

Mids Area Meeting Minutes 29/04/25 via Zoom @1930hrs

Present

C Bernard (Blue Sky) S Mason (Bournestormers) J Collister (Scarcliffe), J Sisaff (Heanor)
T Black (Nuneaton) A Clayton (Damsbrook) M Travers (Greenacres) G Smith (Birmingham
MAC)
Helen Jones (BMFA) for education agenda item.

Apols

None received

Matters arising

Matters arising from previous meeting are covered by agenda items.

Funding Requests

Greenacres submitted funding requests for 3 events in 2025. Unfortunately the possible loss of their club field means the third event is uncertain, therefore first 2 events considered. Request for £220 in total, voted and agreed unanimously.

Area Council meeting agenda

No feedback from any Mids Area Clubs.

Club of the year, discussion on value, whether clubs want to get involved etc.

Records, appears to be an internal BMFA participation idea, clubs set their own records which get circulated to other clubs who then try to break the record. This is not definitive as the Agenda heading gave no details.

Good to see the timeline for the agenda gave time for Area to contact all clubs ahead of the Area meeting. Sadly no clubs responded to the email.

AOB

STEM education events.

Helen Jones from BMFA attended the meeting

Discussion regarding Leicester Eclipse school events on 3 consecutive days. After some discussion regarding the difficulty of getting the SIM trailer to the event, lack of advance notice etc decided that for this year the Mids Area would be unable to take part. However with enough advance notice Mids would be interested in event in 2026. T Black to write to Eclipse organiser stating our position.

Event at Aegir School, Giansborough, some initial confusion regarding dates as more than one date had been mentioned originally. Date confirmed as 11th July, B Smith unable to attend on that date. HJ will contact Alan Watson, a local CL flyer, if he is willing to attend. J Sidsaff intending to take part, J Collister will ask for one or two additional volunteers.

HJ outlined possible events, SIMs, hoop gliders, stomp rockets, aerjets.

Aegir school is a special school, staff will supervise children at all times. School will provide any materials such as glue, paper, scissors, plus do any printing required. Mids Area reps can claim travel allowance.

JC to liaise with HJ to provide email addresses for the volunteers, set up a group communication. Intention is to hold a meeting with school end of May/early June.

Training

JC repeated comments from an officers' discussion that the professional training school at Buckminster is getting a lot of members from all round the country because they cannot get training

in their own area or club.

Discussed sending out a questionnaire about training offered by clubs, gauge response then report back to BMFA.

JC to compose questionnaire and circulate to committee members for consideration.

Websites

Lincoln delegate B Smith gave details of a review of both the Area website and other Area websites. Conclusion is that all area websites are in a parlous state, full of broken links, out of date information etc etc.

Two strands to consider, Area website and club websites.

Club websites, BS went through the impact reviving the Lincoln club website had upon recruitment. With up to date user friendly website prospective new members began joining and membership increased dramatically. The new members cited the website as their way in. BS has looked at many Mids Area club websites and broken links, outdated information etc is widespread.

Mids Area website, BS gave details of the many issues with the Mids website. With no webmaster currently in post and the previous webmaster not updating the website it is in need of a major revamp. CB and SM (with valuable help from son) are in the process of updating the site.

CB to circulate document detailing what has been done so far.

JC suggested the issue be raised at Areas Council, from BS's research the other area websites suffer from the same faults as ours. It is quite possible the other Areas simply aren't aware their websites are so deficient simply because nobody has highlighted it.

TB suggested Mids Area could take the lead in helping clubs sort their websites. GS suggested BMFA produce a template for club websites.

Accepted that some clubs do not need more members so do not need a website for recruitment.

JC to circulate all clubs with some information and ask whether clubs want/need help.

JC to prepare proposal for discussion at an Areas Council meeting.

Suggested one of the Mids Area members attend if permitted. JC willing to do so.

Meeting closed 2130 hours