



Meeting 2013C of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Sunday 6th October 2013 at the BHPA Office, 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ

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
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
John Nash
Angus Pinkerton
Adrian Thomas
John Welch

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Martin Baxter, Ed Cunliffe, Angus Langford.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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The minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2012 – B2 Closed

2012 - B3 Continuing

2012 – B4 Continuing

2013 - A1 John reported that there was a pilot scheme running at the moment to get an idea of the response.
Continuing.

2013 - A2 Continuing

2013 - B1 Continuing

2013 - B2 Continuing

2013 - B3 Closed

2013 - B4 Closed

2013 - B5 Closed

2013 - B6 Martin H had written to Francis Rich informing him what the BHPA rules are. Closed

2013 - B7 Martin B had researched the cost of Sporting Licences in other countries and the fees ranged between nothing in France and £29 in Canada. At £11 the UK is midway in the table. Closed.
Marc explained that the FAI allow us to issue licences, they do not charge us but we make a modest charge to the pilots towards our costs. There was some discussion of our contribution to the FAI and it was felt that competition pilots have no idea that we are paying £8k so that people can register records etc. We pay 25% of the RAeC contribution to the FAI.

2013 - B8 Closed

2013 - B9 Closed

2013 - B10 Closed

2013 - B11 Closed

2013 - B12 Marc said it was his feeling that the cost of Non Flying Membership should be reduced so that it just covered Skywings and the insurance but we do not

want this to affect Skywings subscriptions. Bill said he wants all involved, such as wives and volunteers, to be members so that they are covered by our insurance. There was general agreement that the NFM rate should be reduced and Marc said that this would be looked at when subscriptions were discussed. Continuing

2013 - B13 Closed

ITEM 4: 2014 AGM

There was some discussion concerning cutting costs and Bill suggested that the AGM could be attached to one of the competitions. It was agreed that the AGM should be held at Nottingham with the BGA, the same as in the previous two years.

FOR ACTION: (2013 - C1) Joe Schofield to produce timetable for the notices etc.

The situation regarding Chris Burns was considered. Marc had written to him but received no reply and clearly he was not fulfilling his duties as a Director of BHPA. As Chris was due to retire by rotation at the next AGM it was agreed that no action need be taken. Exec members standing for re-election were Bill Bell, Paul Dancey and Angus Langford plus Martin Baxter would also stand for election.

ITEM 5: OPEN CLASS AND EN-CC OR CE-CC WINGS IN THE BRITISH PG CHAMPIONSHIPS

Marc said that he would be going to the EHPU meeting with Angus P in February so they will need to know what the British position is. The Germans are pushing us as they want to stick to certified, as, possibly, do the French. Angus P said that there was no chance that the EN-CC would be ready for next year.

Adrian said that the simplest thing to do would be to revert to the status quo prior to 2011. Marc reminded everyone that the meeting of 2011 said this would be in place until CIVL changed their rules. CIVL have now stated that their safety concerns have been alleviated and Marc said he is therefore happy that our requirement for Serial Class is lifted. There was some discussion about CIVL statistics as some members felt that these would not be accurate.

Bill said that we have to notify people of what sort of gliders they will be required to fly next season. There was a formal proposal that the Competitions Panel should decide what type of gliders should be flown in British 2014 competitions. Brett added that we know where the competitions are going to be held and we have to fly whatever is allowed in each country. Bill felt that to make the position clear to all pilots we should say that for 2014 it will only be certified gliders.

Martin said that we cannot read anything into statistics and if we make a decision that moves us back to Open Class, even though we cannot prove which is the best glider, if there are another two fatalities we will look incompetent. We would have to change back and then look even more stupid.

This discussion continued at length and finally, in order to bring the discussion to a conclusion, Marc proposed that we let things remain as they are. Angus P said that although he is uncomfortable with the current situation and the effect that this has had, he wants ENCC but does not believe that this will be ready for 2015. Therefore, even though he wants to move away from certified gliders, he does not think there is an alternative for 2014. There were no votes against Marc's proposal to stay with certified gliders and this was carried but would be reviewed at the next meeting.

Adrian asked that CIVL be requested to remove the aspect ratio problem. Marc suggested that Adrian should email his proposal so that this could be sorted out.

ITEM 6: SS MICROLIGHT DEREGULATION

Bill explained that the CAA are proposing to increase the deregulation of SS microlights from sub 115kg to sub 300kg. As we already cover sub 115kg, this could bring us a new membership stream. There is also the possibility of using other aircraft for towing.

Mark said he and the BMAA had been having discussions with the CAA regarding tow vehicles. Mark and the BMAA had been liaising on this and he went through the changes to the CAA wording that BHPA and BMAA would like to be made. This change gives us much greater choice of tow vehicles; at the moment we have to use ones that are actually too fast. Mark's paper highlighting the amendments he wished to make was approved by the meeting.

Mark went on to say that quite a few people have given up their BMAA membership in favour of BHPA to get sub 115kg cover and this will increase with sub 300kg. He wondered whether we could have some form of dual membership.

In regard to tugs, Mark said they have to be inspected every year at the moment. If they are deregulated we would need to insist that inspections continue or they will start to fall out of the sky. We could do our own inspections or modify some of the BMAA paperwork and go with that. These machines are heavily used and we do not want people making their own modifications or repairs. The choice is we either use the BMAA inspectors and their scheme or invent our own and sort out the insurance. Angus P said he would prefer it if we had our own inspectors. Insurance was discussed and members hoped that our insurers would take on this cover as the new tugs would be safer. Mark then gave an update on aerial work changes that have left us in an illegal position at the moment. He said he was sure that the CAA would be changing their paperwork.

ITEM 7: EHPU

Marc said that there was no real need for discussion as this had been covered in Item 5. Exec had agreed to go with Certified wings only and Marc suggested that the EHPU would come to the same decision, meaning that competitions in EHPU countries would be Serial Class gliders only.

ITEM 8: NOMINATIONS FOR MEDALS AND AWARDS

Several names were put forward. It was agreed that the HG team who won bronze at the Worlds should be nominated. Also, Paul would write the citation for Paul Farley and Adrian would write citations for Russ Ogden and John Stevenson. Martin B would write citations for Ed Cleasby and Richard Carter.

Nominations for an Award of Merit should be in by the end of January.

ITEM 9: VOLUNTEERS FOR WEBSITE

All agreed that Judith Mole had done sterling work on the website but could really do with some help with the accuracy and power disciplines. It was suggested that Paul Mahoney who was the power representative on the FSC may be able to help. Brett said he would contact the Accuracy Panel and ask for their help.

FOR ACTION: (2013 - C2) Brett Janaway to contact Accuracy Panel for help with Facebook.

There was some discussion regarding an item published on Facebook recently concerning airspace. This had happened without reference to our Airspace Liaison Officer (Tom Hardie) and it was agreed that Judith should be asked to clear items with the appropriate officer before publication in future. Angus P added that in this instance it was our fault for not publishing what we are actually doing. We are in favour of more information being available, not less.

ITEM 10: SAFEGUARDS FOR COLIN FARGHER

The terms of Colin Fargher's contract were reviewed.

ITEM 11: DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

Members of Exec who had not already submitted Directors' Interests forms for the auditors were requested to complete forms at the meeting.

ITEM 12: ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

Marc said that the RAeC can nominate two couples to go to the Royal Garden Party and the BPA are nominating John Korzeniowski. Marc suggested that we join together with this nomination as it will stand more chance of being selected. This was agreed.

ITEM 13: REPORTS

13.1 Finance

The Treasurer was not at the meeting and there were no comments on his report.

13.3 Insurance

Our insurance renewal is due shortly and Martin H said he had heard nothing positive from Hiscox as yet. He warned that there is a possibility that we will have to pay more next year and added that if we do change insurers it will still be placed with a reputable company.

There was a brief discussion about the Long Mynd accident and whether it was likely to come to a claim.

13.2 FSC

13.2.1 Angus P said FSC wished to appoint Simon Payne as head of the Tow Panel and Stewart Bond as head of the Development Panel. Both appointments were approved by the Exec. FSC also want to have a new panel to deal with Power and this would be headed by Paul Mahoney. This too was approved.

FSC are now looking for someone to head the Instructor and Coach Panel and will be approaching suitable candidates.

13.2.2 Angus P then went on to speak about two accidents currently being looked at, one had already been mentioned during the meeting and the other was a Scout tow operation, though no Scouts were involved. There was discussion about whether our insurers would cover this as the operation had so many things wrong and Joe wondered if we would be sending out the wrong message if we did cover someone who has clearly flouted the rules, either recklessly or deliberately.

It was felt that at this stage we should just let the insurers make up their own minds rather than say that we do not want them to take on this case. Angus P said that in the past we have always argued an inadvertent breach of the rules and stood by our instructors, but in this case none of the things that were wrong could have been inadvertent.

13.2.3 FSC were proposing to make a change to the ratings scheme. Top landings have been causing problems to paragliding schools for some time and there is always a log jam of people just waiting to complete their CP. Demonstrating a top landing on a perfect day does not demonstrate anything very much and FSC do not want people trying to do top landings on less than perfect days. This requirement is therefore being removed from the CP rating.

13.2.4 Slope landings are a similar problem to top landings and FSC have agreed that these will become a Pilot task rather than a CP task.

Angus reported that David Thomson had made good progress with his new scheme, consisting of modules, for post CP pilot development. He explained how the new scheme would work and said that it should be in place next year.

13.2.5 FSC have had another look at continuing to register uncertified wings. It is proposed that we get rid of the wing registration form and have a simple declaration form for the pilot to sign. Alternatively we could just do away with it altogether.

Marc suggested that this should go on the annual renewal form so that they would have to sign it every year saying something along the lines of "I acknowledge the extra risk of flying uncertified wings". The proposal was agreed in principle and the wording would be agreed by email.

13.4 Admin

Marc informed members that our leased line is being re-negotiated with Vaioni at the moment. We want a significant drop in the price and an increase to 10mb.

13.5 Skywings

Paul had circulated his report and said there was nothing else to add.

13.6 Website

Paul said that the refreshed design seems to be working well. Angus P said that more information from FSC would be put on the website, including consultation papers from Tom Hardie.

Angus added that the European accident database, which has been going on for several years, now looks as though it is actually going to work. There will be a €300 fee and this was agreed by Exec.

13.7 Competitions

Bill reported that the PPG panel felt that they were not getting their share of funds and he had agreed that if they put some proposals together they will be looked at. Bill explained that the PPG competitions are moving more towards slalom so they will need money for capital outlay for gates etc. Exec agreed in principle, subject to seeing the detailed proposal.

Bill said the PPG team are getting better results and did well in the Worlds. HG and PG still punch well above their weight.

13.8 External Representation

The RAeC may be looking for a contribution to employing someone to work on Class G airspace. John N said he would circulate concrete proposals to Exec as soon as they were received.

13.9 School Liaison

John W spoke about the increasing number of calls he receives from people who have booked a course with a school but never get the training. Either they cannot make contact with the school or if they do get to speak to someone they are put off time after time. This situation was discussed but Angus P said that we cannot be economic regulators and Trading Standards are the government department set up to deal with this kind of thing.

13.10 Paramotor Liaison

Ed Cunliffe was not present at the meeting and there was no discussion.

13.11 Sites

Marc reported that Tom Hardie had been drafting the specification for the sites database which sets out all the fields that should be included. Marc explained the problems over several years when various people had tried to get the sites database from Tom. Exec members felt that the best thing to do would be to start from scratch and get the clubs to resubmit their information. It was agreed that Martin B could start from scratch if necessary.

continue they are for the time being.

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30pm

ITEM 14: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin H asked about the Chairmanship and Marc replied that, so long as everyone else was happy, he was happy for things to