BMFA Mids Area Meeting - 3rd Sept @ 1930hrs

Agenda

1 Present – C Bernard, S Mason, T Black, J Collister, G Smith, M Easton, colin monk geoff hodges (voting strength 7)

Apologies for absence. R Terry

2 Correction and adoption of minutes from previous meeting
Acceptance proposed CB, 2nd JC, unaninously accepted.

3 Matters arising from previous meeting
JC to contact all club secretaries asking for email addresses of any club members who live 'out of Area'. CB contacted AS at HQ, says there is no way to sort member details to show which BMFA Area they are in, despite there being an Area field on the database. Best AS can do is by Geographic location within an Area.

4 Matters for next Area Council Meeting
Raising Area profile – JC attended recent Area Council meeting, plan is to invite all Area chairs, secretaries and delegates to a meeting just to discuss raising of profile and how to attract new members to the sport.
Been some safety related incidents, Futabe Rx issue whoch all members have been emailed about. Also bad batch of ESCs been identified. BMFA took action on both incidents, exactly what AAIB and CAA are wanting.Been a big uptick in the number of incidents reported this year, approx 3x as many compared to previous year. Can not say if there have been more incidents or if members are more ready to report incidents.
Budget for Areas in 2026 was £25k, as most of this was then allocated to Areas likely amount will be the same for 2027. Was repeated that Areas with significant funds of their own would likely receive the standard £600.

5 Funding requests
No requests from clubs. Discussion regarding Area spending, at present the BMFA Area consitution does not specify the procedure by which Areas can approve spending of smaller amounts. Discussed whether there should be a limit of £200 below which agreement can be reached by an Officers meeting or by the agreement of at least 2 officers (these are examples). At present it appears, although not clearly defined, that all monies allocated or spent by the Area require a vote at a full Area meeting.
CB to produce a draft proposal for Area constitution wording, SM to put on Area Council forum for discussion.
Proposal that Mids Area buy another laptop to replace the one that is beyond repair. Currently we have two Sim licences but only one laptop to run it.
Agreed unanimously, SM to source a replacement laptop.

6 Outreach update
Mids Area have been very active working with the BMFA outreach programme, again mentioned our support at the latest Area Council meeting.
Emailing ALL Mids Area members asking for support for the Lincs Poacher scout jamboree resulted in more volunteers than were needed. Bypassing club secretaries appears to be an effective strategy.
Unclear if Mids STEM will be getting the same funding in 2027, BMFA Outreach Director will

contact us if help needed.
M Easton asked that JC contact Helen Jones (BMFA Outreach director), request she contact him re school programme.

7 Website update

CB has carried out an extensive update of our Area website, added new elements, removed some. Links all working, new version much more useful for members.
Several present thanked CB for the excellent work he has done.
CB has written a comprehensive document detailing what the new version of the website contains and how to use it. JC to circulate to all Mids Area members.

8 Achievement Scheme update

Joint Examiner day with East Anglia cancelled, zero interest from East Anglia.
Running a joint day with North Area in Spring '27. Phoenix club near Rotherham the venue.
Joint Examiner days something new, will see how the North/Mids one goes and look at doing similar days with NW and South Mids Areas.
Following Our Examiner day at Marston Green several discussion topics were identified in the open discussion. One was the lack of any mention of a throttle cut in the BMFA Handbook. This was raised at the ASRC and will be included in the Handbook from '27.

9 AOB

TB suggested we create an asset list of what the Mids Area actually has.
JC to email officers requesting details of any Mids Area property in their posession, to include serial numbers if appropriate.

Open day date for 2027, at present no confirmation of dates from Manny, historically the final calendar is not published and dates finalised yet.
JC to contact Manny, ask if he can at least give us a provisional date .

Comms update, since the recent BMFA web meltdown IONOS has become even more unreliable, now not sending to at least 3 different email providers instead of just refusing to send to Gmail.
JC to contact AS, see if he can restore the fixes that were in place.