

# Club Bulletin 200

## September 2014



Published monthly. Aimed mainly at club contacts/secretaries. Covers administrative topics and news from the Executive Council. General interest items are repeated in Skywings magazine for all members.

**BHPA**

### 1: Courses

#### Club Coach Courses

**October 18th - 19th 2014** - Cancelled

**November 8th - 9th 2014** - Wessex HG & PG Club  
Tel 07808 878 373  
secretary@wessexhgpg.org.uk  
contact: Ruth Kelly

**November 29th - 30th 2014** - North Devon HG & PG  
Tel 07884 078 191  
stuarthall40@hotmail.com  
contact: Stuart Hall

**January 10th - 11th 2015** - available

**March 14th - 15th 2015** - Derbyshire Soaring Club  
Tel 07762 847 722  
alanhorsfly84@gmail.com  
contact: Alan Horsfield

#### Emergency Parachute Systems Course

22nd - 23rd November 2014

*For more information contact:*  
*Stephanie Blankley, 0116 289 4316,*  
*stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk*

#### Instructor/Senior Coach Course

21st - 23rd April 2015  
Lilleshall National Sports Centre  
This course will only run if we have sufficient numbers. The cut off date to apply and send in full payment is Friday 19th December 2014.

*For more information contact:*  
*Stephanie Blankley, 0116 289 4316,*  
*stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk*

### 2: Schools Admin

#### **Exams**

If you are holding any exams awaiting completion, please check with Stef at the BHPA office to ensure that they are still current.

#### **School Operations Manual**

Please ensure that the BHPA Office has a copy of your updated Ops Manual if any changes have been made.

*For more information contact:*  
*Stephanie Blankley, 0116 289 4316,*  
*stephanie-blankley@bhpa.co.uk*

### 3: Technical Manual update

A new, updated and amended version of the BHPA Technical Manual (Amendment 13) has been published and can be downloaded at [www.bhpa.co.uk/pdf/BHPA\\_Tech\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.bhpa.co.uk/pdf/BHPA_Tech_Manual.pdf). All BHPA Instructors and Air Experience Instructors, including those under training, and Senior Coaches should download a personal copy of this latest edition. If required, a printed copy can be obtained from the BHPA Office at a cost of £25.

The key changes include a major revision of the Incident Reporting and Investigation chapter, the insertion of the new entry on the Emergency Parachute Systems Licence and a series of amendments to the Aerotowing chapter, along with numerous small changes. A black border on the left of the page identifies areas of the text that have been changed.

*For more information contact:*  
*Mark Dale, 01937 585 587, mark-dale@bhpa.co.uk*

### 4: BHPA now accepts PayPal.

BHPA members can now renew their membership by using PayPal. The relevant amount can now be sent to PayPal using the identifier (payments@bhpa.co.uk), including the sender's BHPA membership number in the comments box provided.

Licence holders such as Instructors or Coaches who need their membership form counter-signed, will need to send this in separately; without such a signature from the Club or School the Licence will not be renewed. We hope that the PayPal system will make life easier for the ordinary member who just wishes to continue their membership.

*For more information contact:*  
*Michelle Lanman, 0116 261 1322,*  
*michelle-lanman@bhpa.co.uk*



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## 5: DEALING WITH THE MEDIA FOLLOWING A FATALITY (OR SERIOUS INJURY)

The BHPA does not have a full time Press Officer. These notes do not constitute formal policy but may serve as a useful guide if your club is approached by the media following an accident.

### CLUB FORUM (Nip it in the bud)

We have heard reports that there was a fatality on [Site] today. We have no details as yet, but if anyone was present on the hill and has ANY information, please fill in an Incident Report Form (IRF), available on the BHPA website, or contact Mark Dale or Dave Thomson at the BHPA. Please provide information as soon as possible to assist with the investigation.

Our condolences go out to family and friends at this sad time.

Members are reminded not to speculate about cause or circumstances. Anything you say in public, or write in an email or on a forum, is on the record and can be used by the press or legal teams. If you were on the site at any time today fill in an IRF.

We will publish the name of the deceased here once it has been released.

### PRESS STATEMENT – [BHPA/CLUB NAME]

We have been deeply shocked and saddened by the news of the death/serious injury of [Full Name] who was involved in an accident on [Date] at [Site] near [Town] in [Area].

(Adjust as appropriate)[First Name] was very well known in the [Club] for [his/her] enthusiasm and approachable nature. [He/She] was well respected on the hill and during social activities. [First Name] was an experienced and knowledgeable pilot and an active member of the club.

Little is known at present about what happened and it would be wrong to speculate about it at this stage. The British Hang gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) will carry out a full investigation, and any witnesses are encouraged to contact them directly. Our condolences go out to [his/her] family and friends at this very sad time: our thoughts are with them.

### IF PRESSED

Q. Is hang/paragliding dangerous?

A. Hang gliding and paragliding are not inherently dangerous but, as with all types of aviation, mistakes can have very serious consequences. We make every effort to minimise the risk and our members agree that the benefits outweigh the residual risk.

Q. Some people have suggested that such dangerous sports should be banned. Would you like to comment?

A. We could all wrap ourselves in a blanket and watch television all day. That would be fairly safe, but it wouldn't provide us with a great quality of life. Some of us choose more exhilarating pastimes in the full knowledge that accidents occasionally happen. Should we ban mountaineering, horse riding and driving a car as well?

Q. Is it licensed?

A. The CAA recognises the British Hang gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) as the governing body for the sports of Hang Gliding and Paragliding in the UK. The BHPA registers flying schools who comply with its standards of training, it licences suitably qualified hang gliding and paragliding instructors and provides an approved Pilot training scheme which leads to recognised qualifications.

Q. Will you make any changes in light of this accident?

A. Once the accident report has been completed members will be encouraged to study its findings and use it to reduce the risk of re-occurrence.

Q. Are pilots insured?

A. Membership of the BHPA includes 3rd party liability up to a sum of £5m.

Q. Are all members of your club also members of the BHPA?

A. Only members of the BHPA are allowed to join our club.

*For more information contact:  
Martin Baxter 07775 785479,  
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