



Meeting 2005B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2005 at Baden Powell House, Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JS commencing at 10.30a.m.

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
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Dick Long
Angus Pinkerton
Andy Shaw

In attendance:
Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Edi Geczy
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Apologies for absence had been received from Sean Lovatt, Merv Turner and Steve Walsh.

The resignations of Andrew Larkins and Damon Robinson from the Executive Council were discussed and Martin mentioned that Andrew may reconsider.

Edi Geczy, a BHPA Instructor and School Proprietor was attending the meeting as an observer.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2005A - 10th February, 2005

Item 7. Mark was worried that the wording could be misinterpreted. He suggested an alternative wording which was approved by the meeting.

11.4.1 Paul said he had apologised for the errors in the paramotor article, not for the article itself.

The minutes were approved subject to the above amendments.

Annual General Meeting - 27th November 2004

3.1, para 4, line 2. Delete the word "any".

The minutes were approved subject to the above amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 2001 - C17 | Closed |
| 2003 - A2 | Continuing |
| 2004 - B1 | Continuing |
| 2004 - B2 | Continuing |
| 2004 - B4 | Closed |
| 2004 - B11 | Continuing |
| 2004 - B15 | Continuing |
| 2004 - C3 | Continuing |
| 2004 - C14 | Closed |
| 2004 - C15 | Closed |
| 2004 - C17 | Andy explained that Andrew Larkins is no long able to help with the VHG and the electronics in it were unreliable. After discussion several names were suggested of members who may be able to help and Andy agreed to make contact. Continuing |
| 2004 - C18 | Martin reported that Steve Walsh does not yet have the information for a proposed Sites Fund yet but has promised it will be done next month. Continuing |
| 2004 - C20 | Continuing |

2005 - A1 In retrospect Martin and Dave had agreed that this insurance information should not be published. Closed

2005 - A2 Continuing

2005 - A3 Closed

2005 - A4 Continuing

2005 - A5 Continuing

2005 - A6 Closed

2005 - A7 Closed

2005 - A8 Continuing

2005 - A9 Angus has had no response from USHGA but said he would chase them up. Continuing

2005 - A10 Continuing

2005 - A11 Continuing

2005 - A12 Andy reported that schools did not seem to hold any strong views about the timing of the AGM as he had only had three responses. Closed

2005 - A13 Continuing

2005 - A14 Closed

ITEM 4: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PLANS

It was acknowledged that UK Sport would not be giving BHPA further grant aid and therefore the Exec wondered whether there is any point in continuing to produce the Management and Operational Plans. Dick said in his view the plans are a huge amount of work for something that is of no use to us.

Marc reported that he had just come from a meeting with CCPR and they would be pressing the Sports Council to continue with funding. He suggested that there should be no further work done on the plan but no decision should be taken to scrap it at the present time. This was agreed.

ITEM 5: AGM

The AGM will be at the NEC on Sunday 27th November at 11am. Marc wondered whether Exec could address the format of the meeting. The business part of the meeting is crisp and quick but the rest of it goes on interminably he said.

A volunteer was need to organise the awards at the AGM and Martin agreed to liaise with John to find someone to do this. It was suggested that Harriet Pottinger may be willing to take this on.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - 1B) Martin Heywood and John Aldridge to find a volunteer to take charge of the AGM awards.

Concern was expressed about several aspects of SPLASH. Joe reported that the website was just a holding page and Mark

mentioned that the press day has been cancelled. Also, the traders had not yet received the Operations Manual and there was a suggestion that some stands may not be up to Health & Safety standards.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B2) Andy Shaw to email schools re the Operations Manual for SPLASH.

FOR ACTION: Martin Heywood to email Merv Turner explaining that there is general concern at the lack of information re SPLASH.A

Marc suggested that Lembit Opik should be invited to the event and this was agreed.

ITEM 6: SITES FUND

This item was not discussed as Steve Walsh was unable to attend the meeting.

ITEM 7: CEO

Andrew Larkins was going to produce a paper on the subject of a BHPA CEO but had since resigned from Exec. A show of hands signified that the Exec were not in favour of having a CEO and there was not further discussion on this matter.

ITEM 8: DATABASE SALE

Mark referred to the database of a foreign association which apparently does not work and he wondered whether we could sell them ours and make some money for the Association. Angus then said that having researched this it turned out that they do now have a working database but he felt that Mark's idea does have some merit and the BHPA database is a tangible asset which we could sell.

Dick did not agree and said there would be a huge amount of work involved in this

After a short discussion it was decided not to pursue this.

ITEM 9: REPORTS

9.1 Treasurer

9.1.1 Dick had circulated the audited accounts.

9.1.2 UK Sport have confirmed that there will be no more grant for next year.

9.2 FSC

9.2.1 FSC had discussed the situation in regard to reciprocal FLPA ratings with the BMAA and felt that this was a matter for Exec to consider.

Martin suggested that we should speak to the BMAA outlining our concerns and asking them to look into it. This was agreed.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B3) Martin Heywood and Marc Asquith to write to BMAA re FLPAs.

At the moment BHPA have a temporary suspension on automatic recognition of BMAA ratings and it was agreed that this should remain until we have a response from BMAA.

9.2.2 A paper written by Mark Dale and Andy Cowley regarding BHPA schools training abroad and this was discussed at length. Mark and Andy believe that the current 60 Day Rule is impossible for us to enforce and we are also losing members that we badly need by not allowing our schools the freedom to train abroad. The paper set out possible ways of allowing our schools to operate abroad whilst still remaining BHPA registered schools.

Dave made the point that the 60 Day Rule is a problem for many of our schools and they just have to ignore it and step outside of our rules and regulations in order to provide us with members. As they only have £25k insurance cover anyway they really have nothing to lose.

Members discussed whether registration of a BHPA school should be based on UK residency as defined by UK tax laws. This would ensure that schools were in the UK for at least part of the year and therefore available for inspection.

Angus said BHPA policy had always been that if schools operate entirely abroad then they should join the NGB of the country in which they operate. However, we now have many

schools that spend summers here but run courses abroad throughout the winter. It is important to recognise that these are producing the new members who are critical to the future of the Association.

Marc reminded members of the accident rate which had resulted in our ban on ab initio training abroad. We had introduced some rules and as people have gained experience we have relaxed the rules a little, now we want to relax them some more.

Angus added that we could tell the insurers that the 60 Day Rule does not work and as there have been no claims to speak of could we get rid of the limit altogether. We would of course have to explain how we plan to monitor the situation.

Marc thought that incremental steps would probably be more acceptable to the insurers and a sensible time limit would be six months.

Our current rules say that everyone has to be insured in order to be operating within our rules and regulations. Our insurers will not cover members based abroad so if we go along the "UK residency for tax purposes" route we should be OK.

Andy Shaw pointed out that many of our best instructors are abroad so much that they would not meet the Inland Revenue definition of UK residency and we would lose them as members.

Martin said that this is essentially a proposal to extend the 60 Day Rule and he will produce a paper setting out the reasons why we want it together with all the pros and cons. This will be circulated to Exec members before the meeting with insurers.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B4) Martin Heywood to circulate produce and circulate a paper on training abroad to be put before insurers.

9.2.3 Dave reported that some schools abroad wanted to use our training booklets to make it easier for UK students when they come back home.

Exec wondered whether the booklets could be printed without the BHPA logos etc. as they would not be BHPA registered schools. It was agreed that FSC should consider this.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B5) Dave Thompson and Angus Pinkerton to look at sale of Student Training booklets.

9.3 Insurance

Martin reported that he would be meeting with HSBC and the Underwriters in November but there was nothing much to say on insurance. Marc asked what the bordereaux was looking like and Martin replied that there have been no significant claims for about 18 months.

There was some discussion as to the reasons for the lack of PA claims; whether the training is better, the training booklets have made the difference, bad instructors have left the sport as they would be personally liable, etc.

9.4 School Liaison

9.4.1 Andy reported that he had sent a letter out to all schools mentioning that we have places on the Exec and asking for anyone interested to come forward.

9.4.2 Fewer schools had attended the Schools' Workshop in March but the event had been very worthwhile nevertheless. The 2006 workshop will again be in March and will be hosted by Airways.

9.4.3 With regard to shows, Andy explained that he is finding it very difficult to promote BHPA and Green Dragons without support from other schools.

Andy had successfully negotiated the price down for a stand at the Daily Mail Ski Show from £7k to £2k and after further discussion it was agreed that BHPA would fund this. Although the VHG was not working at the moment Andy said he would still take it as members of the public could still get in the harness to see how it feels.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B6) Andy Shaw to contact Rod Buck re repairing VHG.

9.4.4 Andy felt that BHPA is desperately in need of someone to look after marketing. Marc said what Andy is doing is exactly what we want; we have spent money on marketing in the past and is had made absolutely no difference. What Andy is doing is giving us a presence and this is just what we want.

9.4.5 Andy asked if Martin could send out an email to all officers reminding them about confidentiality.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B7) Martin Heywood to send out email to all officers re confidentiality.

9.5 Competitions

9.5.1 John reported that there are no major problems although the Paragliding Panel are dealing with a dispute at Long Mynd in regard to land use and some sheep being frightened.

9.5.2 Dave said that at the recent European Safety Harmonisation Committee meeting it was felt that the form of the competitions as well as the pilots' choice of gliders are causing problems. It was noted that the meeting that incidents during competitions are not always reported so it had been suggested that all international competitions it should be the responsibility of the organiser to submit a report to their national federation. This will then be on the database and available to all countries when information is exchanged.

Dave added that no Incident Reports has been received following the British Open, despite a number of deployments. John said he would chase these up.

9.6 Sites

9.6.1 Steve was not at the meeting so there was not discussion.

9.6.2 Dick said Martin should be congratulated for sorting out the problem with DEFRA and all members were in agreement that Martin's handling of the situation had been excellent.

9.7 Skywings

9.7.1 Paul explained that the falling membership figures were having a knock on effect on the amount spent on advertising in Skywings. Added to that, it seems that XC Magazine is targeting our clients for advertising so this is a situation that he will be keeping an eye on.

9.7.2 John was unhappy that some of the information in Skywings amounted to free advertising, either on the letter page or in the news section. This was discussed but it was not felt to be a problem, particularly as Andy, who pays for advertising, was not concerned by it.

9.7.3 Paul asked members whether they would prefer a high gloss finish on the cover of Skywings (as used on Training Wings) but the majority preferred it the way it is.

9.8 Website

9.8.1 Dick referred to the 'BHPA' email boxes and it was agreed that these should be removed as soon as anyone ceased to be a BHPA officer.

9.8.2 It was felt that Sean should be congratulated for the website which is very good. The on line shop is now doing good business and although there are still some technical problems these should be sorted out in due course.

9.8.3 Andy reported that some schools are unhappy with the competition from the BHPA shop. There was some discussion on this point and Marc suggested that Andy should look at the policy and put in writing what he feels is wrong with it and what items BHPA should not be selling.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B8) Jennie Burdett to send a stock list and the existing policy on the BHPA Shop to Andy Shaw.

9.9 External Representation

9.9.1 Marc said that he had wanted to change the way the RAeC operates and make it more pro-active and this seems to be working. Marc reported that RAeC have a team looking at legislation and he spoke about the work done by GAA and the developments with EASA. He added that our exemption should remain although we do need to keep an eye on it.

9.9.2 Marc had had a meeting with the CEO of the CCPR and expressed concern that the Sport Council would be cutting funding because the Olympics would swallow up all the resources. He suggested that we should not bid to host any championships in 2012 because there would be no money available.

9.9.3 The RAeC Medals and Awards would be in early spring. Marc commented that five years ago this would have been the main topic of his report because that was the main thing that RAeC did. Now it Medals and Awards is only a very small part of the the RAeC does.

9.9.4 Although Marc said he would not be RAeC Chairman next year, as he would be a Vice President it means that John Aldridge can continue as BHPA representative.

9.9.5 The next CIVL meeting will be in Lausanne and John said that as Easyjet fly to Geneva it would not be expensive if we wanted a member of our technical staff to attend.

9.10 Promotional Events

Damon Robinson was no longer an Exec Member but Martin reported that the event at Eastbourne has not been a success.

9.11 Club Events

There was no report or discussion.

9.12 Club Liaison

There was no report or discussion.

9.13 Admin

9.13.1 Jennie reported that funding for Investors In People is no longer available so if we wish to continue with it, we will have to pay for our reassessment in 2007 as well as for any help we request from our liaison officer. As this would cost several hundred pounds she did not feel that we should continue with IIP and providing that we maintain the standards that we have already achieved the loss of IIP status will make no difference.

This was discussed and Exec agreed that spending money on IIP could not be justified and should be allowed to lapse.

9.13.2 Dick referred to the training which had recently been undertaken by the office staff at the local college and said he did not feel it was necessary as all the staff are more than capable of doing their jobs without further training. Jennie pointed out that the training was only for two hours per week and at no financial cost to the BHPA.

It was agreed that should Jennie feel that any further training would be beneficial this should be approved by the Chairman first.

9.13.3 The majority of BHPA mail is sent out First Class and Exec were asked whether this policy should continue or whether we should revert to sending our renewal forms etc. by Second Class mail.

This was discussed and members felt it would be useful to do some trials to find out if using First Class actually made any difference to the renewal rates.

FOR ACTION: (2005 - B10) Jennie Burdett to email MH, MA, AP and AS with proposed procedure.

9.13.4 John suggested that when members decide not to renew, they should be encouraged to take our non-flying membership or a Skywings subscription.

This was felt to be a good idea and would be included as part of the above action.

ITEM 10: AWARD OF MERIT

10.1 John said he had been appointed by Harriet Pottinger when she was Chairman, to be in charge of the Awards of Merit. No nominations had yet been received but a reminder is being printed in the November Skywings.

10.2 Marc reported on the Ann Welch Award which will be given to an instructor or someone who has contributed to instruction in the BMAA, BGA or BHPA. Nominations are requested.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Dave referred to the ESHC meeting and said he would like some extra information to be included on membership renewal forms for statistical purposes. This would be a question asking members how many flights they had done over the past year.

However, it became clear during discussion that this is not quite as simple as it would appear and Dave agreed to think about it some more.

11.2 It had been suggested that Exec are not having enough meetings to be able to operate efficiently but members were in agreement that so much is done by email these days there is no need for so many meetings.

ITEM 13: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on 27th November, following the AGM.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.00pm.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Marc Asquith	2003 - A2	Lead a working group to establish requirements and suggestions for a new President	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2004 - B1	Draft a note for Skywings re advertising policy	Continuing
Adrian Bishop	2004 - B2	Write an article for Skywings on grant availability	Continuing
Steve Walsh	2004 - B11	Write an article for Skywings on site issues in general	Continuing
Adrian Bishop	2004 - B15	write report and recommendation for Skywings on regional club meetings.	Continuing
Merv Turner	2004 - C3	Produce Child Protection Policy help sheet for clubs.	Continuing
Andy Shaw	2004 - C17	Liase with Andrew Larkins re VHG repairs.	Continuing
Steve Walsh/ Adrian Bishop	2004 - C18	Look as possibility of Sites Fund.	Continuing
Adrian Bishop	2004 - C20	Contact Petra Slangen re funding resource book.	Continuing
All Exec	2005 - A2	Email Job Description and photo to Sean.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2005 - A4	Ask Adrian Bishop to circulate updated Operational Plan.	Continuing
Paul Dancey	2005 - A8	Ensure that the EHPU logo and new FAI logo are included in Skywings.	Continuing
Angus Pinkerton	2005 - A9	Get details from USHGA of costs involved in getting magazines on to DVD.	Continuing
Steve Walsh	2005 - A10	Produce details of how the Sites Fund should be administered.	Continuing
Merv Turner	2005 - A11	Contact other NGBs re Child Protection issues.	Continuing
Martin Heywood/ John Aldridge	2005 - B1	Find a volunteer to take charge of AGM awards.	Opened
Andy Shaw	2005 - B2	Email schools re Operations Manual for SPLASH	Opened
Martin Heywood	2005 - B3	Email Merv Turner re general concern at lack of information re SPLASH.	Opened
Martin Heywood/ Marc Asquith	2005 - B4	Write to BMAA re FLPAs.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2005 - B5	Produce and circulate paper re training abroad.	Opened
Dave Thompson/ Angus Pinkerton	2005 - B6	Look at possibility of selling Student Training booklets to foreign schools.	Opened
Andy Shaw	2005 - B7	Contact Rod Buck re repairing VHG.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2005 - B8	Send email to officers re confidentiality.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2005 - B9	Send stock list and existing policy on BHPA shop to Andy Shaw.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2005 - B10	Email MH, MA, AP and AS with proposed procedure for trial of 1st/2nd Class mail.	Opened