



Meeting 2023C of the BHPA Executive Council

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

Meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 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
Paul Dancey
Martin Heywood
Brett Janaway
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Tom Prideaux-Brune
Steve Young

In attendance:

Ian Curren
Michelle Lanman
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw

Apologies:

Dave Thompson

ITEM 1: ELECTED ONLY UPDATE

An elected members only session was held prior to the start of the meeting.

Angus Langford discussed progress with the ongoing redundancy. The position was now settled with the Technical Officer concerned having reached agreement, thus concluding the process. His last day with the Association would therefore be 22nd December 2023. The remaining two Technical Officers had been advised that their positions were secure.

Concerning the pay review, the 7% agreed by F&GP and Exec was discussed and members approved that it should be backdated to March 2023.

The meeting opened to the other attendees at 11.00am.

ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Dave Thompson.

ITEM 3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2023 were approved with minor amendment.

The decision made in item B8 has since been rescinded and Member P allowed to renew his membership.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2018 – B1 | Continuing |
| 2020 – A11 | Continuing |
| 2021 – B7 | Continuing. It was requested that Paul Dancey obtain quotes to make the website mobile friendly. We are no longer pursuing the move to a new database but will look at integrating the online membership applications to the existing database. |
| 2023 – A1 | Continuing |
| 2023 – A4 | Continuing. A draft has been circulated to FSC for approval. |
| 2023 – A6 | Continuing. The policy is to be extended to cover vulnerable adults. |
| 2023 – A8 | Closed. This had been stalled due to personal reasons however Andy Shaw is now ready to continue. |
| 2023 – B1 | Closed |
| 2023 – B2 | Continuing. To be re-worded. |
| 2023 – B3 | Continuing |
| 2023 – B4 | Closed |
| 2023 – B5 | Closed |
| 2023 – B6 | Closed |
| 2023 – B7 | Closed |
| 2023 – B8 | Closed |
| 2023 – B9 | Closed |
| 2023 – B10 | Closed |
| 2023 – B11 | Continuing |
| 2023 – B12 | Closed |
| 2023 – B13 | Closed |
| 2023 – B14 | Closed |
| 2023 – B15 | Closed |
| 2023 – B16 | Continuing |
| 2023 – B17 | Continuing |

ITEM 5: NEW LOGO

Marc Asquith had circulated a proposal to refresh the BHPA logo, which is now more than thirty years old. Mark Woodhams, who came up with the original logo, has produced an updated version which contains various small changes which bring the logo more up to date.

It was agreed that the new logo would be adopted and launched in April 2024 Skywings.

ITEM 6: PREPARATIONS FOR CAA IMPOSITION OF LICENCES AND REGISTRATION ON SUB 70KG AIRCRAFT

Marc Asquith reported that recent meetings with the CAA indicate that they are highly likely to impose licensing on paramotors and powered hang gliders. In anticipation of this a BHPA Registration Scheme has been documented so we can say we have a system 'ready-to-go'.

The system involves the member displaying their membership number rather than a special registration code.

ITEM 7: MEMBER A

We have received complaints about Member A being awkward, argumentative, and persisting in not abiding to site rules. His membership is due for renewal in March 2024.

Jenny Buck suggested that if Member A wishes to renew, he must confirm in writing that he will abide by the rules, failing which any application will be refused.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C1) Jenny Buck and Martin Heywood to write to Member A requesting that he put in writing that he is prepared to abide by BHPA rules if he wishes to renew his membership.

ITEM 8: IDEAS FOR PROMOTING HANG GLIDING

Steve Young had circulated a document with his suggestions to promote hang gliding. This looked at three phases:

- helping schools make hang gliding profitable,
- converting PG pilots to HG,
- using external publicity to promote the sport.

Steve was aware of new members who had spent a considerable amount of money training to EP but were now struggling to achieve CP. He suggested that the rules be changed to allow HG pilots to complete their CP in a club with a senior coach. Mark Shaw pointed out that hill students can already do this, the HG STR book caters for phase 9 training (soaring) to be transferred to a coach.

Ian Curren commented that the issue is with tow ratings. A proposal has already been raised with the FSC however more detail is required before it can be looked at fully. Steve offered to assist.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C2) Steve Young and Ian Curren to liaise over completion of HG tow ratings within a club.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C3) Steve Young to write an attitude article for Skywings.

ITEM 9: OUTDOORS FOR ALL

Martin Baxter had attended a meeting organised by the British Canoeing (BC) and British Mountaineering Council (BMC), alongside numerous other outdoor organisations. The aim being to circulate and discuss an 'Outdoors for All' manifesto. They believe that, with a General Election just around the corner, parties formulating their policies, and wild camping on Dartmoor in the media, now is a good time to start lobbying.

The manifesto is deliberately general to avoid conflicting views from constituent organisations. Each organisation will then be able to tailor the policy to suit their own needs. Our main aim being to overturn our specific exclusion from taking off from Open Access Land (CRoW Act 2000).

It was agreed that we would support the manifesto and that Martin could forward our logo to be used.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C4) Martin Baxter to forward our logo to be used on the 'Outdoors for All' manifesto.

ITEM 10: AGM

It was confirmed that the AGM will take place on Saturday 24th February 2024 at Loughborough University commencing at 11 am. The deadline for anyone wishing to stand for election is Monday 27th November 2023.

Tom Prideaux-Brune advised that he wished to stand down. Tom was thanked for his time on Exec.

It was agreed that Ed Cunliffe, Angus Pinkerton, and Martin Heywood will stand for re-election.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C5) Michelle Lanman to forward Ed Cunliffe, Angus Pinkerton and Martin Heywood copies of their wording used the last time they stood for election.

An alternative venue for the 2025 AGM was discussed. However, it was agreed that we would continue to hold the AGM at the BGA conference.

ITEM 11: AWARDS – BHPA & RAeC

Nominations for awards were discussed. Jenny Buck asked that any nominations be backed by a citation to be received by 11th November 2023.

It was agreed that Jenny would write an email, to be circulated to all clubs, asking for nominations.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C6) Jenny Buck to write an email to clubs asking for award nominations. Michelle Lanman to circulate.

ITEM 12: BHPA FOUNDATION – APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 29th June 2023 were approved by the trustees.

ITEM 13: REPORTS

13.1 Finance

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

Angus asked for approval to use an offering which the Charities Commission have devised. Money is placed into an account with Flagstone Investment Management and is then spread across several banks, maximizing interest rates whilst receiving the FSCS protection of £85K each time. This was approved.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C7) Angus Langford to investigate the potential of using Flagstone Investment Management to maximise interest rates.

Angus asked for approval for the setting of 2024 fees and salary increases to be referred to F&GP. This was approved.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C8) F&GP to set 2024 membership fees and agree on salary increases.

13.2 FSC

13.2.1 Angus Pinkerton reported that the online pilot exams are now live. A powered version is being trialed. The exam is split into separate papers which, if failed, can be re-sat much quicker as there is a bank of questions which are randomly selected.

13.2.2 A virtual Trainers Conference, hosted from Merus Court, will take place on Saturday 4th November 2023. Exec members will receive an invite to attend.

13.2.3 There is one fatal investigation ongoing which may prove tricky. The police are moving very slowly and have not yet released the investigation to us.

13.3 Insurance

13.3.1 Martin Heywood reported that all was quiet on the insurance front at the moment. Our renewal is imminent however he has not had any indications from our broker yet as to the cost. A 10% increase is possible.

13.3.2 Marc Asquith reported that a link to 'Sydney Charles' will be placed on the BHPA website offering a 10% discount on hull cover for microlight pilots.

13.3.3 The Technical Team have been working with Mark Hilton who teaches microlights. Pending successful completion of the relevant exams he will be our first BHPA registered Sub70 powered school.

13.4 Sites

Martin Baxter's report had been circulated.

13.5 Skywings

Paul Dancey's report had been circulated.

Advertising income rose for the first three issues but then unfortunately fell for the following three. Colin Fargher spent time at the St Hilaire festival speaking to manufacturers and dealers and is following up on those who do not currently advertise with us.

13.6 Website

13.6.1 A considerable amount of time has been spent on finding an alternative software solution for the online shop. The current software (Jshop Server) is very old and is no longer supported. OpenCart has proved to be the most viable option to meet our particular needs. It's currently a work in progress but initial tests have gone well.

13.6.2 The new European incident reporting system will go live at some point next year.

Jenny Buck commented that there is some confusion with incident reporting. There is no acknowledgement or feedback when you submit a report. Mark Shaw explained that the new database, which is imminent, is more user friendly and customizable. It may be that it could be tweaked to send a generic email back to the submitter detailing how their information would be used.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C9) Mark Shaw to speak to the EHPU about the possibility of a generic receipt email being sent once an incident report had been submitted.

Paul thought he could possibly interrupt the link to the EHPU and generate an email at our end if necessary.

13.7 Competitions

Bill Bell's report had been circulated. He was pleased to report that Team GB are silver medalists in both the PG and HG World Championships.

PG, in particular, is doing well in attracting participants and developing pilots, with particular growth in Hike and Fly.

13.8 External representation

13.8.1 Brett Janaway reported that the next CIVL meeting will be held in Korea in February 2024.

13.8.2 Marc Asquith explained that the RAeC are hosting the next EAS annual convention. We have offered to take over the organisation.

13.9 Paramotor Liaison

13.9.1 Ed Cunliffe was pleased to report that the number of power memberships continuing to increase.

13.9.2 Parafest will take place in June 2024, organised by Mark Meadows. It was agreed that a mention would be given in Skywings and that the Technical Team would attend. Mark Shaw asked if a tent could be purchased.

FOR ACTION: (2023 – C10) Technical Team to put forward a proposal to purchase a tent for events.

13.9.3 The paramotor world championships will take place in June 2024.

13.10 Admin

The Admin report had been circulated.

ITEM 14: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian Currer reported that Mark Shaw is now qualified as a display evaluator.

Gordie Oliver has set up our first display team. They have already been booked for a few events including the New York Hot Air Balloon Festival.

Jenny Buck closed the meeting at 3.45pm.

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 |
| Paul Dancey | 2021 – B7i | Paul Dancey to obtain quotes to make the website mobile friendly. | Continuing |
| Paul Dancey / Michelle Lanman | 2021 – B7ii | Paul Dancey and Michelle Lanman to work on integrating the online application forms to the database. | Continuing |
| Angus Langford | 2023 – A1 | Angus Langford to liaise with Norfolk HG & PG Club re progressing their loan. | Continuing |
| Mark Shaw | 2023 – A4 | Mark Shaw to amend the paperwork sent to CP members removing any mention of the PDS system. | Continuing |
| Steve Young / Marc Asquith | 2023 – A6 | Steve Young to review and amend the Child Protection Policy provided by Irene Carson for the BHPA to adopt. The amended policy will cover children and vulnerable adults. | Continuing |
| Marc Asquith | 2023 – B2 | Marc Asquith to write a proposal to rescind the 1995 Resolution relating to AGM timings. | Continuing |
| Paul Dancey / Michelle Lanman | 2023 – B11 | Paul Dancey and Michelle Lanman to adapt the current day online application system to allow competition pilots to take out numerous day memberships. | Continuing |
| Jenny Buck | 2023 – B16 | Jenny Buck to liaise with the SEW D&I rep (Kate Bresner) to discuss ways of taking this initiative forward. | Continuing |
| Ian Curren / Michelle Lanman | 2023 – B17 | Ian Curren and Michelle Lanman to amend the wording attached to the QR code on helmet stickers. | Continuing |
| Joe Schofield | 2023 – B18 | Joe Schofield to publish an article about the use of QR codes on our helmet stickers once we are ready to issue them. | Continuing |
| Jenny Buck / Martin Heywood | 2023 – C1 | Jenny Buck and Martin Heywood to write to Member A requesting that he put in writing that he is prepared to abide by BHPA rules if he wishes to renew his membership. | Open |
| Steve Young / Ian Curren | 2023 – C2 | Steve Young and Ian Curren to liaise over completion of HG tow ratings within a club. | Open |
| Steve Young | 2023 – C3 | Steve Young to write an attitude article for Skywings. | Open |
| Martin Baxter | 2023 – C4 | Martin Baxter to forward our logo to be used on the 'Outdoors for All' manifesto. | Open |
| Michelle Lanman | 2023 – C5 | Michelle Lanman to forward Ed Cunliffe, Angus Pinkerton and Martin Heywood copies of their wording used the last time they stood for election. | Open |

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| Jenny Buck / Michelle Lanman | 2023 – C6 | Jenny Buck to write an email to clubs asking for award nominations. Michelle Lanman to circulate. | Open |
| Angus Langford | 2023 – C7 | Angus Langford to investigate the potential of using Flagstone Investment Management to maximise interest rates. | Open |
| F&GP | 2023 – C8 | F&GP to set 2024 membership fees and agree on salary increases. | Open |
| Mark Shaw | 2023 – C9 | Mark Shaw to speak to the EHPU about the possibility of a generic receipt email being sent once an incident report had been submitted. | Open |
| Technical Team | 2023 – C10 | Technical Team to put forward a proposal to purchase a tent for events. | Open |