



Meeting 2010A of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Thursday 21st January, 2010 at the Grange Strathmore Hotel,
41 Queens Gate Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7

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

Present:

John Aldridge
Marc Asquith
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langford
John Lawson
John Nash
Angus Pinkerton
Steve Walsh

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ed Cunliffe and John Welch

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2009C – 10 September 2008

The minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2009 – B2 Closed

2009 – B3 Marc explained that this action was in regard to child protection and there have since been changes to the rules. He said we really need to progress things and Martin asked to be included in this work.

2009 – C1 Closed

2009 – C2 This would be discussed as an agenda item.
Closed.

2009 – C3 Closed. Jennie explained that we already have a very simple system to enable clubs to check that all their members are current BHPA members. All they have to do is send us a spreadsheet with names and BHPA membership numbers and they can do this whenever they like. This is checked against our database and a report emailed back to the club.

Exec members were concerned that some clubs are not bothering to have their membership lists checked. Dave pointed out that during an investigation of a recent fatality, it had come to light that some of the club's officers were not BHPA members.

It was suggested that it should be mandatory for clubs to have their membership lists checked, possibly when the club renews each year. It is a requirement that all club officials and members have to be BHPA members and it is quite clear that some clubs do not adhere to this rule.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A1) Martin Heywood and Jennie Burdett to produce some wording re checking of membership lists.

ITEM 4: STAFF SALARIES REVIEW

This item was referred to the F&GP.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A2) F&GP to conduct review of staff salaries.

ITEM 5: AIRWORTHINESS STANDARDS - COMPETITION GLIDERS

John A gave the background information to this item, explaining that it is proposed that only certified gliders will be permitted in FAI Category 1 events. Full certification has been a CIVL aim for many years but it has not happened. Now that there is a possibility of progress John asked for confirmation that this is what BHPA want.

John pointed out that other types of gliders such as Sub 20 are not certified and it will be some time before they are. Also, the new Ozone glider is not suitable for testing. This glider has more stiffening and therefore cannot be tested because a collapse cannot be induced. However, this does not mean that it will not do something else. After further discussion, all agreed that we should back the CIVL position for certification.

The possibility that John would not be our CIVL delegate for much longer was discussed. The President of CIVL is standing down and at the moment there is nobody to take over. Mark expressed concern that we would then have a CIVL delegate who is not a member of Exec.

ITEM 6: WELSH AIRSPORTS

Edi Geczy had written to the Exec requesting that his school, Welsh Airsports, should be reinstated.

Dave gave background information, including a list of complaints from people who had paid for equipment and not received the goods, or had paid for courses that had not taken place. There was a whole catalogue of issues involving money but it was noted that there have never been any problems concerning Edi's ability as an instructor. Paul pointed out that Edi had been training on South East Wales HG & PG Club sites when he was not insured and they did not want him on their sites again.

John Lawson expressed surprise that we did not have a clause to enable us to refuse membership to people who bring the sport into disrepute. Marc replied that we can refuse if we want to but do we want him flying (which he would do) on our club sites without insurance?

After further discussion it was felt that Edi should be allowed to renew his Flying Membership but reinstatement of his licences was a matter for the FSC. Angus P said he has clearly demonstrated that he is not capable of running a school; we know that he has broken membership rules by not operating the membership books properly. In view of the information presented to Exec about the financial and administrative shambles he has been working in, it is highly unlikely that FSC

would grant a reinstatement of his licences. He also owed the BHPA £248 which would need to be cleared.

Martin agreed to write to Edi making it clear that Exec are only accepting him back as an ordinary Flying Member and FSC would consider the question of reinstating his licences.

John L said we should give ourselves a clearer set of rules to enable us to refuse to accept someone who rips people off.

Angus P replied that this has been looked at before and the conclusion was that the experts at dealing with swindlers are Trading Standards.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A3) Martin Heywood to write to Edi Geczy.

ITEM 7: REPORTS

7.1 Finance

Angus L said he was forecasting a loss of £40k for the year but with the new insurance deal this will drop by about £15k.

7.1.2 With regard to Skywings' advertising, he felt that we would always be subsidising Skywings because the schools are now aware that it may be more cost effective for them to advertise on the web than in Skywings.

7.1.3 Angus had looked into the possibility of us taking Direct Debit instructions over the phone and said this would not present a problem. The cost involved would be £900. The DD can be set up as soon as we take the call and the member will be insured immediately, even though we will not receive payment for several days. This was agreed.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A4) Angus Langford to proceed with arrangements for Direct Debits.

7.1.4 Regarding a replacement for Carolyn, Angus said he wants to employ someone who is more qualified to prepare accounts; at the moment we get the accountants in to do this. This person would obviously have to be paid more than Carolyn's current salary and Angus therefore proposed that they would only work for four days per week so that the cost would be broadly similar.

Jennie felt that as managing accounts was not the whole of the job and an equal amount of time would be spent answering the telephone or wrapping parcels, the proposed salary was too high. It may be better to employ someone qualified to do the accounts for only two days per week and another part-time person to take over the other part.

However, Angus did not think that we would be able to find someone suitable to work for only two days and it was agreed that someone should be sought to take over the whole of Carolyn's job.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A5) Angus Langford to liaise with F&GP re advertising the vacancy for an accounts person.

John Nash pointed out that the advertisement could not say "with 5 years experience" as this would be ageist; it would have to say something like "recent experience".

7.2 FSC

Angus Pinkerton reported that FSC had recently been looking at the rules of the BHPA. There are references in various places requiring members to comply with the rules of the BHPA but we cannot point to one document where these rules listed. Mark had therefore pulled out the rules contained in several different documents and compiled a list of the rules that apply to ordinary members. Obviously there are many more rules for instructors. FSC had considered the list and now it was being presented to the Exec for approval.

John A said he had only received the document the day before the meeting and did not feel that he had had adequate time to consider the rules and make a decision. Members agreed and they would therefore consider the rules and discuss this at the next meeting. They did however agree that a rule concerning bringing the BHPA and the sport in general into disrepute should be added.

7.11 Admin.

This item was brought forward on the agenda as the Treasurer had to leave the meeting early.

Marc Asquith highlighted the need to find new office premises and said the immediate question is whether Exec

wants to rent or buy somewhere. The possibility of sharing premises with the BGA seems not to be on the cards.

There were arguments both for and against buying a property and it was noted that now would be a good time to buy, as prices are low. If and when we sold the property again it would almost certainly be for considerably more than we paid for it. Martin said we should not be considering buying a property on the basis of making money but on the basis that we expect to still be in business in another fifteen years time.

Angus P cautioned that our Association is not growing, at the moment we are just about holding our own, but in order to grow we would have to do something different. He felt that it would be a mistake to let the opportunity to share premises with the BGA go by. We need to press them aggressively and have them make a definite decision.

No decision was reached and the matter was remitted to the F&GP.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A6) F&GP to decide whether to rent or buy office premises.

7.3 Insurance

7.3.1 Martin Heywood reported that our new insurance policy would give £5m cover for landowners so members would not have to pay the £30 supplement. Currently only a small number of sites require £5m cover so Martin would like clubs to keep us informed of any sites requiring the higher level of cover.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A7) Martin Heywood to write something for the Bulletin and Skywings re new insurance cover.

7.3.2 Mark raised the matter of instructor supplements and said many of our instructors pay the instructor supplement plus the dual pilot supplement and they only get £25k insurance cover. Brett added that the commercial pilots were much safer than recreational pilots flying dual and he felt that it should be more difficult to get a tandem licence.

Marc said that for next year he would like Exec to look at restructuring the membership fees and re-balance everything. It was agreed that this should be considered at the January meeting next year.

7.4 School Liaison

There were no matters to discuss.

7.5 Competitions

7.5.1 John A explained that following the recent double fatality at Long Mynd, it had become clear that rules for national competitions organised by clubs need to be looked at. He had received assurances from the organiser of the British Clubs Challenge that no rules would be passed without reference to him.

The circumstances of the accident were discussed and Mark pointed out that one of the sites used was totally unsuitable for a competition.

John said he had a list of club competition rules from when the BCC was resurrected so he had somewhere to start in producing an organiser's checklist.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A8) John Aldridge to include Martin Heywood and Mark Dale in the circulation of the draft rule.

7.5.2 The anti-doping rules mean that we now have to get a signed form from competitors in FAI international events. John A proposed that we tie this in with the Sporting Licence so that it is included when they renew their licence during the coming year.

John N suggested that we could put the document on the website and they could tick a box to say that they had received it but John A did not think that this would be acceptable as they have to sign to say that they have received the document.

7.6 Sites

Steve Walsh said there was nothing to report since the AGM, other than some heated exchanges between Southern Club and BMFA members.

7.7 Skywings

Paul Dancey reported that an improvement in Skywings' advertising is unlikely in the near future. He recommended that the Skywings budget should be maintained at the current level

and said that due to the reduction in print costs it should come in under budget this year.

7.8 Web Site

Paul explained that the map on the schools page showing the approximate location of clubs is based on their postcode but this is not very accurate. This had now been improved and we have the facility for clubs to provide us with their latitude and longitude for an accurate placing.

7.9 External Representation

7.9.1 John A reported that we had nominated two of our members, Paul Dancey and Bob Dunthorn, for RAeC medals and they had been accepted. The ceremony will take place on 27th April at Hendon. John said it would be good if some Exec members could attend this year. Ticket prices would remain at £35, the same as last year.

7.9.2 Royal Aero Club subscriptions will be increased by 13% this year, which is largely due to currency fluctuations.

7.10 Paramotors

Ed Cunliffe was not at the meeting but had said there was nothing to report since the AGM.

7.10.1 Mark referred to the letter received from Chris Finnegan at the CAA, expressing concerns at the fragmented nature of current guidance in relation to paramotoring. We had replied saying that we had told them that this would happen and suggested what to do.

7.10.2 A letter had also been received from Martin Drake at the CAA concerning complaints from disabled paramotor pilots. They say that not being allowed to use trikes is an infringement of their human rights.

Marc said that in the past we have said that if someone comes to us with a specific case of a specific disability, we will consider each case on its merits.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A9) Mark Dale and Marc Asquith to liaise re disable paramotor pilots and trikes.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brett said he had been having difficulty trying to register records. Bill Morris does not accept responsibility for British records and only deals with FAI records so currently nothing is being done on national records. Brett said he would be happy to get involved but obviously he could not authorise records as this would mean he would be authorising his own records.

FOR ACTION: (2010 – A10) Brett Janaway to look into registration of national records and put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Marc Asquith	2009 - B3	Check instructions to Counsel drafted by himself and Mark Dale	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2010 - A1	Produce wording re checking of membership lists.	Opened
F&GP	2010 - A2	Conduct review of staff salaries.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2010 - A3	Write to Edi Geczy	Opened
Angus Langford	2010 - A4	Proceed with arrangements for Direct Debits.	Opened
Angus Langford	2010 - A5	Liaise with F&GP re advertising the vacancy for accounts person.	Opened
F&GP	2010 - A6	Decide whether to rent or buy office premises.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2010 - A7	Write something for the Bulletin and Skywings re insurance cover.	Opened
John Aldridge	2010 - A8	Include Martin Heywood and Mark Dale in the circulation of draft rules.	Opened
Mark Dale/Marc Asquith	2010 - A9	Liaise re disabled paramotor pilots and trikes.	Opened
Brett Janaway	2010 - A10	Look into registration of national records and put this on the agenda for the next meeting.	Opened