



## 2021 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 13th March 2021 remotely by GoToMeeting, commencing at 11am.

These minutes are not to be taken as an accurate record without referring to the minutes of the Executive Council meeting at which they were approved.

### Present

Marc Asquith  
Martin Baxter  
Bill Bell  
Ed Cunliffe  
Paul Dancey  
Julie Drake  
Martin Heywood  
Angus Langford  
Michelle Lanman  
Angus Pinkerton  
Joe Schofield  
Mark Shaw

### In attendance:

Gareth Bird  
Jenny Buck  
30 voting members

### Apologies:

Tom Prideaux-Brune

### ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

BHPA Chairman, Marc Asquith, welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting would be transmitted live over Facebook.

Marc explained that there would be two parts to the meeting, the first being the formal agenda and the second Officers Reports and awards.

As the meeting was being held virtually members had been asked to place their votes prior to the meeting.

### ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

#### 2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2020 be approved.

Marc commented that the Treasurer's report would be discussed later in the meeting.

Members had voted unanimously in favour of approving the accounts and the resolution was carried.

#### 2.2 That five members be elected to the Executive Council from the following five candidates: M Asquith, G Bird, J Buck, E Cunliffe, A Pinkerton.

As it was an un-contested election all five candidates were elected.

#### 2.3 That Fortus Audit LLP be appointed as auditors and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Members had voted unanimously in favour and the resolution was carried.

### ITEM 3: AWARDS

3.1 The Wings Over a Cloud award for the best article in Skywings during 2020 was awarded to Peter Holdy for 'How I became a paragliding junkie' printed in May.

3.2 BHPA Awards of Merit were given to Pete Logan and Chris Williams for their contributions to the utility 'CANP for free fliers', and to Jim Whitney for his many years of commitment and support to Sky Surfing Club.

### ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS

Reports from Exec Members were included in the AGM folders and had been published on the website in advance for members to review. Members now had the opportunity to ask questions.

#### 4.1 Chairman

Marc Asquith commented that he would not go through his report in detail but was happy to take any questions.

He expressed his thanks to all staff, volunteers and members without which the Association would not function.

## 4.2 Treasurer

2.1.1 Angus reported that in the year to March 2020 the Association made a small loss of £9K, mainly due to the increase in insurance premium. This compares with a surplus of £15K made the previous year.

2.1.2 Our overall reserves stand at £541K, of which £325K is invested in our freehold office. Our subscriptions are paid in advance, so we hold considerable levels of cash, but as interest rates are low our interest earnings remain disappointingly small.

We hold reserves to allow us more flexibility in budgeting, to provide a fighting fund if there is a threat to the sport and to allow us to support site purchases and loans. We adopt a policy of maintaining reserves in real terms over the medium term so that surpluses in one year make up for losses in others.

2.1.3 When lockdown began in March 2020 the financial situation for the Association looked bleak and we were forecasting substantial losses as we expected lockdown to prevent flying and training for around six months. We took advantage of the furlough scheme and looked at other options to save money. Fortunately, the ban was lifted in time to save some of the summer season and so membership numbers did not fall away as we had feared.

As membership has remained stable and with the cash we have had from the furlough scheme it seems likely we will end the year with a substantial surplus. Exec have decided to return £30K of the surplus to members through a reduction in next years subscription. In reality this means, because of increasing insurance costs, that the subscription price increase will be lower than it would otherwise have been.

Angus offered to answer any questions by email.

## 4.3 Insurance

Martin Heywood reported that our insurance premium is now over £400K. With a worsening claims history and a shrinkage of potential investors we expected to be in a much worse position.

The coverage provided with BHPA membership for free flight and allied disciplines is still great value and will stand comparison on cost and terms against anything else out there.

## 4.4 Sites

4.4.1 Martin Baxter explained that the BHPA Sites Database is not a National Sites Guide. It exists to identify a single point of contact for each site so enquiries and notifications can be quickly directed to the right person.

4.4.2 The Sites Trust Fund is ring fenced from other BHPA resources and currently stands at £54,700.

4.4.3 Martin is continuing with his aim to improve CANP and has submitted three written proposals to the CAA.

The CANP for free fliers app is going from strength to strength with 46 clubs listing a total of 467 sites.

## 4.5 Competitions

Bill Bell reported that it had been a difficult year for all involved. Organising and reorganising, scheduling and rescheduling competitions only to have them cancelled or deferred has been soul destroying for everyone involved.

It is intended that there will be a return to some sort of competition schedule later this year but 'normal' will have to wait for the 2022 season.

## 4.6 Skywings

Paul Dancey reported that advertising income this year has been halved as a result of the pandemic. By keeping tight control of costs and reducing issue sizes operating costs have been reduced. Despite our best efforts it is likely Skywings will be over budget by £5000 at the end of the year.

Paul expressed his thanks to Colin Fargher and Joe Schofield for continuing to produce a substantial, informative and entertaining magazine through such difficult times.

Bill Bell thanked Paul for sourcing the paper wrapping the magazine is now delivered in.

Charles Norwood asked when members would be able to elect to have the digital version of Skywings only. Paul explained that to keep costs down we have to commit to printing a certain number of copies, if this reduces costs increase.

## 4.7 Website

Paul Dancey commented that he has almost completed re-formatting website pages so they can be viewed on the majority of devices He has also started work on developing a safety information repository.

## 4.8 Admin

Marc Asquith expressed his thanks to Michelle Lanman and Stephanie Blankley for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

## 4.9 FSC

4.9.1 Angus Pinkerton reported that Dave Thompson and Ian Currer have been on furlough since April 2020. During that time Mark Shaw has carried the load and Angus expressed his thanks

4.9.2 There have been a small reduction in incidents, although there has been less flying time. Angus asked everyone to be remain vigilant when they return to flying.

4.9.3 We have managed to complete some examinations despite the restrictions.

4.9.4 The CAA have extended the sub 70kg exemption until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

4.9.5 The CAA's Electronic Conspicuity rebate scheme has been extended until November 2021.

Angus ended by thanking the volunteers on all panels for their commitment and hard work.

#### **4.10 Paramotor Liaison**

Ed Cunliffe commented that due to the current situation he had little to report.

#### **ITEM 5: QUESTIONS**

Reports completed the floor was opened for questions.

As there were no questions the Chairman thanked members present for attending and closed the meeting at 11.37am.