

BJC Business Meeting 2013

14/4/2013, Chill Out Zone, BJC Pickering. Meeting started at 11:03am.

Meeting chaired by Lorri.

1. Did we have fun – YEAH!

2. Update on BJC 2013

842 people on site.

At the moment it looks like BJC 2013 will make a loss of approximately £5,000; please buy t-shirts, hoodies, DVD, left-over beer or anything you want to.

The organisers will be trying to reduce the loss to zero by fund-raising over the next 12 months. If your convention or local club has a surplus of funds and wants to help, it would be very much appreciated.

3. BJC 2014

No-one came forward with a firm bid for 2014.

There was a tentative not-quite-proposal from Nathan Rae who has a potential site in mind at Barnard Castle but cannot take the lead on running a BJC. Easter in Barnard Castle could be very cold so if the BJC happened there it would probably be a summer BJC. Sam Preston said Easter is more difficult for children as the holidays have not been aligned for a number of years. Some people questioned whether a summer BJC in the same year as an Irish based EJC might limit those who would attend both.

Jane Randall said she was happy to support or help recruit a team of people from around the UK. There was the possibility of going back to Harvey Hadden or Doncaster Dome, although no option has been investigated yet. People should Facebook Jane Randall (www.facebook.com/jane.randall2) if interested in being part of a BJC 2014 team.

Someone asked what people thought of not having a BJC in 2014 and just having the EJC in Ireland. It was felt that people wanted BJC to happen each year and were not keen on this suggestion.

AnnaBod said there are 3 or 4 people vaguely interested in running a BJC but strongly suggested people get involved in helping with a BJC before committing. This could include being part of an extended team for 2014.

It was suggested for marketing purposes we should compile a list of e-mails of past BJC attendees, by telling people when they pre-reg that their name will be added to a list unless they opted to be not included. Sam Preston volunteered to be the e-mail contact for this.

Each BJC could e-mail its past attendees to ask if they want to be e-mailed about future BJCs.

4. BJC 2015 & Future

Brian said he was interested in running a BJC in Belfast but asked whether people would go to BJC if it was held in Belfast before he starts making any plans. The idea was greeted with cheers and a show of hands suggested most people at the Business Meeting would attend. However, it was noted that attendees at the business meeting tend to be more 'hard core' and therefore more likely to attend a BJC regardless of where it is held. It was suggested that helping with a BJC before would be good for the Belfast team to gain experience. They would likely get assistance from the Belfast Convention Bureau.

Emily suggested if anyone wants to be on a BJC team they should look at the BJC wiki (or add to it) www.thebritishjugglingconvention.co.uk/wiki. Lorri suggested juggconorg Yahoo group was a good place for any convention organiser to get advice from other convention organisers <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jugconorg>.

Allan thought Martin Millard might be thinking of holding a BJC in Halifax.

Ron said that he wants to run a BJC but has no venue or team. He won't do it on his own though so will look for people and a venue over the next year with a view to putting in a bid for 2016 at next year's business meeting. It could be anywhere in the country (no venue in mind as yet) and it would be good to have other groups to bid against.

AnnaBod – make your BJC what you want it to be, eg Ceilidh, Post Office, Colouring Competition at BJC2013. Someone like Cindy at Nottingham to do decorations/nice finishing touches.

Jane said jugglers shouldn't just complain something needs doing at a BJC – they should do it. Suggestions for fun stuff are nice but essentials come first, so volunteer!

5. Thumbs up for BJC 2013

Lorri asked people what they had particularly liked about 2013. Responses included:

- The postcards (secret post service) – one card even got delivered to the lady at the garden centre across the road in just 3hrs
- Bar was good – this one from Ron ;)
- The board games area
- Tiff's band
- Public Show was amazing - *lots of applause at this time*
- Showers were excellent
- Toilet paper was plentiful – big thumbs up
- Juggling Live www.jugglinglive.com was fab
- The campsite shop was a great idea
- Renegade was very good this year
- Unicycle space was fab
- The Public show acts also performing in Renegade
- Having cashback available at the camp shop was good (Jak said it might be possible for BJC organisers to offer cashbank via phone banking but it would cost money)
- Claire said the new computerised reg-desk system designed by James was fantastic

- Great pass and it was good that it was also the show ticket
- The volunteer listing was excellent – and will be used at EJC 2014!
- AnnaBod – it was great they way everyone helped when BJC was in trouble – auction, raffle, donations, etc. Many, many thanks ☺
- Security guards were good – one even performed on Renegade; they also judged the colouring competition as well as doing their job
- Mugs and free tea were good
- Chairs and Chillout Zone were great
- Chairs were plentiful, lovely to have so much opportunity to sit down
- Quiet camping was good
- The sofas lent by Dove House Hospice www.dovehouse.org.uk were a nice touch (can give them a donation in bar)

– The people at the back of the meeting were having trouble hearing, so everyone moved forward –

- Alan (Love Waffles) thoroughly enjoyed BJC though it was very hard work. He thanked organisers
- Bar was awesome / Great having real ales
- Twitter feed www.twitter.com/BJC2013 was excellent and really should have been integrated with Facebook – Lorri explained Twitter and Facebook were done by different people but they would talk about how to do it for future years.
- Lorri mentioned the Mayor of Pickering was very excited about BJC2013, tweeting lots about it. BJC was on Radio Two as well as multiple papers, including the Northern Echo www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/10350196.Jugglers_circus_performers_and_balloon_modelers_arrive_for_annual_convention/
- Ladybird activities were good
- Ladybird were partying quite late in the quiet camping, although they had an 11pm curfew. Pete suggested telling people what time the noise will finish.

Suggestions for future years included:

- Early/late camping a good idea, rather than noisy/quiet
- Sam H – don't hire a venue with no furniture or you will have to hire all the furniture separately

Jane Randall repeated for the benefit of those who arrived late or hadn't been able to hear earlier that no-one had volunteered for 2014 but Nathan had suggested Barnard Castle as a possible venue. If anyone is interested in being involved as part of a team organising BJC 2014, whether it's in Barnard Castle/Harvey Hadden/Doncaster Dome or other, to contact her by Facebook (or other means?)

Amie Bridge said if you volunteer - do that job or give it back early (so somebody else can do it)

Lorri concluded the meeting by asking the attendees to show their appreciation to the organisers. There was then a sustained applause with a standing ovation for the organisers of BJC 2013. ☺

The meeting concluded at 11:40am.

There were 76 at the start of meeting, but another 20 or more arrived later.