



Meeting 2021B of the BHPA Executive Council

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Meeting held on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ

Present

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Gareth Bird
Jenny Buck
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Julie Drake
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Tom Prideaux-Brune

In attendance:

Ian Curren
Michelle Lanman
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw

Apologies:

Martin Heywood

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Martin Heywood.

Dave Thompson was absent due to furlough.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Saturday 13th March 2021 were approved with minor amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2018 – B1	Continuing
2020 – A11	Continuing
2020 – C1	Closed
2020 – C2	Closed
2020 – C3	Continuing
2021 – A1	Closed – The matter had been overtaken by events.
2021 – A2	Closed
2021 – A3	Closed

ITEM 4: INSTRUCTOR & SCHOOL REGISTRATION FEES

4.1 Mark Shaw raised the issue that as Instructor fees take precedence over dual supplements some members are taking advantage. They are being signed up as Trainee Instructors, not actually acting as TI's but getting the benefit of paying the £30 TI fee and not incurring the £85 dual supplement.

After discussion it was agreed that they should pay the full £85 dual fee and the database should be amended for this to happen.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B1) Michelle Lanman to arrange for the database to be amended so that TI's with dual licences pay the full dual supplement (£85) and not the reduced TI fee (£30).

4.2 Mark Shaw asked that a reduction in fees be considered for Development Schools. They currently pay £400, the same as full schools, but do not require membership books or student training record books as they deal with post Club Pilot training.

It was agreed that £200 would be a more suitable fee and this would be implemented at the next fee renewal.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B2) Michelle Lanman to amend Development School fees to £200 when fees next updated.

ITEM 5: MEMBER B

Member B has been a member for two years and is Club Pilot rated, he does not hold any licences.

He was issued a written warning in October 2020 advising him that he was breaching BHPA Rules and Regulations by teaching paragliding and paramotoring without the necessary qualifications. It has come to our attention that he has disregarded this and is still teaching.

It was agreed that his membership should be red-flagged and that it should not be renewed.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B3) Michelle Lanman to red-flag Member B's records so he cannot renew.

ITEM: 6: BHPA FOUNDATION UPDATE

Bill Bell reported that he has run into difficulties setting up a bank account for the foundation. There seems to be a reluctance for the banks to deal with charitable accounts.

Angus Langford suggested we should approach our relationship manager at Royal Bank of Scotland and see if he could help.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B4) Michelle Lanman to speak to our relationship manager at Royal Bank of Scotland to see if he can assist with a new charitable account for the BHPA Foundation.

ITEM: 7 : INSURANCE FOR EVENT ORGANISERS / CASH PRIZES FOR COMPETITIONS

Bill Bell asked for clarification on the insurance situation when cash prizes are offered at a competition. Does a cash prize invalidate the cover?

Marc Asquith clarified that our insurance does not mention cash prizes, so there would be no impact for competitions held in this country. This differs, however, for overseas competitions as travel insurance companies will always look for loopholes to avoid paying out. We should stress to our members that they need to check their policies before attending events overseas which offer cash prizes.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B5) Bill Bell to write an article for Skywings regarding overseas competitions and the need for members to check their travel insurance details where cash prizes are involved.

ITEM 8: 50 ANNIVERSARY – HG & PG

Bill Bell asked whether a celebration should be planned for the 50th anniversary of the sport. It would be a good way to generate goodwill and publicity.

It was agreed that Bill should work on a proposal with the help of Andy Shaw from Greendragons.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B6) Bill Bell to work with Andy Shaw on a proposal for an event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the sport.

ITEM 9: PASSWORD PROTECTION FOR SKYWINGS ONLINE

Marc Asquith explained that the Association was being criticized for password protecting the online copies of Skywings. One of our members regularly publishes the passwords on forums so they are readily available to everyone. Marc proposed that all passwords be removed for a trial period.

Paul Dancey raised concerns that Skywings is an asset of membership and once the step had been taken it would be very difficult to reverse it. He commented that he would have liked more notice to consider the impacts fully.

It was agreed that a decision would be deferred until the next Exec meeting.

ITEM 10: DATABASE & WEBSITE

Michelle Lanman requested that investment be considered into a new database and website. The two currently work independently and we are reliant on a programmer making any changes to the database.

It was agreed that a working group be established to begin the process consisting of Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford and Michelle Lanman.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B7) Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford and Michelle Lanman to set up a working group to look at implementing a new website and database.

ITEM 11: TELEGRAM

Steve Uzochukwu had approached Marc Asquith to suggest that the Association have a telegram channel to push updates out to members. Marc had agreed on the basis that it did not generate any more work.

The channel automatically picks up items posted on the news / events section of our website and on Facebook. It means that subscribers don't have to search for updates they are all held in one place.

Ed Cunliffe commented that we should hit other platforms similarly.

ITEM 12: MICROLIGHT INSURANCE – CLIVE MASON

Marc Asquith had been approached by Clive Mason regarding insurance cover for his microlight. He wished to take advantage of the BHPA cover but was concerned he would be breaking BHPA rules as he owns a paramotoring school and regularly does tandem paramotoring flights whilst teaching.

It was agreed that we could not accept Clive as a member at the moment, unless he came entirely under our rules.

Tom Prideaux-Brune and Julie Drake were both keen that paramotoring tandems be covered by the BHPA, and Clive Mason's school become BHPA approved. Marc Asquith explained that wheel launched tandem flights are currently being looked at by the FSC together with Francis Rich. A formal proposal would need submitting to the FSC for them to consider foot launched tandem.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B8) Mark Shaw to forward the FSC proposal proforma to the Exec distribution.

ITEM 13: TECHNICAL STAFF HEALTH / DEATH IN SERVICE

Ian Curren asked that the association consider covering the technical staff for death in service.

The matter was referred to F&GP for consideration.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B9) F&GP to consider providing death in service cover for staff.

ITEM 14: TOUCHING CLOUDBASE

Ian Curren gave an update on the recent changes he had made to Touching Cloudbase. He has developed an online training system which he intends to market through schools. It is a private project in which the BHPA is not referenced or promoted.

ITEM 15: FURLOUGH

Marc Asquith reported that Ian Curren had returned from furlough on the 24th May 2021 and that Dave Thompson's return was being considered for either 1st July or 1st August 2021.

ITEM 16: RULES OF BHPA – RULE 7

Marc Asquith reported that the Southern Club wish to make their sites member only. They are concerned however, that if a BHPA member from another club flies their sites they will be breaking the rules and therefore not be insured.

Marc proposed that the 'must' in rule 7 be replaced with 'should' to counter act this (When flying from club sites, pilots must familiarise themselves, and comply with, the club site rules.).

After discussion it was agreed that the rule be amended.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B10) Michelle Lanman to amend BHPA rule 7.

ITEM 17: WESSEX CLUB – SITE ISSUES

Wessex Club have run into issues with their National Trust owned landing field and the tenant farmers who rent it. The result being that after many years of use hang gliders are no longer permitted to land there.

The Wessex committee have come up with a policy which the hang gliding community are unhappy about.

Marc Asquith proposed that we should ask the Wessex Club if they would like us to write to the National Trust on their behalf and ask them to reconsider.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B11) Martin Baxter to write to the Wessex Club offering to contact the National Trust on their behalf.

ITEM 18: HG TRAINING INSTRUCTION PROPOSAL

Jenny Buck had forwarded a Hang Gliding Training Instruction Proposal prior to the meeting. The proposal was referred to FSC for consideration.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B12) FSC to consider the Hang Gliding Training Instruction Proposal.

ITEM 19: EHPU

Marc Asquith explained the background of EHPU for the benefit of the new Exec members.

It consists of nineteen member states and was formed to deal with Europe air sports as EASA will only talk to one representative for each sport. The presidency rotates alphabetically, and the AGM is held once a year. The last AGM was delayed due to Covid, its fall back date is September. The UK is due to take over the presidency at this point, and it is likely it will run for sixteen months.

ITEM 20: REPORTS

20.1 Finance

Angus Langford reported that finances were much healthier than had been anticipated for 2020/2021. We did not lose the number of members we expected to and a drop in expenses meant we ended the financial year in a good position.

The fees for 2021/2022 were based on reduced numbers but with the upturn in membership we will potentially do much better this year too. Consideration will need to be given as to how we return this to members moving forward.

20.2 FSC

The FSC report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mark Shaw reported that we have had an application for a new school in Algodonales, Spain. As we already have three schools operating in the same area Mark asked whether it should be approved. It was agreed that the BHPA does not get involved in commercial aspects and that we should give approval.

20.3 Insurance

Marc Asquith reported that there have not been any accidents that would give rise to major claims.

Bill Bell commented that obtaining insurance for overseas competitions is becoming increasingly difficult.

20.4 Sites

Martin Baxter's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

20.5 Skywings

Paul Dancey reported that advertising was a big issue last year and does not seem to be picking up this year.

20.6 Website

The website report had been circulated.

20.7 Competitions

Bill Bell's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

20.8 External representation

Jenny Buck had attended the last Royal Aero Club meeting.

20.9 School Liaison

Mark Shaw had spoken to most schools during lock down and they were looking healthy.

20.10 Paramotor Liaison

Mark Shaw had plans to attend the PPG Competition to hold exams.

20.11 Admin

Plans are in place to recruit a replacement for Carla Bradley. April Lane has increased her hours to full time so the new position will be for a part timer.

ITEM 21: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21.1 The need for the Exec to be quorate online during pandemic situations was raised.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B13) Marc Asquith to amend the Memorandum & Articles to ensure the Exec remain quorate online during pandemic situations.

21.2 It was agreed that Marc Asquith would speak to Peggy Williams about Member M prior to him joining the association.

FOR ACTION: (2021 – B14) Marc Asquith to speak to Peggy Williams about Member M prior to him joining the association.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.20pm.

ACTIONS – OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Marc Asquith / Angus Pinkerton /Michelle Lanman	2018 – B1	Marc Asquith, Angus Pinkerton and Michelle Lanman to review the GDPR policy document.	Continuing
Marc Asquith / Michelle Lanman	2020 – A11	Marc Asquith and Michelle Lanman to set up a working group to look at closer working relations between the BHPA and the BGA.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2020 – C3	Marc Asquith to progress the update of the Pilot Hand Book with Mark Dale	Continuing
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B1	Michelle Lanman to arrange for the database to be amended so that TI's with dual licences pay the full dual supplement (£85) and not the reduced TI fee (£30).	Open
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B2	Michelle Lanman to amend Development School fees to £200 when fees next updated.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B3	Michelle Lanman to red-flag Member B's records so he cannot renew.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B4	Michelle Lanman to speak to our relationship manager at Royal Bank of Scotland to see if he can assist with a new charitable account for the BHPA Foundation.	Open
Bill Bell	2021 – B5	Bill Bell to write an article for Skywings regarding overseas competitions and the need for members to check their travel insurance details where cash prizes are involved.	Open
Bill Bell	2021 – B6	Bill Bell to work with Andy Shaw on a proposal for an event to celebrate the 50 th anniversary of the sport.	Open
Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford, Michelle Lanman	2021 – B7	Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford and Michelle Lanman to set up a working group to look at implementing a new website and database.	Open
Mark Shaw	2021 – B8	Mark Shaw to forward the FSC proposal proforma to the Exec distribution.	Open
F&GP	2021 – B9	F&GP to consider providing death in service cover for staff.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B10	Michelle Lanman to amend BHPA rule 7.	Open
Martin Baxter	2021 – B11	Martin Baxter to write to the Wessex Club offering to contact the National Trust on their behalf.	Open
FSC	2021 – B12	FSC to consider the Hang Gliding Training Instruction Proposal.	Open
Marc Asquith	2021 – B13	Marc Asquith to amend the Memorandum &Articles to ensure the Exec remain quorate online during pandemic situations.	Open
Marc Asquith	2021 – B14	Marc Asquith to speak to Peggy Williams about Member M prior to him joining the association.	Open