



Meeting 2011D of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Thursday 8 September 2011 at 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
Bill Bell
Chris Burns
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langord
John Nash
Angus Pinkerton

In attendance:
Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from John Welch

Martin informed members that as Angus L was unable to stay for the whole meeting the Treasurer's Report would be discussed first.

ITEM 7: REPORTS

7.1 Treasurer's Report

7.1.1 Angus L reported that the year to March 2011 had been slightly better than anticipated which made up for losses in the previous two years and we are now back to where we were when Angus took over as Treasurer.

This year, membership numbers are down slightly on last year so this means that income is down and costs have also increased across the board. We will make a surplus but not as much as we would like.

7.1.2 The meeting discussed the situation concerning late payments from debtors.

7.1.3 Marc said he would like to simplify the membership fees and have fewer categories. He had produced a spreadsheet to show what the affect of his proposals would be.

Angus L did not feel that membership subscriptions should be increased at this time. He suggested that one way of cutting costs would be to take a year off from funding competitions as the Comps Committees already have reserves.

Bill said that it is necessary to have some reserves for any unexpected situation. He went on to explain that two competitions were in danger of making a loss purely due to the weather.

Mark made the point that there are more and more people out there who are flying but are no longer BHPA members because of the cost. In his opinion it would be better to take money from competitions and let them pay themselves, rather than lose members by putting up fees.

Dave said that the proposed changes to Introductory Membership would put dual flights up by 50% to £15. This is quite a big increase for someone who is only having one flight.

During the discussion on membership fees, several suggestions were made, including giving a bigger discount for Direct Debit payments and looking into taking renewal fees monthly by DD rather than in one lump sum.

Martin referred to the supplements for dual pilots and instructors and said that F&GP would look at these along with membership subscriptions. Any changes would be announced sometime before Christmas and come into effect on 1st April next year.

7.1.4 Angus P reminded Exec members that it would be a requirement to provide pensions for employees in a couple of years. He felt that as a good employer BHPA should be implementing this sooner rather than leaving it until the last possible moment.

Martin agreed that this should be on the agenda for the Exec meeting early in the new year.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AGM - 12 February 2011

4.1 para 6, last line. This should read "a nine hundred and ninety nine year lease".

2011A - 12 February 2011

No amendments.

2011B - 07 April 2011

Apologies had been received from John Lawson.

2011C - 14 July 2001

No amendments.

With the above amendments, all minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2009 – B3 Continuing

2010 – A10 Continuing

2010 – B3 Continuing

2010 - B8 Continuing

2011 – B1 This is an agenda item. Closed.

2011 – B2 Closed.

2011 - B3 Closed.

2011 – B4 This is an agenda item. Closed.

2011 – B5 Continuing

2011 – B6 Continuing

2011 – B7 Martin said that the World Wide Insurance is under consideration but it is looking promising. Closed.

Bill added that when we do something like this we need to make sure that the members are aware of it and that we are working on their behalf.

2011 – B8 Closed

2011 – B9 It was felt that this was not the best time to provoke things and this action was closed. Mark mentioned that where the CAA is allowed to vary SERA they would.

2011 – B10 Closed

ITEM 4: MEMBERSHIP FEES & TYPES

This item had already been discussed during the Treasurer's

Report.

ITEM 5: REGISTRATION OF NATIONAL RECORDS

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

ITEM 6: HELMET STICKERS

6.1 Brett proposed that we should have new helmet stickers with the membership expiry date printed on them. Although there would be wastage each month, the stickers would be cheaper than the current ones as they would be square rather than round.

It was agreed that Brett should progress the new stickers.

6.2 **Clubs Abroad.** Martin had circulated a paper concerning clubs abroad and commercial coaches and this was discussed at length. There are several of our coaches running commercial coaching operations abroad at the moment and we need a mechanism to encompass these within the BHPA.

Mark said that these are really no different to our normal commercial schools but they will have nothing like the same level of control or scrutiny from us. In a normal club there is a Chief Coach, Chairman, Safety Officer etc. but this new type of club would not have a committee running it and would be under the control of one person.

Brett explained that there are a lot of people interested in this, they have been operating abroad for many years and would like their operations to be recognised. Brett said he would be happy to pay for inspections or instructor courses to ensure that things were run properly. The new clubs would take out alternative insurance cover. They would be like postgraduate schools, the objective being to keep our post CP members.

Following further discussion there was general agreement that these new clubs would be a good thing. Angus P noted that there would be more trips abroad for the technical staff to check out these overseas clubs. Dave replied that at the moment inspections of our schools abroad are cost-neutral as they are paying their subscriptions etc.

6.3 **Ghurkas.** The meeting then considered an application from members of the Ghurkas to set up a club in Nepal. After discussion it was agreed that this registration should be accepted.

6.6 **Coaches.** Dave said that it has never been possible for coaches to take payment for their work but now they will be able to become postgraduate instructors, i.e. get a slightly higher qualification. This will resolve the problem. This will all have to go before the FSC but it could be available for April next year.

ITEM 7: REPORTS (Continued)

7.8 External Representation

Brett said there was nothing to report. Calvo had not been in touch and Tom Hardie preferred to give his feedback through the FSC.

7.7 Competitions

All at the meeting were pleased to hear Bill report that John Aldridge was making good progress although it was unlikely that he would resume his CIVL presidency.

Bill had circulated a written report detailing recent competitions and results. He went on to say that he had been speaking to Andy Phillips and felt that we should have a presence at the paramotor competitions. Bill said they had a very impressive infrastructure and organisation and would be a good opportunity for us to do something positive.

Martin mentioned that in the past Exec meetings had been held at similar events around the country and this may be something we could look at. There was broad support for having a presence at the paramotor competition.

Bill said the competitions committee would be looking at the budget again as the paramotor committee had approached them for funding for trackers. There was some discussion re the overlap between BHPA and BMAA and Bill said he would liaise with the paramotor people.

Bill then informed the meeting that Steve Senior had replaced Tom Payne as Chairman of the Paragliding Panel.

7.2 Flying & Safety Committee

7.2.1 Angus reported that the FSC had agreed that it should be mandatory for all schools to be inspected every three years. Any schools which have not been inspected within the last three years will have until January 2013 to get this done. He pointed out that the Scout schools in particular have CFIs who have not flown for some years.

7.2.2 Angus then gave some background information on a recent accident where the pilot had been drinking. FSC were going to remind members that the legal alcohol limit for flying was a quarter of that for driving.

7.2.3 The problem with pilots in the XC League flying through controlled airspace was considered. Angus explained how this problem had come to light and then said that this is a grey area as although it is called the BHPA XC League, it is not officially part of our competition structure.

Bill advised that setting ourselves up as policemen was not a good idea. We do not have the authority to police airspace any more than anyone else. Martin agreed and said that anyone who had any concerns should contact the Constabulary.

The PGXC people believe that there has been a lot of cheating going on and that there is a hard core of pilots who have to be tracked to ensure that the rules are not broken.

After further consideration of the issue the Exec agreed that the current set of rules for the HGXCL are acceptable but it is noted that in the future 3D track logs will be required.

7.2.4 Simon Westmore is using our Student Training Record Book with our logo and © removed. Angus said he is definitely misusing our copyrighted material.

FOR ACTION: (2011 – D1) Martin Heywood to write to Simon Westmore.

7.2.5 In Europe the overtaking rule is the exact opposite of our own, although mostly there is no hard and fast rule. Our rule originally came from the BGA and having spoken to them, although they still have the rule, it appears that nobody uses it.

FSC have therefore agreed to do away with this rule and will be liaising with the BGA so that they are aware.

7.2.6 Safety Recommendations from recent Boards of Inquiry had noted that:

HG competition used a different 'All Land' signal from that recommended by the BHPA. Some emergency Parachute Systems were found not fit for purpose.

The FSC would refer these matters to the Competitions Committee.

7.3 Insurance

Martin said that there was nothing new to report on insurance.

7.4 Admin

Marc informed the meeting that the AGM was booked for Saturday 3rd March at the Belfy Hotel, Nottingham.

Four members of Exec are required to stand down so standing for re-election would be Brett Janaway, Angus Pinkerton, and Steve Walsh. Marc explained that John Lawson might be going abroad next year, in which case he will stand down from Exec. We will know for definite in November.

Voting forms have to be at the printers by the end of December.

Joe said it is years since we had any proper motions at the AGM and he suggested that we should encourage members to put points forward for discussion.

7.5 Skywings

Paul had circulated a written report and added that he was very pleased and surprised that the advertising is actually going up. This is mainly due to Colin Fargher who is very good at his job.

7.6 Website

Paul reported that there is a lot of work going on with the website at the moment as the server is being upgraded. This means that some of our software has to be rewritten.

7.9 School Liaison

No report.

7.10 Paramotor Liaison

No report.

7.11 Sites

No report.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 John Nash asked whether BHPA would be interested in having a stand at the Outdoor Show in January. The cost would be around £3k and a couple of schools may be interested in joining us if we have a stand.

This was discussed but members felt that the cost was too much unless we could be sure of signing up enough new members to cover it, which is highly unlikely.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.