



Meeting 2013A of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Saturday 2nd March 2013 at the Belfry Hotel, Nottingham.

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

Present:

Bill Bell
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
John Nash
Angus Pinkerton
John Welch

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Chris burns.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2012C - 11 December 2012

Subject to some amendments the minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2012 – B2 Angus P pointed out that we could take advantage of Gift Aid if the Sites Fund was a charitable trust. Angus L would look into this. Continuing.

2012 – B3 Continuing

2012 – B4 Continuing

2012 – C1 Closed

FOR ACTION: (2013 – A1) John Nash to progress emails to lapsed members.

It was agreed that the rejoining fee would be waived for any lapsed member renewing by Direct Debit.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – A2) Martin Heywood to get Competitions Director's Handbook from Bill Bell and Ed Cunliffe and check over from a legal point of view.

2012 – C2 Closed

2012 – C3 Mark reported that the HPA would be holding their competition at Sywell but they are keen to liaise with us. It will be a FAI Category 2 event. Continuing.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – A3) Mark Dale to speak to Bill Brookes regarding seed corn funding.

2012 – C4 Closed

2012 – C5 Closed

2012 – C6 Closed

ITEM 4: POST AGM

4.1 Allocation of Responsibilities

It was agreed that Adrian Thomas should not take on any particular post for the time being.

Marc said he has had a dilemma in that Chris Burns has been ill and Bill has been doing the work as his deputy. However, this is causing a delay because Bill has to wait until he can contact Chris for a decision. Marc suggested that the title of Deputy should be removed so that Bill does not have to consult Chris.

Exec felt that Marc should have a conversation with Chris before doing anything.

4.2 AGM

It was noted that there were fourteen members at the AGM, an improvement on last year's 3. Joe asked whether the AGM next year would again be with the BGA. This would be discussed at the next Exec meeting.

4.3 Sites Officer

Members felt that if Martin Baxter was willing he should be co-opted onto Exec as Sites Officer. Marc agreed to have a word with him.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – A4) Marc Asquith to speak to Martin Baxter re co-option.

ITEM 7: FOREIGN QUALIFIED PILOTS

Brett had a query in regard to a foreign pilot who apparently had been told by someone at the BHPA office that he would have to go to a school and start from scratch, even though he had 50 hours training abroad.

Mark, Dave and Jennie were in agreement that this would not have happened as we have an Alternative Entry System. There must have been some misunderstanding but without knowing who this pilot actually spoke to it was not possible to investigate further.

ITEM 9: APPI PPG

Marc explained that all members of the EHPU had agreed not to recognise the APPI (Association of Professional Paragliding Instructors) and the only qualifications that they would accept would be those awarded by NGBs, CAA etc.

Marc said that his main concern was that if these sorts of professional bodies start to issue their own ratings, it would be a mammoth task to cross reference with our ratings.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – A5) Paul Dancey to put statement from EHPU on our own website.

ITEM 5: HELP FOR SCHOOLS

John Welch was convinced that 20% of our schools would be closing this year and as the majority of our new members come through the schools, this is bound to affect our membership numbers. John proposed that the renewal fee for schools should be waived for this year; it would keep them going for one more year and could make all the difference to them. Furthermore, TIs should not pay the £80 supplement and the dual flight membership should be reduced from £15 to £5.

Mark suggested that the school renewal fee should be £50 for all schools this year, then next year the fee should go back to the normal rate for all schools, including AE schools.

John went on to say that the schools are our best resource. We spend £30k on competitions funding, which does not bring in any new members, £20k on the website, which he agreed needs attention but the schools should be a priority.

He said that last year he only had 14-15 training days in the UK and if he did not have trips abroad and other projects he would not have been able to keep going. Ten years ago it was normal to get 80 days a year in the UK.

Marc pointed out that the statistics did not support John's argument. However, John replied that if we lose as many schools as he thinks we will, things would look very different next year. There is a definite feeling within the schools that they have supported the BHPA through good times and bad and now they feel that BHPA should be supporting them.

There followed a lengthy debate on school renewal fees, TI supplements and Intro Membership fees. There were many differing views and several suggestions as to how to proceed but Martin's proposal that we should accept payment of the renewal fee in two instalments was felt to be the most acceptable.

It was agreed that from 1st April schools would be able to pay their renewal fee in two equal instalments. This scheme would run for two years.

ITEM 6: WEBSITE

John Nash reported that he was hoping to recruit some volunteers to help with the website, although Paul would remain as Webmaster. The proposal for the new website would go out to tender and he would look at the options. The Terms of Reference were approved.

ITEM 8: COMPETITION WINGS

The situation regarding competition wings was discussed and Marc said that Angus P had stressed to EHPU that competitions should be on EN certified gliders only. At the moment we do not know what is being proposed but WG6 would not approve anything that has not actually been tried, so gliders would have to be produced with the required characteristics and then a test house would have to test them. Angus added that it is still his view that all equipment used in competitions should be certified.

Our policy is to only accept EN A – D but if there are two different certifications – the EN scheme for ordinary pilots and a Competitions scheme with instrumentation on gliders for competition wings – we may have to change our policy wording slightly. Bill said that we need to make it clear to people that the new competition class will not be automatically accepted. Until we have assessed the competition class our current status of only accepting A – D has not changed.

ITEM 11: COMPETITIONS FUNDING

Brett said that with falling membership, giving the same amount of funding to competitions means that the cost per member is increasing. Bill had produced a chart showing exactly what the cost to the membership was and this showed that it has stayed the same.

Angus P said this comes down to the basic principle of should we be taking money from our members and giving it to other members to enter competitions. Do we get any new members from this. We are using £5 of the money from each of our members to send some members off around the world flying. Bill pointed out that he had been unable to send a team to Europe and Australia this year due to a shortage of funds.

It was suggested that the competitions should be funded on need, they should not be given the same amount every year regardless. Both Angus L and John N were concerned that members were contributing to competitions regardless of whether competitions need the money or not. Bill replied that this is not about paying for someone's holidays, they always get less money than they actually spend. He said we should fund competitions because a significant number of our members are interested and take part in competitions of one sort or another.

Joe said that if there was a room full of members it would be difficult to justify our funding of competitions. Angus L agreed and said the point is that we need to be able to justify to the membership why we are funding competitions.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting and said the date for the next meeting would be set later.