



Meeting 2012A of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Saturday 3 March 2012 at The Nottingham Belfry, Mellor's Way, Nottingham, commencing immediately after the AGM.

These notes of the minutes are not to be taken as a full record of the Meeting of the Directors of BHPA Ltd.

Present:

Marc Asquith
Bill Bell
Chris Burns
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langord
John Nash

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Angus Pinkerton, Steve Walsh and Mark Dale.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of 2011D were left until the next meeting.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2009 – B3 Closed
2010 – A10 Closed.

Brett was concerned that no world records had been approved for months so pilots did not know what to go for. Apparently it is due to a problem with the FAI server. Marc suggested that this should be raised with the RAeC and asked Brett to liaise with John.

FOR ACTION: (2012 - A1) John Nash to raise matter of world records at RAeC.

2010 - B3 Closed
2010 – B8 Closed.
2011 – B5 Continuing.
2011 – B6 Continuing.
2011 – D1 Closed.

ITEM 4: APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Martin explained that he was standing down as Chairman and Marc Asquith would take over unless there were any objections. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that John Nash would continue as our RAeC rep as well as taking over from Marc as Company Secretary.

ITEM 5: STAFF SALARIES

This item would be dealt with by the F&GP plus Paul Dancey, as usual.

ITEM 6: STAFF PENSIONS

Martin said that there is legislation on the horizon that will make it a legal requirement for employers to set up a pension for employees. BHPA will therefore have to comply with the basic requirements.

Angus L added that by 2016 smaller companies will be obliged to provide pensions for all employees and contribute 3%. It was agreed that this item should remain on the agenda so that it does not get forgotten .

ITEM 7: CLUB REGISTRATION FORM

There was no discussion on this item.

ITEM 8: NON BHPA PILOTS AT OUR CLUBS

Martin said he would discuss this with Angus P and Mark and bring it to the next Exec meeting.

ITEM 9: PILOT HANDBOOK

Bill explained that the hang gliding competitions panel had been surprised to discover that recommendations for parachute sizes were not available on our website. He therefore felt that this information should be freely available on the web and not require pilots to buy the book.

Joe replied that this had appeared in Skywings more times than he could remember and it was beyond belief that these pilots did not know what size parachute they should have.

Dave said he could not believe that they did not know this information. Any new pilots coming through now get the information at the school and any older pilots would be well aware of it. He agreed that the information should be on the website, just to cover our backs, but he doubted whether they would read it.

FOR ACTION: (2012 - A2) Joe Schofield to put parachute chart on website and check the number of hits in a few months.

Brett suggested that the whole book should be on the website. There followed discussion as to whether this would cut off a steady stream of income for the BHPA Shop but Brett said it may actually increase sales. John suggested that a better way would be to put certain safety related information on the website with a note saying that the whole book can be purchased from the BHPA shop. No decision was taken on this matter.

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Brett requested that Exec should reconsider the cost of Introductory Membership, which had increased to £15 for one tandem flight. Marc replied that what this reflects is the sort of tandem experience that people are given.

Calvo believed that taking someone up dual was an excellent way to get them interested in the sport and he thought that 50% of the people he takes up dual go on to learn to fly

Marc made the point that the fees had been announced in November and no complaints had been received from anyone, including dual pilots. Brett suggested that we should keep an eye on the situation to see if there are any reports that tandem flights have been affected.

It was agreed that if it turns out that dual flights have been affected, when membership fees are changes again this will be looked at favourably.

10.2 There was discussion about Murray Hay's advertisements on eBay that may be defamatory. Dave said Murray Hay would tone it down for a while and then start again so we would just be wasting money. In any case, he is in the north of Scotland so is unlikely to have a major impact on us.

Members agreed that no action should be taken for the time being.

10.3.1 Bill proposed that we should introduce two new membership categories. He did not think that club members who do not fly but hold posts within the club, such as secretary, should have to be BHPA members.

Both Joe and Brett suggested that the club should pay the BHPA membership fee for their volunteers. Martin agreed and said that being on a committee does have legal consequences so the fact that they have to pay something to do it may make them think about it seriously.

Joe said he had never come across anyone who had decided not to volunteer because they did not want to pay the non-flying membership fee. If the club really wanted them they would pay the membership fee for them.

It was agreed that we should not be creating a new membership category for a small number of people and Martin felt that this should be left to the clubs to deal with.

10.3.2 Bill said that Sub 115kg is an area of rapid expansion, people are coming to us from BMAA etc. and we should be advertising this. Bill felt that we are undercharging for the Sub 115kg insurance and we should have a new membership category. It is great opportunity for us to find a new source of members.

Martin said that this is new to the CAA, new to us and new to the insurers, we need to keep an eye on it.

FOR ACTION: (2012 - A3) Brett Janaway to research cost of insurance for Sub115k

Marc did not want to charge extra for this insurance but Bill said that if we have a group of people who are willing to pay for it we should take it up.

10.4 Ed mentioned the British Paramotor Open on 8 - 11 June and hoped that BHPA would have a presence there, preferably with our stand. This was agreed.

10.5 Brett asked if there was room on the BHPA web server to host a forum but Exec agreed that this would set a dangerous precedent.

10.6 It was noted that Tom Hardie has been asked to join the FSC and this was endorsed by the Exec.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1.35pm.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Brett Janaway	2011 - B5	Present evidence of dual flying problems.	Continuing
John Nash	2011 - B6	Look at possible new database systems.	Continuing
John Nash	2012 - A1	Raise matter of world records at RAeC.	Opened
Joe Schofield	2012 - A2	Publish parachute chart on website and check the number of hits in a few months.	Opened
Brett Janaway	2012 - A3	Research cost of insurance for Sub115k	Opened