



## Meeting 2009B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Thursday 14th May, at the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

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

**Present:**  
Marc Asquith  
Ed Cunliffe  
Paul Dancey  
Martin Heywood  
Angus Langford  
Angus Pinkerton  
Steve Walsh  
John Welch

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

### ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from John Aldridge and Brett Janaway.

### ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

#### AGM – 29 November 2008

The minutes were approved without amendment.

#### Meeting 2008D – 29 November 2008

The minutes were approved without amendment.

#### Meeting 2009A – 29th January 2009

Item 4, para 7, line 2: Change “not point” to “no point”

With the above amendment the minutes were approved.

### ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2008 – A2 Closed

2008 – B6 Closed

2008 - C2 Angus L said he would pressurise Birdwings more for the repayment of the loan and Dave added that they are trying to sell their winch which may cover what they owe the BHPA. Marc would send them a letter from solicitors. Continuing.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B1) Marc Asquith to send letter to Birdwings.**

2008 - C3 Angus L agreed to produce a draft expenses policy and circulate to Exec for comment. Closed.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B2) Angus Langford to circulate draft expenses policy to Exec.**

Some emails do not seem to be getting through to Exec members via the group email address, Angus Pinkerton in particular did not appear to be receiving emails. Paul agreed to look into it and said he would try a different email address for Angus. Paul reminded everyone that in order to contact all Exec attendees they must use the “Exec” email address plus the “Staff” email address.

2009 - A1 Martin informed the meeting that the BMAA would be carrying on with the Airports Show at the NEC and we are invited to have a stand if we want one. Closed.

2009 - A2 Closed.

2009 - A3 Closed.

2009 - A4 Closed.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B3) Marc Asquith to check instructions to counsel, originally drafted by himself and Mark Dale.**

There was further discussion in regard to Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups; members felt that we should be doing the minimum required to comply with the law as this is not a major part of our business.

Dave said that we need to get youth into the sport and if we can get the minimum age requirement down to fourteen years we will definitely need a Child Protection Policy in place.

John W added that we should remind our clubs and schools who do have contact with youngsters to have CRB checks done.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B4) Jennie Burdett to include Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults draft policy with Club Bulletin.**

Martin then reported that we had had £1k from BingoLotto and he has completed the form for the next series.

### ITEM 4 / 5: EVENTS / AGM

Several BHPA members had suggested that a suitable venue for our AGM / Airsport Show would be the Three Counties Showground at Malvern and this possibility was discussed. Marc was not sure whether the site would be suitable as he thought it was only flyable in one wind direction. Cardington in Bedfordshire had also been suggested.

The venue for the AGM was discussed and various options considered, including holding it at the BMAA show at the NEC.

Joe said that one of the best attended events last year was the Paramotor Nationals and he suggested that we could ‘piggy back’ our event onto that. However, after considering the possibility of this also being a winch event, it was felt that it would be too difficult.

It was decided that BHPA would not hold any events before 2011 and this would be discussed again next year. The 2009 AGM would be held at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, and trophy presentations would take place at the AGM as normal.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B5) Joe Schofield to reply to letter received re venue for BHPA event.**

### ITEM 6: GASCo REPRESENTATIVE

Mark explained that there were plans to reinvigorate GASCo and they had suggested that BHPA should have a representative there, preferably someone who would be on the Board and submit reports and articles for the magazine etc.

Both Marc Asquith and Mark Dale, who had both previously been the BHPA representative to GASCo, made it very clear that they had no wish to do so again. Mark felt that BHPA should have a representative there but not necessarily on the Board.

Angus P said that GASCo had not done anything that remotely related to hang gliding / paragliding for some time and none of our officers had the time to get involved with it. We do not have the resources or the interest and there are so many other organisations that we are involved in.

Marc added that he had always felt that GASCo should be a sub-committee of the RAeC and Martin said that he would make this his opening suggestion when replying to them.

## ITEM 7: FUNDING FOR COMPETITORS ATTENDING WORLD AIR GAMES

Brett Janaway was unable to be at the meeting and therefore this item was not discussed.

## ITEM 8: REPORTS

### 8.1 Treasurer

Angus L had produced draft accounts to the end of March and these were discussed. The accounts showed a deficit of £28k which Angus L explained was mainly due to no longer getting a rebate from our insurers and having our Sports Council grant halved.

We have already made cost savings in regard to office staff and Angus L suggested that when Carolyn retires next year we may be able to manage with a part time person to do the accounts, possibly during school hours.

John W asked whether members could have the option of having Skywings online and get a discount on their membership fee. Paul felt that this was bad idea as Skywings is the only tangible thing that members get for their membership fee.

Increasing membership fees was briefly discussed and this was referred to the F&GP for further consideration.

Dave pointed out that if we change insurers, it may mean that we do not have to increase membership fees, or at least not by so much.

It was noted that if fees are to be increased this all needs to be ironed out so that it can be approved at the September Exec meeting.

### 8.2 FSC

8.2.1 Angus P reported that there have been three fatalities since the last meeting, which is very disheartening. Angus outlined the details of the accidents and in particular members discussed the one which had been the subject of a Safety Notice concerning 360s and spiral dives. There have been four fatalities of this type now and it is very concerning. When the SN was being drafted, several people mentioned having been in the same situation but they had not reported it.

8.2.2 Angus mentioned competition safety in regard to sprogs but did not want to go into detail as this is primarily a matter for CIVL.

8.2.3 Age limits were discussed. We have a letter from the CAA dating back to 1994 which confirms that parasailing can carry on as it always has in regard to age limits. However, Mark had discussions with the CAA recently and the current CAA incumbent clearly would take a less favourable view. Mark said the ANO is badly worded and he felt that as the person in charge of this at the CAA is only temporary, we should wait until there is someone permanently in the post before we attempt to clarify the position.

The option of moving out of round canopy operations altogether was suggested. Marc pointed out that we could not do this as we still have members who do classic accuracy which is generally well supported.

There is also the possibility that EASA may soon be changing the age limit for gliding solo to fourteen for the whole of Europe and our CAA would have to comply.

It was agreed that we should let things carry on as they are for the time being.

### 8.3 Insurance

Martin informed members that for the first time in a long time we have two serious contenders for our insurance. We have always had concerns about one particular insurer in the past but they have now changed from Russian to Danish underwriters so this is no longer seen as a problem. There is also another insurer who may be interested in our business.

Dave had produced some figures which showed that if we split our insurance for ordinary members and instructors, we

would make significant savings. On Risk are currently charging around £400 for instructors for £2m cover and some of our instructors are already with them.

John W did not think that splitting the insurance was a good idea and said it would only take one major claim for the whole thing to fall apart. He also felt that there have been fewer claims because instructors have only £25k insurance. Also, On Risk do not require instructors to be BHPA instructors and therefore our insurance could be put in jeopardy by someone who is not one of our members.

We have ten years of excellent claims history and we are now attractive to other insurers. It was suggested that if we go with On Risk we should insist that the insurance only covers BHPA registered instructors.

There was lengthy discussion on this subject and some members were not entirely comfortable with the idea of going to On Risk. John in particular did not want to change our insurers only to find that one big claim would make us uninsurable. Self insuring was mentioned as the Association does have money but for various reasons this was not felt to be possible.

Martin is still in discussions with Mansion and he said if they come up with a good offer we should seriously consider it. He explained that our relationship with our current insurer is not quite as close as it used to be because the people that we used to deal with have moved on. He is therefore much less concerned about moving our insurance.

This matter would be progressed by Martin and Marc.

### 8.4 Competitions

8.4.1 John Aldridge was not at the meeting but had circulated a written report. He referred to the Attitude column in Skywings which was a letter from the EHPU to CIVL concerning competition safety. As the BHPA's CIVL representative he found it curious that Exec had not expressed these concerns to either himself or competition organisers.

Martin's response was that we have not been perfect in regard to the actual procedure but the sentiment has always been clear. John's complaint was noted.

8.4.2 During discussion it was pointed out that, at a time when we are searching for cost savings and have just made a member of staff redundant, the fact that we allocate £34k to competitions is difficult to justify. We are using our ordinary members' subscriptions to subsidise competition pilots. Many years ago, the Sports Council gave us an annual grant and the Sports Council dictated exactly how that money was to be spent, in accordance with a 'Forward Plan'. So if the Sports Council included £20k in the annual grant for competitions then that money had to be spent on competitions. But those days are long gone and there is no longer any grant aid. So the £34k we currently allocate to competition pilot funding is money collected directly from the membership.

The other thing that has changed is that twenty years ago most competition pilots were young men of very limited means. That is no longer generally the case - in fact the reverse appears to be the case. In the days of the Sports Council Forward Plan all funding had to be accounted for. Now, we never see a set of accounts from the Competitions Committee.

It was agreed that the Treasurer should be provided with a set of accounts from the Competitions Committee.

There was discussion about some form of means testing, so that only those pilots who need support got it and those who have no real need of subsidy from the membership are not funded. The idea of subsidy for competition pilots being issued on the basis of individual written application from needy pilots was discussed.

8.4.3 As is the case with all BHPA flying, we want our competition pilots to fly certified gliders and we should move to a position where pilots must fly certified gliders. Mark said that at international competitions now parachute deployments and accidents are far too common. We have made competitions additionally dangerous by not insisting that pilots use certified gliders. He said that it would not be possible to buy a prototype car but there is no difficulty in buying a prototype glider.

Martin explained that in wind surfing there is a standard kit for international competitions and if you do not use the standard you cannot compete. Doing well in competition is therefore about skill not equipment.

John W commented that prototype competition gliders are not just thrown out of the factory, they are properly tested but not put in for certification because it is too expensive.

Marc pointed out that the purpose of competitions is to develop the sport but Mark replied that that was the way it used to be. Joe added that if we do not do something then more people are going to die.

Steve suggested that we should only fund pilots flying certified gliders. Angus P agreed and said we have to start somewhere or it will never happen.

Mark said we should be asking the Competitions Committee to take a lead and reintroduce task types that would encourage good glider design and the most skillful pilots winning competitions.

In relation to the appointment of a new HG Meet Director, Mark also suggested that we should ensure that an up-to-date copy of the BHPA Competitions Directors' Handbook is kept at the BHPA office.

8.4.4 John A's report informed members that after fourteen years he has resigned as Hang Gliding Director and Competition Panel Secretary. However, John will remain BHPA Competition Director.

### 8.5 Skywings

Exec members were all in agreement that the magazine is improving year on year. John W said that advertising in Skywings is very expensive for the average school but Paul explained that if we do not charge enough for advertising the cost of the magazine will increase and it would also become thinner.

John felt that advertising was not pushed enough and said that he had never received a phone call to sell him advertising space.

### 8.6 Website

8.6.1 Paul explained the work that had been undertaken to make the BHPA payment system PCI compliant. Our system is now more secure and the servers will be scanned regularly to ensure security is maintained

8.6.2. We now have a searchable Incident Report database on the website and the possibility of allowing IRs to be submitted online is being discussed.

### 8.7 Admin

8.7.1 Staffing was discussed and Marc explained that due to the economic downturn we have had to make savings. The position of Technical Administrator was determined to be redundant and therefore Tony Mitchell left us recently. Also Elaine Lane will be retiring in September after working for the BAPC/BHPA for over twenty years.

8.7.2 The office premises were then discussed. Our lease is up next year and as our neighbours/landlords have been very difficult we do not plan to renew. We therefore need to find a new office and have been discussing having shared premises with the BGA.

Several members felt that we should be thinking of buying a property rather than renting, Angus P said that new members may wonder why we have £400k in our accounts; having property that the money is invested in seems a good idea and there will never be a better time to buy than now. There had always been a vision that we should have a national centre but over the years we have realised that this is not realistic. We need continuity of staff at the administrative office more than we need a national centre.

Angus L was not in favour of buying an office, he said the BHPA is not in the property business and we could find ourselves stuck somewhere that we do not want to be.

It was agreed that we should progress discussions with the BGA as sharing a building and resources is more important than whether we rent or buy.

8.7.3 As Carolyn will be retiring next year it was suggested that the BHPA shop should be downsized and sell only BHPA items, i.e. Pilot Handbook, Log Books, Skywings Binders. None of the current staff will be able to take it over as it is very time consuming and it is unlikely that the person taking the accounts over will want to deal with it.

Angus L said he would look into it.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 – B6) Angus Langford to consider whether to run down the BHPA shop.**

### 8.8 Paramotor Liaison

8.8.1 Ed explained that he was in unofficial discussion with the CAA regarding airband radio usage and it appeared that the biggest problem was call signs. Ed would forward relevant emails to Exec members.

8.8.2 Exec and officers were invited to attend the Paramotor Nationals taking place in Worcestershire over 20 - 24th June.

### 8.9 School Liaison

John W said he felt we should be running two instructor courses per year instead of one and be more pro active at keeping in touch with people who have registered an interest..

### 8.10 Sites

Steve had circulated a draft Environmental Policy and asked Exec members to have a look at it and get back to him with any comments. He would then circulate the document to the membership for their input.

### 8.11 External Representation

John A's report referred to a routine meeting at the RAeC which he attended in April but there was nothing significant to report.

## ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 John W asked what a particular item of expenditure in the accounts was and was informed that it was a video camera used for BHPA courses.

Members then asked what the position was with the BHPA simulator. The simulator is no longer working and it was felt that we should ask Ian Curren to let us have the projector back as this should still be serviceable.

9.2 Dave reported that we now have four BHPA schools abroad. He went on to say that we also have Tony Webb who operates in Spain but the school is registered in Norfolk, and Terry Stubbs who is based in Scotland and France. These two schools could potentially cause us a problem as, unlike the schools that have registered abroad, they do not have extra insurance cover for their operations abroad. Terry Stubbs says that he is complying with our rules but may be living in France.

**FOR ACTION: (2009 - B5) Dave Thompson to draft a letter to the two schools concerned and let Martin Heywood see it before sending.**

## ITEM 14: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at the same venue on 10th September

## ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

<b>WHO</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Martin Heywood	2008 – C2	Liase with Angus Langford re repayment proposals from Birdwings.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2009 - B1	Send letter to Birdwings.	Opened
Angus Langford	2009 - B2	Circulate draft Expenses Policy to Exec.	Opened
Marc Asquith	2009 - B3	Check instructions to Counsel drafted by himself and Mark Dale.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2009 - B4	Include Child Protection draft policy with Club Bulletin.	Opened.
Joe Schofield	2009 - B5	Reply to letter suggesting venues for BHPA event.	Opened
Angus Langford	2009 - B6	Consider whether to run down BHPA Shop.	Opened