



Meeting 2026B of the BHPA Executive Council

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

Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ, commencing at 10.30am.

Present

Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Jenny Buck
Mike Chilvers
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Guy Richardson
Mark Schaefer
Steve Young

In attendance:

Ian Curren
Paul Dancey
Michelle Lanman
Andy McDonald
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw

Apologies:

Angus Pinkerton
Jack Sewell

A short Exec. only discussion was held.

It was agreed that the decision made at the last meeting, concerning the appointment of a new Assistant Technical Officer, should be referred to F&GP for consideration.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B1) F&GP to reconsider the appointment of a new Assistant Technical Officer noting proposal from Ian Curren.

The main meeting commenced.

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Angus Pinkerton and Jack Sewell.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the AGM and the Exec. meeting held on Saturday 28th February 2026 were approved without amendment.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2021 – B7ii	Continuing
2024 – B12	Continuing. Our current Diversity Policy contains guidelines.
2024 – C9	Continuing

2025 – B9

Closed. Method of future sales of Pilot Handbook requires discussion with Mark Dale.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B2) Jenny Buck and Angus Langford to discuss how future sales of the Pilot Handbook will be handled with Mark Dale.

2025 – C4

Closed

2025 – C9

Closed

2026 – A1

Closed

2026 – A2

Continuing. Action transferred to Jenny Buck.

2026 – A3

Continuing. Three volunteers have come forward but further discussions are required with them.

2026 – A4

Closed. From fifteen tenders three have been shortlisted.

2026 – A5

Closed. Jenny offered to write a "Message from the Chair" for Skywings.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B3) Jenny Buck to write a "Message from the Chair" for Skywings.

2026 – A6

Continuing. A platform has been chosen but a review of the questions is required.

2026 – A7

Closed

ITEM 4: CO-OPTING NEW EXEC. MEMBER

Jenny proposed that, following James Allcock's resignation, Andy McDonald be co-opted on to Exec. Andy's military and aviation experience, combined with his service on FSC and involvement in competitions, made him a strong candidate for Competition Director. This would enable Bill Bell to assume other responsibilities.

The vote was 100% in favour.

Paul Dancey requested a short biography and photograph from Andy for the website.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B4) Andy McDonald to provide a short biography and photograph for the BHPA website.

ITEM 5: HANDOVER OF ROLES WITHIN EXEC.

As previously discussed, Jenny requested that Bill Bell handover the role of Competition Director to Andy McDonald.

Longer term Jenny indicated her intention to stand down as RAeC delegate, although she will continue to serve as Vice Chair for another twelve months. Jenny proposed that Bill Bell replace her as delegate with an alternate delegate to be agreed.

FOR ACTION: (2026 B5) Jenny Buck to agree alternate delegate for RAeC

ITEM 6: RISK REGISTER

To support the identification, assessment and management of risk across the BHPA, it has been agreed to establish a risk register. Initial discussions have been held and an approach agreed.

Mark Schaefer will produce an excel based risk register, which will be shared via a cloud platform, to enable contributions from Exec members and staff.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B6) Mark Schaefer to produce an Excel-based risk register.

Jenny Buck and Mark Shaw will oversee the register, reviewing submissions and adding them to the master copy on a monthly basis.

ITEM 7: BURSARY SCHEME

Stephen Penfold's family have indicated their wish to make a bequest to the Association to support aspiring competition pilots through a structured bursary scheme.

It was noted that establishing a trust or restricted fund would create a disproportionate administrative and audit burden. It would be simpler to manage the funds as a separate line within our main account, running it down over a period of ten years.

It was agreed that Bill Bell would develop a proposal

detailing the scope of the bursary, the application and selection process and discuss and agree these with the family via Jenny Buck.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B7) Jenny Buck and Bill Bell to develop a proposal for a bursary scheme, funded by a bequest from Stephen Penfold's family, for agreement with them.

ITEM 8: BHPA FOUNDATION – APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Exec noted that:

8.1 The minutes for 2025 were approved with a minor correction.

8.2 Martin Baxter had been re-appointed as a Trustee of the BHPA Foundation for a further term of 3 years, alongside Bill Bell and Marc Asquith.

8.3 The Annual Return to the Charities Commission had been filed on time, on 1st December 2025.

ITEM 9: POPHAM MICROLIGHT TRADE FAIR

9.1 Mark Shaw and Ian Curren had attended the Popham Microlight Trade Fair in May. The BHPA stand featured publications, a paramotor, a Peabee, the harness simulator and a TV playing clips. It was frequently busy with strong engagement but is unlikely to generate many new members. It did, however, provide the opportunity to network effectively.

9.2 Discussions were held with Keith Vinning (PilotAware) about the development of a mobile based solution for electronic conspicuity. He has invited Exec to attend a demonstration.

9.3 An informal two hour meeting was held with CAA representatives Mark Shortman and Ed Bellamy, providing an opportunity to highlight the work being undertaken by the BHPA.

They were interested in the test rig, our ability to rapidly collect and communicate accident data using FIDA, and two seater aircraft training pathways. Also discussed was Francis Rich's request for them to widen the exemption they granted him for his two seater trike.

Future regulation of paramotoring was also discussed, including the possible introduction of examinations, third-party insurance requirements, and a more formal relationship between the CAA and BHPA. This could potentially include a delegated or recognised role for BHPA in supporting regulatory oversight.

The CAA invited the BHPA to deliver a briefing day at CAA headquarters for General Aviation Unit staff and inspectors. Further discussions are expected following the return of the relevant CAA policy lead, Melissa Brady.

It was agreed to obtain more information with a view to becoming a CAA recognised entity.

ITEM 10: MEMBER REF NO. 6

Member No. 6 would like to train for and hold a Senior Air Experience Instructor qualification for tandem hill paragliding whilst separately conducting tandem powered foot launch operations outside the BHPA framework. He recognises that this is not a BHPA approved activity.

Historically this activity had been excluded as it was perceived to be high risk. In reality there has not been a history of incidents so a change in policy was voted upon. The motion was carried with 8 for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

It was agreed to adopt a separation approach: Member No. 6 may continue operations while FSC conducts a trial with the view to integrating tandem foot launched paramotoring into the Technical Manual.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B8) Tandem foot launched paramotoring trial to be referred to FSC.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B9) Advise Member No. 6 that he can continue with his commercial operation whilst we conduct a trial.

ITEM 11: REVIEW OF SKYWINGS

It was agreed that an ad-hoc discussion was inappropriate and there should be a formal review via the risk register.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B10) Skywings to be added to the risk register.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B11) Martin Baxter to forward his 2022 document re Skywings to Joe Schofield and Steve Young.

ITEM 12: FLYING COMPLAINTS

It was agreed that a standardised approach should be adopted to deal with flying complaints. All complaints should be made in writing to office@bhpa.co.uk to ensure proper recording and tracking.

It was agreed that the new website should provide a single point of contact for all external enquiries, using the office contact form and telephone number. Individual Executive contact details will be removed from public-facing pages, although Executive email addresses will remain available to members through an appropriate repository.

ITEM 13: AGM

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 23rd January 2027.

Martin Heywood and Angus Pinkerton are due to stand for re-election by rotation. Jenny Buck also volunteered to stand.

The notice of AGM will need to be included in December 2026 Skywings.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B12) Joe Schofield to work out the timings for the AGM.

The next Exec meeting will be held in October.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B13) Michelle Lanman to issue poll for next Exec meeting.

Marc Asquith had discovered a typographical error in the M&A. To correct this, he advised removing the clause, which was effectively redundant. The proposed amendment will need to be included as a special resolution on the voting paper.

ITEM 14: POLICE DRONES

Tom Hardie has raised concerns that the CAA have accepted that police drones are 'State Aircraft'. This bypasses the need for formal consultation.

He recommended that we release our existing data to the CAA/NATS via AIS. This would be fairly easy to achieve but would make our data freely available to anyone: something we have informally avoided for many years; considering that the information belongs to clubs and schools and should be categorised as confidential. Exec agreed that Flight Safety takes precedence over confidentiality and that the data should be released, but with the caveat that clubs and schools are given the opportunity to opt out first.

It was agreed clubs would be contacted to ask if any object to us sharing site information with the CAA.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B14) Martin Baxter to contact clubs stating we will be sharing site information with the CAA unless they opt out. Subsequently to release the data to AIS via Tom Hardie.

Secondly that we embark on a project to create a 3 dimensional polygon to represent the soaring area associated with each flying site. Martin expressed his concern that, based on previous experience of apathy from clubs, this could take years to complete; that it would involve a large staff effort; and that there may be cost implications in developing our database. It was suggested that Jack Sewell could assist, and that developing the database would be included in our existing support package. Exec agreed to proceed with the project.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B15) Martin Baxter to initiate and manage the project to add a 3D polygon to every site in the BHPA database and arrange for it to be shared with AIS.

ITEM 15: EQUALITY COMMISSION GUIDANCE

Marc Asquith had requested guidance from the Equality Commission regarding transgender participation in female competitions.

Their advice was that 'participation in gender-affected sports should be based on biological sex, so trans gender people should be treated according to their biological sex.'

It was agreed not to create a standalone policy but rather to integrate this into the Diversity policy, at the same time addressing UK female records.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B16) Martin Heywood to update the Diversity policy to include the advice from the Equality Commission regarding trans gender participation.

ITEM 16: MEMBER REF NO. 7

Evidence relating to the prosecution of Member No. 7 had been submitted, together with a request that their membership be revoked.

Following discussion, it was agreed to contact Member No. 7 advising that their membership would not be revoked providing they voluntarily surrender their BHPA licences.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B17) Martin Heywood to draft a letter to member no. 7 regarding future membership.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B18) Michelle Lanman to remove direct debit details so member no. 7's fees are not collected.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B19) Jenny Buck to write to the victim.

ITEM 17: REPORTS

17.1 Finance

Angus Langford reported that we ended the year to 31st March 2026 with a surplus of £19k.

He agreed to provide a breakdown of other admin costs.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B20) Angus Langford to provide a breakdown of other admin costs for the next meeting.

17.2 FSC

17.2.1 School inspections are underway with Jack Sewell nearing readiness to lead some inspections.

17.2.2 WG6 have produced a harness standard which has passed formal voting. Publication is expected in February 2027.

17.2.3 The CAA consultation on electronic conspicuity is due.

17.2.4 A meeting has been held with the national drone operator for mountain rescue. Out of the forty eight rescue

teams in England and Wales, thirty plan to use drones for missing person searches, increasing risk for paragliders.

17.2.5 The new online incident reporting system (FIDA) is active. Data from the previous database has been merged.

17.2.6 Dench / Burton incident – evidence was presented over four days in March, two more days are scheduled in July.

17.2.7 Incident in Turkey – the FSC report has been forwarded to the Defence Serious Crime Unit. It entailed a huge amount of work, but we will be compensated.

17.2.8 Other Incidents – work is continuing on other incidents including Stephen Penfold, Steve Radcliffe and Laurence Higham.

17.3 Insurance

Martin Heywood and Marc Asquith had met with a prospective new broker, Aon Sports. Although discussions are at an early stage it is hoped that they will come back with a favourable offering.

17.4 Sites

In addition to his written report which had been circulated Martin added the following:

17.4.1 The Southwest Wales Club has now agreed to adopt the 49 'new' sites submitted by Bollington PC.

17.4.2 The Sites Trust Fund currently sits at £62K. It has been considerable time since any grants have been issued. Martin volunteered to write an article for Skywings to promote the scheme (and the BHPA Loan Scheme).

FOR ACTION: (2026 – B21) Martin Baxter to write an article for Skywings promoting the Sites Trust Fund and the BHPA Loan Scheme.

17.4.3 Schedule 2 of the Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 specifically excludes our entry onto open access land with the intention of launching a paraglider or hang glider. For the past decade Martin has spent considerable time and effort lobbying for this to be changed. However, during the previous day's discussion about our Risk Register, Marc pointed out that the penalty if prosecuted is limited to a 24 hour ban - effectively making it as hard to enforce as the rules on trespass. In light of this, the issue will not be pursued further.

17.5 Skywings

Nothing further to report.

17.6 Website

Paul Dancey is working to update the reference numbers on the incidents transferred to FIDA.

17.7 Competitions

Bill Bell has reminded all panel for diligence with regard to inadequate handling of expenses.

17.8 External representation

RAeC have a future group currently talking to all associations to gather their priorities.

17.9 Paramotor Liaison

Nothing to report.

17.10 Admin

Marc Asquith reported on a slight reduction in Sarah Leach's hours.

ITEM 18: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dickie Davies (Bavaria) has asked for a four day Instructor Course to be held to identify new Instructor's for the school. He will cover BHPA expenses. The proposal was approved.

Jenny Buck closed the meeting at 4.10 pm.

DRAFT

ACTIONS – OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Paul Dancey / Michelle Lanman	2021 – B7ii	Paul Dancey and Michelle Lanman to work on integrating the online application forms to the database.	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2024 – B12	Jenny Buck to establish a diversity sub-committee and provide a strategy and terms of reference (using current Diversity Policy).	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2024 – C9	Jenny Buck to write to Verbier Summits School requesting the removal of the BHPA logo from their website. A copy of the letter to be sent to SHV.	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2026 – A2	Jenny Buck to review current information available for new members of Exec. and merge into one information pack.	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2026 – A3	Jenny Buck to investigate the most viable route for the future of Flyability.	Continuing
Technical Team	2026 – A6	Technical Team to run an online lapsed member survey.	Continuing
F&GP	2026 – B1	F&GP to re-consider the appointment of a new Assistant Technical Officer, noting proposal from Ian Currer.	Open
Jenny Buck / Angus Langford	2026 – B2	Jenny Buck and Angus Langford to discuss how future sales of the Pilot Handbook will be handled with Mark Dale.	Open
Jenny Buck	2026 – B3	Jenny Buck to write a “Message from the Chair” for Skywings.	Open
Andy McDonald	2026 – B4	Andy McDonald to provide a short biography and photograph for the BHPA website.	Open
Jenny Buck	2026-B5	Jenny Buck to gain agreement from within Exec members as alternate RAeC delegate.	Open
Mark Schaefer	2026 – B6	Mark Schaefer to produce an excel based risk register.	Open
Jenny Buck / Bill Bell	2026 – B7	Jenny Buck and Bill Bell to develop a proposal for a bursary scheme, funded by a bequest from Stephen Penfold’s family, for agreement with them.	Open
Technical Team	2026 – B8	Tandem foot launched paramotoring trial to be referred to FSC.	Open
Technical Team	2026 – B9	Advise Member No. 6 that he can continue with his commercial operation whilst we conduct a trial.	Open
Steve Young	2026 – B10	Future of Skywings to be added to the risk register.	Open
Martin Baxter	2026 – B11	Martin Baxter to forward his 2022 document re Skywings to Joe Schofield and Steve Young.	Open
Joe Schofield	2026 – B12	Joe Schofield to work out the timings for the AGM.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2026 – B13	Michelle Lanman to issue poll for next Exec meeting.	Open
Martin Baxter	2026 – B14	Martin Baxter to contact clubs stating we will be sharing site information with the CAA unless they opt out. Subsequently to release the data to AIS via Tom Hardie.	Open

Martin Baxter	2026 – B15	Martin Baxter to initiate and manage the project to add a 3D polygon to every site in the BHPA database and arrange for it to be shared with AIS.	Open
Martin Heywood	2026 – B16	Martin Heywood to update the Diversity policy to include the advice from the Equality Commission regarding trans gender participation.	Open
Martin Heywood	2026 – B17	Martin Heywood to draft a letter to member no. 7 regarding future membership.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2026 – B18	Michelle Lanman to remove direct debit details so member no 7's fees are not collected.	Open
Jenny Buck	2026 – B19	Jenny Buck to write to the victim.	Open
Angus Langford	2026 – B20	Angus Langford to provide a breakdown of other admin costs for the next meeting.	Open
Martin Baxter	2026 – B21	Martin Baxter to write an article for Skywings promoting the Sites Trust Fund and the BHPA Loan Scheme.	Open