



Meeting 2014B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Thursday 31 July 2014 at the BHPA Office, 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ

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

Present:

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

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from John Nash and John Welch.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AGM - 01 March 2014

Item 4.9, para 4, line 3, should be reworded to say: 'Martin invited Dave Cowan to get in touch so that he could get a better picture of what was going on.'

2014A - 01 March 2014

Item 10, para f), references to 'speed riding' should be changed to 'speed gliding'.

With the above amendments both sets of minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2012 – B3	Continuing
2012 – B4	Closed
2013 – A2	Continuing
2013 – B2	PayPal was discussed and it was agreed that all renewals could be paid by this method, although members who have to have their renewal form signed will still have to send the form to the office.
2013 – B12	Continuing
2014 – A1	Closed
2014 – A2	Closed
2014 – A3	Closed
2014 – A4	Continuing
2014 - A5	Closed
2014 – A6	Closed

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B1) Jennie Burdett to write to BMFA declining the invitation to their Championships.

ITEM 6: FUNDING FOR ATTENDANCE AT CIMA MEETING

Marc reported that he had been told that the BMAA fund one delegate to go to CIMA but our paramotor members would like BHPA to fund a paramotor delegate too. Marc said he had told Richard Shaw that we would fund a delegate if BMAA would not and it would be up to the paramotor people to nominate whom they wanted to send.

Bill thought that it had already been agreed that BHPA will fund a delegate, subject to the Paramotor Committee producing some costs.

ITEM 4: AIRPROX

Tom Hardie deals with our airspace issues and is our Aviation Liaison Officer, it was agreed that he is formally delegated to deal with AIRPROX matters.

ITEM 7: FUNDING FOR WORLDS IN HUNGARY

Funding of £12,687 is required to send the paramotoring team to the World Championships in Hungary. Bill said that as paramotoring is growing and it is an area that we want to expand into, it is something we should be looking at funding. Rather than just giving them the money, Bill would prefer it to be routed through the Competitions Committee so that the requirements for keeping accounts and writing reports had to be adhered to.

We fund the entry fees and a part of the pilots' expenses to get there but they have to pay the majority of the costs themselves. The £12k is probably in line with costs for other disciplines and Bill felt that we should fund 50% of it. However, this would be a 'one off' and he would like to move to a more long term solution so that they have funding in the normal way rather than having to go to Exec for each world competition.

Marc had some queries on the budget but Bill said although there were some odd items in the budget the final figure was about right. Bill was not commending their figures but the end result was about what he expected it to be. It was agreed that funding of £4k would be made available.

Marc commented that if the paramotors were going to get regular funding, then maybe it is time that the other disciplines should take a bit of a hit. Bill replied that they have not had an increase for several years and have had to cut back on the competitions they have been able to attend. They cannot afford to attend as many competitions or send as many pilots compared with previous years.

ITEM 8: MEDICAL AND SEARCH & RESCUE INSURANCE

Brett explained that the Chairman of the Ulster Club had asked him to bring this item to the Exec. He said there are some cheap insurance policies available that do not work and others that do work but are really expensive. There does not seem to be anything available at a sensible price. He asked whether BHPA could come to some arrangement to make this insurance available.

Martin H said the best thing we could do at the moment is ask our brokers to give us information, i.e. "when buying travel policies for flying abroad these are the things you need to look for". We cannot set ourselves up as an intermediary as it is too complicated to become an FCA regulated body.

Bill said he had tried to get a group policy for the team and one of the things to come out of it was the amount of misinformation out there on the forums.

This was discussed at length and members concluded that

it is not possible for BHPA to have a policy to cover our members; we cannot legally sell insurance nor even recommend any particular insurer or policy. Martin H said he would look into it further but it is probably an area that we cannot fix.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B2) Martin Heywood to look at travel insurance for members.

ITEM 12: CERTIFICATES FOR FOREIGN PILOTS

Mark explained that BHPA used to issue a Certificate of Instructor Competence to foreign pilots who had attended one or our courses and had qualified as an instructor but could not actually be a BHPA Instructor because they had to be in the UK and working at a school. We now have some people who want the same thing. One of our Senior Instructors has examined and passed them as Dual Pilots but we cannot register them as such because they are abroad. Mark therefore proposed that we issue them with something similar to an MoT certificate, showing that on a certain date this person met our standard. After that we have no control over them.

The proposal was approved and members then considered the fee that should be charged for the certificate. Brett suggested £500 would be reasonable but no firm decision was made. It was agreed that we should charge whatever the market will bear.

ITEM 9: SSSR AEROTOW PROGRESS

Mark said Tom Hardie had received some documents from the CAA which shows that they have interpreted the ANO in a different way. He went on to say that the people who wrote the ANO have retired and we now have new younger people who do not know what the original words meant and they are coming up with their own interpretations.

Bill said he had written to all the aerotow groups and they are all going to carry on as they are, apart from Airways who are going to buy a Dragonfly.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B3) Mark Dale to draft something to send to aerotow groups.

Bill asked if our insurance covers aerotow and was assured that it does. Bill had not been aware that BHPA cover extended to the microlights but Mark explained that they are only covered for aerotowing, nothing else.

ITEM 10: SITES FUND TRUST

It had been agreed that the Sites Fund would be held separately from the general BHPA funds and Martin H reported that he had started the ball rolling. He needed four members of the Exec to be Trustees and Angus Pinkerton, Martin Baxter, Adrian Thomas and Marc Asquith volunteered.

ITEM 11: PA INSURANCE

One of the schools had pointed out that the reference to PA insurance on our membership certificates was inaccurate as this could no longer be purchased through the schools. The paragraph on the front of the books should now say, "If you do not have cover against accidental injury we recommend that you consider it". Other references on the certificates should also be removed.

This issue was discussed and it was agreed that the books would be updated and reprinted for the start of next season.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B4) Martin Heywood to write something to send out to schools re PA insurance.

ITEM 12: REPORTS

12.1 Finance

Angus L circulated the draft accounts for the year ending March 2014 which showed a surplus of £49k. The audited accounts are not yet back from Clear & Lane but the picture for the year end is good.

For the current year, membership is up slightly and we are

showing a surplus of £13k which Angus L thought would reach £25k by the year end.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B5) F&GP to consider membership subscriptions.

Angus L said we must be careful with increasing subscriptions as the RPI is only 1%.

12.3 Insurance

12.3.1 Martin H reported that the cost of the policy has gone up a little but cover has improved a lot with £5m cover. At the moment we do not have the policy document and we have many clubs who need a copy so we are passing all the enquiries to our broker. It will be the same as the old document but with the £5m cover so until we get the new one it is OK to refer to the old one.

12.3.2 There was some discussion about whether we should advertise in the BMAA magazine to inform members that our insurance covers SSSRs.

12.3.3 Marc referred to the online Incident Report Form and said there was a glitch in that someone may not appear to be injured so the report does not get passed to the insurers but a claim is made later.

Martin reported on a claim that has been ongoing for some time although Marc was hopeful that this claim would be struck out in the next few weeks. The claimant's solicitors had given up and no longer acted for him and had advised him to discontinue but he had refused.

12.3.4 Marc asked members if they would be in favour of asking our insurers if they would cover all microlights, not just SSSRs. He explained that the BMAA want a master policy but want it to be optional although they barely have enough members to carry it even if it was mandatory. Marc said he would like to approach our insurers and ask if we could pool our risk and cover microlights. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea.

12.2 FSC

12.2.1 Dave T reported on a recent fatality at Combe Gibbet and the circumstances of the accident were discussed.

12.2.2 Investigation of accidents was discussed, now that the AAIB are not authorising BHPA to investigate on their behalf. Angus said that FSC had considered their position and have decided that they will be more particular which accidents they do a full blown accident report for. It is not worth conducting a full investigation into an accident that is not going to give us any new information.

With regard to the AAIB, Angus said we are still in discussions and the CAA have also taken an interest as they did not expect the AAIB to pull the plug in this way.

12.2.3 There have been some changes to the tasks in the Pilot Rating Scheme. Angus explained the background to this and the new Pilot Development Scheme that was currently being worked on by David Thomson. Top landings have been removed from the PG Hill CP and put into the Pilot task book.

There have been a number of cases where people have done their training abroad and have come back fully qualified but have never done a top landing. A questionnaire has been sent out to schools and clubs and there has been overwhelming agreement with moving top landings from the CP syllabus. Schools can still choose to teach it but if they do not it will not stop the student from getting a CP rating. FSC will still encourage schools to teach top landings.

12.2.4 FSC have had a request to recognise DGAC Paramotor Certification. After consideration FSC had decided that as there was no testing involved, BHPA should not accept DGAC as a valid certification for PPG wings.

12.2.5 BHPA rules on minimum ages are being reviewed and our documentation revised to comply with the new CAA rule allowing solo flight at 14 years old. Tug pilot has also been reduced to 17 years but other licences remain at 18 years.

12.2.6 Angus P mentioned a recent incident where the rescue helicopter had been unable to locate the casualty immediately. FSC had discussed this and had now reversed our recommendation to pack up the paraglider to avoid problems

with the helicopter. It was better left spread and easily visible. Also, FSC are hoping that clubs will provide all their members with a card giving exact locations of all their flying sites.

12.2.7 Martin H gave an update on the insurance position regarding the accident at Chetwynd last year. As so many of our rules had been broken our insurers had refused to cover it, as had the Scout Association. It is therefore likely that the instructor concerned is uninsured.

12.4 Sites

12.4.1 Martin B reported that in June there was £12,800 in the Site Fund. He would like to increase this by introducing donations by Standing Order. All agreed that this was a good idea and Martin should go ahead with it.

12.4.2 In regard to the database, Martin B said it has taken just over a year but he is now in control of the problem. Andrew Wakelin has done a great deal of work and it is now running and accessible; Tom Hardie has also sent the hard files to the office. The next problem is going through the paperwork and getting the database up to date. In order to do this we will have to notify clubs and ask them to check the details that we have.

12.4.3 The military are still undecided as to whether they want to mark out sites on their charts and until they decide it is not possible to finalise a Letter of Agreement.

12.4.4 Martin B has produced three sets of guidance notes which are available on request. The notes on Site Negotiation and Wind Turbines will be published in Skywings but the Media Briefing notes are more appropriate for the Club Bulletin.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B6) Martin Baxter to produce PowerPoint presentation.

Members acknowledged the progress that Martin B had made since joining Exec and thanked him for his efforts.

12.5 Skywings

Paul had circulated his report and said that costs have been trimmed as far as possible and everything is on track.

12.6 Website

Paul reported that the hang gliding history website is running and it will cost us very little to keep it going.

12.7 Competitions

Marc commented that it is quite sad that we fought tooth and nail to get accuracy recognised by the FAI and now hardly any is going on here, although it is still popular in other countries of the world.

12.8 External Representation

12.8.1 John Nash was not at the meeting. Joe mentioned that Ron Freeman had won the 'Bird Man of Worthing' prize.

12.8.2 Marc reported on moves by the RAeC and the GAA to formally combine.

12.9 School Liaison

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

12.10 Paramotor Liaison

There had been some confusion in regard to the CAA working group which Ed had originally been part of. Tom Hardie felt that this should come under FSC so now Ed was off the group and Mark Dale would be writing the report. Mark said he is working on this and has been in touch with other organisations around the world to see what they do.

Ed said a lot more younger people are getting into paramotoring and there will almost certainly be more complaints.

12.11 Admin

Marc reported that as from 1st August Jennie Burdett will only be working for two days per week before complete retirement in due course. Michelle Lanman will be taking over as Office Manager.

ITEM 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Bill raised the matter of insurance cover for volunteers helping out at competitions, he wanted the minimum of obstacles put in front of people willing to volunteer. This will be discussed when membership fees are considered.

13.2 Europe Air Sports consultation – this was passed to FSC to respond.

FOR ACTION: (2014 – B7) Jennie Burdett to include staff salaries on agenda for next meeting.

13.3 Marc informed members that the AGM would be held on 7th March, at the BGA conference as it has been for the last three years.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting and said planners would be circulated for the next meeting in November.

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
Jennie Burdett	2013 - B2	Investigate PayPal for renewals.	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
Jennie Burdett	2014 - B1	Write to BMFA declining invitation to Championships.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2014 - B2	Look into travel insurance for members.	Opened
Mark Dale	2014 - B3	Draft something to send to aerotow groups.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2014 - B4	Write something for schools re PA insurance.	Opened
F&GP	2014 - B5	Consider membership subscriptions.	Opened
Martin Baxter	2014 - B6	Produce PowerPoint presentation.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2014 - B7	Include staff salaries on agenda for next meeting.	Opened