

BMFA Midland Area Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday 16th Jan @1930hrs

Present

C Bernard, S Mason, T Black, J Sidsaff J Collister
J Lunt, G Smith, C Velvet, M Snell

Apols

None received

1 Funding Requests

M Snell and C Velvet presented the case for supporting an international tiny whoop racing event at Birmingham.

A lot of supporting events running alongside to engage non competitors, BMFA taking their Sim trailer. Wide ranging publicity via social media, free attendance for spectators. STEM company in attendance to encourage youngsters.

Discussed ways the Mids Committee could help support the event. Organisers to send publicity material to Mids Sec who will circulate it to all club secretaries.

Funding requested is to purchase upgraded equipment which will last a number of years.

Amount requested £450.84.

G Smith asked if as is it an international event, should the funding be coming from BMFA Central. Pointed out that that was the organisers initial approach, they were directed to the Mids Area by Chris Bradbury. Mids Area affiliated club involved in the organisation and event being held within the Mids Area.

Voted upon and passed unanimously.

Organisers to be invited to future meeting to feed back on event..

2 Flyer ID issues

JC raised concerns that there are a significant number of members who will have difficulty accessing the test and navigating the obtuse BMFA Portal.

If we are not proactive it's quite possible club memberships will suffer a serious hit in 2026.

Biggest issue is navigating the process with the test, upload and the data sharing permission all in different places. Many of our 'older' members simply do not possess the technical knowledge to get through the process, especially with the absence of any guidance from the BMFA.

Being able to download the Guide to article 16 document means that answering the questions is a much smaller problem.

Although the BMFA have not issued any figures, JC has done some research that indicates at present approximately 2/3 of members do not possess an RCC test.

Suggested a first step would be producing a step by step guide to the process, JC has already started on this for his own clubs. Will circulate to Committee members for their consideration and suggestions once completed.

Next question, who should be supporting clubs, or should clubs be left to their own devices. Ideally BMFA would be taking the lead but in the absence of anything from HQ it was suggested this would be a good opportunity for the Mids Committee to engage with Area clubs.

Once the RCC test guide is finalised committee will look at how to offer support to clubs.

3 Examiner initiative

Approx 60% of Mids Area clubs do not have an examiner. BMFA unable to supply national data for comparison.

While there is a procedure for any member to locate an examiner via the AS coordinator, it may not be widely known.

JC suggested an initiative previously discussed with Chris Anderson, the setting up of Area Test

Centres, whereby mainly but not exclusively Area Chiefs make their club a place where members from other clubs can come to take a test. The list of venues and contact details would be circulated to Mids Area clubs, or if we can source a complete list of BMFA Mids members, to all members to overcome Club Secretary inaction and censorship. Members wishing to take a test would then contact their nearest ACE to arrange the test.

Ideally our website could be a useful tool for this, however it has not been kept up to date for some time and with CA now unavailable we have no access to it.

SM going to look into it, has help from someone experienced in website management.

4 Area Council

No response from any clubs regarding comments on the Area Council meeting agenda.

Went through item by item, nothing we need to comment on at present.

5 AOB

None submitted.