



## 2026 Annual General Meeting of the BHPA

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 28th February 2026 at 8 Merus Court, Meridian Park, Leicester LE19 1RJ, commencing at 11am.

These minutes are not to be taken as an accurate record without referring to the minutes of the Executive Council meeting at which they were approved.

### Present

James Allcock  
Marc Asquith  
Martin Baxter  
Bill Bell  
Mike Chilvers  
Ian Curren  
Paul Dancey  
Martin Heywood  
Brett Janaway  
Angus Langford  
Michelle Lanman  
Angus Pinkerton  
Guy Richardson  
Jack Sewell  
Mark Schaefer  
Joe Schofield  
Mark Shaw  
Steve Young

### In attendance:

6 voting members of the Association, plus 9 guests.

### GoTo meeting link:

7 voting members of the Association

### Apologies:

Jenny Buck

### ITEM 1: CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Marc Asquith welcomed everyone to the 34th BHPA AGM. He noted that, due to work commitments, the Chair, Jenny Buck, was unable to attend and it had been agreed that he would be chairing the meeting.

He encouraged those attending remotely, via the GoTo meeting link, to submit any questions they had in the chat box.

Marc explained that there would be two parts to the meeting, the first being the formal agenda, followed by awards and Officers' Reports.

### ITEM 2: RESOLUTIONS

#### 2.1 Chair's Report

Jenny's report was included in the AGM pack.

#### 2.2 Finance Report

Marc asked Angus Langford to present his Treasurer's Report before votes were taken to receive the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

The financial accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 reported a surplus of £36K, a clear improvement on the £52K loss reported in 2024. Income rose slightly following the subscription increase introduced in April 2024 and operating costs fell due to a full year's benefit of the measures implemented by the Executive Council in 2023/24.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, we currently expect a small surplus. The main financial risk now facing the Association is the continuing slow decline in membership numbers.

We have a long standing policy of maintaining the real value of our reserves over the medium term. This gives us a buffer to deal with unforeseen circumstances such as foot & mouth, without resorting to steep subscription increases or radical staffing reductions.

Angus mentioned that he is always available to address any queries from members.

Members voted unanimously in favour of receiving the accounts and the resolution was carried.

**2.3 That six members be elected to the Executive Council from the following six candidates: J Allcock, M Asquith, M Chilvers, G Richardson, M Schaefer & S Young.**

As it was an un-contested election the Chairman dealt with

this matter *en bloc*. All six candidates were unanimously elected.

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

Angus Langford noted that we have new auditors, Mark J Rees, who are a small local company.

Members voted unanimously in favour and the resolution was carried.

## **ITEM 3: AWARDS**

**3.1** The Wings Over a Cloud award for the best article in Skywings during 2025, selected by Mike Hibbitt, was awarded to Darren Brown for his article 'One of those flights you remember forever...' published in the October issue. Unfortunately, Darren was unable to attend the meeting to collect his award.

**3.2** A BHPA Award of Merit was also awarded to Darren Brown for his exceptional and enduring contribution to the sport of hang gliding in the UK and beyond.

Mike Lake was in attendance to receive his Award of Merit for his commitment and contribution to winch towing in the UK.

**3.3** Honorary BHPA memberships were awarded to Roy Hill and Derek Evans who were both involved in the early days of the BHGA, a challenging time when AGMs could be very difficult.

Roy's journey into hang gliding began alongside his son Andrew's childhood enthusiasm in the early 1970s, prompting him to build a small glider and soon take to the air himself. He went on to help set up the Thames Valley Hang Gliding Club in 1973 and became a leading figure in the sport, serving as Chairman of the British Hang Gliding Association and helping establish its training and competition structures. Later a microlight and aircraft pilot and instructor, Roy, still looks back fondly on hang gliding's formative years and remains passionate about flying.

Derek, then a Barclays bank manager seeking a new sport, took up hang gliding in 1975 and, just seven months later, was elected Treasurer - a role he held for over a decade. During his time Derek also acted as a British Team Manager, alongside Brian Milton and Roy Hill. In 1978 he was involved when the British team were victorious against the Americans on their home ground, one of the first great victories for the BHGA on the international competition scene.

Both Roy and Derek expressed their thanks for their awards, paying tribute to Brian Milton, all the wives and girlfriends (for retrieval and marshalling) and all the great pilots they flew with.

## **ITEM 4: OFFICERS' REPORTS**

### **4.1 Insurance**

Martin Heywood reported that we have had a small but manageable rise in the premium for our liability cover. We have secured a long-term deal which will see our premiums rise by about 10% in 2026 and then remain fixed for 2027. This is the second time we have been offered a long-term deal and demonstrates that there is some stability in our claims profile and the way the insurers see our industry.

### **4.2 Sites**

Martin Baxter's report was included in the AGM pack.

Topics covered included: why we have a sites database, Civil Aircraft Notification Procedure (CANP), the green agenda, Natural England, open access land and the site risk assessment template.

### **4.3 Skywings**

Paul Dancey reported that 2024/25 saw inflation returning to more traditional levels and a small increase in advertising income being achieved. This resulted in the net operating cost rising by around £1312 (under 2%). This will not continue into 2025/26 where advertising has dropped and increasing postage costs mean the increase in net operating costs is likely to be north of £6000.

As this was his last AGM report Paul thanked Joe Schofield and Colin Fargher for all their support over the years. He gave his best wishes to Steve Young who has agreed to take on the role of Skywings Director.

### **4.4 Website**

Paul Dancey reported that his plan to retire from Executive Council had prompted the decision to redevelop the BHPA website. Seventeen tenders have been received and will require some time to work through.

A replacement progressive web membership app has been developed and launched. Amongst other features this offers a more integrated online membership renewal process.

Marc Asquith commented that he had persuaded Paul to stand for Executive Council in the 1990's. He expressed his gratitude for the thirty years of service Paul has dedicated to the association.

Steve Poink also expressed gratitude on behalf of the membership and presented Paul with a mug featuring a character designed by illustrator Harry Martin.

### **4.5 Competitions**

Bill Bell's report was included in the AGM pack.

Bill expressed his thanks to all those involved in competitions.

### **4.6 Admin**

Marc Asquith's report was included in the AGM pack.

Marc expressed his thanks to the office staff for their hard work and commitment during the last year.

#### 4.7 FSC

Angus Pinkerton welcomed Jack Sewell (Assistant Technical Officer), whose employment with the BHPA started in September 2025, to the Technical Team.

Angus's report was included in the AGM pack.

He gave a brief overview of the work carried out by the team including maintenance of the Technical Manual, accident investigation, school inspections, examinations, lectures and airworthiness.

Angus thanked the Technical Team who regularly go above and beyond any reasonable expectation of their work and commitment, and to all volunteers who work on, and with, the FSC and its panels.

#### 4.8 CIVL

Brett Janaway gave a brief summary of his CIVL report, which was included in the AGM pack.

Robert Bailey and Johnny Carr both expressed their admiration of the work carried out by Roy Hill and Derek Evans and thanked everyone for attending to mark the occasion.

Marc expressed his gratitude to everyone for attending the AGM.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

DRAFT