



Meeting 2006B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Friday 22nd September 2006 at the Quorn Grange Hotel, Quorn, Leicestershire.

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
Ed Cunliffe
Martin Heywood
Angus Pinkerton
Steve Walsh

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Rustam Davar
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson
John Welch

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Apologies were received from Paul Dancey, Sean Lovatt and Andy Shaw.

The Chairman expressed great sadness at the loss of our Treasurer, Dick Long but said he did not propose to ask for a minute's silence as he did not feel that Dick would have wanted that. Exec members agreed that Dick would more likely have said "just get on with it".

Martin then introduced John Welch and Rustam Davar as two prospective members of the Exec. They had come to the meeting to see how the Exec works and to decide whether they want to stand for election.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2006A - 27th February, 2006

The minutes were approved without amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

- 2004 - B1 Closed.
- 2004 - B11 Closed.
- 2004 - C18 Continuing.
- 2004 - C20 Closed.
- 2005 - A2 Continuing.

FOR ACTION: (2006 - B1) Joe Schofield to email template of FSC member profile to Exec Members.

- 2005 - B6 Closed
- 2006 - A1 Marc Asquith reported that Lembit Opik had accepted our invitation to be President. Closed.
- 2006 - A2 Dave Thompson said he had done some research on CPP and felt that it was not really something the Association needs to be involved with, however, our schools should probably have a policy. There was some discussion on this, members felt that we should be endeavouring to get youngsters interested in the sport and therefore should help our schools to develop a Child Protection Policy so that they are happy to take under eighteens.
John Welch added that in Europe there are children of fifteen who are already very competent pilots.

FOR ACTION: (2006 - B2) Mark Dale to produce wording on what choices are available to schools, i.e. get their instructors checked by CRB or do not fly anyone under eighteen.

- 2006 - A3 Closed
- 2006 - A4 Closed
- 2006 - A5 Martin Heywood agreed to speak to Tom Hardie as the current position with the Sites Database and Tow Site Permits is not clear. Closed
- 2006 - A6 Closed
- 2006 - A7 Closed
- 2006 - A8 Closed
- 2006 - A9 Closed
- 2006 - A10 Closed
- 2006 - A11 Continuing
- 2006 - A12 Closed
- 2006 - A13 Continuing
- 2006 - A14 Closed
- 2006 - A15 Closed

ITEM 4: TREASURER

Martin said we need to find a Treasurer and so far there have been no volunteers to take on the role. The other option is to have someone on the Exec overseeing the accounts but with more input from professional accountants.

Mark informed members that he had attended several meetings of Chief Officers run by the Sports Council and it was clear from those that most NGBs are run by people who do not actually participate in the sport. Most NGBs looking for a Treasurer would be looking outside the membership.

Marc felt that there was no real need to rush into anything as he and Carolyn would keep things ticking over.

Members were very aware of how much they would miss Dick's grip on the finances.

There was a suggestion that we could probably get a retired businessman with time on his hands who is looking for something to do. Martin said he would speak to Fred Marsh for details of NAFAS. Martin would also speak to our accountants to see if they are interested in doing more than just the audit.

FOR ACTION: (2006 - B3) Martin Heywood to speak to Fred Marsh and Clear & Lane re keeping an eye on our finances.

ITEM 5: SPORT AND LEISURE AVIATION SHOW

5.1 Martin asked members for suggestions of suitable speaker for the show. This was discussed and names of possible speakers put forward. Martin asked members to email him with their suggestions so that he could compile a list.

5.2 It had been hoped that we could have a zip slide at the show but this was not possible due to the high cost of the towers and insurance. However, there was still a possibility of having repacking available at the show and members considered

whether this would be practical. Joe made the point that most of the packers are traders and if they had a stand at the show it is unlikely that they would want to leave their stand to do repacks. There were other foreseeable problems too, such as members having to carry their kit all the way from the car park to the hall with no guarantee that they would actually be able to get it repacked anyway.

Mark suggested that a better option may be to ask Andy Cowley to do a session on how a repack should be done, rather than actually doing repacks at the show.

All agreed that the repack idea should be dropped.

5.3 Members felt that we needed to promote the show better and Joe said if we could get the speakers lined up details could be published in the November Skywings. Mark thought that Michel Carnet and Paul Mahoney may be willing to do something on paramotors, how to get into the Nationals maybe.

It was hoped that the new virtual hang glider would be ready in time for the show and it was noted that Ian Currer would need some help running it. Martin also asked Exec and officers to spend some time at the BHPA stand during the show to answer members' questions

5.4 Mark then raised the issue of the lack of pg/hg traders at the show. John reminded members that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that subsidising stands for our schools would be a good idea. Marc did not agree and thought that subsidies were unnecessary. Angus said that we had a bad experience last year and we know there has been a catastrophic drop off in interest from our traders; we can either fill the halls with non-aviation related traders or try to encourage our own people to attend.

Mark's view was that we should do our best to make this year's event a success and then think long and hard about why we are having this event at all.

After further discussion, and consideration of other options, it was agreed that this would be circulated to the schools and the first twenty to book would get a free 4x4mtr stand. Those schools that had already booked would get the equivalent discount.

ITEM 6: AGM

6.1 Marc said there will be seven places available on Exec and so far there are only five candidates. Marc Asquith and Steve Walsh would be standing for re-election and Ed Cunliffe, John Welch and Rustam Davar would be standing for the first time.

6.2 It was agreed that the trophies and awards would be presented after the AGM and that there should be a limit on how many trophies were presented. John agreed to liaise with the Competitions Panels.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B4) John Aldridge to inform the Competiton Panels that presentation of trophies would be limited to five for each panel.

6.3 Nominations are needed for the BHPA Award of Merit and this would be published in the Club Bulletin and Skywings. It should be noted that clubs could nominate site owners if they felt it appropriate.

Nominations are also needed for the Ann Welch Award.

ITEM 7: PPG SURVEY

Mark talked about the results of the PPG survey and expressed his surprise at the level of ignorance amongst PPG pilots, many of whom are our members. Even more surprising was that some of them were instructors.

Mark's paper was discussed and John felt that some of the wording could be more sympathetic as at the moment it seemed to be lecturing. Members agreed that the facts of the paper were correct but the tone of the paper needed some adjustment.

John Welch said that he and several other instructors would like to teach paramotoring but somehow his attempts to get assessed never worked out. He suggested that there would be a lot of interest if a group assessment could be arranged.

It was agreed that Mark's paper would be published on Ed's website after the wording has been toned down a bit.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B5) Martin Heywood and John Aldridge to soften the wording of Mark's PPG paper.

ITEM 8: REVIVING UNIVERSITY CLUBS

Nottingham University had contacted Mark about some old hang gliders in their possession and he had been over to look at them. Mark informed the meeting that the Students' Union had lots of equipment for all kinds of different sports and lack of funds was not an issue. The reason there are so few active university hang gliding clubs is because nobody is organising them. Mark went on to say that it is Fresher's week next week and we should make sure that hang gliding is there. Marc said that the problem with university clubs is that once the person driving the club has left university the club just falls apart. Angus added that we need schools interested in progressing this as there is money available.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B6) Martin Heywood to do Club Bulletin reminder for schools that there is a source of untapped wealth at universities.

ITEM 9: REPORTS

9.1 Treasurer

Marc had circulated the Annual Accounts and explained that as we are currently negotiating with Customs & Excise re a VAT matter there is a provision in the accounts of £19,750. The result of this is that we have made a loss for the year of £1,615.

The accounts were discussed and unfortunately, without Dick to explain, there were some figures that Exec did not understand, especially the total for Prepayments & Accrued Income.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B7) Marc Asquith to obtain further information from the accountants and Martin Heywood to inform Board Members.

Angus also noted that the FSC costs had gone up significantly and after investigation it appeared that AGM costs had been included in FSC costs. The accounts were approved by Exec subject only to these minor clarifications. (*Addendum 20.10.06 - Such clarifications provided to Exec and accepted.*)

9.2 FSC

9.2.1 Angus reported that the AAIB will now be conducting accident investigations themselves in the case of fatal or life threatening accidents. However they will still call on BHPA expertise during the investigations.

So far the AAIB had only had one paragliding accident to investigate and this had been a drowning. Investigators were looking for clear written paperwork to show that this pilot had been told that he should not land in water. This is in the Technical Manual but not all pilots have a copy of the TM as it is mainly for instructors, however, students are taught at our schools that water landings should be avoided at all costs.

Angus explained that FSC had had the intention of publishing the TM on the web for some time but there were two reasons why this had not been done. Firstly, a great deal of time and effort had gone into it and we do not want to give it away, and secondly, it has never quite been up to date and we did not want it to be used as a teach yourself manual. As we now have an up to date PDF, FSC have now decided that the manual should be published on the web without further delay, with a caveat that the manual is copyright.

Exec agreed that the Technical Manual should be published on the web.

9.2.2 Mark had circulated a paper setting out the FSC discussion on coach revalidation and the reasoning behind it. The idea had come about following a fatal accident where the coaches on site had been out of date and unaware of current rules. In the past BHPA did not have the resources to be able to re-qualify coaches but this now needs to be addressed as it is not satisfactory for coaches to remain coaches for life without any requirement for revalidation. We should also remember that these coaches, who may be completely out of date, are still covered by BHPA insurance.

There followed a lengthy debate on this proposed scheme, particularly in regard to the requirement for the club Chief Coach to sign a list of his coaches annually to confirm that they are up to date and he is happy for them to continue coaching. Marc had serious reservations about this and did not think it would work, not least because many clubs did not have a Chief Coach.

Mark said that it would not be a problem if a club did not have a Chief Coach as the Club Chairman could sign the form.

Other terms rather than 'revalidation' were considered (Coach Update was suggested) as well as alternative ways of running the scheme. There was concern that the admin required for all these revalidations would overwhelm the office.

It was eventually agreed that other than the term 'revalidation' the scheme was approved by Exec. However, the administration did cause some concern and if there is another way of proceeding then FSC should change it.

9.3 Insurance

Martin reported that we had gone through another year with hardly any claims and there was nothing of concern. He would therefore be approaching our insurers to see if we can get a reduction in premium for next year. Due to the drop in membership numbers we need to get the minimum premium reduced and possibly get the £25k cover for training increased to £50k.

There was an opposite view that schools may not actually want increased cover because it may mean people are more likely to sue. Now that they have got used to the £25k they may be happier to stick with it.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B8) Martin Heywood to check via email whether schools actually want increased cover if it is available.

9.4 Competitions

9.4.1 John Aldridge has submitted a written report noting recent international successes for UK pilots. He then went on to explain the controversy in both the hang gliding and paragliding competitions due to (mainly Swiss) pilots breaking the rules by flying above the altitude limit / in cloud.

Many of the national teams were unhappy with the way things had gone and the UK paragliding team wanted to lodge an appeal. But, there is a non-refundable fee of £800. John said he felt that the UK team had a good case and asked whether Exec would approve the appeal.

Angus wondered whether BHPA should send a formal written protest to CIVL and the FAI instead. If we write to CIVL and get the RAeC to write to the FAI, maybe John could get back to the other teams and encourage them to do the same. This may be just as effective as an appeal but without costing £800.

For Action: (2006 - B9) John Aldridge to prepare suitable letter for Martin Heywood to send out.

9.4.2 The BHPA had given £4k to the Paramotor Competitions Panel and John said he was disappointed that no acknowledgment had been received. Ed said that he had had some feedback on this and the funding from the BHPA had been much appreciated.

Mark asked about sponsorship and Ed replied that this was being looked at.

9.5 Sites

9.5.1 Steve reported that he still had problems because he did not have access to the sites database.

Members agreed that it was not acceptable for the Sites Officer not to have access to the sites database and that ideally the database should be at the office. Tom Hardie is so busy that he clearly does not have time to deal with either sites or tow site permits and these should be handed over to Steve and Russ Hicks.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B10) Martin Heywood to speak to Tom Hardie re sites database and tow site permits.

9.5.2 Marc said that Peak Park were recruiting for their Board and he suggested that Derbyshire Soaring Club may want to put one of their members forward. Steve replied that he had been trying to contact DSC but did not have current contact details, the phone number and email address published in Skywings did not

work.

9.6 Skywings

9.6.1 Paul Dancey was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in a written report. Joe explained that the Skywings revenue was going down not because of falling membership figures but because of falling advertising revenue. In the past we have had an understanding with XC magazine but this no longer exists as far as they are concerned and they are now targeting our advertisers.

John said that Skywings is the one visible benefit of membership and the advertising situation needs to be looked at before things get bad.

9.6.2 Joe reported that we have inadvertently run down the stocks of the Pilot Handbook. We can get 300 printed for the end of November at little more than the original cost. The update is in hand and should be ready by the time we have used up the 300.

Angus informed the meeting that the next edition (3) would be the same but with some straightforward updates and then there will be a complete rewrite with new illustrations and a paramotoring section in edition 4. The book had made money for the Association since it was published and we are now going to have to spend some money on the next edition. We no longer have Dave Barber to do the illustrations for us so we are going to have to pay someone from outside. Joe suggested that Colin Fargher may be able to help.

Marc proposed that we should forget version 3 which will have nothing new but will fix minor errors, and go straight to version 4 with new content. There was some enthusiasm for this proposal and Joe said he would investigate the possibility.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B11) Joe Schofield to investigate producing PHB Edition 4 instead of re-run of current edition with minor updates.

9.7 Website

Sean Lovatt was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a written report and there were no questions from the meeting.

9.8 External Representation

9.8.1 John mentioned the RAeC Medals and Awards and asked members to consider who they thought was worthy of an award. Any nominations should be sent to himself or Marc.

9.8.2 Marc reported on the RAeC search for a Programme Manager which was not going well.

9.8.3 Angus referred to the Homegrown Festival and said that if XC are running it again next year maybe we should offer to help sponsor it. They would have all the hassle of organising it and we would just turn up to the event. He went on to say that Exec should consider whether using our own resources is always the best way for us to go or whether using someone else's event was a better plan.

This was discussed and members thought it was a good idea for the BHPA to have a presence at all such events rather than organising our own. The All Out had always made a loss and by attending events organised by someone else we were still 'flying the flag' for the BHPA but not taking the financial risk.

9.9 Paramotors

9.9.1 Ed had produced a written report, which included formal thanks from the Paramotor Comps Committee to the BHPA for support and sponsorship of the UK Nationals and European competition.

9.9.2 In response to a query about footlaunching for those with a disability, Mark said he thinks there will be place for wheels in the future when the CAA have got their schemes sorted out. In the meantime if a disabled person makes a case, he may get an individual exemption.

9.9.2 The UK Nationals was the biggest and best competition yet but unfortunately there had been no powered hang gliders there. Ed said he would like to see hang gliders at future competitions.

9.9.3 The paramotor fraternity would like BHPA to introduce an Advanced Pilot rating for paramotors. Ed was asked to think about what he wanted this rating to include and get back to Mark

Dale.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – A10) Ed Cunliffe to liaise with Mark Dale on AP rating for paramotors.

Regarding Paramotor Coaches, Mark said that this is already done and ready to go, we are just waiting for the new syllabus to be written. This will be out soon.

9.9.4 Acceptance of BMAA ratings – Mark said we are still awaiting a response from the BMAA.

9.10 Admin

9.10.1 Jennie's report highlighted that we have very old accounting software at the office which has not been supported for several years. Jennie and Carolyn are investigating the purchase of the most suitable software for our purposes. Marc added that our accountants are pressuring us to use Sage, although having looked at it Carolyn is not too keen.

9.10.2 There are staffing issues at the office that cannot be resolved until we know whether the Association is going to continue to organise events. After the show at the NEC this year Exec can decide whether to continue next year or not and at that point we can reorganise the office if necessary.

Asked if she thought that Stef would leave if we did not organise events anymore, Jennie said that Stef was happy working for the BHPA but would probably leave if offered a position with a pension. The question of pensions is a subject that the younger members of staff raise frequently.

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 John asked about the budget for competitions and Marc said he should work on the basis that there would be no significant change.

10.2 Mark asked about the cost of the VHG and whether there was any paperwork to clarify how much we are committed to pay. Nobody was aware of how much Dick has agreed or whether there was anything in writing. Exec would like to see something in writing for a 310 investment. Marc said he could try to find out if there was anything in Dick's email.

FOR ACTION: (2006 – B13) Martin Heywood to contact Ian Curren re the VHG.

10.3 The AGM would be at 1pm on Saturday 2nd December at the NEC.

ITEM 11: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held after the AGM at the NEC.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Steve Walsh/ Adrian Bishop	2004 - C18	Look as possibility of Sites Fund.	Continuing
All Exec	2005 - A2	Email Job Description and photo to Sean.	Continuing
Edi Geczy	2006 - A11	Write article for Skywing re NEC event and Martin Heywood to provide input on the draft.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 - A12	Martin Heywood to get cost of 3sq.mtr stand space and whether a zip slide is a possibility.	Opened
Steve Walsh/ Marc Asquith	2006 - A13	Liaise re lobbying peers.	Opened
Joe Schofield	2006 – B1	Email template of FSC member profile to Exec Members	Opened
Mark Dale	2006 – B2	Produce wording of choices available to schools in regard to CPP	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B3	Speak to Fred Marsh re NAFAS and Clear and Lane re overseeing our accounts.	Opened
John Aldridge	2006 – B4	Inform Comps Panels of limit on trophy presentations at AGM	Opened
Martin Heywood/ John Aldridge	2006 – B5	Soften wording of Mark' PPG paper	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B6	Remind schools of money available via universities.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B7	Get clarification of accounts and inform Board.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B8	Check whether schools want increased insurance.	Opened
John Aldridge	2006 – B9	Prepare letter re protest for Martin Heywood to send out.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B10	Speak to Tom Hardie re sites database and tow site permits.	Opened
Joe Schofield	2006 – B11	Investigate producing PHB edition 4.	Opened
Ed Cunliffe	2006 – B12	Liaise with Mark Dale re AP ratings for SPHG.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2006 – B13	Contact Ian Currer re the VHG.	Opened