



Meeting 2026A of the BHPA Executive Council

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

Meeting held on Saturday 28th February 2026 at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ, commencing at 1.00pm.

Present

James Allcock
Marc Asquith
Martin Baxter
Bill Bell
Mike Chilvers
Martin Heywood
Angus Langford
Angus Pinkerton
Guy Richardson
Mark Schaefer
Steve Young

In attendance:

Ian Curren
Paul Dancey
Brett Janaway
Michelle Lanman
Jack Sewell
Joe Schofield
Mark Shaw

Apologies:

Jenny Buck

Marc Asquith chaired the meeting in Jenny Buck's absence.

The first item on the agenda was an Exec. only discussion.

ITEM 1: ASSISTANT TECHNICAL OFFICER RECRUITMENT

Following discussion, it was agreed that the ideal start date for a new recruit would be 1st April 2027. The position would therefore need to be advertised in August 2026.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A1) Michelle Lanman to ensure the costs arising from this item are on the next Exec agenda.

The Technical Officers, Joe Schofield, Paul Dancey, and Brett Janaway joined the meeting at this point.

ITEM 2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Jenny Buck.

ITEM 3: POST AGM

3.1 Marc welcomed the new Exec members and brief introductions were given.

3.2 Jenny Buck had indicated her willingness to continue

as Chair. This was approved by unanimous vote.

3.3 Mike Chilvers agreed to take on the role of PPG Representative.

ITEM 4: ITEMS ARISING FROM AGM

There were no items arising from the AGM.

ITEM 5: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the Exec. meeting held on Friday 7th November 2025 were approved.

ITEM 6: MATTERS ARISING

2018 – B1	Closed. The policy has been updated and circulated.
2021 – B7ii	Continuing
2024 – B12	Continuing
2024 – C9	Continuing
2025 – A6	Closed
2025 – B8	Closed
2025 – B9	Continuing
2025 – B10	Closed
2025 – C1	Closed

2025 – C2	Closed
2025 – C3	Closed
2025 – C4	Continuing
2025 – C5	Closed
2025 – C6	Closed
2025 – C7	Closed
2025 – C8	Closed
2025 – C9	Continuing
2025 – C10	Closed
2025 – C11	Closed

ITEM 7: AGM DATE

Marc Asquith had circulated a paper explaining why the AGM was held in the Spring and suggested that, as this is almost a year after the closure of the financial year, consideration should be given to bringing the next AGM date forward, potentially to November 2026.

It was noted that it could be challenging, with the change in structure of the competition's panels, to alter the date this year. The extra work involved for the auditors may make it difficult to complete the accounts in time.

The proposal was therefore put on hold to be reviewed again in a year's time.

ITEM 8: NEW DIRECTOR'S OBLIGATIONS

Marc Asquith and Angus Langford had created a document setting out Director's obligations. It was agreed that this should be issued in future, to candidates standing for Exec.

James Allcock and Martin Baxter were nominated to put together a welcome pack.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A2) James Allcock and Martin Baxter to draft a welcome pack for new members of Exec.

ITEM 9: FUTURE OF FLYABILITY

Flyability has been managed for over a decade by Helen Lysaght and George Ransome. They have decided to stand down at the end of the year. A decision is therefore required about the future of the charity.

Thanks were recorded for the hard work carried out by Helen and George.

Options include, recruiting new trustees, integrating the charity into BHPA operations, narrowing the charities scope to the provision of equipment only, or closure.

It was agreed to defer the decision until Jenny Buck had opportunity to investigate further.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A3) Jenny Buck to investigate the most viable route for the future of Flyability.

ITEM 10: WEBSITE PROGRESS REPORT

Paul Dancey gave an update on the tender for the development of a new website. He has received seventeen proposals, which range in cost from £3k to £52K. Whilst it will take some time to review them all, he is confident there will be a suitable option to take forward.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A4) Paul Dancey to review the tenders for redeveloping the website and report back.

ITEM 11: REPORTS

11.1 Finance

11.1.1 Angus Langford gave an update on the current year's finances. He forecasts we will end the year at break even.

He noted that Exec will need to arrest the decline in membership numbers, accept it and adjust the cost base accordingly, or fund the existing structure through progressively higher subscriptions.

It was suggested that an attitude column be written for Skywings discussing the decline in membership numbers, and outlining the work of Exec.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A5) James Allcock and Martin Baxter to provide an attitude column for Skywings discussing the decline in membership numbers and outlining the work of Exec.

Mark Shaw asked for approval to run an online lapsed membership survey. This was approved.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A6) Technical Team to run an online lapsed member survey.

11.1.2 Angus Langford reported that his previous request to explore the use of a corporate savings platform had proved unsuccessful. He had been uncomfortable with the security model and the allocation of fraud risk and had therefore concluded that they did not meet our requirement for security, governance and risk management.

We will continue to use direct bank relationships, with deposits up to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) limit. Unfortunately, due to anti-money laundering requirements opening new accounts can be time consuming. Angus requested authority that he, as Treasurer, could open accounts as needed, with notification being issued to Exec in advance (by email), and a vote for approval being obtained for each account. This was approved.

11.2 FSC

Nothing further to the AGM to report.

11.3 Insurance

Nothing further to the AGM to report.

11.4 Sites

11.4.1 Martin Baxter noted a correction to Jenny Buck's Chair report. The Outdoors for All (OFA) coalition is not a government initiative. It is a group of organisations that are lobbying the government to improve access to the countryside, thus far with little success.

11.4.2 The reason why the number of flying sites in the BHPA database has suddenly increased by 46 is because the Bollington Club has decided to re-register some lesser known sites in South Wales. The SWW Club had previously decided not to bother with them, but Marc Asquith is keen to preserve them. He is willing to release them back to local clubs if they change their mind.

11.5 Skywings

Nothing further to the AGM to report.

11.6 Website

11.6.1 Paul Dancey asked that it be officially recorded that the BHPA format for email addresses is: `firstname-surname@bhpa.co.uk`

11.6.2 Paul asked new Exec members to provide photographs of themselves for inclusion, with their profiles, on the website.

11.7 Competitions

The funding level for 2026/27 had been calculated using the formula agreed by Bill Bell and Angus Langford, resulting in a 6.9% increase on last year.

Exec voted to approve the funding.

11.8 External representation

11.8.1 RAeC – Jenny Buck had attended the last meeting. RAeC are currently updating their Articles of Association.

11.8.2 EHPU – The last meeting, in Prague, had been attended by Marc Asquith, Angus Pinkerton and Mark Shaw. The European equivalent of an IPPI for non-commercial tandems had been ratified.

11.8.3 FIDA – The new accident reporting system is now live. Unfortunately, we are currently having to manually correct a fault to ensure the information is published on our website.

11.8.4 EAS – The next meeting will be held in Madrid.

11.9 Paramotor Liaison

Nothing to report.

11.10 Admin

Marc Asquith reported on a slight reduction in Sarah Leach's hours, at her request, effective 1st April 2026.

ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Martin Baxter asked if a reminder to clubs to keep their officials list up to date could be included in the Club Bulletin.

FOR ACTION: (2026 – A7) Michelle Lanman to ensure a reminder is included in the Club Bulletin for clubs to notify us of any changes in officials.

12.2 Bill Bell noted that GASCo has announced it is concluding operations. The board has concluded that it no longer has a sufficiently secure and sustainable funding base to operate at a level consistent with its charitable objectives.

Marc Asquith closed the meeting at 3.00 pm.

ACTIONS – OPENED, CONTINUING

WHO	NUMBER	WHAT	STATUS
Paul Dancey / Michelle Lanman	2021 – B7ii	Paul Dancey and Michelle Lanman to work on integrating the online application forms to the database.	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2024 – B12	Jenny Buck to establish a diversity sub-committee and provide a strategy and terms of reference.	Continuing
Jenny Buck	2024 – C9	Jenny Buck to write to Verbier Summits School requesting the removal of the BHPA logo from their website. A copy of the letter to be sent to SHV.	Continuing
Angus Langford & Jenny Buck	2025 – B9	Angus Langford and Jenny Buck to review options for the BHPA shop.	Continuing
Marc Asquith / Michelle Lanman	2025 – C4	Marc Asquith and Michelle Lanman to review the forms completed by Exec candidates.	Continuing
F&GP	2025 – C9	F&GP to review salaries for 2026	Continuing
Michelle Lanman	2026 – A1	Michelle Lanman to ensure the costs arising from the recruitment of an Assistant Technical Officer are on the next Exec agenda.	Open
James Allcock / Martin Baxter	2026 – A2	James Allcock and Martin Baxter to draft a welcome pack for new members of Exec.	Open
Jenny Buck	2026 – A3	Jenny Buck to investigate the most viable route for the future of Flyability.	Open
Paul Dancey	2026 – A4	Paul Dancey to review the tenders for redeveloping the website and report back.	Open
James Allcock / Martin Baxter	2026 – A5	James Allcock and Martin Baxter to provide an attitude column for Skywings discussing the decline in membership numbers and outlining the work of Exec.	Open
Technical Team	2026 – A6	Technical Team to run an online lapsed member survey.	Open
Michelle Lanman	2026 – A7	Michelle Lanman to ensure a reminder is included in the Club Bulletin for clubs to notify us of any changes in officials.	Open