



2007 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 25th November 2007 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, commencing at 11.00am

These minutes are not to be taken as a true record without referring to the minutes of the Executive Council meeting at which they were approved.

Present:

John Aldridge
Marc Asquith
Jennie Burdett
Ed Cunliffe
Mark Dale
Rustam Davar
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Joe Schofield

Dave Thompson
Steve Walsh
John Welch

In attendance:
31 Voting members
of the Association

ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

BHPA Chairman, Martin Heywood, welcomed members to the AGM and the airshow. As usual the business part of the meeting required under the Companies Act would be conducted first.

ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved.

Marc Asquith had been overseeing the BHPA accounts whilst a new Treasurer was sought and said that the accounts showed a modest loss of £600 which gave him no real concern.

Bill Morris, Midflight, referred to the VAT provision and asked whether Marc was happy that the VAT situation had now stabilised so that we would not have a one off hit this year. Marc replied that we are operating in accordance with the recommendations from our tax adviser.

The resolution to approve the accounts was passed.

2.2 That the following members be elected to the Executive Council: J. Aldridge, P. Dancey, M. Heywood, A. Langford.

The resolution for the election of members to the Executive Council was approved.

2.3 That Clear & Lane be re-appointed as auditors and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Marc Asquith said he had been happy with the auditors who had been very helpful since we had lost Dick Long. Fees for the audit had inevitably increased as Dick had used to do much of the work himself.

The resolution was approved and this concluded the formal business of BHPA Limited.

ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

A warm welcome was given to BHPA President Lembit Opik, MP, who had kindly agreed to present the trophies. In a short address to the meeting Lembit said that he hoped for a better relationship with the CAA and actually thought that the flying community and the CAA could be friends. He said he would like to do more as BHPA President and mentioned that the transponder issue was on hold for the time being.

The trophies were then presented and there was a surprise presentation for John Aldridge. The UK team had won gold medals at the Hang Gliding Worlds and as they did not have an official team leader they felt that John deserved the Team Leader's medal. They said that John had been a great help and they could not have done it without him.

ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS

4.1 Insurance

Martin Heywood reported that it had been a very quiet year in terms of the number and value of claims. The problems of the 1990s now seem to be behind us and we have had insurers and brokers approaching us so we are moving back in the right direction. It is unlikely that we will ever get back to all our categories of members having £2m or £5m cover but this should improve.

4.2 Competitions

John Aldridge said that it had been a very good year for competitions and we had won several medals. John's full report was available in the AGM folder. There were no questions from members.

4.3 Skywings

Paul Dancey was in hospital and therefore unable to be at AGM so Joe Schofield reported on his behalf. There has been a slight improvement in the number of pages but the climate remains difficult, we are losing traders and this means losing advertising. Skywings has been slightly thinner in the last few months but this enables costs to be kept down. Thanks should go to everyone who contributes to Skywings and to our designer Colin Fargher.

4.4 Sites

Steve Walsh mentioned that donations to the Sites Fund are trickling in very slowly and the current total is only £3,700. Steve said he had not heard of any sites being lost so far this year, although it is possible that a wind farm will result in the loss of a tow site next year.

4.5 Paramotors

Ed Cunliffe asked members if they had any questions regarding paramotors but there were none.

4.6 School Liaison

John Welch informed the meeting that the date for the next Schools Workshop will be 25/26 March 2008 and will be hosted by Joint Services HG & PG Centre, Crickhowell.

4.7 FSC

Angus Pinkerton reported that it had been a good year from an FSC point of view. There had been more CPs awarded than in the previous year and the number of fatalities was down.

Bill Morris, Midflight, asked about the AAIB and said that in the last few years we have not received any reports from abroad. Angus replied that he had had a meeting with the Deputy Director of the AAIB two weeks ago; they now understand the need for reports to be out as soon as possible and will be speeding things up.

With regard to accidents abroad, Angus said that the UK is the only place in the world that regards accidents to foot launched aircraft as air accidents. All other countries regard them as sporting accidents and consequently they are not investigated as air accidents. This means that we are completely unable to get reports from anyone else because they simply do

not investigate the accidents. Angus had asked AAIB if there is any pressure that can be put on to make them investigate properly.

There is nothing to stop us doing our own informal investigations so our intentions are that in future we will carry out an investigation as far as we can. We really need incident reports to tell us about accidents and we will investigate where we think this may be beneficial to our members.

Martin said that unfortunately Tom Hardie had been unable to make it to the meeting but regarding the transponder issue there will be an inquiry in the next couple of weeks. If we need members to get involved we will let everyone know.

Martin then thanked the BHPA staff for their work and support during the year and closed the meeting.