



Meeting 2008A of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Saturday 26th January, 2008 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
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Rustam Davar
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Steve Walsh

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Apologies were received from John Welch.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2007C – 3rd October 2007
Meeting 2007D – 25th November 2007
AGM – 25th November 2007

The minutes were approved without amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

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| 2006 - B12 | Continuing |
| 2007 - A3 | Closed |
| 2007 - A4 | There was some discussion as to whether this action should be closed, particularly as a lower age limit and increased participation by under-sixteens would mean that we would have to have a complete child protection scheme. It was agreed to carry this forward and approach the CCPR. Continuing. |
| 2007 - A7 | Closed |
| 2007 - A11 | As Paul Dancey is now working on the BHPA website Dave Thompson would liaise with him. Continuing. |
| 2007 - C1 | Closed |
| 2007 - C2 | Closed |
| 2007 - C3 | Continuing |
| 2007 - C4 | Closed |
| 2007 - C5 | Closed |
| 2007 - C6 | Closed |
| 2007 - C7 | Closed |
| 2007 - C8 | Closed |

ITEM 4: NEC SHOW

Martin informed members that attendance numbers at the NEC were up significantly on last year although some of these would have been visitors to the Bike Show who then visited our show for free. Around 10% of BHPA members attended which was a big improvement. The financial result was about the same as last year but it was generally felt that the show itself was much better.

The BMAA had been approached by the BGA and LAA who were interested in joining us to make a bigger and better show and it has been agreed in principle to take this forward. Martin noted that nobody had yet been appointed to take charge of the

organisation of the show but he would ensure that it would be someone who would be available to liaise with Stef.

There would be a meeting with the other associations in February and Martin and Rustam would attend on behalf of the BHPA.

ITEM 5: FLYABILITY

Marc reported that Flyability now had a new Chairman, Steve Derwin, and Steve Varden had formally taken over as Flyability Secretary. Two new Trustees, George Ransome and Kevin Gay, had also been appointed.

These appointments were discussed and subsequently approved by the Exec.

There was some discussion on funding and the fact that the Flyability reserves seem to be increasing. Marc said that it is not because Flyability are banking the money and not spending anything, they have bought specialised equipment to get people flying. However, he said it might be useful if he and Angus L. could have a word with Steve Varden at some point.

ITEM 6: STAFF SALARY REVIEW

This matter would be dealt with by the F&GP as usual. Paul Dancey would also be consulted in regard to Joe's salary.

ITEM 7: SUB 115kg (WHEELS)

Mark reported on the situation regarding paramotors with wheels. He said that now that this was legal quite a lot of our members would want to use wheels. The BHPA had a choice of either allowing them to fly as BHPA members or sending them off to join the BMAA. Providing they have all their licences was there any reason for them not to stay within the BHPA? Mark made the point that there was really no other association for them to go to other, other than possibly the BMAA.

Angus P. mentioned that there was a vociferous minority of members who believed that BHPA should have nothing to do with anything that had an engine and Mark replied that these new trikes would not be flying from hills so would not affect the majority of our members. Ed added that these machines had tiny wheels and therefore would be flying mainly from airstrips.

Martin said that on the basis that things do not stand still and our industry does seem to be attaching engines to things, we must give this some serious thought. The meeting discussed this at length.

The CAA have deregulated sub 115k and people have already started buying them, the question is do we accept them within the BHPA or show them the door. Angus P suggested that we should seek the view of our insurers on the basis that we would require members to comply with all aspects of the law.

Martin agreed and asked Mark to let him have some details in writing, which he would then put to our insurers.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A1) Mark to let Martin have details of Sub 115k for approval by our insurers.

Ed suggested that it would make things easier if BHPA dealt with foot launching and BMAA dealt with wheels. However, it was pointed out that if people were already members of the BHPA and then decided to use wheels, we would have to tell them to go and join the BMAA instead. Dave added that if our members want to use wheels then we should be embracing this innovation as we had with previous new ideas.

There was some discussion of risk but Marc pointed out that these machines take off from big open airstrips so there is not much chance of them hitting anything. He then explained how things had changed over the years - microlights had once been a part of the hang gliding association (BHGA) but had formed their own association. Similarly, the paragliding association (BAPC) had split from the parachute association (BPA).

ITEM 8: FAI ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

Steve had been looking at the FAI Environmental Codes for Airports and this was discussed. John believed that this had been considered before and it had been decided that we would not adopt the code but would recommend it to our clubs. John also added that there had been no support for this within CIVL.

Steve said the code may be relevant to some of our clubs in respect of ground nesting birds etc. but Angus noted that there was no evidence that our flying activities affect ground nesting birds, either one way or the other.

Martin asked Steve to write something to encourage our clubs and members to be environmentally aware and Mark said there was a paper in the PUT pack that Steve may be able to make use of.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A2) Steve Walsh to write up something on the environmental code and forward to Martin Heywood.

ITEM 9: BHPA WEBSITE

Paul explained that he had been unable to contact Sean Lovatt who now seems to have completely dropped off the scene, so Paul had done the work to improve the search facility on the website himself. Paul said he had been disappointed to find that the website was a bit of a mess. He had taken Sean's word for what was being done and now found that Sean had not been using the technology available, many processes had to be done manually which could have been done by using database management. Paul will gradually try to get these moved over.

Paul said he was happy to carry on with the work at least until the end of this financial year. He mentioned that the website would need a complete redesign within the next year or two.

Mark informed members that Simon Dale had been asked to put in a proposal to update the search facility on the BHPA website, which he had done. Having now found out that Paul had completed the work, Simon was rather annoyed as it appeared that his own ideas had been used. Simon had been to the BHPA office to see Carolyn about problems with the online shop but now he was not sure whether he should be continuing with this work or not.

It was noted that Simon had agreed to step in when Sean had disappeared and Paul was in hospital and this was much appreciated. Martin asked Mark to apologise to Simon on behalf of the Exec and asked if he would liaise with Paul regarding the work that needs doing.

ITEM 10: TRIPLE-X EVENT

Martin said that there would be two outdoor shows this year, the Homegrown and the Triple-X. Steve felt that with the involvement of the BGA and LAA, this year's event at the NEC would be of even less significance to our members and we should therefore be supporting the two flying events. The general consensus was that we should attend and there was also a suggestion that BHPA should make a financial contribution to sponsor the events and get the BHPA name on them. The point was made that the organisers of these events are taking a huge risk on the weather whereas all we have to do is turn up with our stand. Angus also added that the positive PR from the last Homegrown was out of all proportion to the actual event.

Joe said it was clear that there was a demand from the

membership for these kinds of events. We used to run these ourselves when Merv Turner was Events Officer but this way we can still be part of them but not take the risk.

It was agreed that the office staff should take the BHPA stand to both events and it was suggested that BHPA umbrellas might be a good item for the shop to stock.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A3) Jennie Burdett to ask Carolyn to investigate umbrellas for BHPA Shop.

Joe and Paul agreed to give the events some free publicity in Skywings this year and John said that this should be costed as it would be sponsorship in kind. Marc requested that any photos of the events published in Skywings should show the BHPA stand. Most of our members will not be there so we need photos to show that we were supporting the events. It was agreed that branded items from the BHPA shop could be made available for sponsorship.

Both John and Angus L were against offering any cash for sponsorship, particularly as no request had been received for money. Paul said that when he was organising the Blorenge Party they did not want money from sponsors as they were afraid of the sponsors taking over the event, however, they did appreciate the BHPA Chairman being there to hand out prizes.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A4) Martin Heywood to speak to event organisers about sponsorship.

ITEM 11: FAI LICENCES

In regard to the proposed FAI database of FAI licence holders, Angus P felt that as we already hold most of the information required, the RAeC were exaggerating the difficulties. John explained that this database would be open to all CIVL people from all over the world, including third world countries. He said that concerns had been raised at the General Conference.

John was asked whether all this was strictly necessary and whether people actually flew in competitions using fraudulent licences. John said it was not uncommon; for example an Australian could turn up flying with a South American team.

If BHPA are to supply this information to the FAI, our registration forms would have to have a box for members to agree to their information being entered onto the FAI database and a tick box would also need to be included on renewal forms.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A5) John Aldridge to progress this and circulate the amended form to Martin Heywood, Marc Asquith and Angus Pinkerton.

John informed the meeting that, despite his arguing against it, everyone with an FAI licence would automatically be shown as having a licence for hang gliding and paragliding. This means that our rule that pilots must be at least CP to hold a licence is negated.

ITEM 12: REPORTS

12.1 Treasurer

Angus L reported that he had recently spent a day at the BHPA office, speaking with Carolyn and finding out how things were done, as well as visiting our accountants. For the time being Angus wants to have monthly accounts prepared so that he can see exactly how things stand as he does not think that six monthly accounts give much of an idea. We will not be getting so much income in future years as there will be no profit sharing from the insurers or Sports Council grant. We will therefore have to budget carefully and consider increasing subscriptions.

Any changes to subscriptions would have to be agreed before the end of February in order to get the Introductory Membership books printed for use from 1st April.

John asked about the competitions budget and whether the grant would be the same. Angus L replied that he was not in a position to make a guarantee but did not think there would be any change.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A6) F&GP to consider membership subscriptions.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A7) Martin Heywood to find out when the insurance profit sharing is due to finish.

Angus L asked Exec Council to agree to the RBS bank mandate being changed so that he would be included in the signatories to the account. This was approved.

12.2 FSC

12.2.1 Angus P asked whether Exec members were now getting the FSC minutes but there was still uncertainty as to whether Tony Mitchell was actually sending them out to Exec members.

12.2.2 A BHPA Senior Instructor wants to run a BHPA school based in Portugal but for UK residents only. He would obtain insurance cover from On Risk, comply with BHPA rules and regulations and would be willing to pay towards the cost of school inspections.

This proposal was discussed in detail, particularly in regard to insurance cover for BHPA staff and officers. There was also the question of whether the students would be insured whilst training with a school based abroad.

Marc said his only reservation about such a scheme was that the company insuring the school may not be reliable if it came to a big claim. It was noted that On Risk is FSA registered and the insurance appears to be reasonably underwritten.

In principle Exec members were happy to consider having UK schools based abroad provided that the insurance will indemnify BHPA officers.

John asked whether the proposed school had permission from the PFVL for use of the sites. Mark said that this was not a problem as the planned site was owned by a friend.

After further consideration all agreed that this school could operate abroad on a trial basis. This is the first time anyone has come up with credible insurance and we would see how things worked out.

Steve was concerned that other people who had approached BHPA in the past with a similar proposal would be upset that we had not kept them in the picture. It was therefore agreed that those members resident abroad should be advised that we are running a trial and we will keep them informed.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A8) Dave Thompson to let Martin Heywood have a list of our members abroad who may be interested in this development

12.2.3 Mark explained that many of our paramotor pilots had not trained with the BHPA, they had come in 'sideways' from the BMAA. As they had not trained with us, they had not received our Pilot Under Training Pack and therefore did not know about paramotor registration. Mark then made the point that the majority of members of Exec and FSC who did fly paramotors had not complied with our registration rules. He wondered whether we should scrap the scheme as people were obviously not complying and the scheme was not working properly.

Marc felt that this should be part of renewal; we could get details of what they are flying when they renew their membership.

At the moment if someone wants to fly a glider that is not certified they must have it registered. Mark believed that we should say that all our members should fly certified gliders.

Martin suggested that we could say that "we strongly recommend that you fly a certified glider and if you are not – and the uncertified glider plays a part in your accident – then you may not be insured".

After further discussion the Exec decided that it is worth persevering with the registration scheme. There would be no change in the current policy and the need to register uncertified gliders should be clarified in Skywings. It should also be made clear that in the case of paramotors, there is no requirement for each piece of equipment to be put on a separate form.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – A9) Joe Schofield to publish clarification of the glider registration scheme.

12.2.4 Angus reported that some gliders had been sold as certified when it appeared that they were not and one of the owners was suing the dealer.

Angus had been in touch with the manufacturer of these particular gliders and he was satisfied that the changes compared to the certified version were minimal.

FSC subsequently reported back to Exec that having considered the status of these gliders they would be accepted as grandfathered.

12.2.5 Mark reported on a recent meeting in Europe and

explained that the DHV no longer have a monopoly of issuing German equipment certifications. Also, the manufacturers have decided that they would like DHV to test to the CEN standard. DHV had subsequently raised this at their AGM but their members also wanted them to work with CEN and the international community.

12.3 Insurance

Martin informed the meeting that our insurance has been renewed on very similar terms to last year. He mentioned the profit sharing scheme which had proved very useful to us but had eaten into the insurers profits, which we had hoped would build up to compensate for the bad years in the 90s. However, our current claims history is very good and continues to look better year on year. Because of the profit sharing scheme we have been able to keep out subscriptions level for several years.

In regard to the schools requiring £5m cover, Martin had spoken with our insurers and they will provide this cover but only for named pilots and named sites, at a premium of £30 per pilot. Martin had passed this information on to various parties concerned but had no response from them as yet. He suggested that a note should be published in Skywings to inform members that this cover is available.

Martin mentioned the tandem paramotor accident which had resulted in quite serious injury to the passenger. This was not covered under BHPA insurance, as tandem paramotoring is not an activity approved by BHPA. The injured party had dropped the case against the pilot concerned and Mark explained the circumstances.

Mark suggested that we should reissue the PUT pack to all of our paramotor members and put a note in Skywings as well.

12.4 School Liaison

John W was not at the meeting and there was no discussion on this item.

12.5 Competitions

John A reported that he had received some complaints that we did not publicise the successes of our medal winners in the World Championships. Unfortunately we no longer have a PR Officer responsible for informing the media so there was not much that John could do about it.

12.6 Sites

Steve's written report detailed issues at three sites and explained what action he is taking.

12.6.1 Bradwell - he will be attending a National Park Access meeting in March to present BHPA concerns. Marc said we really need to have representation on the committee and Steve replied that he is trying to get someone.

12.6.2 Ubley – Steve is working with the new Chairman of the Avon club to put a response together.

12.6.3 Newhaven Cliffs – Lewes District Council are proposing to use standard model byelaws which include hang gliding as part of the exclusions. Angus P asked if we could complain to DEFRA about the byelaw but Steve said that as this does not refer to paragliding it maybe better to keep quiet for the time being.

Steve would be writing to express BHPA concerns and would also write something to publish in Skywings warning clubs to keep any eye on any new byelaw proposals in their areas.

Angus P suggested that this should be taken up with DEFRA and proposed that we should ask our President, Lembit Opik, to do this on our behalf.

12.7 Skywings

Paul reported that despite Colin Fargher offering big discounts the advertising in Skywings is falling. He explained that Skywings is a niche publication with a small circulation and people are now being really careful with their advertising budget. Angus P said that the Skywings team did an excellent job in a difficult environment and everyone agreed with this view. Mark referred to Sub 115k and said that this may be a new area of advertising that Colin could target.

Rustam asked Joe whether it would be a good idea to run articles from other magazines such as the USHPA magazine. Joe replied that he did do that when he saw something worthwhile but he actually had lots of material for the magazine

at the moment. Nevertheless, Joe said if anyone sees something that they think would be useful to publish in Skywings, please let him know.

12.8 Website

The website had already been discussed under agenda Item 9.

12.9 External Representation

12.9.1 John A reported that he would be attending a CIVL Plenary meeting in Mexico and suggested that in future he would let Exec know where they could read the minutes and if they had any questions they could ask him.

12.9.2 Members discussed an article in Skywings by Bruce Kavanagh. Mark said he would invite Bruce to have a day out on the test rig so that he could write another article from a position of knowledge.

12.9.3 The World Air Games have been put on a two-year cycle rather than four years and there is a bid to hold the games in the UK.

12.10 Paramotor Liaison

Ed said that there is currently a limit of 10 litres capacity on paramotor fuel tanks and he felt that this should be removed. This was discussed and Angus P and Mark thought that there was a very good case to take this up with the CAA.

Marc suggested that this would also be something that Lembit Opik may be able to take up for us. Angus P said he would copy Lembit in on his letter to the CAA.

12.11 Admin

12.11.1 Marc explained the difficulties at the BHPA office since the new landlord had taken over and said he would be speaking to the BGA about the possibility of the two associations sharing an office for economies of scale. The BGA are in rented accommodation the same as us whereas all other airport associations had bought their own property. He agreed to keep everyone informed about progress.

12.11.2 Airsports Insurance Bureau has an advertisement on our Introductory Membership Books, still there from the time when Airsports was BHPA owned. It was agreed that the ad should be taken off the books and replaced with a note to say that we recommend members should take out Personal Accident insurance and they should speak to their school.

It was noted that Airsports also has a BHPA email address. It was agreed that this could continue as long as Yvonne Jukes ran Airsports but it could not be passed on to any new owner of the business. Paul said he would sort this out with Yvonne.

Angus L expressed some concern that the policies offered by Airsports were not adequate to cover medical costs abroad but Joe said that Airsports regularly medivacs people back to the UK and if there was a problem we would have heard. Joe added that Airsports is given free advertising in Skywings because he feels that it offers a valuable service to our members.

ITEM 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin informed the meeting that himself, Marc and John has considered the appeal from JC and had rejected it. He will not be accepted into membership of the BHPA and therefore will not be able to fly in competitions. He has the opportunity to return to the court and ask the judge to vary the terms of the court order.

Martin would be writing to JC to advise him of the decision.

ITEM 14: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th June at the Grange Strathmore Hotel.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Ed Cunliffe	2006 – B12	Liaise with Mark Dale re AP ratings for SPHG.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2007 - A4	Approach CCPR and liaise with Angus Pinkerton re CAA.	Continuing
Dave Thompson	2007 - A11	Liaise with Paul Dancey re publishing IRs on the web.	Continuing
Marc Asquith/ Jennie Burdett	2007 - C3	Consider incentives for DD payers.	Opened
Mark Dale	2008 - A1	Pass details of Sub 115k to Martin Heywood for approval by insurers.	Opened
Steve Walsh	2008 - A2	Write paper on environmental code and forward to Martin Heywood.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2008 - A3	Investigate cost of umbrellas for BHPA Shop.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2008 - A4	Speak to Triple-X / Homegrown organisers re sponsorship.	Opened
John Aldridge	2008 - A5	Circulate amended proposals re FAI database to Martin Heywood, Marc Asquith and Angus Pinkerton.	Opened
F&GP	2008 - A6	Consider membership subscription.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2008 - A7	Find out when the insurance profit sharing finishes.	Opened
Dave Thompson	2008 - A8	Give Martin Heywood a list of members abroad.	Opened
Joe Schofield	2008 - A9	Publish clarification of glider registration scheme.	Opened