

# BRITISH HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION

## AGM

FEBRUARY 2019

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Once again, I find myself sitting at a laptop with two days to go until our AGM trying to gather my thoughts and review the year that has passed.

As I always say, this task is complicated by the fact that we are reporting almost exactly a year in arrears. This AGM covers the financial year April 2017 - March 2018.

#### Membership levels

The recovery in membership numbers continues, at the end of November 2018 we had popped through the 7500 barrier by just 10 members. Over the winter we have dropped back down to 7452 but no doubt as the fine weather returns, numbers will resume their growth. I would very much like to see us break through the 8000 barrier, which was our previous high point.

#### Insurance / Accidents

This has been a difficult time for the Insurance Team, lead by Martin Heywood. We now have two serious accidents on the books, one HG and one PG. The HG Claim has very recently been resolved. As I pointed out in January Skywings, the value of the claim including legal costs was estimated at potentially nearly double the level of our cover. Fortunately, a mutually satisfactory settlement was reached which was covered by our Insurers. Even so, the effect of this claim is that it has put up our premium such that each member now has to contribute an extra £20 in membership fees. I am always concerned that we might find ourselves in a spiral descent where membership fees become too expensive for many, our membership numbers fall and so the cost of insurance has to be spread across fewer people and thus increases for each member – perpetuating the spiral down.

#### EHPU

The funding of the Secretariat services provided by AFNOR to WG6 seems now to have become a non-issue with EHPU funding it, pretty much without argument.

Over the course of the summer I redrafted the EHPU Statutes to provide for an elected Management Committee. I was concerned that allowing EHPU to be managed by a General Secretary and the Annual President meant that people from very small countries who were not experienced in international matters were not effectively representing the interests of the EHPU. At the recent EHPU AGM the new Statutes were adopted, and a Management Committee elected. Unfortunately, I had included a provision that the Annual President and the Treasurer were automatically on the Management Committee. I had also included a provision that a member of the Management Committee could only hold one post. This year's Annual President, is by chance, Hans Peter

Fallesen, the long serving EHPU Treasurer ! As a result, he was initially re-elected as Treasurer, he was then elected as the Annual President, and then the new Statutes were adopted. HP was forced to resign as Treasurer and, since it was all my fault, I was promptly elected as Treasurer. I have confirmed that I will serve only one year as Treasurer. HP can return to the post in 2020 ! However, a side benefit of this is that I appear to be the designated EHPU Representative at Europe Airports. As long as the UK is subject to, or tracks, EASA, then strong representation at EAS is essential. To have a British hang glider and paraglider pilot representing all of Europe's HG and PG pilots puts us in a very strong position. I will also be able to keep an eye on what EASA has planned for PPG and Microlights.

### **Exec. Members**

This year we have a contested election for Exec. For the first time in some years. I must thank Andy Berzins and David Perryman for throwing their hats into the ring.

### **Staff**

I just want to say that we all recognise that both the Tech and Admin Staff all work hours above and beyond the call of duty and each one gives of their best, for which we all should be grateful. This year saw the final retirement of Jennie Burdett, after some years of easing herself out of the business by steadily reducing her hours. We have paid our thanks to her elsewhere and she will be receiving a Royal Aero Club Award at the RAF Club in May.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, without the commitment of all our volunteers we could not function. Each club has its group of volunteers who work as Chairman, Secretary, Sites Officer, Chief Coach etc etc. The structure of the BHPA has sub-committees all populated by volunteers beavering away at their own area of interest. The main point I want to make is that without you all we would be sunk and on behalf of the rest of the membership, I thank you all for your hard work.

MARC ASQUITH

BHPA Chairman

28 February 2019



## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty Seventh Annual General Meeting of the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Limited will be held at the The Belfry Hotel, Mellor's Way, Off Woodhouse Way, Nottingham, NG8 6PY on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 11.00am for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Accounts and the Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31 March 2018.
2. To elect by ballot four members to the Executive Council from the following six candidates:  

B. Bell  
A. Berzins  
M. Heywood  
A. Langford  
D. Perryman  
J. Welch
3. To appoint Haines Watts Leicester LLP as auditors and to authorise the Executive Council to fix their remuneration.

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

M. Heywood, 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

## **Bill Bell**

We all just want to get on with our flying unimpeded, me included. I get a lot out of my flying and I am lucky enough to be able to devote some time to the BHPA in return. My main interests are related to competition flying and developments in SSDR but, like everyone else on Exec, I try to play my part in steering the BHPA for the long-term benefit of the members. There is lots to do, some things fascinating and some merely necessary. I hope you will again allow me to continue the work on your behalf in progressing current projects and even starting some new ones.

## **Andy Berzins**

I am a 59-year-old pilot living in east Yorkshire. I am a retired firefighter, and for the last 12 years I have been working with teams in the World Superbike Championship, a job that has helped me to fly in some fantastic places around the world. I began flying Hang Gliders in 1986, and started paragliding in 1995. My main interest is flying cross country, but I still get a real buzz out of any flying, particularly on new sites. I consider myself to be the 'Average Pilot'. I don't fly comps (at the moment) don't do Acro' (but I really want to learn to Sat). I'm not a league pilot (yet) but never say never. After around 2000 hours of flying, I still feel I have a lot to learn.

I had a spell as Chair of our local club (S.G.C.S.W.C) and at present, I'm sites officer and Senior Club Coach. I try to promote safe flying in our club environment and feel strongly that we all should constantly seek to improve.

I'm lucky enough to have a flying wife, so holidays are easy!

If elected I would like to explore ways to bring members, Clubs and the Association closer, to provide a link to the Executive Council, and to try to make 'coaching' not such a dirty word!

## **Martin Heywood**

I'm still a "newbie" to the sport having only seriously taken it up in 1999, but have served on Exec for the past sixteen of these as Insurance Officer, Chairman and Vice Chairman. Regarding corporate matters I would regard myself as a problem-sorter, and have found this has balanced well with others on Exec who it's said have advantages over me in the ideas department - but that's a good thing! I'm now retired from active flying due to a knee problem, but happy to continue offering my services.

## **Angus Langford**

I am a recently retired chartered accountant and have held a number of finance director roles in the past. I've been interested in flying all my life and took up paragliding 18 years ago. I've taken early retirement to spend more time flying both in the UK and abroad. I have been treasurer of the BHPA for the past 11 years, during which time I've worked to keep costs and subscriptions as low as they can be consistent with maintaining the operational integrity and financial stability of the association.

## **David Perryman**

I am 52, retired and living in Yorkshire. I have been paragliding for just over 3 years, a few hundred hours and I try to fly as much as possible. My previous life was working for a large communications company as a Business Manager for 15 years. My business skills include contract management, managing teams both in the UK and India, project management and managing large corporate customers. My paragliding experience includes flying in many countries including UK, France, Switzerland, Spain and South Africa. I am currently the treasurer for the Sir George Cayley Sailwing Club and I have just taken up the challenge of becoming the Competitions Manager. I would like to be involved with the BHPA and help the organisation develop using my skill set.

## **John Welch.**

I have been flying paragliders since 1987 and am the CFI of Flight Culture, a Dorset based paragliding school with a very active overseas program.

I represent the interests of schools on the Executive committee which is vital for our sport to continue. Schools are the life blood of the association and we need to actively support both schools and instructors to keep our association vibrant. Although my area of special interest is schools, I am also committed to the membership in general and passionately believe in our association. Please vote for me and allow me to continue supporting the BHPA on the Executive Council.





## 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 Chairman 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 11.00am on Saturday 2nd March 2019 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 he thinks fit.

Resolution 1 That the Accounts and the Report of the Executive Council for the year ended 31st March 2018 be approved.

FOR	AGAINST

Resolution 2 That four members be elected by ballot and appointed to the Executive Council from the following six candidates (indicate with an X up to four candidates only):

B. Bell

A. Berzins

M. Heywood

A. Langford

D. Perryman

J. Welch

FOR

Resolution 3 That Haines Watts Leicester LLP be appointed as auditors and the Executive Council be authorised to fix their remuneration.

FOR	AGAINST

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2019.

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

**DIRECTORS' REPORT AND  
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018  
FOR  
BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

Magma Audit LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Unit 2, Charnwood Edge Business Park  
Syston Road  
Leicestershire  
LE7 4UZ

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

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for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION  
for the year ended 31 March 2018

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<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	Mr Marc Asquith Dr Martin Heywood (Vice Chairman) Mr Paul Dancey Mr Angus Pinkerton Mr John Welch Mr Angus Langford (Treasurer) Mr William Bell Mr Julian Cunliffe Professor Adrian Thomas Mr Martin Baxter Mr James Shaw Mr Mark Meadows
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Dr Martin Heywood (Vice Chairman)
<b>REGISTERED OFFICE:</b>	8 Merus Court Meridian Business Park Leicester LE19 1RJ
<b>REGISTERED NUMBER:</b>	02618166 (England and Wales)
<b>AUDITORS:</b>	Magma Audit LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor Unit 2, Charnwood Edge Business Park Syston Road Leicestershire LE7 4UZ
<b>BANKERS:</b>	Royal Bank of Scotland First Floor 5 Market Street Leicester LE1 6DN

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2018.

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY**

The principal activity of the company is to encourage, promote and support the sports of hang gliding and paragliding in the United Kingdom.

In the view of the committee, the association's affairs are correctly shown in the attached accounts. The surplus for the year after taxation amounted to £16,891 (2017 - £34,239) which has been added to reserves.

The association aims to run its affairs to generate, on average, a small surplus each year to maintain the real value of its reserves. The reserves enable the association to adjust to adverse changes in the operating environment and maintain services through dips in membership and difficult economic conditions. The reserves are also there to allow us to fight existential challenges to free flight should they occur and to support clubs with site purchases when the opportunity is presented. The association has also set aside earmarked funds to provide loans to clubs for equipment and site purchases.

**DIRECTORS**

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 April 2017 to the date of this report.

Mr Marc Asquith  
Dr Martin Heywood (Vice Chairman)  
Mr Paul Dancey  
Mr Angus Pinkerton  
Mr John Welch  
Mr Angus Langford (Treasurer)  
Mr William Bell  
Mr Julian Cunliffe  
Professor Adrian Thomas  
Mr Martin Baxter  
Mr James Shaw

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

Mr Brett Janaway - resigned 17 February 2018  
Mr Mark Meadows - appointed 17 February 2018

**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

A firm of auditors will be proposed for appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

Mr Marc Asquith - Director

8 November 2018

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2018 which comprise the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2018 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Directors' Report, but does not include the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Directors' Report.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

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**Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page two, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Luke Turner ACA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Magma Audit LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Unit 2, Charnwood Edge Business Park  
Syston Road  
Leicestershire  
LE7 4UZ

13 November 2018

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>862,581</b>	<b>823,507</b>
Administrative expenses		<u>873,813</u>	<u>816,390</u>
		(11,232)	7,117
Other income		<u>27,433</u>	<u>26,378</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>16,201</b>	<b>33,495</b>
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>852</u>	<u>930</u>
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>17,053</b>	<b>34,425</b>
Tax on surplus		<u>162</u>	<u>186</u>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<b>16,891</b>	<b>34,239</b>
Retained earnings at beginning of year		<u>469,290</u>	<u>435,051</u>
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS AT END OF YEAR</b>		<u><b>486,181</b></u>	<u><b>469,290</b></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED (REGISTERED NUMBER: 02618166)**

**BALANCE SHEET  
31 March 2018**

	Notes	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	4		345,044		343,228
Investments	5		1		1
			<u>345,045</u>		<u>343,229</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks		12,038		7,147	
Debtors	6	227,016		193,695	
Cash at bank		<u>529,924</u>		<u>524,905</u>	
		768,978		725,747	
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>577,842</u>		<u>549,686</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>191,136</u>		<u>176,061</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>536,181</u>		<u>519,290</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>					
Loan fund			50,000		50,000
Income and expenditure account			<u>486,181</u>		<u>469,290</u>
			<u>536,181</u>		<u>519,290</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 8 November 2018 and were signed on its behalf by:

Mr Marc Asquith - Director

Mr Angus Langford (Treasurer) - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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**1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Limited is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" of Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

For Companies Act purposes within these financial statements for 'surplus' or 'deficit' read 'profit' or 'loss'.

**Income and expenditure**

Income and expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due. Income represents revenue recognised by the company in respect of goods and services supplied during the year net of VAT and trade discounts.

Membership income from its members is recognised over the period to which it relates.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at purchase price, or, if donated, their estimated market value upon receipt, less depreciation and amounts written off.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at a rate to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, over their expected useful life by the method and rate stated below.

Land and buildings leasehold	- 1%	per annum straight line
Flying equipment	- 20%	per annum straight line
Computer equipment	- 33 1/3%	per annum straight line
Furniture and office equipment	- 25%	per annum reducing balance

The gain or loss on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

**Fixed asset investments**

Interests in subsidiaries, associates and jointly controlled entities are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. The investments are assessed for impairment at each reporting date and any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in surplus or deficit.

Entities in which the company has a long term interest and shares control under a contractual arrangement are classified as jointly controlled entities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price.

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

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**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Financial instruments**

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

**Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

**Classification of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

**Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Employee benefits**

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

**Leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

**3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2017 - 10).

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

**4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Land & buildings leasehold £	Flying equipment £	Furniture & office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>					
At 1 April 2017	356,958	45,955	27,449	36,437	466,799
Additions	-	-	2,761	11,056	13,817
At 31 March 2018	356,958	45,955	30,210	47,493	480,616
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 April 2017	24,987	42,255	21,980	34,349	123,571
Charge for year	3,570	925	2,046	5,460	12,001
At 31 March 2018	28,557	43,180	24,026	39,809	135,572
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 March 2018	328,401	2,775	6,184	7,684	345,044
At 31 March 2017	331,971	3,700	5,469	2,088	343,228

On 24 June 2010 the company bought a 999 year lease for the First Floor of 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester for a total cost of £356,958. The freehold, being of nominal value by virtue of the length of the lease to the BHPA, and an identical lease of the same value to the British Gliding Association, is held by 8 Merus Court Limited (a company set up for this purpose) at a value of £1.

8 Merus Court Limited is controlled by means of a £1 ordinary share held by each of the British Gliding Association Limited and the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association Limited.

**5. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Interest in joint venture £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018	1
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2018	1
At 31 March 2017	1

**6. DEBTORS**

	2018 £	2017 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	512	14,538
Other debtors	29,168	2,847
VAT	2,060	1,565
Prepayments	191,756	173,350
	223,496	192,300

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

**6. DEBTORS - continued**

	2018 £	2017 £
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Other debtors	3,520	1,395
	<u>3,520</u>	<u>1,395</u>
Aggregate amounts	227,016	193,695
	<u>227,016</u>	<u>193,695</u>

**7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2018 £	2017 £
Subscriptions in advance	329,016	332,880
Trade creditors	226,442	193,390
Corporation tax	162	186
Social security and other taxes	6,695	6,993
Other creditors	997	745
Accruals and deferred income	14,530	15,492
	<u>577,842</u>	<u>549,686</u>

**8. MEMBERS' LIABILITY**

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company, in the event of a deficit. On winding up such amounts may be required not exceeding £1.00, for up to a year after a member ceases their membership. The number of members at 31 March 2018 was 7,266 (2017 - 7,122).

**9. LOAN FUND**

A loan fund was established to provide finance assistance in the form of interest free loans to non-commercial groups of BHPA members. At 31 March 2018 £50,000 of the loan fund was unprovided (2017 - £50,000).

**10. SITE PURCHASE FUND**

The funds held as the Sites Purchase Fund were transferred to the BHPA Sites Trust Fund in the previous financial year. This Trust is independent of the BHPA and so the funds are protected should the Association ever become insolvent. As a result of the discharge of the Reggie Spooner Trust Fund Loan secured on Tinto and a donation from the Lanarkshire and Lothian Club, the fund received a substantial windfall donation and at 31 March 2018 stood at £51,892.

**11. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

**Lessee**

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases of 2018 - £6,460 (2017 - £9,467).



**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
for the year ended 31 March 2018

	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
<b>Income</b>				
Introductory membership	7,979		8,705	
Individual membership	705,344		664,960	
Club membership	21,474		21,372	
IICF and claims premiums	63,178		65,892	
Advertising revenue	49,745		51,261	
Shop sales	11,902		11,317	
Other income	2,959		-	
		862,581		823,507
<b>Membership, competition and shop expenses</b>				
Public liability insurance	204,501		190,170	
Membership cards and badges	4,906		6,035	
Publishing costs	165,887		162,047	
Competition funding expenses	37,000		37,000	
Airport subscriptions	12,320		12,427	
Handbooks and manuals	6,080		5,809	
Promotion and publicity	5,195		5,042	
Shop expenses	5,987		6,914	
		441,876		425,444
		420,705		398,063
<b>Flying, safety, coaching and training expenses</b>				
Wages and salaries	122,579		114,603	
Staff mileage and travel	30,296		25,130	
Examination and club inspection costs	9,836		5,592	
F S C panel costs	20,272		6,793	
F S C committee costs	6,741		315	
		189,724		152,433
		230,981		245,630
<b>Administrative expenses</b>				
Wages and salaries	117,558		122,402	
Executive and voluntary officer expenses	15,816		12,935	
Office rent and rates	12,617		11,928	
Power, light and heat	2,520		2,277	
Insurance	11,590		14,750	
Office equipment maintenance	9,095		8,850	
Legal and professional fees	1,733		(350)	
Accountancy	3,600		1,820	
Audit fees	3,600		3,600	
Bank charges	8,204		7,763	
Printing and stationery	24,924		26,574	
Telephone	8,860		9,353	
Other office supplies	10,095		7,975	
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	12,001		9,655	
Profit/loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	-		(1,019)	
		242,213		238,513
Carried forward		(11,232)		7,117

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**BRITISH HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

**DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
for the year ended 31 March 2018**

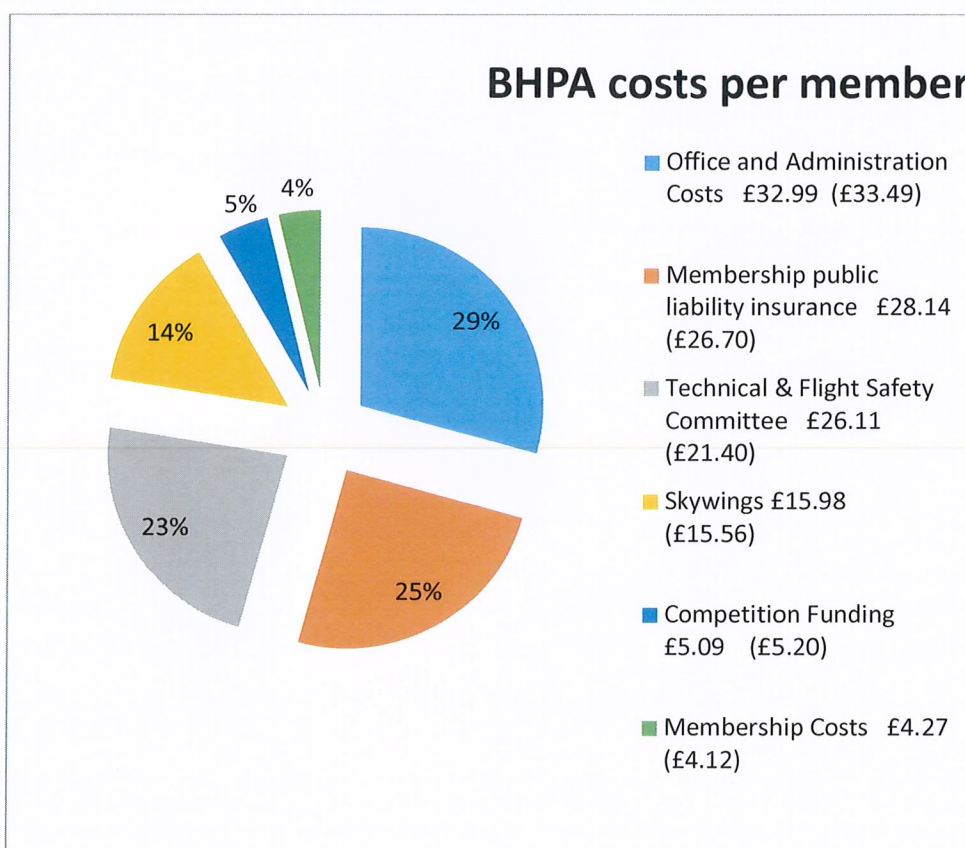
	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
Brought forward		(11,232)		7,117
<b>Other income</b>				
Registration fees	15,378		13,492	
Training instructor course and exam income	8,957		9,803	
Airworthiness income	(816)		(1,632)	
500 Club income	3,914		4,021	
Site purchase donations	-		694	
		(27,433)		(26,378)
		16,201		33,495
<b>Finance income</b>				
Bank interest received		852		930
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>		<u>17,053</u>		<u>34,425</u>

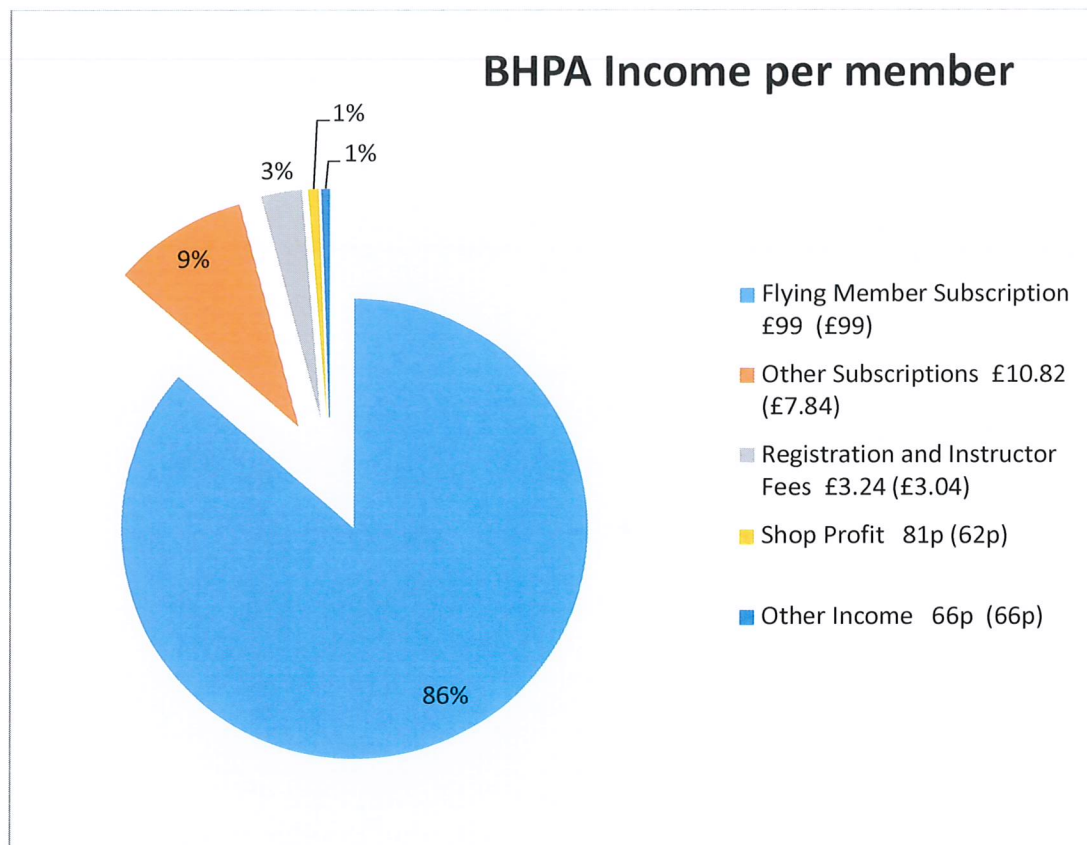
This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## BHPA Financial Report (for the year ended 31st March 2018)

We've seen another welcome increase in the number of members over the past year taking the total number at the end of March to 7,266. Although our sites are getting busier, with all the concomitant risks that entails, the increase in numbers helps to keep our insurance viable for the underwriters, reduces the cost per member of the largely fixed costs of running the association and supports the UK's network of dealers and instructors who provide us with the kit and support we need.

Over the year to March 2018 the Association's income matched the increase in membership growing over the year by 3% (£42k) to £835k. Over the same year, however, we faced a number of cost pressures and overall costs increased by £60k to £818k so that the overall surplus for the year was £17k compared to £34k in 2017. The biggest elements of our cost increase were the increased activity of the BHPA technical team and Flight Safety Committee, overall costs up £37k, and our flying insurance premium which rose by £14k. Other membership and administrative costs rose by less than the rate of inflation. The net cost of Skywings per member (after advertising income) rose by 3p per copy to £1.33 per magazine.





Overall reserves stand at £536k, of which £332k is invested in our freehold office. We pay our subscriptions annually in advance so the BHPA continues to hold reasonable levels of cash, but unfortunately interest rates are very low and our interest earnings remain disappointingly small.

The BHPA holds reserves for three important reasons. Firstly they allow us more flexibility in budgeting; making a loss in a single year is possible provided we make up for it in the next, so subscriptions can be lower than they would otherwise need to be. Secondly they provide us with a fighting fund should we have to face an existential threat to our sports, and thirdly they provide funds available to support site purchases. We have adopted a policy of maintaining the value of reserves in real (inflation-adjusted) terms over the medium term so that surpluses in one year make up for losses in others. This year with inflation running at 2.4% we increased reserves by a little over 3% and I am pleased to be able to report that the BHPA's finances remain in good form.

Having held subscriptions unchanged in 2016 and 2017 we increased subscriptions in April this year and with a continuing increase in membership numbers the current year's financial outlook is good. All the members of Exec share the desire to keep costs and subscriptions to a minimum however there is the potential for a significant increase in insurance premiums next year so subscriptions may need to rise again in 2019.

Although a great deal of the work of the Association is carried out by unpaid volunteers we are dependent on our highly experienced professional staff both in FSC and in the office. I am grateful to Michelle and the rest of the team in Leicester for making the Association run so smoothly.

**Angus Langford, BHPA Treasurer**

## Insurance Report – AGM 2019

There has been a spot of turbulence in our insurance position. For the first time in many years we have had a significant hike in insurance premium for the cover that started on 1 January this year and it had been sufficiently large that membership subscriptions will have to rise to meet the cost. I'll defer to our treasurer's opinion but we are looking at the ordinary membership subscription rising by up to £20 or so.

Strange though it may sound, although there has been a substantial rise, the premium has only gone back to where it was in the 1990s running at just under £350,000. That was in the days before insurance premium tax of course and now we have pipped the £300,000 mark before that tax is added. Those of you who have taken an interest on this part of the BHPA accounts will note that for nearly ten years our premium has been around a third less than that and it remained so at a time when the indemnity was moving from £2m cover to £5m, along with the disappearance of the tandem and school caps, so Exec thought we were just doing fine.

So what has happened? As Marc set out in very clear and poetic terms in his January Attitude page it has been a case of canyons and plateaus. The 1990s saw a couple of large claims from tandem passengers which led to the introduction of an indemnity cap which went as low as £25,000 at one time. We considered ourselves lucky that there was a single underwriter on the market who would touch us – there was even a worry that we would have to split our activities into low and high risk so that if the worst came to the worst, at least we could get some cover for some activities.

How things have changed. We have had one recent large claim and one more historic which have both stemmed not from activities that we would have considered high risk at the time but from member to member collisions. No schooling or tandem activity was involved. As a result our claims history has taken a bit of a battering and last year's underwriter could not give us a competitive quote. Once again we find ourselves indebted to Martin Mansley at Romero, our Broker who has supplied us with another underwriter who was able to quote on reasonable terms despite this, but at a higher price. We now need to build a relationship with this new insurer so that our business model of increasing membership will improve our chances of taking the knocks and spreading the risk.

Be aware that we all share the air and don't forget we've got an over-riding duty to avoid collisions. However, if the worst happens, there is a development which could have an impact on the legal and insurance position and that is the use of camcorders and social media. It adds a new dimension to the evidence gathering process, not just in claims cases, but incidents generally. For example, a video of an incident may reveal that a pilot was flying way outside the Association's R&Rs and also airlaw and we can be assured that if there is a chance for liability cover to be withdrawn on that basis, assume it will be. It also introduces a new level of evidence for which there is a serious health warning for all BHPA members. Extreme care must be taken in handling any video recording you have of an incident - preservation is paramount. It may be tempting to "wipe" a section of video that doesn't portray you or a friend in a good light but as far as the law is concerned this amounts to destruction of evidence and is a criminal offence. It doesn't matter whether the main case is an



insurance claim in the civil court process or it is a criminal prosecution, you could be in hot water. Also, if you are hoping to make a gain or cause a loss from doing so it could be considered fraudulent.

We can all agree it's a new era which has seen all sorts of developments spin out from what has been regarded as our core free-flying business, and the same goes for the legal background to what we do to at the weekend to get into the skies. I can't predict where we'll be in 5 years' time because where we are at presently I couldn't have guessed from 5 years back; but we'll always be working for you to preserve access to the air from every angle. Have an eye to the rules from time to time and to those in the air and on the ground with you and you'll be helping us keep all this on track.

**Martin Heywood**

**Insurance Director**

**March 2019**

## BHPA Flying and Safety Committee

### Report to the 2018 AGM (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019)



FSC members and responsibilities:

**Angus Pinkerton** (FSC Chairman & Airworthiness Panel)  
**Jocky Sanderson** (Advanced Training)  
**Andy McDonald** (Airspace Panel)  
**Ken Raines** (Chief Examiner and Examination & Inspections Panel)  
**David Thomson** (Pilot Development Panel)  
**Joe Schofield** (Publications Panel)  
**Paul Mahony** (SPHG & Power Panel)  
**Simon Payne** (Tow Panel)  
**Dave Thompson** (BHPA Senior Technical Officer)  
**Ian Currer** (BHPA Technical Officer)  
**Mark Shaw** (BHPA Technical Officer)

I would like to begin by repeating my annual message about the value to all of our flying community of submitting Incident Reports. The BHPA's on-line Incident Reporting system (which went live on the Internet in January 2014) now has almost 15 years of reports that can be searched on-line. Submitting a report has never been easier. I realise that many members still feel that they don't see any direct outcome from the submission of their reports, but remember that few reports represent brand new types of incident, and the main value of most reports is that it allows us to collate similar types of incidents and track them over time. This allows us to develop our training systems, advise pilots of higher risk activities and informs the development of equipment standards. In addition to the BHPA's own member reports we also now have access to reports from across Europe through the EHPU's supported system.

I would also like to welcome Andy McDonald to the FSC team. Andy (whose background is as a professional pilot and instructor on powered aircraft) has kindly agreed to take on the role of Airspace Liaison Officer and joins us at a particularly busy time with airspace change proposals and electronic conspicuity on the agenda.

#### **Incidents**

There were 203 reported incidents in the calendar year 2018. This almost exactly the same as last year (204), hopefully showing that pilots are indeed becoming familiar with the online reporting system. 68% of the incidents (138) involved injury which is a similar proportion to previous years.

There were 52 minor incidents, 80 serious incidents and 6 fatalities. Two of these fatalities were BHPA paragliding members (one occurring in France, the other in Macedonia). The other four were non-member powered paragliding fatalities (all of them occurred in the UK). There do not appear to be any unusual patterns in this year's data, though there is probably a trend for those paramotor pilots having accidents to be using smaller, faster gliders, with powerful engines. Of the 8 fatal PPG incidents in the last few years, 6 involved small, highly loaded wings. Further detail and the full analysis will appear in April '19 Skywings.

Looking at the overall position across Europe, through the EHPU's database, there were 43 fatalities recorded, which is significantly lower than the 55 recorded for 2017. The high fatality numbers in 2017 were attributed to the extremely turbulent early season conditions, linked to high Spring temperatures and lower than average snowfall.

#### **2018 Fatality Numbers** *(PG unless otherwise stated)*

France	9
Germany	8
UK	6 (2PG – 4 non-BHPA PPG)
Switzerland	9
Italy	5
Spain	1 (data from only one of the eleven regional Spanish federations)

*The figures are difficult to compare, as the membership numbers and reporting ratios vary dramatically.*

#### **Examinations, Inspections & Instructor Training**

The Examination and Inspections Panel worked hard to keep up the pace in examining candidates for Instructor, Senior Instructor, Dual Pilot and Senior Coach Licences, carrying out 22 exams in 2018. There were 19 passes and 3 fails with 11 exams outstanding. 18 school inspections were undertaken with a full program of inspections scheduled for 2019.

Overall standards in the schools were high, with all schools displaying a professional attitude to training. This professionalism is reflected in the low student incident numbers, amongst the lowest of any of the European Federations. There were 30 reported incidents involving injury in our Schools, which is approximately one for every two schools.



Since the last AGM the technical staff have run two bespoke Instructor/Senior Instructor courses, the second of which was a 7-day residential course specifically for hang gliding. It is hoped that both courses will lead to Instructor examinations later this year. These two courses were in addition to the usual Instructor course held every April. The Coach Course season is almost at an end with the final course being held next weekend and hosted by the Isle of Man club. The 6 courses held with winter have been well attended and well received, attracting very positive feedback and praise for all of the BHPA Technical Staff.

Another 8-day residential Instructors course is planned for September and following the Trainers Conference in 2018 (more on which below) the bi-annual conference is being planned for February 2020.

### ***Airworthiness***

In 2018 the BHPA issued a Hang Glider Airworthiness Certificate for the Avian Puma 13.5 (the first certificate we've issued since the Aeros Fox in 2015).

Work continues on the EN European Standards. I know that most pilots don't have much idea what is involved, even when a new Standard is published, but I can assure you that whilst some of the meetings are held in foreign cities it is no kind of a holiday. In 2018 we published a new Paragliding Harness standard (EN1651). This added several new tests, including a harness pad ("back protector") drop test and the requirement that if a harness has an integrated parachute container, it must be possible to deploy the parachute under 4G of acceleration. The Owners Manual is also required to explain material ageing effects.

We have begun work on a complete revision to the PG Flight Test standard (EN926-2). It is five years since the current version was published, and there has been a lot of clever work by Paraglider designers in that time. We believe that the B Class has become too broad, and one of the objectives is to find a way to segregate "High-End" B gliders from more docile ones.

### ***Towing***

The Tow Panel has renewed five tow permits, with a further 3 pending. The CAA application process now takes significantly longer as all local air users who may be affected are required to be consulted, and this can take a year or more!

### ***Power***

An updated Student training syllabus was introduced late in 2018. This has shifted several exercises from the "Pilot" syllabus to the "Club Pilot" syllabus; and follows a review of the balance of skills and experience required. The training syllabus now accommodates the use of solo trikes and there is also a trial of a new Hang-gliding (power) training syllabus.

Since the bespoke paramotor instructor course held back in October 2017, two new paramotor schools have been added to the BHPA fold.

### ***Pilot Training & Development***

Work continues on the Pilot Development Structure. The aims are broadening with the initiative to add Club Pilot material, and so starting the planned close integration of the PDS into schools; and to make it an online revision portal for the Pilot exam subjects. During the Trainers' Conference 2018, the Pilot Development Panel launched the online version of the full Pilot Development Structure, which is now in general use across the membership and is actively being contributed to by coaches.

The technical team is continuing to work on an SIV syllabus and the appropriate Instructor Licences. We are continuing our trial of the Speed Flying training programme for a further season, and will be reviewing the outcome later this year.

### ***Other activities***

The Technical team has been working on a project with the CAA regarding paramotor airspace and low flying infringements. The aim is to produce an information pamphlet highlighting the common "rules and regs" in an easy to read format. The BHPA Technical team were also at Parafest to offer pilot lectures and exams for alternative entry pilots.

As always, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the people who volunteer to work on, and with, the FSC.

### ***Angus Pinkerton***

Chairman, BHPA Flying and Safety Committee  
March 2019.

# BHPA AGM - Sites Report

## 2019

**Database.** After more than 3 years of chasing, I'm delighted to report that the last of our 68 clubs has responded to our validation survey and that the BHPA sites database is up to date for the first time in more than a decade. We have 798 active sites and a further 74 that are closed pending either a change of ownership or to serve as a warning that they are not safe to fly. Of course there are many more sites, especially in remote areas, that are not listed. This accurate data put us in a stronger position when it comes to negotiating with the military over the marking of sites on charts and the Civil Aircraft Notification Procedure.

**CANP.** I have spent more than a year negotiating with the RAF Air Safety Centre. The Westbury AIRPROX in January last year served to highlight the inadequacies of the system and the RAF have agreed to re-write the procedure. The decision, a couple of years ago, to publish CANPs as NOTAMs for the benefit of civilian as well as military aviators was very welcome but has complicated matters and has thrown up some issues in translation: our NOTAMs tend to appear as parachuting, the height is misleading, and we struggle to explain that we will operate outside the notified area. Negotiations continue but despite the limitations of the system I would encourage all pilots flying midweek to use CANP. It's really easy and if you publish your notification on social media you can contend that 5 pilots will turn up.

**Leeds Bradford Airport Airspace Change Proposal.** Whilst Farnborough, Exeter and Brize Norton have grabbed most of the headlines it's worth pointing out that we have been fighting an airspace grab in the North of England since 2014. Fortunately (for us) the new airspace threatens a route of strategic importance to sailplanes, so we have formed an alliance with local BGA clubs. Not only have we objected to the proposal, but we have also challenged the sponsor on grounds that they have not followed the CAA process. We await a decision from the CAA but with support from the General Aviation Alliance and pressure being applied to the CAA by the BGA and the All-Party Parliamentary Group we remain hopeful.

**Sites Trust Fund.** Thanks to a repayment of the original grant of £11K and a further generous donation of £25K from the Lanarkshire and Lothian Soaring Club we now have a contingency fund of £52,757 which normally accumulates by about £1K per year. No bids for funding have been received by the trustees.

**Reggie Spooner Trust.** Some years ago the Reggie Spooner Trust granted monies to assist in the purchase of Tinto, The Long Mynd and The Bloreng. Although the trustees have now scattered to the four winds the trust still retains some rights over the land which could make for lengthy and expensive legal work should the clubs decide to sell the land at a future date. Earlier in the year Alastair Bowman, solicitor and chairman of the LLSC, led an initiative to transfer the charge from the Reggie Spooner Trust to the BHPA Sites Trust Fund. We have been trying to make similar arrangements for The Long Mynd and The Bloreng. Unfortunately, in trying to secure 'mate's rates', we have wasted much time, but we hope to secure a replacement legal service in the near future.

**National Trust.** We used to have a national agreement but a couple of years ago the National Trust announced that they had de-centralised and that agreements are now brokered at local level. I have established an email group of clubs with sites on NT land so that we can compare notes. A few clubs have reported a trend towards inflated prices and are threatening to withdraw from their agreements. It remains to be seen how the National Trust will respond if pilots continue to fly the sites when clubs stop publishing mutually agreed rules.

I've also received reports that the NT are insisting that agreements are signed by and on behalf of a 'legal entity' – either an individual or a limited company, but not a BHPA club. Following the AGM, BHPA Exec will consider a request for the agreement to be with the BHPA rather than the club. In either eventuality the individual that signs the agreement will be covered by the BHPA's £5M liability insurance so it may still be better to negotiate and control agreements at local level.

**Martin Baxter**  
**Sites Officer**  
**BHPA**

**February 2019**



The official magazine of the British Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association



## AGM Report 2019

Skywings magazine continues to be delivered on time. The final Skywings management figures for 2017/18 are shown below, together with those for the previous year for comparison.

	2016/17	2017/18	Variation from 2016/17
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£179,703</b>	<b>£182,745</b>	<b>+£3,042</b>
<b>Advertising income</b>	<b>£68,347</b>	<b>£66,326</b>	<b>-£2,021</b>
<b>Magazine subscription sales income</b>	<b>£929</b>	<b>£890</b>	<b>-£39</b>
<b>Net cost</b>	<b>£110,426</b>	<b>£115,529</b>	<b>+£5,103</b>
<b>Copies ordered</b>	<b>84,529</b>	<b>88,649</b>	<b>+4,120</b>
<b>Copies printed</b>	<b>86,028</b>	<b>89,909</b>	<b>+3,881</b>
<b>Carriers</b>	<b>83,174</b>	<b>85,447</b>	<b>+2,273</b>
<b>Pages printed</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>-32</b>
<b>Average net cost per magazine printed</b>	<b>£1.28</b>	<b>£1.28</b>	<b>+£0.00</b>
Advertising space booked (pages)	197	185	-12
Average UK postage per copy posted	£0.51	£0.53	+£0.02

The figures show advertising space booked in 2017/18 fell by around 12 pages, and the associated income by around £2,021. The level of discounts currently required to keep advertisers on board will also have contributed to the fall in advertising revenue achieved.

Our membership continues to grow, and as a direct result an additional 4,120 copies were ordered in 2017/18, compared to the previous year. This inevitably resulted in increased production and distribution costs. We were able to mitigate these to some extent by printing 32 fewer pages, and as a result the average net cost per magazine printed in 2017/18 was £1.28, the same as 2016/17.

Unfortunately the savings achieved did not fully offset increased costs and reduced advertising revenue, and as a result we came in around £1,000, or 1%, over budget.

The increase in expenditure was due to the production and distribution costs of the additional magazines ordered, combined with the usual inflationary pressures.

In 2018/19 the number of magazines ordered has continued to rise due to membership growth, but the rate of increase appears to have slowed a little.

Advertising income has unfortunately fallen again in 2018/19. But as the advertising space booked has only fallen by three pages, it seems clear that this is mainly due to the ever larger discounts we are being forced to offer to retain advertisers. As a result we will be increasing commercial advertising rates by 3.5 %, effective from the April issue, to try to mitigate the impact of this trend on our advertising revenue stream. This increase will not apply to existing series bookings, or non commercial classified adverts.

Unfortunately expenditure continues to rise in 2018/19 due to production and distribution costs of the additional copies ordered and increased inflationary pressures. I am however anticipating that we will come in just about on budget at year end, but it will be tight.

In closing I would once again like to thank all those who have contributed articles, reviews, news items, photos and letters over the past year, and acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated and talented Skywings team, designer and advertising agent Colin Fargher, and editor Joe Schofield. Without all your and their support Skywings would not be the great magazine it is.

**Paul Dancey**

**Publications & Website Director, February 2019**





## **Website Report 2019**

The BHPA website continues to be maintained and updated on a regular basis. Much of this work tends to be behind the scenes dealing with issues created by server software upgrades, and minor tweaks to the scripts used to display information.

For instance, following a recent server software update the links page ceased to function and it took a while to find a fix for this that didn't create problems elsewhere on the website.

Two of the more obvious changes that members may have noticed over the past year are:

Revised and expanded Skywings News and Calendar scripts which allow Joe to directly upload items. This will hopefully reduce lead times in updating of those pages.

The completion of the project to build a small archive of Skywings articles from past editions of Skywings magazine. With Joe's help this now contains around 45 individual articles that can be accessed from the main Skywings page on the website.

Following issues with screenshots on the links pages that were provided by Thumbshots, we have now replaced these with screenshots provided by ShrinkTheWeb. This is a free service that seems to work just as well.

In response to comments received about the perception that hang gliding schools can be hard to find in lists that contain hang gliding and paragliding schools, I've made a small change to the "search for your nearest school" script. If you now select a discipline, but do not enter the first part of your post code, all schools teaching that particular discipline are now displayed.

I've also tweaked the schools page by adding links to display all schools teaching hang gliding or paragliding, as well as the existing links to display all schools operating in the UK and/or abroad. I've also moved those links further up the page. Hopefully these changes will make it a bit easier for visitors to find the most appropriate school.

Finally, following a recent upgrade to the Association's IT equipment, I'm happy to report that the technical issues that have in the past proved so troublesome when seeking to maintain our PCI compliance, have now been satisfactorily resolved. PCI compliance is an essential bank requirement for organisations that accept credit and debit card payments.

**Paul Dancey,**  
**Publications & Website Director**  
**February 2019**

## Competitions report 2019

### **Much to look forward to.**

This last year has given us some fantastic flying weather producing some great flights and happy faces.

Taka Kosaka set a brilliant new defined and absolute UK HG triangle record of 171km.

But for me the flight of the year was Richard Carter's fantastic 304Km goal flight making him the first PG pilot to 100, 200 and 300Km.

Less welcome is the double fatality in Macedonia involving Innes Powell and Ukrainian free flyer Igor Volov. The competition organisers and team led by Charles Norwood did some outstanding work dealing with the situation on the ground, but this did show up the difficulties of operating in countries where the resources and jurisdiction are very different to what we are used to in the UK.

Amongst the other safety initiatives and improvements this year and partly in response to this we had a meeting in Merus Court in November to discuss, develop and share best practice in handling incidents. Following this we are progressing improved operational procedures and pre-competition paperwork.

PPG comps have introduced a new, and I think better, format this year and Accuracy have a new structure.

The family of long time pilot Richard Arkle have made a generous memorial donation to the HG Comps panel which will be used to help develop new pilots -a great idea, for which we are very grateful.

2019 will see an improved system of Notams (thanks Martin Baxter!) which should be an improvement in safety and simpler to issue. 2019 has also started with a bang with the first UK PG comp held in South America declared a resounding success.

As I write this in February I can see people soaring in the warm sunshine- and I can't help feeling that this coming year is going to be good too!

Bill Bell

## **Paragliding Comps - Guy Anderson**

### **Championships**

The British Championships in Krushevo were marred by a very serious accident where two pilots lost their lives following a mid-air collision. This accident is to be reviewed as part of a special Safety review on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The event was won by our rising star, Theo Warden.

### **Events**

The comps panel took a brave decision last year to hold the first British Competition outside Europe and I'm delighted to report it was a resounding success. The British Winter Open was held in South America's flying mecca, Roldanillo in Colombia. Over 300 pilots registered for the event, a record for any British Open, and we attracted a very high quality field with even the recent world number 1, Xevi Bonnet signing up. We limited numbers to 130( for safety) and the comp was fully subscribed within 48 hours. 37 Brits made the trip over and were rewarded with excellent conditions and five solid tasks. The competition was won by our own Seb Ospina with Martin Long of Fly Sussex in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Top female was also a Brit - Kirsty Cameron and Brett Janaway was second to Spain's Sergi Ballester in the sports class.

The organisation was handled by Lucho Jimenez of FlyNomads. They did an excellent job and arranged mid week talks on safety by Pal Takats and the XAlps by Gavin McClurg. Pal also acted as Air Marshall all week and this worked well to keep pilots( mostly) out of cloud and thermalling un-aggressively. We ended the week without any safety issues and just one accidental reserve deployment which passed without incident. The event was such a success that we certainly intend to run another next winter. Possible venues have been proposed in Brazil and Mexico although a return to Roldanillo would also be a very popular choice.

We look forward to Pedro Bernardo, Spain for the Championships Open in June which is also heavily over-subscribed. On the back of the success of the Winter Open we're also expecting a large turnout of Brits. The event is back to back with a PWC in Portugal and we're expecting a lot of top pwc pilots further boosting the wprs points of the event.

In addition to the ever popular UK legs the BPC will return to Macedonia in 2019 and is looking to build numbers to 50 pilots. The BPC is becoming an important first competition for UK pilots and dovetails well into our Winter Open and Championships Open.

### **Team**

Jocky Sanderson was confirmed as new team manager and started officially from the 1<sup>st</sup> January. His goal is to put a British team on a CAT1 podium within the next three years. We are still very much riding a high following Theo's individual win at the European Championships with more



pilots than ever contesting team places. Team selection for the World Championships will come down to the Superfinal in March with up to eight pilots in contention for the four scoring places.

Excitement is building for the World Championships in Macedonia in August. With a raft of new comp pilots coming through the BPRA programme we have unprecedented competition for team places, with around 12 pilots in contention for just four spots. The final two qualifying events are the PWC Superfinal in March and the Trofeo Montegrappa in April, and at this stage not even European Champion Theo Walden is guaranteed a place. We have a record number(8) of pilots who've qualified for the Superfinal and a good showing could put any of them in the team. Those that didn't qualify for the Superfinal will be gunning for a place in Montegrappa, one of the highest ranked events in the PG calendar. So, with all to play for new Team Leader Jocky Sanderson has decided to hold a team training event in Italy and the final team will be announced immediately after Montegrappa.

### **XC League**

More records were broken in 2018 than any other year in the history of the league with Hugh Miller in top spot with an amazing 1723 points from his six flights. Having been the first man to fly 100km, 100miles and 200km Richard Carter pushed the open distance record to 304km flying from Elan Valley in Wales to Cloughton on the North Yorks coast.

John is introducing a new system of mini leagues to encourage competition among new pilots with their peers. We can also now compare flights by glider class on a sub-league generated by Simon Ford. It'll be interesting to see if last year's record breaking season can be repeated and whether anyone can join Richard Carter in the exclusive 300 club!

### **North South Cup**

More fun and mayhem on the North South cup jamboree is expected in May when all the top UK names get together for a big knees up somewhere in the UK where it's not raining! The NS seems to build on its reputation each year not only for incredible flights but increasingly as a huge fund raiser for good causes. Hats off to Hugh Miller, Jim Mallinson and Jocky.

## Hang Gliding Comps -Tim King

### BOS Series

After 2 rounds with poor weather, the 3<sup>rd</sup> also looked difficult but improved rapidly to give what we believe to be the only round to ever have 5 tasks in 5 days. Tasks were set from Llangollen, Clatter and Long Mynd

Class 1. Justin Needham was a convincing winner , ahead of Gordon Rigg and Darren Brown

Class 5 Mike Armstrong flew to goal on 3 days to win the rigid class

Club Class Newcomer Simon Luxfords performance was the best over the 3 tasks that were activated

29 flexwings , 7 rigids and 10 club class pilots actively competed in the series which along with the flying is providing a stepping stone to the bigger competitions. The new entrants to the club class also benefited from a series of lectures and safety talks and the feedback received indicates their intentions to return next year

Thanks to Martin Colclough (meethead),Rebecca Sherwin (weather) and Phil Chettleburgh (scorer and everything else) .

### British Nationals Laragne France

4 tasks held at St Andre, Charbre and Aspes with 60 pilots provided a close competition before the mistral ended the play a little early.

Class 1. Grant Crossingham won his fourth British Championship and the Chabre Open , chased hard by Oliver Chitty and Darren Brown ,

Class 5. Paul Harvey held off Tim King to win yet again

Club Class Julian Todd claimed victory after a week of training by Gerolf Heinrichs

The British Nationals attract a good number of experienced worldwide pilots and the mountains around Laragne again proved a popular venue.

Thanks to Meethead Jenny Buck, scorer Phil Chettleburgh, weather Lorenzo Labrador and organiser Darren Brown

**European championships (class 1 )** was held in Krusevo , Macedonia concurrently with the class 5 worlds. The large rigging area ,easy takeoff good flying weather and flying arena makes this a favourite new venue for cat 1 hang gliding competitions. 5 of the team had flown here before which I think helped the team's performance in gaining the British team 3<sup>rd</sup> place and very close to 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Grant Crossingham 2<sup>nd</sup>

Carl Walbank 5<sup>th</sup>

Oliver Chitty 9<sup>th</sup>

Malcolm Brown 19<sup>th</sup>

Gordon Rigg 21<sup>st</sup>

Dave Matthews 22<sup>nd</sup>

Darren Brown 46<sup>th</sup>

Kathleen Rigg 56<sup>th</sup>

Andrew Hollidge 63<sup>rd</sup>

### World Championships (class 5 ) Krushevo Macedonia

British team 4<sup>th</sup>

Neville Almond 10<sup>th</sup>

Paul Harvey 16<sup>th</sup>

Mike Armstrong 20<sup>th</sup>

Tim King 29<sup>th</sup>

Neil Atkinson 33<sup>rd</sup>

Thanks to Team manager Martin Colclough who looked out for the 15 pilots and 6 support crew that had travelled to the opposite side of Europe. Some great flying with the best result for a long time , with 3 pilots in the top 10 of a cat 1 comp since the 1980's for the flexwings but a little disappointing for the rigids

### **Pre -Worlds in Fruli Italy**

6 pilots also went to the pre worlds event in preparation for next year's event

Andy Hollidge (20) and Kathy Rigg (26) led the British contenders in a challenging competition

#### **UKNXCL**

Takatosho Kosaka completed a declared 171km triangle for a new British record but it was still not enough to win the league from Neville Almond who scored 1583 pts ( 9 more than Taka). The flexwing trophy was won by Steven Blackler with 1170 points.

### **Looking ahead**

The hard work put in by the panel and meetheads continue to give pilots an opportunity to compete for the British Nationals and the BOS. The sports class is the only stepping stone for new pilots to start competing and brings in a small but vital amount of new talent to the sport. We continue to welcome back older pilots who are revisiting their youth. Without new pilots getting trained , we are going to find it difficult to maintain numbers in the future. Meanwhile the experienced pilots and more recent youthful members of the British teams are still bringing home the medals .



## Accuracy Comps- Andy Webster



### Paragliding Accuracy

July saw a successful Paragliding Nationals take place at Llangollen where both days were flyable, albeit very hot weather. Thanks go to Meet Director Chris Haynes for doing most of the organising and all the directing. Andy Shaw won the individual event and Scout Rebels won the team event. Andy Shaw also went on to win the 2019 Paragliding Accuracy League. The 2019 event will take place at Green Dragons at the end of August.

There were eight squad training camp days in the 12-month UK Team selection period prior to the European Championships, with good progress being made by the squad pilots. Thanks go to squad manager Mark Bignell, Green Dragons and Norfolk for running the training camps. There is a focus to recruit female and youth pilots, and it is hoped that the British Accuracy Academy concept will help with this as well as some focussed funding.

UK came 6<sup>th</sup> out of 19 nations at the Cat1 European Championships in Slovenia, and were again unable to field a second female pilot again. This was a well-run competition where 11 rounds were completed over five competition days. The Brits struggled in the low wind thermic conditions which are not experienced very much in the UK. Slovenian pilots took the top three individual places as well as the overall top nation. Simon Sykes was top Brit in 19<sup>th</sup> place and Katie Sykes flew brilliantly taking third place female in the very last round. Cat1 events are expensive to attend so the BHPA funding is greatly appreciated, because without it we do not believe we would be able to field a full team of male pilots.

Attention has now turned to the 2019 World Championships that will take place in Serbia in September. The maximum team size is 5+2, however, the event is expected to be oversubscribed and the allocation process will reduce the team sizes.

The 2018 World Cup series was not well attended by the Brits this year and requires a big financial commitment to attend all the competitions to have a chance of a good overall placing. Andy Webster ended up top Brit in the series. 2018 saw the start of a European Cup series that will have six competitions in 2019. Hopefully more Brits will attend these competitions as less financial commitment will be required to attend.



## Classic Accuracy



Another successful European Grand Prix series took place this year with all three competitions in France, UK and Netherlands being validated. As usual French pilots dominated the proceedings winning all the competitions as both individuals and teams. Simon Sykes was top Brit at all the competitions and took third individual place in the overall Grand Prix standings, this was all while flying a paraglider – a truly outstanding performance.

The UK leg of the Grand Prix was also the Classic National Championships hosted by Birdwings at their South Cerney site. This was another great competition with Simon Sykes and Scout Rebels being crowned national champions. Simon Sykes inevitably went on to win this year's Classic Accuracy league. The 2019 National Championships will be held on the traditional August bank holiday date at South Cerney.

## BHPA Paragliding Accuracy Panel

A one off general meeting was held in early January to discuss the future of accuracy and elect panel members. A new structure of nine panel members with working groups was agreed and future goals discussed. The Panel now consists of the following members; Charles Grantham (Chairman), John Harbutt (Vice Chairman), Jonathan Parkinson (Treasurer), Stuart Short (Secretary), Jason Harper (Safety Officer), Andy Shaw (Development Officer), Liz Lawrence (Rules Officer), Andy Webster (Media & Public Relations Officer), Arthur Bentley (Parascending Representative), Mark Bignell (Paragliding Representative). Merv Turner, Nikki Bodill, Andy Tillsley, Mick Collins, Martin Robe, Jamie Robe, Del Lazell, Lee Cogman and Dave Crowhurst have all volunteered to be in working groups.

## Paramotor Comps - Paul Smith.

2018 has seen a great start of a new format for The British Open, this year's competitors said they will return and also feedback from social media gives a good indication that the event and new format went well, and a definite increase in numbers for 2019.

I have recently spoken to the French Team Leader and he is very interested in bringing over the team to compete in the new format for 2019.

We are hoping for a greater increase in UK pilots wanting to take part in 2019, the new format was based on one main briefing and pilots given a preset amount of navigation, including curved and precision navigation. Other weather dependent tasks were briefed the night before or on the deck the following morning for task like thermalling.

1st and 2nd place throughout the whole event was very close and competitive which also added an element of excitement to the whole competition.



The organisers, and volunteers as ever are very strong and committed to The British Team, training and The British Open.

2019 looks like a quite year for European competitions, but we will be taking up the opportunity to compete in the French Open and endeavor to recruit new pilots for both the Team and also to take part in the British Open.

2019 will be busy training and readiness to compete in an array of events in 2020 hopefully with a full team, a fuller team in all categories will give us the opportunity to consistently compete for a podium finish.

2020 will see the team compete in the following events, European Championships 2020 to be announced, French Open, Estonia Cat1 world endurance (If this goes ahead with recent problems) and The World Championships in Brazil

Team training will continue at new sites across the 2019 season, as we have found quite a few central locations to meet.

Finally, a Big Thank You from all the Team, To the BHPA for your support not only for the British Team but advice and support for hosting The British Open.

This year's competitions committee consists of:

Paul Smith Chairman

Paul Martin Treasurer

Barney Townsend

Paul Martin (Yorkshire)

Danny Kettle

Jules Eaton

Andy Shaw



# COMPETITION FUNDING - expenditure & income analysis

## Accuracy Compet t bn Panel

### INCOME

Brought forward at 01/04/16		11,645.36
Interest	0.00	
Compet t bn entry fees	725.00	
BHPA grant	6,000.00	
Sponsorship/fundraising	0.00	
Other income	1,101.71	
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>7,826.71</b>

INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE: 2,750.65

Carried forward to 2017/18 14,396.01

Community Account	5,540.52
Reserve Account	8853.65
Pet y Cash	1.84
	<b>14,396.01</b>

## Financial Year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

### EXPENDITURE

<b>Category 1 &amp; test events:</b>	<b>-800.00</b>
Entry fees	-280.00
Travel	-260.00
Subsistence	-260.00
Retrieve costs	0.00
Other	0.00

<b>Compet t bn costs:</b>	<b>-1,551.29</b>
Of fials	0.00
Trophies	-618.44
T-shirts	0.00
Other	-932.85

<b>Training:</b>	<b>-2,100.00</b>
Individual funding	-400.00
Training events	-1,700.00
Bleriot Cup	0.00

<b>Administrat bn:</b>	<b>-624.77</b>
Planning meet hg	0.00
Website	0.00
Other	-624.77

**Total Expenditure:** -5,076.06

# COMPETITION FUNDING - expenditure & income analysis

BHPA fiscal year dates

## HG Compet t bn Panel

### INCOME

Brought forward from 2016/17		17,613.07
Interest	1.12	
Competition entry fees	13,791.64	
BHPA grant	13,000.00	

**Total income:** 26,792.76

INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE: -7,950.65

Carried forward to 2018/19 9,662.42

## Financial Year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

### EXPENDITURE

<b>Category 1 &amp; test events:</b>	<b>18,704.55</b>
Worlds	18,704.55

<b>Compet t bn costs:</b>	<b>13,773.74</b>
Officials & costs	11,618.42
Trophies	175.42
T-shirts	1,979.90

<b>Training:</b>	<b>350.00</b>
Individual funding	350.00

<b>Administrat bn:</b>	<b>1,915.12</b>
Planning meeting	1,915.12

**Total Expenditure:** 34,743.41



# British Paragliding Team

## Financial Year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

<b>INCOME</b>		
Brought forward from 2013/2014		15,122.22
Interest	0.00	
Competition entry fees	1,200.00	
BHPA grant	13,000.00	
Sponsorship/fundraising		
Other income	0.00	
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>14,200.00</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE:</b>		
		<b>3,825.04</b>
<b>Carried forward to 2015/16</b>		<b>18,947.26</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Category 1 & test events:		£10,194.96
Entry fees	£2,189.21	
Travel	£4,106.52	
Subsistence	£2,962.51	
Team Clothing	£0.00	
Other	£936.72	
Competition costs:		£0.00
Of fials		
Trophies		
T-shirts		
Other		
Training:		
Individual funding	£0.00	
Training events	£0.00	
BPRA	£0.00	
Administration:		£180.00
Planning meetings		
capital expenditure (equipment)		
Website	£180.00	
Other		
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>		<b>£10,374.96</b>

## COMPETITION FUNDING - expenditure & income analysis PPG Comps

### Competition Panel PPG

<b>INCOME</b>		
Brought forward		4424.04
Interest		
Competition entry fees	408.00	
BHPA grant	5000.00	
Sponsorship/fundraising		
Other income		
<b>Total income:</b>		<b>5408.00</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE:</b>		
		<b>-559.50</b>
<b>Carried forward 01/04/18</b>		<b>3864.54</b>

### Financial Year 15th Nov 17 to 31st March 18

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
PPG Competitions	1068.00	4757.94
Entry fees	1837.27	
Travel		
Subsistence	1852.67	
Retrieve costs		
Return Comp Fees		
Competition costs:		380.25
Officials BHPA/BMAA membership		
Trophies	330.25	
T-shirts		
Other	50.00	
Training:		265.29
Individual funding		
Training events	265.29	
Administration:		564.02
Planning meeting	80.00	
Website	378.98	
Other	105.04	
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>		<b>5967.50</b>

## **Admin Director's Report**

### **Staffing**

In September 2018 we said a final farewell to Jennie Burdett who retired after 38 years of service with the Association. Jennie began work in 1980 as the sole employee of the BAPC and in her time saw many changes including the amalgamation of the BAPC and BHGA to form the BHPA. She was also responsible for several office moves and the introduction of many of the Associations systems. Jennie stepped down as Office Manager in 2015 and reduced her hours so she could ease into her retirement gradually. Her dedication, efficiency and wealth of knowledge will be greatly missed by all. In recognition Jennie is to be awarded a Royal Aero Club Certificate of Merit at the Presentation Ceremony in May 2019.

In January 2019 we welcomed Carla Burdett ( Jennie's daughter in law ) back from maternity leave, she is currently working three days a week with the plan to move back to full time by the summer. This coincides with Clair Tewley embarking on maternity leave to have her second child in May 2019.

Keeping things in the family, maternity cover during Carla's absence was provided by April Lane, Jennie's niece and daughter of Elaine Lane, who worked for the Association for many years. April will remain with us on a part time basis.

### **Technology**

The Pilot Development scheme was launched at the Trainers Conference in February 2018. Initially logons were issued to Instructors and Coaches, this was then rolled out to all paragliding CP rated members shortly afterwards. Members are now issued with a logon, from the office, when they register their CP rating with us.

We had considerable investment last year in our IT systems to ensure we met our PCI Compliance requirements. The banks continue to tighten their requirements for companies taking credit/debit card payments. To that end the staff have all just completed a Security Awareness Course to ensure we remain compliant.

Work is underway to introduce digital membership cards on a trial basis during 2019. We hope this will bring many benefits to members giving them an easier method to renew membership, a way for us to communicate directly and of course eliminate the need to carry a physical card. We appreciate that not all of our membership possess smart phones so the traditional cards will continue to be issued for the foreseeable future.

## **Membership**

I am pleased to report that membership numbers continue on an upward trend, we ended January at 7527, an increase of 287 from the same time last year, and a level we have not had since 2004.

We have also had six new schools register, including one air experience school, during 2018/19. This gives us 68 schools, 61 clubs and 9 air experience schools operating in total.

Finally, I would like to end by thanking all the staff, Michelle, Steph, Clair, Carla and April for their hard work during the year.

**Marc Asquith**  
**Admin Director**  
March 2019

## Schools Report

Having spoken to quite a few CFIs, instructors and TIs, 2018 has been a good year. Much of it has been the result of good weather during the summer which has helped enormously with teaching in the UK.

That said, there is a definite trend in running more trips abroad as well as a steady increase in the number of BHPA schools based outside the UK. From talking to CFI's I very much get the impression that there will be a significant increase in courses run abroad in 2019. 2 of the CFI's that I've spoken to have said that they don't intend to teach in the UK over the winter months again and they'll either shut their schools during the winter or run courses abroad.

Some of the CFI's are looking at expanding the range of courses they have on offer by adding paramotor tuition and there has been a steady increase in the number of schools doing this. Of the schools I've spoken to, those who have started offering paramotoring as well as paragliding are intending to expand their paramotor tuition in 2019.

I've spoken to quite a few instructors (as well as coaches) about the Pilot Development Scheme and everyone is excited about it. Not only is it a great resource for pilots, it also offers opportunities for schools to promote courses to help complete modules. Offering it as an app is an outstanding idea and will make it much more useable.

## BHPA AGM 2019 – Paramotor Liaison Report

**CAA gets tougher** - as reported in SkyWings in the January 2019 issue and following a meeting instigated by CAA the BHPA have been tasked with helping to identify pilots under investigation, to help to identify non BHPA training organisations and to work up a communications strategy for the CAA along the lines of the 'Drone Code'.

CAA Enforcement are considering mandating an element of training (air law) and are also considering the use of forfeiture and destruction orders for equipment when prosecuting breaches of the Air Navigation Order (ANO).

Make no mistake CAA's watchful eye is firmly on us and it is up to all of us to fly legally and considerately.

**Belfast Airprox** – as an example of an incident that could bring about tougher regulation in our sport, please look up the recently published airprox 7nm from Belfast City Airport where the First Officer reported a paramotor within 100 – 200ft of the EMB170 which is a narrow-body short- to medium-range twin-engine jet airliners, capable of carrying 124 passengers. The Airprox board recommended the CAA review licensing requirements for paramotors ...

**Sub70** – The big news of 2018 was General Exemption E4653, dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, which allows 'Launching of Self-Propelled Hang-Gliders with Wheels'. 'Sub70' aircraft must have a stall speed or minimum steady flight speed in landing configuration not exceeding 20 knots, and a maximum unladen mass, including full fuel, of 70kg or 75kg if equipped with an emergency parachute system.

Sub70 aircraft are single seat only and **please note** third part insurance **is required**.

The exemption lasts until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 but can be revoked at any time. It is up to all the pilots flying with wheels to fly legally and considerately to ensure the exemption remains in place and hopefully becomes part of the ANO in due course.

Apart from all that the usual advice applies to all powered paraglider and hang glider pilots whether footlaunched or on wheels, i.e. start it on your back, not on the ground, wear a helmet, be insured, know your airspace, and fly legally and considerately.

Any questions? Please get in touch.

**Edward Cunliffe**  
**edward-cunliffe@bhpa.co.uk**