

## **Background**

Audax UK has the power under its memorandum of association to affiliate to like-minded groups that share its principal objectives and which act in the interests of its members.

Two possible affiliations have recently been the subject of discussion among Board members, unusually in a public part of the AUK Forum (but none the worse for that), to Cycling Time Trials (CTT) and to Union des Audax Francais (UAF). See

<http://forum.audax.uk/index.php?topic=175.msg11241;topicseen - msg11241>

A third possibility has been suggested to me by a member, namely a club subscription to [ridewithgps.com](http://ridewithgps.com)

## **Affiliation to Cycling Time Trials (CTT)**

This would enable members to ride CTT time trials under the colours of Audax UK. It would demonstrate support for an organisation with whose aims we are broadly in sympathy, but it would also benefit members other than those who are already involved with TTs by encouraging them to participate or making it easier to do so. It would fit our strategic aim of improving member benefits.

## **Affiliation to Union des Audax Francais (UAF)**

This would enable AUK to regulate UAF brevets in which riders travel together in groups at a pace set by a captain. Distances and time limits are mostly similar to randonneur events which overwhelmingly form our main current interest. The demand for these events is untested in the UK but in 2014 the Board did agree a strong interest in their promotion. Having Brevet UAF events in the UK would increase the range of events available in the UK and would fit with the events strategy aim of having well organised events with good support in the calendar.

I understand that there is now a volunteer at Board level able and willing to proceed with discussions with UAF regarding affiliation and event organisation. Some possible minor amendments to AUK regulations and appendices have been discussed in the Forum thread noted above.

## **Club subscription to [ridewithgps.com](http://ridewithgps.com)**

A member has contacted me with a suggestion that Audax UK should consider taking out a club subscription to the popular mapping website [ridewithgps.com](http://ridewithgps.com).

He writes:

" On my travels I have become aware of an App called Ridewithgps and it's a cloud program. Many of our members use it to plan routes and a lesser number including myself use it to navigate on the bike.

I recently discovered that the Kiwi Randonneurs and the Australian clubs have opted for a club account which is \$250 US a year. This then provides all members of the club to be able to navigate via phone without an individual membership.

Therefore I was thinking of setting this up at least for riders entering my rides, and then they could gradually add audax rides to the account.

However on thinking it might be a better long-term idea for Audax UK to develop this. That would also encourage more members as only members would have the ability to navigate a route. It might be a good idea to trial this first or nominate a road club to manage it. So I'm wondering if Audax UK have some funds that may be used to trial this.

Obviously for the cost and potential memberships arising then it could be a profitable venture."

Details of club membership are at <https://ridewithgps.com/help/club-benefits/>

Briefly, while there are quite a few benefits possibly available to members, this particular member sees the main advantage as using the ridewithgps app for phone navigation. I don't know the full extent of how useful this might be but, as he says, it appears to have been adopted by others already.

I suspect that the administrative load to set this up and keep it running on the scale that we would need would be considerable.

### **Actions requested**

I would be grateful if the board would indicate its position regarding all the above.

Chris Crossland

12 July 2017