



2016 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 27th February 2016 at the Nottingham Belfry Hotel, commencing at 11.00am

These minutes are not to be taken as a true record without referring to the minutes of the Executive Council meeting at which they were approved.

Present:

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Ian Curren
Ed Cunliffe
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langford
Michelle Lanman
Angus Pinkerton
Joe Schofield

Mark Shaw
Adrian Thomas
Dave Thompson
John Welch

In attendance:
33 Voting members
of the Association

Apologies:
None

ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

BHPA Chairman, Marc Asquith, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Marc then explained the agenda and said that as it was a contested election this year there would have to be a show of hands. Following the formal part of the meeting, there would be presentations, awards etc. and then a general discussion.

ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

2.1 That the Accounts and Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2015 be approved.

Before voting commenced Angus Langford gave a brief overview of his financial report included in the AGM pack.

The continued growth in membership meant that despite increased costs of insurance and FSC we ended 2015 with a surplus of £25K. Overall reserves stand at £559K with £349K of that invested in our freehold office. As subscriptions are paid annually in advance the BHPA holds reasonable levels of cash. Unfortunately as interest rates are so low for businesses our interest earnings remain disappointingly low.

Angus explained that it is important to retain the real value of the Association's reserves, we need to add to them each year to do this. The forecast for 2016 is to be around break even, with 2017 potentially being a small loss.

Ian Curren asked why the value of the office is declining in the accounts. Angus explained that the office is being depreciated but that it would be revalued periodically.

Bill Morris requested an update on staff's pension provisions. Angus explained that the Association is obliged by law to provide a scheme and that this would be in place this year.

Members voted unanimously in favour of approving the accounts and the resolution was carried.

2.2 That four members be elected to the Executive Council from the following six candidates: W. Bell, M. Heywood, M. Meadows, J. Mole, J. (Richard) Shaw, J. Welch.

Members present at the meeting who had not already sent in a proxy vote were then asked to vote by a show of hands. The votes at the meeting were then added to the proxy votes and the result was: B. Bell 99, M. Heywood 117, M. Meadows 88, J. Mole 115, J. (Richard) Shaw 70, J. Welch 96.

Marc welcomed Judith Mole to the Executive Council and thanked Richard Shaw and Mark Meadows for standing. He also thanked John Nash for his hard work.

2.3 That an amendment to the BHPA Articles of Association be approved.

Brett Janaway proposed and John Welch seconded the following amendment:

Article 4b

Every person who wishes to become a member of the Company or who wishes to renew his membership of the Company shall deliver to the Company, duly executed by him, an application for membership or consent to become a member of the Company, in either case, in such form as the Executive Council requires.

Upon receipt of any application for membership and subject to:-

- i. The approval of the Executive Council
- ii. The payment of the minimum subscription in respect of the category for the then current year and
- iii. The provisions of Article 4

The Secretary shall enter the name of such person in the Register of Members of the Company and upon such entry, such person shall become a member.

Article 5b

The annual subscription payable to the Company by each member shall be payable to the Company before the expiry of any previous period of membership.

Insert Article 6d

(d) the conclusion of any previous period of membership.

Marc Asquith explained that to be approved, the vote in favour must be more than 75%. A show of hands, gave 19 votes for, out of a potential 22, which equated to 86% in favour. When included with proxy votes this equated to 81% in favour.

The resolution was carried with effect from 1st April 2016.

2.4 That Clear & Lane be re-appointed as auditors and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Members voted unanimously in favour and the resolution was carried.

ITEM 3: AWARDS

3.1 Lee Bligh of Cloudbase Paragliding had been nominated for an Award of Merit for his huge input into the sport over the last 20 years. Marc said he was clearly a deserving candidate. Lee received his award in person.

3.2 Kathleen Rigg was nominated for an outstanding year of achievement including setting 3 European and 3 World records.

Kathleen received her award in person.

3.3 Rob Chettleburgh had been nominated for his voluntary IT work, including development and maintenance of the UKNXCL which is widely used. Rob received his award in person.

3.4 Richard Hunt was nominated for the android app he developed which provides a robust text-based tracking system integrated with detailed data uploads to Livetrack24 and other systems and an IGC tracklog. Richard received his award in person.

3.5 The Wings Over A Cloud award for the best article in Skywings during 2015 was awarded to Carlo Borsatino. Unfortunately Carlo was unable to be at the meeting to accept his award in person. Marc Asquith explained that the award had been introduced by David and Barbara Bedding. The article selection had been carried out by Ann Welch followed by Barbara Bedding and more recently by Mark Woodhams. He is now standing down so there will be a new judge in place for the next award.

ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS

Reports from Exec Members were included in the AGM folders and members now had the opportunity to ask questions.

4.1 Chairman

Marc Asquith's report gave an overview of what has been happening within the Association during the last year and thanked Exec Members and Staff for their work.

There were no questions from the floor.

4.2 Treasurer

Angus Langford's report had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

4.3 Insurance

Martin Heywood commented that his report was the longest he had written in some time and asked for any questions.

Bill Morris asked why the removal of caps would encourage instructors. Martin explained that low caps meant there would have been concerns over their personal finances being affected. The higher cap of £5m would hopefully encourage a positive shift.

Bill also asked about the collateral cover. Martin confirmed that the cover was not only for new microlight pilots but also for our existing members. Currently we have more existing members taking advantage than new. Bill asked whether we provide hull cover, Marc Asquith answered that we do not at present.

4.4 FSC

Angus Pinkerton reported on the accident data relating to top landings after the changes to the syllabus last year.

2012 24 top landing incidents (9 were CP)
2013 41 top landing incidents (15 were CP)
2014 24 top landing incidents (8 were CP)
2015 28 top landing incidents (4 were CP)

The figures are too small to draw big conclusions, but it doesn't seem that the change has caused the problems that some anticipated.

Angus explained that we will be reporting more detailed accident data in the future, together with that of other countries. The data shows that currently we are better at reporting than any other country.

Angus ended by commenting on the continuing scheme to work with post CP pilots. The two new technical officers are assisting with documenting the scheme, and will concentrate initially on material aimed at 'Red Ribbon' pilots in their first 10 hours after gaining CP (novice).

4.5 Sites

Martin Baxter explained that there are 4 Trustees of the Sites Fund (Martin Baxter, Martin Heywood, Angus Pinkerton and Adrian Thomas), and that the money is ring-fenced from the rest of the BHPA.

Martin touched on the sites database and thanked the clubs and schools for their help in returning site reports issued.

Martin ended by mentioning the powerpoint presentation about the organisation and structure of the BHPA which is available for delivery to clubs and schools by a member of the Exec.

4.6 Skywings

Paul Dancey commented that all the figures were given in his report and asked if there were any questions.

Ian Curren asked if there was likely to be any alteration to the figures quoted, Paul explained they were fairly accurate and he didn't anticipate there would be. Ian also asked how many people were looking at Skywings online. Paul answered that the count was fairly crude but there had been 53 views of the January edition.

4.7 Website

Paul Dancey explained there had been some concerns about the server coping with Skywings being online. These had been unfounded.

Ian Curren asked at what point the magazine was put online, before or after the paper version was issued? Paul pointed out that this could vary depending on the work needed to get links in place.

Brett Janaway asked how long it would be before we could scrap the passwords to it. Paul commented that this may be some time as he didn't want to upset advertisers. However he was considering issuing the password a month ahead to assist overseas members

Bill Morris commented that he considered it a good transition. The links from Skywings direct to advertisers' websites was a good selling point which could be exploited in the future.

Angus Pinkerton congratulated the Skywings team on their hard work.

4.8 Competitions

Bill Bell's written report was included in the AGM folder. He commented on the professionalism of all the various panels and all the hard work carried out by volunteers. They are making competitions more accessible and safer.

4.9 Admin

Marc Asquith's report was included in the AGM folder.

4.10 Paramotor Liason

Ed Cunliffe asked Richard Shaw to comment on the World Championships. Richard explained there had been issues finding a venue, this was now confirmed to be Popham.

Mark Meadows asked whether the BHPA would have a presence at Parafest. Marc Asquith confirmed that to a limited extent we would.

4.11 School Liaison

John Welch's report was in the folder. He commented that the weather had made it a poor year for many schools.

The being no further matters to discuss the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting.