the respective maps on the BHPA web site. This is currently done by the postcode of the correspondence address for the club or school. If you wish to locate your marker more accurately to your operating area, please send us the relevant latitude and longitude in decimal format†. You can either email these to us, or enter them on your club/school's next membership renewal notice.

† Decimal values up to 6 decimal places. We need these as we are using Google Maps to generate these maps. There is a tool for conversion from Degrees, Minutes and Seconds at:
<http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>

For more information contact:
Stephanie Blankley, 0116 261 1322,
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4: Insurance Changes

We are now starting off the 2010 flying season, and with it comes a change of insurer, for the BHPA and every one of its members. Overall, there has not been any significant change to the policy terms, so it's a case of carry-on-as-normal. For example, the new insurers still require indemnity caps of £25k for instructional and tandem activities (to the student and passenger), and for everything else there is still third party cover to £2m. We do now have the added bonus of landowner cover which exceeds this and goes to £5m for most practical situations and hope that this will enable clubs to keep access to sites where higher indemnities are required in order to fly. I'd be happy to discuss the further details of this for those who think they have site problems related to the level of cover.

There is just one small warning for Clubs in that members will not be on the new policy until they have renewed their membership in 2010. This means that this year, the air will be shared by pilots on a ridge with separate insurance policies applicable, ie those who have renewed in 2010 and those yet to do so. It will only be at the start of 2011 that everyone will be on the new policy. In most circumstances this will not be a problem, but if you are operating from a £5m site please don't forget that there is a £30 supplement to pay in order to get that level of cover for "2009" members. If a member has renewed in 2010 before they fly, they are already covered to a sufficient level.

Martin Heywood
Insurance Officer

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Jennie Burdett, 0116 261 1322, jennifer-burdett@bhpa.co.uk

5: Courses

Club Coach Course

Please note that the date for the October course has been changed from that originally advertised.

Individuals wanting to take a course should contact the host club direct to book a place.

March 13 -14 North Devon HG & PG Club, Anne Willis
07970 592813 willan108@aol.com

EPPS Course

A provisional date for the next BHPA Emergency Parachute Systems Training Course has been set for 30th/31st October 2010. This is the two day initial training course, at which participants do not qualify, following which participants develop further experience before submission for a later, seperate exam.

There is a limited amount of places so contact BHPA Office as soon as possible.

*For more information contact:
Stephanie Blankley, 0116 261 1322,
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6: Mail to BHPA

When sending mail to the BHPA office, would clubs and schools please ensure that they put the correct amount of postage on the envelope. Underpayment causes extra work and delays in processing.

Also, please do not send cash in the ordinary mail. It is not unusual for mail to go missing, get damaged or be delivered to the wrong address. If you really have to send cash, please use registered mail.

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