

03/09/25 Mids Area Meeting Minutes Held via Zoom @1930hrs

Present

S Mason (Bournestormers), T Black (Nuneaton MAC), J Collister (Scarcliffe), P Morris (Warwick)  
P Knight (Marston Green), M Easton (Sutton Coldfield), I Southerton (North Worcs),  
M Travers (Greenacres), G Smith (Birmingham MAC)

Apols

C Bernard (Chair)

Matters arising

Website issues – on main agenda

STEM initiative – at previous meeting H Jones (BMFA Outreach) spoke to the meeting about an upcoming STEM event at Aegis School in Gainsborough. No BMFA officials available so HJ asked if Mids Area could help out. JC assembled a team from Scarcliffe and Retford clubs, day went very well. Reflects well on Mids Area that we were able to help out at short notice and make a success of it.

Training – at previous meeting discussed ideas for improving access to trainers and examiners within the Mids Area. JC has applied for one of the positions on the BMFA ASRC committee, therefore suggested action be put on hold until result of elections known.

Funding requests

Greenacres held third Fly In of the year. Had to jump through multiple council imposed hoops now they have lost daily use of their site.

Unanimously agreed to provide £115 towards costs.

Examiner training day

Welcome to Peter Knight from Marston Green club. They have kindly offered to host our first Examiner training day in the Birmingham Area on 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> Sept..

JC initially emailed all club secretaries, zero replies of any kind. Second email to club examiners, plenty of replies, 3 offers in the Birmingham area, plus one near Lincoln. Enough examiners to justify running the event, barbecue middle of the day and donuts. Russ Bowey volunteered to fly demo flights, very experienced and another club examiner. Also prepared to fly in windier conditions than most.

Intention is to hold at least one per year, move them around the Area so every 2 or 3 years Examiners get the chance to attend a training day without having to drive too far.

Website item for Area Council

JC reprised initial situation, Mids Area member identified multiple problems with a number of Mids Area websites, links not working, out of date info etc. JC then broadened the scope to look at all BMFA Areas and their clubs. Similar problems are widespread. Reported back to Mids committee, SM tried to get the issue on the Area Council agenda without success. SM then took it to the Area forum, immediately lot of responses agreeing there is a widespread problem.

D McClure got involved, in the process of setting up a working group which will include JC and Bob Smith, the member who originally identified the problem.

Again this reflects well upon the Mids Area for identifying a problem and getting things in motion.

Communication still an issue which we may be able to address through the website working group. The IONOS webmail system used for the official BMFA officer emails still does not send to gmail account holders. Causing real problems for secretary who has to split any email groups into two, all gmail addresses having to go via the secretary's personal email provider.

Bulk email system is separate, clumsy method requires the creation of a csv file for every different group of recipients. No way to pick out addresses from a list.

JC to email A Symonds, ask for advice on a) how we can check if all emails are being delivered with the bulk mailing system (Icegram Express) and b) ask if he can come up with some guidance we can pass to gmail members re the setting of permissions so they can receive IONOS emails.

Possible use of the BMFA News to publicise.

Tiny Whoop racing event 2026

2025 international event supported financially by Mids Area. Organisers have invited BMFA Mids to have a presence at the 2026 event. Discussed possibilities, sims, static display, indoor flying display. JC to write to organisers asking what they might have in mind. Ask for date and venue details.

AOB

School initiative

Mick Easton (Sutton Coldfield club) proposed approaching schools in his locality with the idea of building and flying model planes. Has a particular Flite Test model in mind, made from foam board. Some discussion regarding how to go about it.

JC to ask Helen Jones (BMFA Outreach) and John Sidsaff (Mids Area Outreach) to contact Mick to discuss how to proceed.

SM offered to print plan on his large format printer.

Following on JC suggested Tiny Whoop racing might be another way to get the interest of schoolchildren. SM pointed out that the BMFA have just released a document stating that they are actively trying to build links with the Tiny Whoop racing community. Might be perfect timing.

Not been discussed with either HJ or the drone club, JC going to email both to see if they can start working together.

Discussed whether any event in Birmingham should be passed up for BMFA national involvement or keep within Mids Area. Decided to keep it in house.

Post meeting notes.

The day after the meeting a member of public overheard a discussion between JC and a fellow club member about Tiny Whoop racing.

Said person works with Derbyshire Council and is involved in some initiatives to promote tech careers within the Bolsover area (one of the most deprived in the area).

JC took details and will be contacting the outreach director with the hope of them working together.