



Meeting 2008B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Wednesday 4th June, 2008 at the Grange Strathmore Hotel, 41 Queens Gate Gardens, Kensington, London, SW7

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
Paul Dancey
Rustam Davar
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Steve Walsh

In attendance:

Jennie Burdett
Mark Dale
Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Apologies were received from Ed Cunliffe, Joe Schofield and John Welch.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Meeting 2008A – 26th January 2008

Item 7 - Change heading to: SUB 115kg (WHEELS)

The minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

- 2006 - B12 Continuing
- 2007 - A4 It was agreed that FSC should look at the matter of the lower age limit. Closed.
- 2007 - A11 Closed.
- 2007 - C3 Continuing.
- 2008 - A1 Martin reported that our insurers were quite happy to cover Sub 115k as long as our rules and regulations were complied with. Closed.
- 2008 - A2 Continuing.
- 2008 - A3 Umbrellas are now available through the BHPA Shop. Closed.
- 2008 - A4 Both the Triple XXX and Home Grown events were happy to accept sponsorship in the form of advertising in Skywings. Closed.
- 2008 - A5 Closed.
- 2008 - A6 Closed.
- 2008 - A7 Martin reported that the insurance profit sharing scheme had definitely finished but he was not sure whether we would receive any payment for the last two years. Martin said he would check with the insurers and report back. Continuing.
- 2008 - A8 Closed.
- 2008 - A9 Closed.

ITEM 4: NEC SHOW

Martin explained that we are struggling to find someone to take control of the show and Geoff at the BMAA had agreed to do most of the work that last year was done by Rob Hughes. If we cannot find anyone to take it over next year, it is unlikely to go ahead.

We do not have a project manager as such and Stef at the BHPA office had rejected most of the names suggested to take over. The only one she would be entirely happy with would be Merv Turner. Merv would obviously not do this as a voluntary

officer so we would have to pay him.

Mark pointed out that when the BMAA and LAA have amalgamated it will be even more 'their show' than it already is. Martin replied that last year we made a profit of £4k on the event – although this did not take account of Stef's time or staff/exec attendance expenses.

Dave suggested that we should pull out of the organisation of the event but commit to having a stand there.

Martin proposed that he should let Merv know that we may be interested and ask him what he could do for us. Angus suggested that Merv should be approached to take over this year rather than in 2009. This would then free up Geoff to deal with the BMAA/LAA amalgamation. BHPA could also take over the show accounts from the BMAA which would also help Geoff.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B1) Martin Heywood to speak to Geoff Weighell at the BMAA re asking Merv Turner to take over and BHPA taking over the accounts.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B2) Martin Heywood to contact Merv Turner if Geoff Weighell is in agreement.

ITEM 5: REPORTS

5.1 FSC

5.1.1 Mark had produced a new form to register uncertified wings and this was discussed by the Exec. Some minor amendments to the form were suggested and when the meeting considered the fees it was agreed that there should be a standard fee of £25 and this would be advertised in Skywings. The new fees would come in on 1st January, 2009 and anyone registering in the meantime would pay the old fee of £5. The fee to register a change of ownership would be £10.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B3) Mark Dale to liaise with Joe Schofield re publication of new registration fees.

5.1.2 John A informed the meeting that Moyes are no longer going to give pilots a certificate to say that they are happy for named pilots to fly their gliders in competitions. The certificate is required in order for uncertified gliders to fly in FAI competitions.

There is, however, something in the FAI rules to allow NGBs to authorise this and John A asked whether Exec would give him the authority to do this. John A said he was hoping that Moyes would have a change of heart but he wanted the authorisation as a back stop. Our team members all have a Development Pilot endorsement anyway so issuing a certificate should not be a problem.

The meeting agreed that certificates could be issued but only as a 'one off' and only if absolutely necessary.

5.1.3 Mark gave details of recent correspondence with and about Andy Morant. Andy has been claiming to have an Instructor Licence as well as various other qualifications that he does not hold. Angus P said this is mainly due to Andy's misunderstanding; he does not actually have any qualifications.

Mark had written to Andy explaining that he has no qualifications and asking him to sign to confirm that he will

comply with BHPA rules.

5.1.4 Manchester Paramotors, an operation that none of the Exec had ever heard of, has published an entire chapter of The BHPA Pilot Handbook on its website. Marc has emailed the person concerned but is still awaiting a response.

5.2 Insurance

5.2.1 Martin reported some good news that the claim against Green Dragons had not gone ahead. Things were very quiet in general, even the claims from pilots hitting car bonnets were minimal.

5.2.2 Martin and Steve have had talks with the National Trust and have managed to impress upon them that we are a serious well regulated body. We have proper insurance with registered underwriters and brokers. NT want a letter from HSBC saying that we are responsible. and hopefully once the NT accept that, it will be in their ten year plan and will filter down to their local officers. It is looking good at the moment but we must wait for the final decision.

Paul said that this should be published in Skywings and Steve agreed as he felt that this would then put the NT in a good light.

5.3 School Liaison

John Welch had recently circulated a letter to schools and Mark pointed out that many of the things John had proposed, such as SIV courses, are not BHPA approved activities. Martin said he would contact John about it.

FOR ACTION: (2008 -B4) Martin Heywood to contact John Welch re circular letter.

5.4 Competitions

John gave some details of the updated World Anti-Doping Agency code and the affect this could have on our competition pilots. For instance, alcohol is included as a prohibited substance for 12 hours before and after a competition. Any pilot tested and found to be over the limit during that period could be banned from all world sport. There is considerable concern at the FAI about this tightening up by WADA.

5.5 Sites

5.5.1 Steve reported on his attendance at a formal National Park Board Members meeting where a possible Traffic Regulation Order for Bradwell was discussed. There were good presentations by the Derbyshire Soaring Club Chairman and CCPR and he was hopeful that a TRO would not be imposed.

5.5.2 There have recently been some site sovereignty issues concerning Michel Carnet and sites which were registered to Sky Systems. Problems have arisen because Sky Systems closed down and Michel was no longer a BHPA member. There followed discussion about the sites database and BHPA policy. Dave said that we should clarify what the purpose of the Sites Database is, and why it was created in the first place.

Angus P said that all that the database does is give the BHPA contact information for each site. It was intended to stop squabbles between clubs by letting people know if a relationship between a club and a landowner already exists.

Although Sky Systems ceased to be a BHPA registered school, members agreed that Michel should have been informed that we were going to give resident club status to another school. We would therefore have to apologise to Michel and make the necessary adjustments to our systems so that this cannot happen in future.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B5) Steve Walsh to ask Michel Carnet to re-register all the sites that used to be resident sites for Sky Systems.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B6) Steve Walsh to draft appropriate letters to clubs concerned and liaise with Martin Heywood before sending them out.

It was suggested that the Sites Code of Conduct should be updated and the wording clarified. The purpose of the code was to stop a bidding war between schools.

5.6 Treasurer

5.6.1 Angus L reported that he had visited the BHPA office last month to do the accounts but had encountered a few problems,

mostly relating to insurance but there were a few mis-accounting issues that needed to be resolved. He had asked HSBC for a statement but they had been unable to provide one so he could not predict what the year end result is going to be. Either we have broken even with a small profit, or made a huge loss.

5.6.2 The shop sales have continued to drop and the margins have gone down and Angus said he would be looking at the whole issue of shop sales. There is currently no stock control due to problems with the shop software.

Mark asked whether the shop was actually worth doing. There was some discussion and it was generally agreed that the shop is worthwhile and we should be selling BHPA branded clothing and goods.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B7) Jennie Burdett to circulate 'Shop Policy' to Exec.

5.6.3 Angus noted that payments from Colin Fargher for Skywings advertising were seven months behind at one point and Angus had therefore asked Carolyn to keep an eye on this in future. Angus asked Paul for a copy of the contract with Colin which he said should be kept at the office.

5.6.4 Birdwings had had a BHPA loan several years ago which was still unpaid. Angus asked whether Exec wanted him to prosecute or write it off.

It was agreed that we should write to Birdwings saying that we expect repayment of the loan and asking for their proposals to clear the debt, otherwise we would be taking further action.

Marc said that this is the first time that we have been tested and we must make it clear that we will not be writing the debt off.

It was noted that the number of requests for loans is very small and Angus suspected that this was because clubs did not know about the scheme as it is not publicised. It was agreed that details of the scheme should be published in Skywings and the Club Bulletin.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B8) Angus Langford to draft a letter to Birdwings.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B9) Paul Dancey to details of the Loan Scheme published in Skywings.

5.7 Skywings

With regard to advertising, Paul explained that the situation at the moment is not looking good and Skywings will continue to get thinner in order to stay within budget. If this trend continues we may have to consider other options such as printing the magazine bi-monthly with the intervening months being electronic.

Mark said that if we went down this route we may as well announce to the membership that we are giving up as Skywings is the only tangible thing that BHPA members have.

The possibility of having a joint magazine with another association, such as the BGA, was suggested but Mark replied that we have moved further away from gliding. It would not be the same as when the BAPC and BHGA merged their magazines.

Marc asked whether Skywings could be made available electronically by subscription. Paul explained that at the moment the file is too big but he is looking at this further.

5.8 Website

Paul had made several changes to the website since taking over and everyone agreed that it was much improved.

5.9 External Representation

John said that the grant from CCPR for overseas representatives had been cut from £4k to £1k approximately. He went on to say that we do not get any grant for Louise Joselyn who lives in France and is now Secretary of CIVL. John suggested that we should stop funding Louise as she will then be funded by CIVL.

Angus P agreed and said that as Louise has a specific role within CIVL it is reasonable for CIVL to fund her.

It was felt that CCPR should be made aware of exactly how much we have had to fund ourselves.

5.10 Paramotor Liaison

Ed Cunliffe was at the Paramotor Nationals so unable to attend the meeting.

5.11 Admin.

5.11.1 Marc said that he and Jennie had been looking at possible changes to the Direct Debit scheme to try to increase take up. He would liaise with Angus L regarding how this may affect the finances.

5.11.2 There was concern about the long delay in the publication of the Pilot Handbook which should have been available last year. The disk had been given to Joe in December 2006 and because of the delay it had had to be updated again before it could be printed.

5.11.3 John asked whether there had been an influx of paramotor members since the BMAA had stopped dealing with training. Mark replied that the attitude of paramotor people to the BHPA had changed noticeably in recent months so things were improving.

Unfortunately neither John nor Martin were able to get to the paramotor competitions over the last weekend but next year they would make certain that one of them would be there.

5.11.4 Dave had submitted a paper requesting funding for the purchase of a digital video recorder for use on various FSC courses. This was approved by the meeting.

ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 BingoLotto. - Martin informed the meeting that we should be getting £1k from BingoLotto, although we do have to give them details of what we plan to use the money for. It was therefore agreed that this should be used to fund the new video camera for FSC.

6.2 Schools Operating Abroad. - Angus said we had agreed this in principle as long as the school could demonstrate adequate insurance. It had also been agreed that we should inform other people who had expressed an interest about this change and now one of our biggest schools has indicated that they intend moving to France. We therefore really need to think about the implications for us. There is also a paramotor school based in France that would like to join us now that the BMAA have pulled out of paramotor training.

Martin said that we really want these people on board and Mark added that they do want to be part of our system and to sign up members for us.

Dave informed the meeting that other schools were now looking at taking out On Risk insurance in the UK. They will opt out of our insurance scheme and therefore there will be less money going into our insurance pot. This was discussed and it was felt that if we have fewer schools then we should be able to negotiate a lower premium.

These schools based abroad will make their students BHPA members but will have On Risk cover as well. At the moment if schools stay abroad over 120 days they are not covered and even within the 120 days they only have £25k of cover. With On Risk they are covered for £2m all of the time. From our point of view, the system remains the same in regard to membership books etc., and the result should be lots of new members.

FOR ACTION: (2008 – B10) Mark Dale to write to Chris Dawes.

ITEM 14: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16 September at the Grange Strathmore Hotel.

ACTIONS - OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Ed Cunliffe	2006 – B12	Liaise with Mark Dale re AP ratings for SPHG.	Continuing
Marc Asquith/ Jennie Burdett	2007 - C3	Consider incentives for DD payers.	Continuing
Steve Walsh	2008 - A2	Write paper on environmental code and forward to Martin Heywood.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2008 - A7	Find out when the insurance profit sharing finishes.	Continuing
Martin Heywood	2008 – B1	Speak to Geoff Weighell re approaching Merv Turner and BHPA taking over account for NEC show.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2008 – B2	Contact Merv Turner if BMAA are in agreement.	Opened
Mark Dale	2008 – B3	Liaise with Joe Schofield re publication of new registration fees.	Opened
Martin Heywood	2008 – B4	Contact John Welch re his circular letter.	Opened
Steve Walsh	2008 – B5	Ask Michel Carnet to re-register Sky Systems' sites.	Opened
Steve Walsh	2008 – B6	Draft letter to clubs and send to Martin Heywood.	Opened
Jennie Burdett	2008 – B7	Circulate shop policy to Exec.	Opened
Angus Langford	2008 – B8	Draft a letter to Birdwings.	Opened
Paul Dancey	2008 – B9	Publish details of Loan Scheme in Skywings.	Opened
Mark Dale	2008 – B10	Write to Chris Dawes re operating abroad.	Opened