



## Meeting 2008C of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Tuesday 16th September, 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  
Edi Geczy  
Martin Heywood  
Angus Pinkerton

**In attendance:**  
Jennie Burdett  
Mark Dale  
Joe Schofield  
Dave Thompson

### ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Paul Dancey, Rustam Davar,  
Angus Lanford, Steve Walsh and John Welch.

### ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

#### Meeting 2008B – 4th June 2008

Item 5.2.2 – Fifth line, remove “etc. etc.”.

Item 5.3 – Third line, change to “... SIV courses, are not BHPA  
approved activities. Martin said he would...”.

Item 2 – remove complete sentence starting “The following  
changes .....”

Item 4 – para 5, line 2, remove from “However, remembering ... ”  
to “... inside out.”

The minutes were approved.

### ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 2006 – B12 | Closed     |
| 2007 – C3  | Continuing |
| 2008 – A2  | Continuing |
| 2008 – A7  | Continuing |
| 2008 – B1  | Closed     |
| 2008 – B2  | Closed     |
| 2008 – B3  | Continuing |
| 2008 – B4  | Closed     |
| 2008 – B5  | Closed     |
| 2008 – B6  | Continuing |

It became apparent during the meeting that some members were  
not receiving email via the Exec mailing list as they had not  
receiving some of the papers circulated for the meeting. Martin  
said he would check with Paul Dancey.

**FOR ACTION: (2008 – C1) Martin Heywood to contact Paul  
Dancey re Exec mailing list.**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2008 – B7 | Closed  |
| 2008 – B8 | Angus L had circulated the response from<br>Birdwings and the meeting felt that some firm<br>proposals for repayment were required. Martin<br>would liaise with Angus L. Closed |

**FOR ACTION: (2008 – C2) Martin Heywood to liaise with  
Angus Langford reobtaining repayment proposals from  
Birdwings.**

2008 – B9 This action was transferred to Joe Schofield.  
Continuing.

2008 – B10 Closed

### ITEM 4: NEC SHOW / AGM

4.1 Martin reported on his discussion with Merv Turner who has  
agreed to be available for the NEC. Merv will not be required to  
do as much work as previously as some of the arrangements,  
such as the floor plan, have already been completed. Merv will  
really only need to deal with practicalities of running things at the  
event.

Joe mentioned that it is only two months to the show yet he  
has received no request for publicity in Skywings. He had  
chased this up and has been promised an advertisement next  
week.

4.2 A discussion topic had been received from the Thames  
Valley HGC regarding the £5m insurance top up and whether all  
BHPA members should have the £5m cover. This would be a  
discussion item only, not a motion to be voted on at the AGM.

Members standing for re-election at the AGM would be: Ed  
Cunliffe, Edi Geczy, Angus Pinkerton and Steve Walsh.

### ITEM 5: THE FUTURE OF SKYWINGS

This item was on the agenda following discussion at the last  
meeting but it was not felt appropriate to discuss it at this time.  
All agreed that Skywings is doing very well given the current  
conditions. Edi added that this year has been the worst year for  
training that anyone can remember; only 17 days suitable for  
training which is why most schools are training abroad these  
days.

Marc requested that the number of carriers should be put  
back on Paul's graph.

### ITEM 6: BHPA SCHOOLS BASED ABROAD

6.1 Martin explained that as the British weather is so awful,  
many of our schools want to operate abroad and have taken out  
alternative insurance cover, either as a top up or as their main  
policy. Exec have already agreed that this is now acceptable  
and On Risk have reworded their policy to cover BHPA and  
officers etc.

An Exec decision was required on whether we should  
allow any school to operate abroad and whether they would still  
have to pay the school registration fee.

Angus P said there are two options; either we charge all  
our schools the same fee because we have to pay our insurers  
and if the schools pay less the members will have to pay more,

or, we charge those who only operate abroad less than those in the UK.

Regarding the cost of school inspections, Mark said that it would cost no more to inspect a school abroad, using a cheap flight, than to do a school inspection in Cornwall or Scotland.

There was lengthy debate on whether schools based abroad should have to pay the full registration fee or a discounted rate. Angus P said if we do not require the schools to pay, we are creating a £350 incentive for them not to train in the UK and we will not be able to meet our minimum insurance premium.

After much discussion it was agreed that the single fee for school registration should remain but this would include the cost of school inspections whether they were based in the UK or abroad. This would of course cover the schools based abroad if at any time they operate in the UK.

There was a question regarding accidents and whether the BHPA would be required to conduct Boards of Inquiry but Mark informed members that this was the responsibility of the local authority. He went on to say that this should be added to the Technical Manual so that instructors are aware that they must comply with local rules.

6.2 Members then went on to discuss whether these schools would sign up members in exactly the same way as if they were in the UK. At the moment they are only signing up UK nationals but now that they are using On Risk they can sign anyone up to BHPA membership, although if they are not based in the UK our insurance would not cover them.

6.3 Geographical areas were considered and it was suggested that we should only have schools based in Europe. It was noted that for insurance purposes Morocco is generally included and it was agreed that registrations would be allowed from schools in Europe and the Mediterranean coast.

6.4 Dave had received a request for the introduction of an Alpine Rating, which they already have in the military. This would mean that students training at schools based abroad would not have to be taught to do reverse launches, top landings or UK type ridge soaring. However, Angus P pointed out that most of the people who did these courses abroad would be coming back to the UK and have no idea what to expect on our hills. Dave replied that our current system allows people to do this if they come from abroad with an IPPI 3, although we do recommend them to get some training in our UK conditions. This has not caused any problems so far. He suggested that we should have qualified Senior Coaches who can get these people up to speed on our hills.

It was agreed that this should be referred to the FSC.

## ITEM 7: REPORTS

### 7.1 Treasurer

Angus L could not be at the meeting but Marc reported that we had made a profit of £30k for last year. He said we will be facing higher rent in future; there has been a rent review that has not kicked in yet but when we do have to pay up there will be an increase. Marc did not know whether Angus L had made a provision in the accounts for this.

Also, Flyability had not provided their accounts so had not had their grant from us. Marc added that Flyability have around £10k in the bank. John said that maybe Flyability is a self sustaining charity these days, or maybe they are spending on too small a scale.

Exec members approved the accounts but queried why expenses for both staff and Exec appeared to have doubled.

**FOR ACTION: (2008 – C3) Martin Heywood to ask Angus Langford about the queries on the accounts.**

### 7.2 FSC

Angus P informed the meeting that he had just signed a formal letter for the AAIB which re-establishes the previous status quo, giving us back responsibility for accident investigation. The AAIB have realised that they do not know enough about our sport to be able to conduct investigations and it is taking them too long. The BHPA will therefore be conducting investigations once again and the AAIB will be paying expenses as before.

### 7.3 Insurance

Martin reported that the National Trust, who had originally wanted £5m cover for all of their sites, have now agreed to accept £2m and this will be written into their ten year plan. This was excellent news and members congratulated Martin and Steve Walsh who had been negotiating with the National Trust. Details of this should be published in Skywings.

**FOR ACTION: (2008 – C4) Joe Schofield to publish that NT have accepted £2m insurance cover for all of their sites.**

Our current insurance position was discussed; our policy is due for renewal and members considered whether we should be seeking quotes from other insurers. After discussion it was felt that we should stay with our current insurers who have been very accommodating to us and if we can negotiate a reduction in the minimum premium then so much the better.

### 7.4 School Liaison

There was no discussion.

### 7.5 Competitions

John reported that our hang gliding team had put in a sterling performance to win the Pre-Worlds but neither the hang gliding nor paragliding teams had done very well in the Europeans. The next paragliding Worlds should be in Mexico, although there is a problem and it may not take place. If it does go ahead, the Deputy Meet Director will be Calvo.

### 7.6 Sites

Steve was unable to attend the meeting but had circulated his written report.

### 7.7 Skywings

Joe reported that stocks of Training Wings are down to 800 so the May 2009 Skywings will also be the new Training Wings, as previously.

Marc wondered whether schools could be sitting on stocks of Training Wings and if so, maybe there was no need for a reprint so soon. Edi said that he does not give out Training Wings at all because they contain advertisements for other schools. Edi also said that Northern do not use Training Wings either, they print their own. It appears that many of our schools do not give out Training Wings, despite this being a BHPA requirement.

**FOR ACTION: (2008 – C5) Jennie Burdett to check how many Training Wings have been issued to schools and how many new members we have had.**

### 7.8 Web Site

In his written report Paul asked whether the Instructors' Forum needs to have the software updated or whether there is actually any point in keeping it as the last post was from Andy Shaw in January. Exec felt that they could not make this decision and it was up to John Welch.

Marc did not think that the forum should be closed, even if it was not currently being used. Edi said that it should be used to promulgate information to instructors, such as new exams or training procedures.

Edi asked whether it would be possible to put an issue of Skywings in the public domain but Joe explained that we are too small to be able to do this. We would have to print something like 100,000 copies to get them on the shelves in W H Smith and the copies that did not sell would then be dumped. This has been considered at length but would not be a cost effective thing to do.

### 7.9 External Representation

John said he had just been to an FAI meeting as a CIVL representative and there was nothing directly relevant to us to report at the moment.

### 7.10 Paramotors

7.10.1 Ed reported on problems in regard to fuel tanks. On Risk have changed their policy wording so that anyone flying with a fuel tank capacity of greater than 10 litres will not be covered.

Richard Meredith Hardy has written to the CAA and believes the request for the fuel limit being revised has been received sympathetically, however, Ed felt that there would be no harm in the BHPA writing to the CAA also.

Mark Dale said that some of the European

manufacturers claim to be completely unaware of this rule in the UK and Ed added that paramotors are the only class of aircraft with a fuel capacity limit. Marc said that this imposed arbitrary limits on the duration of flights for no obvious safety reason. Our pilots should not be required to modify our aircraft. The European manufacturers are producing aircraft to their legal requirements and UK pilots will have to make DIY modifications to something which is the European norm.

Martin said if necessary he could write to the CAA and endorse what RMH has already said to them. He would also add that pilots from other countries come over with bigger fuel tanks and therefore they are not legal in the UK.

7.10.2 It had been agreed at the last meeting that the registration fee would be £25 but it was now felt that this would be too high to get people to register their gliders. Mark pointed out that pilots flying speed gliders may have several for operating in different wind conditions and they would not register them all at £25 each. It was agreed that £10 should be the standard fee for all registrations.

As from 1st January, only the paramotor wings will have to be registered, not the paramotor unit.

#### 7.11 Admin.

Marc reported on recent correspondence with Andy Morant in regard to his membership renewal. Andy had sent in a copy of his membership card which seems to have been doctored as it has an issued date and expiry date of 28 December 2008.

## ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 It was agreed that meeting dates for the whole of next year should be agreed before the end of this year. Planners for Jan/Feb, June and September would be sent out in November.

***FOR ACTION: (2008 – C6) Jennie Burdett to send our meeting planners in November.***

8.2 Edi said that we are helping hang gliding to die because there is no real way to qualify as a hang gliding instructor. Realistically, it is not possible to train with another instructor without moving to another part of the country. People still want to train but there is no way to do this. There are so few hang gliding Senior Instructors it is really difficult for someone to spend a season with a SI. We really need to be thinking about this before the situation is critical and we have no instructors left.

Marc suggested that the BHPA should set up a hang gliding tow school somewhere along the M40 corridor. There was some discussion about how we could encourage hang gliding but there were no obvious answers to the problem.

8.3 There was discussion regarding a BHPA hang gliding Club Coach who is interested in becoming an Instructor and it was suggested that he should have a dispensation to allow him to register as a TI and apply for examination immediately. This was referred to FSC for consideration.

## ITEM 14: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at the NEC after the AGM..

## ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

| <b>WHO</b>                      | <b>NUMBER</b> | <b>WHAT</b>  | <b>STATUS</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------|
| Marc Asquith/<br>Jennie Burdett | 2007 - C3     | Consider incentives for DD payers.                                 | Continuing    |
| Steve Walsh                     | 2008 - A2     | Write paper on environmental code and forward to Martin Heywood.   | Continuing    |
| Martin Heywood                  | 2008 - A7     | Find out when the insurance profit sharing finishes                | Continuing.   |
| Mark Dale                       | 2008 – B3     | Liaise with Joe Schofield re publication of new registration fees. | Continuing    |
| Steve Walsh                     | 2008 – B6     | Draft letter to clubs and send to Martin Heywood.                  | Continuing    |
| Joe Schofield                   | 2008 – B9     | Publish details of Loan Scheme in Skywings.                        | Continuing    |
| Martin Heywood                  | 2008 – C1     | Contact Paul Dancey re Exec email list.                            | Opened        |
| Martin Heywood                  | 2008 – C2     | Liaise with Angus Langford re repayment proposals from Birdwings.  | Opened        |
| Martin Heywood                  | 2008 – C3     | Query expenses on accounts with Angus Langford.                    | Opened        |
| Joe Schofield                   | 2008 – C4     | Publish that NT have accepted £2m cover.                           | Opened        |
| Jennie Burdett                  | 2008 – C5     | Check number of Training Wings sent out.                           | Opened        |
| Jennie Burdett                  | 2008 – C6     | Send out meeting planners in November.                             | Opened        |