



Meeting 2009C of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Thursday 10th September, 2009 at the Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR.

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
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Steve Walsh

In attendance:

Carolyn Childs
Joe Schofield
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Jennie Burdett, Mark Dale, Rustam Davar, Martin Heywood, Brett Janaway and John Welch..

Marc Asquith chaired the meeting as Martin Heywood was unable to attend.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2009B – 14th May 2009

The minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2008 - C2	Closed
2009 - B1	Closed
2009 - B2	Continuing
2009 - B3	Continuing
2009 - B4	Continuing
2009 - B5	Closed
2009 - B6	Closed

ITEM 4 AGM

During discussion about arrangements for the AGM, Joe suggested that we should have tables available for any schools wishing to sell equipment. This was agreed and would be published in Skywings and the Club Bulletin.

It was also suggested that a room should be available for clubs to use for talks and satellite meetings.

Voting papers would need to be in the November magazine.

In regard to the presentation of trophies, John A said we can do what we have done in the past and award five trophies for each of the disciplines but we may find that very few turn up as there is no trade show with the AGM.

It was felt that we should have discussion topics such as fees, events and the financial future, to encourage members to attend.

FOR ACTION: (2009 - C1) Marc Asquith and Jennie to confirm which Exec members are due to stand for re-election.

ITEM 5: ACCOUNTS SECRETARY

Carolyn's retirement was discussed. It was agreed that we should build in some extra hand over time to ensure that her replacement was firmly in post before Carolyn's departure.

ITEM 6: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions were discussed and it was agreed that an increase was required because of the loss of funding from UK Sport, the loss of the insurance rebate and falling numbers. It was agreed that the full price membership fee should increase to £96.00 with all other subscriptions increasing as appropriate.

Problems signing members on to Direct Debit were discussed.

FOR ACTION: (2009 - C2) Angus Langford to investigate software for signing up members to Direct Debit over the phone.

FOR ACTION: (2009 - C3) Jennie Burdett to investigate sending monthly returns to each club showing their lapsed members.

ITEM 7: PPG - CAA LETTER

It was agreed that we should make a formal response to the CAA. The terms were discussed. It was agreed that the response should be professional and reserved. Martin has volunteered to draft the letter.

ITEM 8: REPORTS

8.1 Finance

Angus L reported that there were no major issues with the accounts. We have had minor changes and due to a refund of an insurance overpayment the loss has dropped back to £22k.

Marc said we have a choice either to dramatically cut expenditure or increase membership fees. He said he would be happy to raise subscriptions to £99 and John A agreed that we cannot avoid increasing fees.

Angus P felt that although things are difficult we are not at an emergency situation yet. He proposed that there should be something in the November Skywings saying that fees are due to increase and this will be discussed at the AGM. We have made savings by redundancy and will be looking at reducing costs by a staff change.

A rough forecast to the end of the next financial year is that unless we take steps, we are heading for a loss of £56k.

Angus L suggested that when Carolyn retires the accounts software should be changed to Mamut and when Jennie retires we should consider appointing a CEO.

8.2 FSC

8.2.1 Angus P reported that there are three fatal accidents being investigated but they are being delayed by the number of statements that have to be taken.

8.2.2 There is an issue with airspace on the approach to Stanstead. It is not completely black and white as there have been agreements with incoming and outgoing flights for justifying airspace of 1500ft that has been taken away. Regulatory impact assessments are done by Stanstead but it is not clear if that will affect us in the future.

8.2.3 The revalidation of Instructor licenses has created a problem for Scout clubs as we are aware that some have CFIs who are definitely not in current practice. This may have political ramifications as it will certainly preclude some senior figures. This may be an AGM discussion.

8.2.4 The planned paramotor Instructor course had been cancelled as those who were interested felt that at £1,200 it was too expensive. We now have an offer to run a course and examination in Portugal.

8.2.5 Brett Janaway has also suggested a 250 hour or two day Dual Pilot training course.

Angus P said FSC will be looking at these possibilities.

8.3 Insurance

Martin was unable to be at the meeting.

Dave reported on an incident on the Isle of Wight where a student had broken his back. When he was hospitalised he was not X-rayed until he reached his home in Wales. This could result in quite a large claim on our insurance, although this would be subject to the £25k cap.

Marc added that it is an irritation that we may have such a large claim.

8.4 Competitions

8.4.1 John Aldridge's written report detailed results of national and international competitions and John congratulated Michel Carnet on his individual gold medal in the paramotoring championship.

8.4.2 In light of recent EHPU discussions on tasks and equipment, John suggested that if Exec really wants to pursue this we should have a forum made up of himself, two members of FSC and the two main competition panels. If FSC and Exec want changes then we need to keep the competition pilots on our side.

Angus P said that the EHPU meeting only happens once a year and a letter was written by President/Chairman of all the organisations who attended. There was unanimous agreement that Charlie Joest's name would go on a letter and it would be published in Skywings.

Presidents are political and are feeling under pressure; they wanted to be seen to be tackling the situation. There is a need to look at equipment, people, tasks, structure of competition level and reporting system.

8.4.3 John referred to Mark's earlier request that the new hang gliding meet director be sent a copy of the BHPA Competition Directors Handbook, which John said does not exist, although Dave believed that it should. However, John offered to start work on a competition handbook.

Angus P added that in any situation where we create a responsibility of a claim, we will find defending ourselves difficult, we need to be careful to set a framework that people can follow.

8.5/6 Skywings/Website

Paul reported that the outlook is not good. Advertising continues to fall, all we can do is try and make savings where we can. If things get really bleak we will have to go bi-monthly. We could employ various options.

There will no longer be a paper copy of Training wings, we are producing it electronically on the web and it will be advertised in the student training log book. We may advertise it on a B5 flyer to be handed out to the student. We will keep producing Skywings and if it becomes unaffordable it might even become electronic.

Angus P suggested that we could explore the possibility of joining with the BPA magazine and go alternatively bi-monthly with them to get a better deal and reduce costs.

8.7 Admin

There were no Admin matters to discuss.

8.8 Sites

Steve reported that Bradwell is for sale as two blocks and DSC are hoping to buy the second block which is the take off area. They are therefore looking for a loan of £50k.

If we loan the money and any of the land that we have loaned money on is sold, we will have pro-rata of the sale price. We need to have agreements in place and agree that the loan figure could be increased if necessary.

It was agreed that BHPA would offer as much help as possible.

8.9 Paramotor Liaison

Ed reported that Simon Westmore had gone quiet and was not making any waves after the accident. Ed asked if one of the cartoons in Skywings could include fire.

Joe requested more information on paramotor competitions to be given to Skywings.

8.10 School Liaison

John Welch was not at the meeting and there was no discussion.

8.11 External Representation

8.11.1 John A explained that it is difficult to report on EHPU/EAS matters as he gets no feedback whatsoever from the BHPA's four representatives on those bodies. He suggested that we should adopt the RAeC system whereby no expenses are paid until Council receives a report from the meeting.

8.11.2 John has been asked to represent CIVL to take it on for 3 years. The implications from the board are that we won't have to fund him, he will have to be replaced from the Hang Gliding side.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ITEM 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will follow the AGM at Nottingham on 5th December.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Angus Langford	2009 - B2	Circulate draft Expenses Policy to Exec.	Continuing
Marc Asquith Mark Dale.	2009 - B3	Check instructions to Counsel drafted by himself and	Continuing
Marc Asquith/ Jennie Burdett	2009 - C1	Check which members are due to stand for re-election.	Opened
Angus Langford	2009 - C2	Investigate software to sign up members to DD over the phone.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2009 - C3	Investigate sending monthly returns to each club showing their lapsed members.	Opened