



Meeting 2022B of the BHPA Executive Council

These minutes are not for circulation outside the Board Members and attendees until approved.

Meeting held on Wednesday 29th June 2022 at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ, commencing at 10.30am.

Present

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Jenny Buck
Ed Cunliffe
Martin Heywood

GoTo Meeting

Angus Pinkerton
Tom Prideaux-Brune

In attendance:

Ian Curren
Michelle Lanman
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw

Apologies:

Paul Dancey
Julie Drake
Angus Langford
Dave Thompson

There was a brief discussion with elected members only where Marc Asquith and Michelle Lanman discussed personnel matters.

Before the meeting commenced a minute's silence was held in honour of Chris Corston and Simon Murphy.

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Paul Dancey, Julie Drake and Angus Langford.

No contact had been received from Gareth Bird.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the AGM and the Exec meeting held on Saturday 12th February 2022 were approved without amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2018 – B1	Continuing
2020 – A11	Continuing
2021 – B1	Closed
2021 – B2	Closed
2021 – B7	Continuing
2021 – B13	Continuing
2021 – C5	Closed
2021 – C9	Closed
2022 – A1	Continuing
2022 – A2	Closed

2022 – A3	Closed
2022 – A4	Closed
2022 – A5	Closed
2022 – A6	Closed

COMPETITIONS UPDATE

Discussion of the Competitions Report was brought forward due to Jenny Buck's early departure.

Jenny thanked Bill Bell for his support with the hand over and confirmed she has had contact with all panels and visited one competition so far.

Jenny, Angus Langford, and Bill Bell have revised the panels financial guidance document, and this has been circulated. The aim is to improve parity of accounting and transparency of funding planning, bids, allocation, and usage. It is expected that additional funding requests are liable to come from PG and PPG panels.

Jenny asked that the FSC update her on GBAR procedures, and the lessons learnt.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B1) Ian Curren to update Jenny Buck on the FSC findings re GBAR procedures.

ITEM 4: AGM

It was agreed to hold the next AGM at the British Gliding Associations annual conference, as normal. This will take place in February 2023; the venue has yet to be decided.

ITEM 5: DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF EXEC MEMBERS

Marc Asquith explained that the Memorandum and Articles of the Association state that if an Exec member does not attend meetings for more than six months without permission, they cease to be a director.

Although reluctant to take this action Marc expressed concerns over Gareth Bird's absence. He has not attended meetings for some time and has not made contact to offer his apologies.

Ed Cunliffe offered to speak to Gareth and discuss the issue with him, and clarify whether he still wished to remain on Exec.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B2) Ed Cunliffe to contact Gareth Bird and discuss his lack of attendance at meetings, and whether he wished to remain on Exec.

ITEM 6: EXEC MEMBERS STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION AT NEXT AGM

Marc Asquith asked for a volunteer to stand for re-election at the next AGM. Paul Dancey, Julie Drake and Tom Prideaux-Brune are due by rotation, however a fourth member is required. Jenny Buck offered to do so.

Marc commented that Julie does not intend to stand for re-election, so there will be a vacancy to be filled.

ITEM 7: THE FUTURE OF THE PILOT HANDBOOK IN PRINTED FORMAT

Angus Pinkerton reported that the FSC has undertaken a review of our Pilot training documentation and concluded that a hard copy Pilot Handbook has just about exhausted its usefulness. It is difficult to keep it up to date with the change in CAA regulations and constant technical advances in equipment.

Similarly, the Pilot Development System has lost its impetus since David Thomson retired. The currently available material has significant gaps, and it isn't being used as much as we had hoped. However, the on-line approach does lend itself to easy updating, the inclusion of animations and video demonstrations, and is more in keeping with what is expected by today's Pilots.

During his time on furlough Ian Curren put in significant personal effort to develop an on-line teaching resource based on his book 'Touching Cloudbase' and has been marketing it to student pilots and BHPA schools on a subscription basis. This is currently limited to paragliding only.

Ian has suggested that his current product could be expanded with the BHPA's assistance. In return the BHPA would receive a commission for sales of subscriptions, and with our backing the uptake would very likely increase significantly. The BHPA's input would be the material already included in the PDS, and the Pilot Handbook, and funding to allow early expansion into the current gap areas.

Ian's input would be the existing site and material, including the significant number of videos he has already produced, and the expertise to incorporate and develop the new material. The evolved product would continue to be Ian Curren's, with the BHPA having marketing rights and earning commission.

After discussion it was agreed that the idea should be investigated further:

- Mark Dale approached about buying back the material he has produced for an updated Pilot Handbook.
- A plan and funding agreed with Ian Curren to develop and deliver Power and Hang Gliding content.
- Agree a subscription and commission model which will provide an incentive for both the BHPA to sell and Ian to host and develop the new on-line resource.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B3) Angus Pinkerton to approach Mark Dale about buying back the updated Pilot Handbook material he has produced.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B4) Angus Pinkerton to agree a plan and funding with Ian Curren to develop and deliver Power and Hang Gliding content in the 'Touching Cloudbase' format.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B5) Angus Pinkerton to agree a subscription and commission model with Ian Curren.

ITEM 8: AGE AND SEX DEMOGRAPHICS

Martin Baxter had undertaken a review of the age demographics of the BHPA which he had circulated prior to the meeting. This included comparisons with other European countries provided by Dave Thompson. The figures indicate that BHPA members are on average older than other countries and we have fewer female pilots.

It was agreed that it would be very difficult to address this. There are a fixed number of people who wish to fly, we can put a lot of effort into changing this but see very little return.

There is funding already available for younger pilots, and we should promote their achievements wherever possible.

ITEM 9: PR OFFICER

Martin Baxter asked whether, in view of the topic discussed previously, we should be doing more to promote the Association. Bill Bell suggested a media page should be set up on the website. It was agreed that this would be a step in the right direction.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B6) Bill Bell, Paul Dancey and Joe Schofield to set up a media page on the website.

ITEM: 10: LONG MYND SOARING CLUB- TRANSFER OF LAND

Formal consent had been requested for the transfer of ownership to new trustees. This was granted.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B7) Marc Asquith to sign and return the letter regarding the transfer of trustees on behalf of the Exec.

ITEM 11: REPORTS

11.1 Finance

Angus Langford's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

11.2 FSC

Angus Pinkerton reported that the Technical Team currently have many fatal investigations under way. We are paid by the coroner to do these, but they can be very time consuming.

Some of the incidents are unpleasant to deal with and Angus has made sure the Technical Team are aware they can access support if needed.

11.3 Insurance

Martin Heywood reported that all was quiet on the insurance front.

11.4 Sites

Martin Baxter's report had been circulated.

Martin explained that a sub-committee has been established to deal with the National Trust's refusal to allow Kernow Club to fly at the Godrey to St Agnes SSSI. This decision is based upon advice supplied by Natural England. The BHPA have instructed The Air Law Firm to act on our behalf and have sent a formal letter to Natural England seeking to clarify their position. This may lead to a softening of attitudes and a negotiated solution; or it may establish a base line for a Judicial Review. A response has been requested by 27th June 2022.

11.5 Skywings

Paul Dancey's report had been circulated.

11.6 Website

Paul Dancey's report had been circulated.

It was noted that Paul has finished the development of the online application form for day members. It was agreed that the link for this should be made available on the first page of the website.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B8) Paul Dancey to place the link for day memberships on the first page of the website.

11.7 Competitions

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

11.8 External representation

Marc Asquith commented that he and Jenny Buck had attended the Royal Aero Club awards ceremony.

11.9 Paramotor Liaison

Nothing to report.

11.10 Admin

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Martin Baxter asked if volunteer mileage rates would be reviewed in view of recent increases. It was agreed that he should contact Angus Langford to discuss.

FOR ACTION: (2022 – B9) Martin Baxter to contact Angus Langford with regard to reviewing mileage rates.

12.2 Ian Curren gave an update on a recent FSC decision: from January 2023 dual pilots will have to self-certify on their Declaration of Support that they are fit to fly

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.35pm.

ACTIONS – OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Marc Asquith / Angus Pinkerton /Michelle Lanman	2018 – B1	Marc Asquith, Angus Pinkerton, and Michelle Lanman to review the GDPR policy document.	Continuing
Marc Asquith / Michelle Lanman	2020 – A11	Marc Asquith and Michelle Lanman to set up a working group to look at closer working relations between the BHPA and the BGA.	Continuing
Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford, Michelle Lanman	2021 – B7	Marc Asquith, Paul Dancey, Angus Langford, and Michelle Lanman to set up a working group to look at implementing a new website and database.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2021 – B13	Marc Asquith to amend the Memorandum & Articles to ensure the Exec remain quorate online during pandemic situations.	Continuing
Marc Asquith	2022 – A1	Marc Asquith to contact Rupert Sweet-Escott to see if he has any suggestions for running a youth initiative. Also speak to other governing bodies to see what they do.	Continuing
Ian Curren	2022 – B1	Ian Curren to update Jenny Buck on the FSC findings re GBAR procedures.	Open
Ed Cunliffe	2022 – B2	Ed Cunliffe to contact Gareth Bird and discuss his lack of attendance at meetings, and whether he wished to remain on Exec.	Open
Angus Pinkerton	2022 – B3	Angus Pinkerton to approach Mark Dale about buying back the updated Pilot Handbook material he has produced.	Open
Angus Pinkerton	2022 – B4	Angus Pinkerton to agree a plan and funding with Ian Curren to develop and deliver Power and Hang Gliding content in the 'Touching Cloudbase' format.	Open
Angus Pinkerton	2022 – B5	Angus Pinkerton to agree a subscription and commission model with Ian Curren.	Open
Bill Bell, Paul Dancey & Joe Schofield	2022 – B6	Bill Bell, Paul Dancey and Joe Schofield to set up a media page on the website.	Open
Marc Asquith	2022 – B7	Marc Asquith to sign and return the letter regarding the transfer of trustees on behalf of the Exec.	Open
Paul Dancey	2022 – B8	Paul Dancey to place the link for day memberships on the first page of the website.	Open
Martin Baxter	2022 – B9	Martin Baxter to contact Angus Langford with regard to reviewing mileage rates.	Open