# MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Teams

Date: Monday 11th May 2026

## 1. Welcome*: roll call, conflicts and confidentiality*

| Present: | Apologies: |
|---|---|
| David Broom<br>Tim Burrow (Chair)<br>Brendan Digney<br>Giles Fowler<br>Rob Grinwood<br>Simon Heyes (Treasurer)<br>Owain Johns (CEO)<br>Cath Spence (Vice chair)<br>John Waite | None |

Meeting commenced at: 9:07

TB extended a warm welcome to DB in his first full meeting.
All directors were reminded of their duty to maintain confidentiality

The Roles & Responsibilities document was reviewed for 2026/27
It was agreed that current subcommittees would remain dormant, but that a Strategy Sub-committee comprising OJ, TB, CS & RG would be formed and would discuss proposals before presenting these to the rest of the Board for consideration.
Ad hoc working groups would be formed around specific themes as needed.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DECISION** | Create a Strategy Sub-committee that would investigate proposals and report back to board | | |
| **ACTION** | Update Roles & Responsibilities Document for circulation | CS | 31/5/26 |

## 2. Agenda Approval, additional items

Agreed with no additional items

## 3. Approval of previous minutes

a. Draft minutes of March meeting were sent out on 15th April 2026
b. Amendments were made as follows

i. Minor typos corrected
ii. SH requested that we clarify that the insurance referred to is a new policy for members to purchase on an individual basis rather than BMAA central insurance

c. Revised minutes were approved unanimously

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Update March minutes for publication | CS | 31/5/26 |

d. Minutes yet to be circulated for post-AGM meeting.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Share post-AGM minutes for circulation | CS | 11/5/26 |

e. NO matters arising not covered elsewhere.

f. Council recorded and ratified the between-meeting decision to award four rather than three instructor bursaries due to number and quality of candidates.

| | |
|---|---|
| **DECISION** | Four of the six bursaries available for this year to be awarded this quarter, rather than holding one successful applicant over for a further 3 months. |

# *4.* Reports

## a. CEO report – Owain Johns

(Author: Owain Johns – Presented: Owain Johns)

Received & noted.

### 4.1: Leadership & Management

OJ shared the details of the current level of sign-off in the Tech Office, which shows much more resilience in the team.

### 4.2: Finance and Resources

The Awards Evening is now showing a small surplus.

The Board expressed their thanks to Angie for her work in supporting the audit process.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Pass board appreciation to Angie re: Audit and wider team for Awards Evening | OJ | 31/5/26 |

### 4.3: Engagement and Membership

Including 1. Ambition, 2. Communication, 13. Community Engagement

Received and noted

1. **Awards Evening**
   The Board expressed their appreciation to the staff for their hard work in making this event such a success.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Pass board appreciation to HQ team for Awards Evening | OJ | 31/5/26 |

The Board is supportive of current plans for next year's event. The key point to note was that this event was very popular with partners, so future plans should aim to maintain that focus.

2. **Instructor Seminar/Member Conference**

   There was support for the approach, but some concerns about the impact on the instructor community if the Instructor Seminar was held on a Friday, and a Member Conference on a Saturday. There was broad support for investigating a new venue

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Poll instructors to confirm preference for Fri/Sat or Sun/Mon | OJ | 31/5/26 |
| **ACTION** | Investigate Loughborough option & report | OJ | 31/5/26 |

3. **Summer Events**

   Full programme noted

   Board supportive of continuing to investigate the possibility of a Festival of Flight

4. **Winter Events**

   Plans proceeding. There is a need to join the work of the volunteer Wings team with these proposals to ensure value of existing work is not lost.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Meeting OJ/CS/Jeremy Hoyland(JH) | OJ/CS | 31/5/26 |

5. **Social Media**

   Some very positive signs and some good coverage from Flyer, and others are also very encouraging.

   Long term social media strategy needs to be discussed and any plans costed

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Add SM to Strategy Sub-committee agenda | TB | May 26 |

6. **ElevateHER discussion**

   Broad support for efforts to widen participation in the sport across all aspects.

   It was agreed that this would need to be a multi-pronged approach.

   It was agreed that OJ will speak with Katherine Malooney (CEO – ElavateHER) and Anabel Cook (Chair – BWPA) to explore how we might work with them to promote the sport.

   Most of Council had limited knowledge of ElevateHER so more info would be valuable for a better understanding of how we might engage most effectively.

   There is a wider strategy-level conversation needed about what is needed to make the sport attractive and accessible to a wider range of particpants.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Add EDI to Strategy Sub-committee agenda | TB | May 26 |
| **ACTION** | Initiate discussion with ElevateHER & BWPA | OJ | 3/7/26 |

7. **Insurance**

   Positive response from membership encouraging. Respondents at Popham raised good questions about 3rd-party liability insurance, which was soft-launched there. We will all need to be able to refer to this to answer queries which may be raised to any of the board.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Create a Q&A for Insurance based on the responses/feedback from Popham launch | OJ | June (ahead of launch) |

8. **MF Magazine**
   There was a discussion about how best to follow up on the question raised at the AGM about the cost of MF.
   It was agreed to establish a Working Group to review the details more closely and report back to Council.

| **DECISION** | Create a Working Group to review MF options | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | MF Working group to review & report back to Council | OJ,TB,SH,DB | 3/7/26 |
| **ACTION** | Prepare a balanced response to MF question following review | OJ | Sept 26 |

9. **Engagement with CAA**
   The board expressed support for OJ to continue to maintain pressure on the CAA regarding the reported items. There is a long list of items to be discussed at the upcoming meeting; progress is slow.
   Positive engagement with CAA staff at Popham reported by several Council members.

## 4.4: Community

Including 3. Clubs and schools, 4. Competitions, Events & Pilot Development, 12. SSDR & Sub 70 Flexwing

1. **Club visits**
   Encouraging engagement through CEO visits to clubs. Next visits scheduled in Scotland, with possibly Northern Ireland on the schedule.
2. **Royal Aero Club (RaeC) – background**
   RAeC is the national coordinating body for Air Sport in the United Kingdom and connects us, as members, to both the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) and European Air Sports (EAS). All major Associations are represented except LAA. There is no other means of connection to these two organisations other than through RaeC.

   TB/JW/OJ attended a focus group at RaeC and reported several governance challenges which the RAeC are working through. They are a key organisation and we need to engage and push for change as appropriate.

   The key takeaways for Council were:

i. This is the only route to allow us to issue sporting licences for those wishing to compete.
ii. Access to competition was crucial to relationships across Europe and had been part of the mechanism by which aircraft such as the Skyranger and Deltajet were brought into the UK
iii. The importance of EAS in maintaining access to EASA. Paul Dewhurst is our representative on EMF, which in turn feeds into EAS.

EAS have, for example, ensured that the Avgas ban, proposed in Europe has been delayed to find a suitable alternative for aircraft engines which need leaded fuel. The RAeC Trust also holds a pot of money for bursaries for young people, which we should encourage people to apply for (closing dates usually December)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Share background documents about EAS with the rest of Council | TB | 31/5/26 |

Council will need to maintain a watching brief on this and ensure that when changes are proposed, these represent both good outcomes and good value for our members.

| **4.5: Flight Training & Safety** |
|---|
| Including 5. Training / Licensing / Medical, 6. Safety |

1. **The Instructor Bursary**

   The working group (OJ, Kelly Thacker (KT) & GF) reported that the approach of seeking references for applications had been really helpful.

   There was a discussion about whether funds should be used in favour of those who might find it harder to afford the costs. It was agreed that we would change the website information to state this was the intent, but that no means testing would be applied, leaving this to people's conscience.

   The working group would add this to the draft policy on awarding the bursaries and share the full document with Council.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Instructor Bursary WG to share the revised policy & decision criteria with Council | OJ,KT,GF | 3rd July |

2. **FICI**

   The working group are still targeting autumn for the consortium training at Sywell and RG expects to see the work of the group benefit new & current instructors through alignment of standards.

   There was strong support from the Board for OJ to proceed with an application to the CAA for the BMAA itself to become a DTO (Designated Training Organisation). DTO status does not currently include FICI on the list of courses, but it has been proposed that this be added, and it is hoped that, by having the BMAA make the application, this may speed the process.

   The DTO would consist of OJ as Responsible Representative, Paul Dehurst as Head of Training and JH as Safety Officer and is a mirror of the BGA (British Gliding Association) model.

If the inclusion of FICI in the DTO list is agreed, this would allow others to follow the DTO approach rather than the more complex and expensive ATO approach, or would allow listed and instructor and sites to come under the BMAAs DTO umbrella.

There would be a small annual cost (currently £231) each year but any sites/instructors joining under BMAA could contribute to make this cost neutral. CAA would benefit from a single audit vs multiple, and BMAA would coordinate the inspection of records and monitoring.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DECISION** | The board agreed unanimously to the BMAA applying to be a DTO | | |
| **ACTION** | Proceed with DTO application from BMAA | OJ | 31st May |

| **4.6: Technical** |
|---|
| Including 8. Inspector System, 9 Technical Office |

1. **Tech office progress**
   Very positive progress continues in the tech office. Current numbers show active items down again to 71, with 23 in the office and 48 out with owners for response.

2. **Tech office future**
   OJ proposed that BMAA consider taking on non-microlight work in the future. This would be subject to sufficient capacity in the tech office and on the understanding that BMAA members & manufacturers of microlights would always need to be the priority. The intention would be to do this work at a profit to generate funds for BMAA.

   A number of questions were raised about insurance implications, considerations as a not-for-profit organisation, and how feasible it would be to manage the workload in a way that always prioritises microlight business.
   The board offered support for OJ to investigate further and prepare a feasibility document for a future meeting, including clarification on whether this requires membership approval, as it is outside the not-for-profit definition.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DECISION** | Proceed to investigate the feasibility of covering non-microlight work | | |
| **ACTION** | Low priority: prepare a proposal with regard to the tech office taking on non-microlight work | OJ | No end date set |
| **ACTION** | Add review of tech office for non-microlight work to Strategy Sub-committee agenda | TB | No end date |

3. **Inspector audits**
   Further work will be needed to propose a fair approach to expenses for inspector audits, as the current situation is that those who are more remote incur higher charges.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Propose an approach for expense charge balancing for inspector audits. | OJ | 21st Sept 2026 |

| **4.7 Regulation & Representation** |
|---|
| Including 10. Regulatory Policy, 11 Representation |

1. **EMF**

   Report received from Paul Dewhurst

2. **Non-ICAO pilots from EU**

   Access to the UK from Europe is still not possible with sub-ICAO licence. BMAA have proposed to CAA that, as a temporary solution, they would be willing to take on the task of issuing permission for sub-ICAO license holders from EU to fly in UK airspace. The long-term aim would be to push for an exemption for EU pilots entering the UK, similar to that UK pilots enjoy on entering other EU countries, such as France.

3. **Border Force**

   OJ has attempted to engage with Border Force but to date has had no response. The board expressed disappointment at the lack of engagement from BF and requested that OJ continue to make representations to them on behalf of the membership.

## 5. Treasurer's update on statutory responsibilities

1. **Filing of audited accounts**

   SH shared a draft version of the Letter of Representation.

   The board agreed unanimously and authorised TB as Chair to sign on our behalf.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ACTION** | Complete supporting documentation and file audited accounts with Companies House | TB, SH | 3rd July |

2. **Reserves Policy**

   SH shared an updated version of the Reserves Policy taking into account the increased headcount.

   This showed a slightly increased reserve level as expected.

| | |
|---|---|
| **DECISION** | Adopt revised reserves policy |

## 6. BMAA risk register review

The risk register was reviewed and approved without change

## 7. Review of Matters Reserved for the Board

The Matters Reserved for the Board document was reviewed and approved without change.

## 8. Review of Actions Register

The Actions Register was reviewed and updated

## 9. Any other Business

No other business was recorded.

The meeting closed at 1518

## 10. Date & time of next meetings:

| DATE (2026) | Reports | VENUE | Scheduled Agenda Topics |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRIDAY 3rd July | Full | Virtual (Teams) | |
| 21st September | Full | In person (BMAA HQ) | |
| 16th November | Full | In person (HQ) | • Budget |
| **DATE (2027)** | | | |
| 18th January | CEO | In person (BMAA HQ) | • Strategy review<br>• risk register full update<br>• award nomination reviews |
| 15th March | Full | In person (BMAA HQ) | • Pre-AGM prep |
| 17th May | CEO | Virtual (Teams) | • Roles & responsibilities review<br>• matters reserved for the board review<br>• audit letter signoff |