

MIDLAND AREA MEETING MINUTES 01/12/25 via Zoom

1. Effective use of websites by clubs

JC reviewed original proposal to Area Council, highlighted significant faults with the BMFA's own website.

Sm showed thread of posts on Area Council discussion forum. All Area delegate responses agreed that Mids Area had identified significant issues and generally praised the Mids Area review.

Final post from D McClure stating he had 3 volunteers for a working group to follow up the Mids Area submission. Nothing happened since to Mids Area delegate's knowledge..

SM to discuss our response to final post bearing in mind it appears to have come to a halt.

2. Region test centres

JC has applied to join the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, vote takes place in January. If successful this proposal will be discussed on a national level, if not it will be purely for Mids Area.

One Mids Area examiner runs a training company teaching to both A and B standard. Getting customers from all round the Mids Area, and even more significantly from all over the country. Trainee pilots coming to Buckminster from Scotland, Cornwall and Essex because they are unable to get training and testing in their own Areas.

JC proposes to set up a network of clubs with Examiners and ACEs in the Mids Area where members who can't access training and testing can contact a club near them.

3. 2025 meeting dates

First Area Council meeting in January, therefore first Mids Area meeting

4. Club/BMFA engagement

Some discussion re how to get more clubs engaged with the Area. First issue is to resolve the emailing issues.

JC to contact M Kinder in NW Area, find how they work.

RT provided a number of alternative potential solutions.

PK pointed out that a significant issue is the lack of visibility and consequent lack of knowledge amongst clubs. He was not aware until very recently that the Area council can support clubs financially and wasn't aware of how the Area works. Talking to a friend from another Area, he too was totally unaware of his own Area.

Raising the profile of the Area a key target.

Some discussion regarding bringing club delegates into the process, something we haven't pursued.

Possible alternatives, take to Areas Council as clearly other Areas have the same problems, ask Andy Symonds to write an article for the BMFA News, use social media to widen circle of communication. Perhaps Area committee members select a number of local clubs to contact, encourage to get involved.

To be Agenda item at first '26 Area meeting.

AOB

AB raised ongoing issue of CAA article 16 inconsistency regarding the requirement for CL flyers to take the competence test. One place says up to 7.5kg, another states up to 1kg.

Suggested AB write directly to Dave Phipps ASAP as latest version of art16 being signed off in the near future.

Tiny Whoop racing event, Andy Symonds has now pulled back and left the Mids Area to be the link. TW's funding model requires that anyone wanting to try the BMFA SIMS buys a ticket, not

the way we want it. We had suggested Mids Area become a 'sponsor', effectively replacing any income lost through lack of ticket sales. TW say minimum sponsor amount is £250.

Suggested that we ask for more information, for £250 we want to know what we're getting, projected attendance figures, BMFA stand location, possibly floor plan.

Suggested that should it go ahead Marston Green club be involved as they are in ideal location.

Marston Green members present happy to be involved.

JC to contact TW organiser requesting further information.