



## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Thirty Third Annual General Meeting of the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Limited will be held at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 at 11.00 am for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Accounts and the Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.
  
2. To elect by ballot six members to the Executive Council from the following six candidates:  

M Asquith  
M Baxter  
B Bell  
J Buck  
P Dancey  
A Langford
  
- 3 - 5 To consider the proposals made by D Harvey (M/Ship No. 27149) - see back page.
  
6. To appoint auditors and to authorise the Executive Council to fix their remuneration.

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

M. Asquith, Company Secretary.  
8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ

Notes:

1. Only Full, Concessionary and Honorary Members are entitled to vote. A voting member is entitled to appoint a proxy, who MUST be a member who is otherwise entitled to vote, to attend, speak and vote instead of him. Proxy forms must be lodged with the Leicester office not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

# Candidates for Election

## Marc Asquith

As many of you will know, in February 2023 I stood down as BHPA Chairman after 2 terms of office in which I served for a total of 16 years. However, I remained a member of Exec. and retained my role as Admin Director, continued my involvement with the Insurance brief and took over as Company Secretary. I have been on BHPA Exec., and BHGA Council before that, almost continuously since 1989. I am a flying nut, having had Air Experience flights on Chipmunks as an Air Cadet in the mid-1970s, flying solo on gliders in 1975 and achieving my PPL on a Cessna 150 in 1976. I learned to fly hang gliders in 1977 with the Swansea University HGC. I flew microlights and worked as an instructor in 1983/84. Learned to fly paragliders in the late 1980s. I obtained my PPG and PHG ratings in the mid 1990s, mostly flying my Doodlebug / Discovery combination in and around Snowdonia. I became the BHPA delegate to Royal Aero Club during my first term as Chairman and became Chairman of the Royal Aero Club for a 3-year stint in the late 1990s. I relinquished my role as BHPA delegate and became an Honorary Vice President of the RAeC when I stood down as RAeC Chairman. As BHPA Chairman I attended the inaugural meeting of the European Hang Gliding and Paragliding Union in 1998 and have been the UK delegate during both my terms as BHPA Chairman. I am currently the Chairman of the EHPU's Management Committee. I am the EHPU delegate to Europe Airports where our main concern is the mandatory introduction of Electronic Conspicuity and U-Space to accommodate drones. To compliment that work, I also attend the UK CAA's Electronic Conspicuity Technical Working Group representing the UK interests of our sports. Over the years, I have served the BHPA as PR Officer, Safety Officer, Insurance Officer, Admin Director, Treasurer and Chairman. Professionally I am a Barrister specialising in Aviation Law. If re-elected I would anticipate continuing with my roles as Company Secretary, in Insurance and Admin and leading our interactions with the CAA in respect of Electronic Conspicuity and drones.

## Martin Baxter

I'm 61 years old and retired. In a previous life I was an Army helicopter pilot with a background in Flight Safety. I'm a paraglider pilot and club coach. I have been a club chairman for 15 years and was their sites officer before that. Eleven years as BHPA Sites Officer; I manage the Sites Database, deal with CANP and support local clubs when sites are threatened by windfarms, powerlines or wildlife restrictions. I have been lobbying for better access to the countryside. As a Trustee of the BHPA Sites Trust Fund, I co-ordinate all applications for grants and loans towards site purchase. I believe that the BHPA should strive to provide value for money.

## Bill Bell

I have been a member of Exec for over a decade now, in most of that time I have served as Competitions Director, I set up The BHPA Foundation as a charitable body and, I hope, have been able to contribute to the work of the BHPA in small ways. My approach to this role has been to support rather than mandate and to make sure that the BHPA, its members and the many volunteers it takes to make it all happen are able to do what they do without risk or restrictions. There is still work to do and I'm still willing! Oh- and, like the rest of the membership, I'd like to get more flying in.

## Jenny Buck

I have now been a member of Exec for four years and served as Chair for the last 2 years. Prior to election as Chair, I held the post of UK Competitions Director. In addition to holding the post of Chair, I am also the BHPA Royal Aero Club (RAeC) Representative and have been elected as a Vice Chair of RAeC. I have a grasp of Exec. processes and have enjoyed working collaboratively with all the Exec. members, Staff and BHPA Committees and Panels. As background, I joined the BHGA at the age of 15 back in 1989 and have been a member ever since. I hold an Advanced Pilot, Hill Rating, for hang gliding, Pilot Rating, Hill and Tow, for Paragliding and I am a lapsed sailplane pilot. Having previously been an active competition pilot, I have served as Meet Director for the British Open Hang Gliding Series, UK Nationals and GB HG Team Manager. Professionally I serve in the Military Medical Services, previously as an Army Major, transferring in 2018 to the Royal Navy as a Commander, and now hold the naval rank of Captain. During that time, I served as Treasurer of the Army Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association and upon transfer, as Chair of the RNHPA for 2 years. As an Officer in the Royal Navy Medical Services, I have benefitted from the experiences and responsibility gained during daily duty and operational tours. This has given me an appreciation of the need for coherence, teamwork, effective decision making and risk management. I wish to remain on Exec in order to represent the membership with broad experience, leadership, pragmatism, and humour; I am willing to be flexible in role as the nature of my employment demands it.

## Paul Dancey

I first joined the BHPA Executive Council in 1998 to take on the role of Skywings Director and am currently responsible for the day to day management of Skywings and the BHPA web site. Each month I transform the printed version of Skywings into the page turning version that can be found on our website and was responsible for the recent redesign of our website to make it "mobile friendly". I took up hang gliding in 1989 and joined the SE Wales club. Five years later I was elected to the club committee and took over as magazine editor. Before retiring from the club committee in 2016, I served in a variety of roles including membership secretary, club secretary, and finally club chairman. I was also an active member of the team behind the purchase of the Bloreng. In the 1990's, I spent 5 happy years working for the Welsh Hang Gliding Centre and am a past chairman of the Welsh Sports Association.

## Angus Langford

I'm a Chartered Accountant and recently retired finance director and have been paragliding for over 20 years. I'm a keen pilot, mostly flying southern UK sites, though I take every opportunity to travel abroad when time and family permit. Over the past 15 years as treasurer, I've worked to keep costs and subscriptions as low as possible while ensuring the operational integrity and financial stability of the association. The BHPA has successfully navigated a challenging operational environment, and I'm pleased to report that the association's finances remain robust under careful stewardship.



## Form of Proxy for Annual General Meeting

I, \_\_\_\_\_ BHPA Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(FULL NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

of \_\_\_\_\_

being a Full Member of the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Ltd hereby appoint (See Note 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Chair of the Meeting as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held at 11:00 am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and at any adjournment thereafter.

Please indicate with a cross (X) in the relevant space provided whether you wish your votes to be cast for or against the resolutions set out in the Notice convening the Annual General Meeting. In the absence of specific directions your proxy will vote or abstain as they think fit.

### Resolution 1

That the Accounts and the Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31st March 2024 be approved.

FOR	AGAINST

### Resolution 2

That six members be elected by ballot and appointed to the Executive Council from the following six candidates

(Indicate with a X up to six candidates only):

CANDIDATES	FOR
M Asquith	
M Baxter	
B Bell	
J Buck	
P Dancey	
A Langford	

### Resolution 3 - 5

3. That the agendas of Exec and FSC meetings be made available to BHPA members before the relevant meeting.

4. That the minutes of Exec and FSC meetings be made available to BHPA members within 7 days of the relevant meeting.

5. That decisions at Exec and FSC meetings be taken by majority vote of members of each committee.

FOR	AGAINST

### Resolution 6

That auditors be appointed and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

FOR	AGAINST

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

Notes: 1. If it is desired to appoint any person other than the Chair of the meeting, their name and address should be inserted in the relevant place, reference to the Chair should be deleted and the alteration initialled. A proxy must be a Full Member who is entitled to vote in their own right.

# Member Proposal

## Publishing Agenda and Minutes of Exec meetings and FSC meetings

**3. Proposal: that the agendas of Exec and FSC meetings be made available to BHPA members before the relevant meeting.**

### Reasons

To improve engagement with BHPA members and make it easier for members to get in touch if they wish to contribute to discussion on a topic the BHPA is about to consider.

**4. Proposal: that the minutes of Exec and FSC meetings be made available to BHPA members within 7 days of the relevant meeting.**

### Reasons

To enable BHPA members to know what is going on. At present, Exec minutes are published many months later, after approval at the following meeting. Many organisations (such as parish councils) publish their draft minutes straight after meetings. Alternatively, the minutes could be approved within 7 days, when participants are better able to recall what was said at the meeting. FSC minutes are currently not published, due to concerns about confidentiality when discussing disciplinary matters. But FSC does much more than discuss disciplinary matters, and confidential items could be redacted.

## Voting at meetings

**5. Proposal: that decisions at Exec and FSC meetings be taken by majority vote of members of each committee, in accordance with the BHPA's Articles of Association. The minutes should record the number of votes in favour, against, and abstentions.**

### Reasons

The Articles of Association state:

"Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes." (Para 53.)

and

*"38. The Executive Council may delegate any or their powers to any committee consisting of one or more directors. They may also delegate to any managing director or any director holding any other executive office such of their powers as they consider desirable to be exercised by him. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions the Executive Council may impose, and either collaterally with or to the exclusion or their own powers and may be revoked or altered. Subject to any such conditions, the proceedings of a committee with two or more members shall be governed by the articles regulating the proceedings of the Executive Council so far as they are capable of applying."*

At present, unless there has been a recent change, decisions are made according to the chair's interpretation of the consensus, or simply by the chair following informal discussion.

The terms of reference of the FSC are set out in the Technical Manual, and they do not impose a two-tier structure with all power held by the chair and other members as advisors. Neither do they state that FSC members should not vote.

Accordingly, decisions at both Exec and FSC should be taken by majority vote of the members of each committee.

The current situation gives rise to a concentration of power in the chair and/or the more vocal members of the committee. There may be a case for adopting a "Consensus decision making" procedure, where voting is more nuanced than just "yes" or "no" – but then such a procedure should be formally written down and adopted, with the requisite changes made to the Articles of Association. The current situation calls into question whether recent BHPA decisions are legally valid.

**Dave Harvey (M/Ship no. 27149)**