



Meeting 2013B of the BHPA Executive Council

Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2013 at the BHPA Office, 8 Merus Court, Meridian Business Park, Leicester, LE19 1RJ	Present: Marc Asquith Bill Bell Ed Cunliffe Martin Heywood Brett Janaway John Nash Angus Pinkerton	In attendance: Martin Baxter Jennie Burdett Mark Dale Joe Schofield Dave Thompson
These notes of the minutes are not to be taken as a full record of the Meeting of the Directors of BHPA Ltd..		

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Paul Dancey, Angus Langford and John Welch.

The Chairman introduced Martin Baxter whom he was hoping to co-opt onto Exec in the role of Sites Officer, which is currently vacant. Martin then gave brief details about his background and Marc formally proposed that he be co-opted to Exec. John Nash seconded the proposal and all were in favour.

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

AGM - 02 March 2013

2012C - 11 December 2012

2013A - 02 March 2013

Minutes of the above meetings were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

2012 – B2 Marc reported that he had spoken to Steve Varden and looked at the possibility of setting up a charitable trust. He confirmed that we would be eligible for Gift Aid. Angus P explained to Martin B that the Sites Fund is currently accounted for in general funds but if we set up a charitable trust we could receive 20% more through Gift Aid.

Bill expressed some concern that once we went down this route there was no way back, even if unforeseen circumstances should arise. He asked for reassurance that the wording of the trust document would be sufficiently flexible to allow for such circumstances.

After further discussion it was agreed in principle to go ahead with the Charitable Trust. Trustees would be appointed to administer the fund and would most likely, though not necessarily, be members of Exec.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B1) Martin Baxter to produce a list of purposes of the Sites Fund.

Angus P suggested that as some of the currently owned sites are held in trust, it may be worthwhile getting the wording from them.
Continuing.

2012 – B3 Continuing

2012 – B4 Continuing

2013 – A1 John N reported that he plans to start the lapsed

member emails in September and then monitor the results. Brett suggested that we should accept payment by PayPal to make it easier for people to re-join. Continuing.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B2) Jennie Burdett to investigate accepting PayPal for renewals.

2013 - A2 Continuing.

2013 - A3 Closed.

2013 – A4 Closed.

2013 – A5 Closed.

ITEM 5: STAFF SALARIES

F&GP had been tasked to look at staff salaries and an award in line with inflation has been given to all salaried staff. Marc explained to Martin B that F&GP is a small committee that deals with any urgent matters between Exec meetings and then reports back to Exec. They are also tasked to deal with certain things such as the staff salary review.

ITEM 6: 2014 AGM

John N pointed out that from a legal point of view we are no longer required to have an AGM but members felt that we should continue with this even if we did not have to. The possibility of having the AGM at a BHPA event was considered and Martin B suggested a repack rather than a flying event. The Big Fat Repack would have plenty of people there and Adrian was tasked to discuss this with TVHGC.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B3) Adrian Thomas to approach TVHGC re having the BHPA AGM at the BFR next year.

ITEM 7: AIR EXPERIENCE SCHOOLS

Mark Dale made the point that AE Schools put nothing into the sport and only pay a £50 registration fee, whereas a training school is bringing in members to the BHPA and paying £400 registration. He explained that AE schools were originally introduced for non-profit making organisations rather than a moneymaking business.

Dave felt that AE schools should pay the same fee as training schools but have a cheaper Introductory Membership Certificate for a dual flight only.

After further debate the meeting determined that no change was necessary.

ITEM 9: VAT ON CLAIMS

Marc explained that when we have an insurance claim, our insurers pay the legal fees but the VAT on the solicitors' bill is paid by BHPA; the VAT on a recent claim had amounted to £20k.

The BPA are in the same position but if their client, i.e. the school, is registered for VAT then the VAT bill is passed to them. If the school is not VAT registered then the insurers pay it.

Marc proposed that we should adopt the BPA method of dealing with VAT and Martin H said he would check our policy in regard to VAT. Bill asked whether this would affect our premium but Marc replied that the amount would be so small to our insurers that it would not.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B4) Martin Heywood to check insurance policy in regard to VAT payment.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B5) Marc Asquith to write something for Bulletin re VAT on claims.

ITEM 10: NON-BHPA PILOTS AT BHPA COMPETITIONS

Bill said that as we have adopted paramotor competitions there is a problem in that there are still some of the paramotor competition pilots who are not BHPA members. He hoped that in the not too distant future they would all be BHPA members anyway but in the meantime some of them feel that they are being press ganged into joining the BHPA.

Mark said that in his view there are 45 pilots who are quite happy with the way things are and there are 4 or five pilots who are moaning. We should just say that they have to pay the insurance.

Martin H said he would write to Francis Rich, with a copy to Dave Hill, explaining that they must be members of BHPA. Those who are members of BMAA must still join BHPA as BMAA do not provide insurance. Foreign pilots who have their own insurance do not have to join BHPA.

Ed spoke in support of non-BHPA pilots in competitions and added that it would put people off BHPA if they were forced to join.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B6) Martin Heywood to write to Francis Rich, cc Dave Hill.

ITEM 8: AAIB

Angus P explained that for many years we have investigated accidents on behalf of the AAIB and this has worked very well. However now, under European regulations, they are not obliged to investigate Annex II aircraft.

AAIB have written to Angus explaining that we are no longer required to investigate on their behalf but feel sure that we will continue to investigate on behalf of our members. The downside of this for us is that any evidence we have collected during the investigations has been regarded as belonging to the AAIB and therefore cannot be disclosed. Now that we will not have this protection people may be less willing to give us a statement in case it could become public. Exec agreed that FSC should continue the investigation of accidents.

Mark said we should go back to AAIB in regard to reported accidents. We tell all our members that they must report all accidents but is this still required?

Marc did not think that much would change and said we should just reword what we say to the Police and Coroners, i.e. say 'liaise' rather than 'we have been delegated'.

ITEM 11: REPORTS

11.1 Finance

Angus Langford was unable to be at the meeting but had submitted his report detailing the current situation, together with draft accounts to 31 March 2013.

11.2 Insurance

Martin H said there was nothing to report at the moment but there will be a longer report at the next meeting, as we will be coming up to renewal. Bill asked about a recent accident and Martin replied that he was not sure yet whether it would go to a claim and whether it would impact on our insurance.

Martin said that at the end of the 1990s, for every £100 in premium the insurers received they had paid out £130. There had been significant improvements since then and until the Dunstable claim we were doing very well.

11.2.1 Brett mentioned that in Italy the cost of a Sporting Licence is €39 whereas we only charge £11. Martin B suggested that we should publish this together with a table of charges in the rest of Europe.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B7) Martin Baxter to check costs of Sporting Licences in other countries.

Mark informed the meeting that our tugs now have to have war and terrorism insurance in accordance with European legislation. Our insurers have said that they do not offer war and terrorism insurance so our tugs are not covered. Mark explained how this had become a problem for our tug aircraft and said that in his view the CAA had misinterpreted the rules.

Martin H said that we need to put our points of dispute together as soon as possible.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B8) Mark Dale and Martin Heywood to liaise re points of dispute.

11.4 Admin

Marc said there was nothing to report on admin.

11.5 Skywings

Paul Dancey was unable to get to the meeting but had submitted his written report. Joe said he has real problems trying to get competitions reports from the paragliding panel and he felt that there should be some requirement for them to send in a report. Joe asked if someone could be appointed with the specific job of getting a report to Skywings. Adrian said he would make sure that this problem gets fixed.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B9) Adrian Thomas to ensure that someone is appointed to get competition reports to Skywings.

11.6 Website

Joe referred to Paul's redesign of the website and all agreed that it was now much more modern and up to date. John said that he now had a volunteer, Judith Mole, to help with our Facebook page and she is doing a really good job. All Exec felt that Judith should be congratulated and expressed their thanks for the work she is doing.

ITEM 4: NEW FLYABILITY TRUSTEES

Marc said the following people have been appointed as Flyability Trustees: Helen Lysaght, Simon White and Stuart Osmundsen. The new Trustees were approved by the Exec.

ITEM 11: REPORTS (Continued)

Bill had submitted a written report and there were no questions on this.

11.7.1 Marc had received an email from Steve Senior, Head of PG Comps, requesting that Chris Burns be replaced by Adrian Thomas as BHPA CIVL delegate. This was discussed and it was agreed that Chris's appointment should be rescinded and Adrian appointed in his place.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B10) Marc Asquith to inform the RAeC and CIVL of our new nomination, copy to Steve Senior.

11.7.2 The situation regarding Chris Burns was considered as he is not fulfilling his duties in accordance with the Memorandum & Articles of Association. Members agreed that it was not helpful to have members of Exec who do not actually attend Exec meetings.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B11) Marc Asquith to write to Chris Burns asking if he wishes to continue as a Director.

11.8 External Rep.

John N said there was nothing to report. Marc mentioned that he had taken John O'sullivan, Martin Mansley and John Korzeniowski along to the RAeC Awards ceremony and that BHPA had funded their tickets.

11.9 School Liaison

John Welch was unable to be at the meeting and there was no report.

1.10 Paramotor Liaison

Ed had submitted a written report and there were no questions.

11.11 Sites

Martin B was keen to ensure that the Sites database should be held at the BHPA office so that when there was a change of Sites Officer there was no problem. He would probably have to start the database from scratch as neither the original database used by Tom Hardie, nor the later one used by Steve Walsh, seem to be available.

11.2 FSC

Angus P reported on the work of WG6 and the tests that DHV are doing using instrumentation inside the glider, which means that all characteristics can be measured. They have been comparing the results with the results from normal testing using a test pilot. Load tests and shock tests as well as harnesses and parachutes are also being looked at.

11.2.1 Mark reported that every year the paramotor competition people have to apply to the CAA for an exemption and the CAA have suggested that it will save time if they update CAP403 to include paramotors. Mark and Francis Rich have come up with a document to put forward to the CAA. Ed said that the paramotor people feel that the document should not be restricted to BHPA so that it would be available to them for competitions not organised by BHPA.

The meeting agreed that the document should be submitted to the CAA as it is.

ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Marc felt that the cost for Non-Flying Membership should be dropped to a more realistic fee such as £19.99. We have very few Non-Flying Members so although lowering the fee would involve a small financial risk, there is a chance that more husbands and wives would join as Non-Flying Members. It was noted that setting the fee too low would jeopardise Skywings subscriptions and this would be considered during the general review of membership fees.

FOR ACTION: (2013 – B12) F&GP to consider NFM when reviewing membership fees.

FOR ACTION: (2013 –B13) Joe Schofield to ask Paul Dancey to set up a BHPA email address for Martin Baxter and include him on the mailing list.

12.1 John N said that BHPA had again been offered a free stand at the Flying Show but all agreed that there would be no benefit to us from attending.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 15.20 and said the date for the next meeting would be set later.