



2006 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 2nd December, 2006 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 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:

John Aldridge
Marc Asquith
Jennie Burdett
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Rustam Davar
Martin Heywood
Sean Lovatt
Angus Pinkerton
Joe Schofield

Andy Shaw
Dave Thompson
Steve Walsh
John Welch

In attendance:
42 Voting members
of the Association

ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Martin Heywood, BHPA Chairman, welcomed members to the fifteenth BHPA AGM and hoped everyone would enjoy the show. He then informed members that the Association now has a new President as Lembit Opik, MP, had very kindly accepted our invitation to take on this role.

Martin then spoke of the Exec's great sadness at the loss of Treasurer Dick Long earlier in the year and members stood for a minute's silence.

Andy Shaw is standing down after six years on the Executive Council and Martin thanked him for his hard work during those years.

Finally, Martin referred to the external pressures, particularly from Europe, that will affect our sport. Domestically, transponders remain a very serious issue and as soon as they can be made the same size, weight and power as a mobile phone hg/pg pilots will have to carry one, although hopefully this is still some years away.

ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2006 be approved.

The resolution to approve the accounts was passed.

2.2 That the following members be elected to the Executive Council: M. Asquith, E. Cunliffe, R. Davar, S. Walsh, J. Welch.

The resolution for the election of members to the Executive Council was approved.

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

The resolution was approved.

This concluded the formal business of BHPA Limited as required by the Companies Act.

ITEM 3: OFFICERS' REPORTS

3.1 Finance Report

Before starting his report Marc Asquith presented Henry Blackshaw with a cheque for £160 which was first prize in the 500 Club lottery.

Marc said his report was more or less Dick's report from the previous year and even though things had happened that had not been expected, and other things that had been expected had not happened, the net result was as Dick had predicted, a small loss.

We do have a problem in that the membership numbers are dropping and this is a worry because we may not meet the minimum premium for the insurers. Last year we missed it by £18k although due to some other factors this was not a problem. However, it looks as though we will miss it again this year and we are therefore relying on Martin Heywood to renegotiate the

minimum premium.

In response to a question from Bill Morris about the 500 Club, Marc said that it had been set up by Percy Moss in 1979.. Members pay into it by standing order each month, normally between £1 and £10. Of the total amount received each month, half goes to the BHPA and half is used for prizes. This generates about £5k for the BHPA each year.

Bill proposed a vote of thanks for the work Marc had put into the 500 Club over the years which had made a big contribution to BHPA finances.

Regarding the falling membership numbers, Martin said that Exec have a team currently looking at the available statistics to find out what is going on and come up with an analysis.

Marc added that since the insurance cover for instructors had been reduced, the number of schools and therefore the number of members going through the schools, had declined.

3.2 Insurance

Martin Heywood was pleased to report that there had been a low number of claims over the past year and those that had been made were of low value. In the past, claims had been quite substantial but that is not the case at the moment. The £25k cap on schools has now been in place for three years so there can no longer be any possible larger claims from incidents prior to then.

Things are certainly looking better but we are not yet in a position where we can look around for another insurer. Martin said he was optimistic that next year we may be able to reduce the minimum premium, although it may not be possible to do anything about the previous one.

Bill Morris asked whether Martin was looking at removing the cap and Martin said that as things improve we may be able to raise the cap to £50k. The first priority is to make sure that the premium is not going to increase and secondly to increase the cap if we can.

ITEM 4: PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

BHPA Award Of Merit

Dave Tregaskis and Mick Goad received the BHPA Award of Merit for dedication and commendable service.. Citations for Dave and Mick will be published in Skywings.

Wings Over The Cloud

The best article in Skywings was chosen by Barbara Keyworth and this year the winner of the Wings Over The Cloud award was Ben Keayes for "To the Pyrenees without a plan!" published in the March issue.

John Aldridge informed the meeting that two BHPA members would be receiving Royal Aero Club Awards. Steve Uzochukwu will receive the RAeC Certificate of Merit and Trevor Birkbeck will

receive the RAeC Bronze Medal. Citations will be published in Skywings.

The President's Trophy was then presented to Henry Blackshaw for the longest flight of the year.

BHPA President, Lembit Opik, MP, presented several competition trophies to individuals and teams before addressing the meeting.

Lembit said he felt very pleased and privileged to be invited to be BHPA President and he would do his best to ensure that our sport is not pushed out of the sky. He added that all insurers are desperate to off-load losses wherever they can and we are very lucky to have good people dealing with our insurance.

In regard to transponders, Lembit said it is inevitable that they will come, but not yet. He felt that all airports should speak with one voice and should try to make the CAA into friends rather than enemies.

ITEM 3: OFFICERS' REPORTS (Continued)

The following Officers presented their written reports and there were no questions from the floor.

3.3 Competitions

John Aldridge.

3.4 Skywings

Paul Dancey.

3.5 Website

Sean Lovatt

3.6 School Liaison

Andy Shaw

3.7 Sites

Steve Walsh

3.8 Paramotoring

Ed Cunliffe said that his is a new post on the BHPA Exec and is a very positive step for paramotoring. He will be doing his best to promote the BHPA and he asked anyone who needs any help in regard to paramotoring to give him a call.

3.9 FSC

Angus Pinkerton presented his report for the Flying & Safety Committee and noted that there are three new members of the FSC. Paul Mahoney will be looking after SPHG, Mark Turner is taking over the Airspace Panel and Michel Carnet is heading the Pilot Training Panel.

Angus went on to say that we have had the second lowest number of fatalities i.e. two in the year. He then reminded members of the danger of landing in water; people had become rather blasé about it but it is extremely dangerous.

Both acro and speed riding are giving FSC some cause for concern.

3.10 External Representation

Marc Asquith apologised for not having a report in the folder. He explained that he is a RAeC Vice President and John Aldridge is the BHPA representative to the RAeC. Marc spoke briefly about how the GA Alliance are working together to ensure that no legislation affecting airports slips through unchallenged.

ITEM 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no questions from the membership and Martin thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.