



Meeting 2022A of the BHPA Executive Council

These minutes are not for circulation outside the Board Members and attendees until approved.

Meeting held on Saturday 12th February 2022 the Nottingham Belfry Hotel, commencing at 11am.

Present

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Jenny Buck

In attendance:

Ian Currer
Michelle Lanman
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw
Dave Thompson

Apologies:

Ed Cunliffe
Julie Drake
Tom Prideaux-Brune

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ed Cunliffe, Julie Drake and Tom Prideaux-Brune.

No contact had been received from Gareth Bird.

ITEM 2: POST AGM

Marc Asquith asked if anyone wished to stand as chairman. As there were no volunteers Marc agreed to continue in the role.

It was agreed that Jenny Buck would replace Bill Bell as Competitions Director.

ITEM 3: ITEMS ARISING FROM AGM

During the AGM Rupert Sweet-Escott had asked whether the BHPA were intending to run a youth initiative. After discussion it was agreed that we should ask other governing bodies what they do and also speak to Rupert to see if he has any suggestions.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A1) Marc Asquith to contact Rupert Sweet-Escott to see if he has any suggestions for running a youth initiative. Also speak to other governing bodies to see what they do.

ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Sunday

10th October 2021 were approved with no amendments.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

2018 – B1	Continuing
2020 – A11	Continuing
2020 – C3	Closed. Progress is being made.
2021 – B1	Continuing
2021 – B2	Continuing
2021 – B7	Continuing
2021 – B13	Continuing
2021 – C1	Closed
2021 – C2	Closed
2021 – C3	Closed
2021 – C4	Closed
2021 – C5	Continuing
2021 – C6	Closed
2021 – C7	Closed
2021 – C8	Closed
2021 – C9	Continuing
2021 – C10	Closed
2021 – C11	Closed – Amended to Site Trust.

Update to 2021 – B7 Angus Langford has been working with the office to draw up a requirements document. He is considering where the Association wants to be in ten years' time. He has also had initial discussions with Kantala, who support our current database, about how we can work on making it more current.

Update to 2021 – C2 Ian Currer had contacted the Paragliding Association of India to inform them of the costs of running a course for them. They are still interested although it is likely it will be 2023 before we will be in a position to go ahead with it.

ITEM 6: HARDCOPY SKYWINGS

Martin Baxter had circulated a paper about Skywings prior to the meeting. He was keen to understand the reasons behind continuing with a hard copy versus running an online copy only. Members are likely to query this point and we should have a good justification for our decision.

It was noted that whilst the younger generation prefer to read things online many other members see the magazine as a way of 'switching off' and taking time away from a screen. It was perceived that although the time will come for an online only magazine this is still some distance in the future. It will need considerable investment and will employ a whole different skill set. In the absence of dramatic changes, it was agreed that this matter would be revisited in five years' time.

ITEM 7: FLYABILITY FUNDING

A Flyability report had been circulated to Exec prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that as their finances are healthy regular BHPA funding should be suspended. If they need help with specific projects, they can approach us for funding at the time.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A2) Marc Asquith to communicate with Flyability about their funding.

ITEM 8: CLUB SITES – 28 DAY RULE

The Local Planning Authority is enforcing the rule that limits Challow Paramotoring Club to using its site (on agricultural land) for 28 days per year. There was a relaxation of this rule, during Covid 19, that allowed farmers to use their land for other uses for up to 56 days, this expired in December 2021.

A Worcestershire farmer, supported by the NFU, is lobbying to get a further extension as a means of rural income diversification for farmers. Francis Rich is asking for our support to do the same. Francis typically operates between 38 to 48 days per year, so this restriction greatly impacts Challow Paramotoring Club's operation.

After discussion it was agreed that although we are sympathetic with Francis raising this as a national issue could generate more negatives than positives for the sport. Paramotoring already attracts a lot of negative press and raising our profile would not improve this.

It was agreed that the best route would be for Francis to take legal advice and to pursue the 10-year rule (if you've been doing something for 10 years you can challenge any enforcement).

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A3) Martin Baxter to communicate the Exec's decision regarding the '28-day rule' to Francis Rich.

ITEM 9: NATIONAL TRUST – FLYING BANNED DURING BREEDING SEASON

Martin Baxter had been contacted by Graham Phipps regarding an email received from his local National Trust Warden. This advised that following advice from Natural England they have banned flying during the breeding season (February – September) at two existing sites within the SSSI. Graham was asking for advice on how to challenge the matter.

Martin commented that other clubs have contacted him to say they have resolved this issue on a local level and were keen to keep things low key and not 'rock the boat'.

Marc Asquith had been approached by the BMFA over jointly challenging the National Trust's decision.

After discussion it was agreed that the matter should be kept as a local issue initially. The first step would be for the club to approach Natural England and ask for the rationale behind their decision.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A4) Martin Baxter to notify Graham Phipps that he should contact Natural England and ask for their rationale behind the decision to ban flying on SSSI sites during the breeding season.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A5) Marc Asquith to inform the BMFA of our decision re the National Trust's ban on flying during the breeding season

ITEM 10: REPORTS

10.1 Finance

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.2 FSC

Martin Baxter asked if it was possible to ascertain total flying hours by members to make comparisons of accident statistics. Angus Pinkerton explained that we have no way of quantifying this information at present.

10.3 Insurance

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.4 Sites

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.5 Skywings

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.6 Website

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.7 Competitions

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.8 External representation

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.9 Paramotor Liaison

Nothing that had not been already reported at the AGM.

10.10 Admin

Marc Asquith reported that as Clair Tewley leaves the Association on 28th February 2021 we are currently in the process of recruiting. Lorna Gregory, our last recruit, has only been with us a short time so the office we will be entering the summer season with two new recruits. This will increase the burden on the longer serving members of staff.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Bill Bell has been approached by Steve Young offering his services to Exec. It was agreed that Steve be invited to the next Exec meeting

FOR ACTION: (2022 – A6) Bill Bell to invite Steve Young to the next Exec meeting.

11.2 Martin Baxter asked whether the BHPA should appoint a PR officer. It was explained that this had been tried in the past with very little success.

11.3 Ian Curren reported that the Sub 70 exemption expires in March 2022. It is looking likely that the exemption will be extended further.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 12.30pm.

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
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).	Continuing
Michelle Lanman	2021 – B2	Michelle Lanman to amend Development School fees to £200 when fees next updated.	Continuing
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.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2021 – B13	Marc Asquith to amend the Memorandum & Articles to ensure the Exec remain quorate online during pandemic situations.	Continuing
F&GP	2021 – C5	F&GP to discuss staff salaries.	Continuing
Mark Shaw	2021 – C9	Mark Shaw to include a statement about open versus member only sites in the site sovereignty section of the Technical Manual when it is next amended.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2022 – A1	Marc Asquith to contact Rupert Sweet-Escott to see if he has any suggestions for running a youth initiative. Also speak to other governing bodies to see what they do.	Open
Marc Asquith	2022 – A2	Marc Asquith to communicate with Flyability about their funding.	Open
Martin Baxter	2022 – A3	Martin Baxter to communicate the Exec's decision regarding the '28-day rule' to Francis Rich.	Open
Martin Baxter	2022 – A4	Martin Baxter to notify Graham Phipps that he should contact Natural England and ask for their rationale behind the decision to ban flying on SSSI sites during the breeding season.	Open
Marc Asquith	2022 – A5	Marc Asquith to inform the BMFA of our decision re the National Trust's ban on flying during the breeding season.	Open
Bill Bell	2022 – A6	Bill Bell to invite Steve Young to the next Exec meeting.	Open