

Minutes of the 35th Audax UK AGM

Held at the Racecourse Centre, York on 26th November 2011.

The meeting started at 14:04 when Ian Hennessey welcomed everyone to the weekend. He read out a list of members who had passed on during the year, paying particular tribute to Pat Kenny, the long-standing Mileater champion before a one minute's silence was observed. He proposed John Ward should act as chairman during discussion of those motions in which he was involved. Keith Benton proposed it would be preferable for him to remain as Chairman to preserve impartiality, and for the seconder to speak for the motion. Seconded by Gerry Boswell and carried nem con.

- 1) Those present were asked to add their names to a list of attenders being circulated.
- 2) Apologies for absence had been received from S Carroll, L Creese, M Lewis, P Marshall, M Phillpotts and J Richardson.
- 3) Those present were asked to approve the minutes of the previous AGM. Sonya Crawford requested the letters "DIY" be added to her query in section 9. Following that small amendment, they were approved nem con.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) Officers' Reports were either published alongside the Agenda in *Arrivée* 114, or were available at the meeting in printed or verbal forms and will be published elsewhere in *Arrivée*.

Pam Pilbeam said that she had produced 20,000 cards for the season and had run out of 600km cards as the demand had been higher than expected. Both she and John Ward were using new equipment which was performing well.

Andy Clarkson noted a planned change to Perm measurements and the inclusion of Simon Ward to the DIY team had not yet taken place and asked for an update. John Ward explained both changes were in train. Roger Cortis wondered if there were any plans to spend the accumulated cash balances. Linda Johnston replied that they were there as a result of fiscal prudence by the whole Board and there were some large bills pending. M McGeever queried why LEL was again being subsidised. Danial Webb replied that it was not supposed to, and that it should make a profit. Roger Cortis, as LEL Finance Director, added that he had made detailed regular costings which had been shown to the Board. The intention was for the event to make a profit, but the outcome depended on rider numbers, so could not be guaranteed at this stage. Any final surplus would be used for the next running of the event in 2017. Ian Hennessey added that the figure in the accounts was essentially a loan for working capital which was expected to be repaid, though AUK would support the event as far as was necessary. Acceptance of the reports was proposed by Gerry Boswell, seconded by Roger Philo and approved nem con.

- 6) John Hamilton spoke for the proposal pointing out that events over 600km were not currently recognised in the current awards structure and hoped that this new award would lead to a greater number of 1000km rides being organised. It was noted that longer rides were recognised under the Brevet series and Dave Minter suggested such a series. JH confirmed to Roger Philo this award would be retrospective and to Rod Dalitz that all PBP anciens would be entitled to it. Sonya

Crawford did not like the title, so JH asked for alternative suggestions, but nothing suitable emerged. Aidan Hedley felt the additional award was unnecessary, a view supported by Andy Clarkson who also did not care for the title. Gerry Boswell proposed the challenge should have a different name, decided and approved by the committee. This was seconded by Roger Philo and approved nem con. Mel Kirkland complained there were very few 1000km events but Heather Swift noted out it could be an international event, and Mark Rigby pointed out that any 1200km ride would qualify. John Ward added that in the past season eight Perms of 1000km had been completed.

The amended proposal was approved by a large majority with 7 votes against.

7) Richard Phipps spoke for the proposal mentioning that although there was an excess of £250 on the club's new insurance policy, there was no legal route to allow the Board to reclaim this sum from the rider involved, though it was stressed, this would only be considered in cases of gross negligence. Mark Beauchamp asked if the full amount would be claimed, then Roger Cortis summarised the position. Peter Bond queried if it had happened previously and Pat Hurt queried non – residency. Roger Cortis mentioned negotiations were subject to some tight time pressures and that the insurance company was imposing standard conditions. Keith Benton proposed adding the sentence: "The Board reserves the right to recover this excess from the rider." Sheila Simpson seconded this and the amendment was approved by a margin of 27 / 21. Mark Rigby asked about foreign members then Ian Hennessey mentioned Roger Cortis would get the situation clarified by the broker. Mark also queried the proof required for negligence and was advised that it would be a committee decision. Aidan Hedley considered the topic was getting bogged down. Sheila Simpson explained the situation would be that AUK would receive the claim amount less the excess which would be reclaimed from the rider.

The amended proposal was approved by a large majority with 6 votes against.

8) Pam Pilbeam described the problems in receiving punctual results and the consequent short notice to invite prize winners to the weekend. These would be much reduced with a longer period between the end of the season and the awards ceremony. Peter Ralph enquired if this was to enable an earlier AGM and the reply was that this will indeed, be possible in the future. Roger Philo asked if October 2012 would be part of two seasons and was advised it would not be. After Peter Bond commented that the wording was unclear, Louise Rigby asked for confirmation that the current season had started on 1st November. Duly confirmed. Pauline Porter suggested it mainly benefitted organisers and Steve Poulton wanted the changeover season to last for twelve months. Andy Clarkson suggested computerisation would relieve the problem and preferred 30th Sept as the change-over date. Sonya Crawford suggested the AGM should revert to January, though this was not popular with the membership. Dave Minter queried why the problem had emerged now, to which Sheila Simpson suggested that previous results were probably not so accurate or up to date as we now have a system that can cope with the end of season volume. Even so, organisers should submit results punctually. Aidan Hedley feared the longer period may lead to less urgent submissions of results. Keith Harrison, as one of the Validators mentioned that the final result was the largest and on 5th Nov there were 5 events outstanding in which some 1000 riders had been riding.

Richard Phipps summarised the arguments and a vote approved the proposal by a margin of 27 – 21.

9) This proposal was seconded by Jackie Popland, to enable Ian Hennessey to remain as chairman (see above). The proposer, John Hamilton described the current situation in respect of time limits, taking the Bryan Chapman 600 as an example and proposed only one limit should apply in future. Keith Benton thought there was a discrepancy in the sentence to be deleted, which JH clarified. Peter Faulds as a previous beneficiary of this leniency wondered if it would be possible to run two events under different limits simultaneously. That is acceptable, provided that the rider specifies in advance which one should apply. Heather Swift's suggestion to enter both was immediately refused. Mark Rigby was concerned for those who had already entered the BCM 2012 and JH was quite happy for them to change their entry before the day. Shaun Gregory commented the time limit was known in advance.

The proposal was approved by a large majority with 6 votes against.

10) Mike Wigley amplified the rationale explaining that for many people 200km seemed too long and this proposal was an initial enabler. Sonya Crawford, who already organises a 160km event felt that reverting to miles was a retrograde step. Peter Cook felt the rule book was already too complicated and suggested such events could be run under existing regulations. Denise Noha queried the awards structure for such events, while Steve Abraham admitted to organising group Perms as he was unwilling to cope with the administration of Calendar rides. Rod Dalitz echoes Sonya's views while Keith Benton was not happy with the way the proposal was drawn and feared the lack of a top speed would make it a race. Mark Rigby was keen on expanding the "brand" but also was concerned that such events would become races with possible repercussions on an organiser's liability. Julian Dyson opined that too many regs allow non-Audacious rides while Dave Minter advised that Sportives were not considered races by the police. Steve Abraham proposed an amendment, explaining the reason as all such rides might be any distance above 100 miles, which was seconded by John Ward. Roger Cortis objected this amendment was inadmissible, but it was justified as not being substantive. Danial Webb also felt it was a significant change, but a vote accepted it by a clear majority. Keith Benton proposed an amendment that the committee be asked to consider the addition of this type of ride to the existing body of rides. This was seconded by Sonya Crawford, but the ensuing vote rejected it by 25 votes to 15. Back to the amended proposal, Andy Clarkson wondered why a new team was mentioned if no extra work was apparently needed.

The proposal was rejected by a large margin with just two votes in favour.

11) Jim Hopper proposed, seconded by Gerry Boswell, that all Directors offering themselves for re-election to the same posts be approved en bloc. Approved nem con.

Allan Taylor, who was standing as candidate for the position of Recorder to succeed Nev Holgate was introduced to the meeting and gave brief address about his life and activities.

He was then voted into the position nem con.

All continuing Directors were then elected to continue in their positions nem con.

12) Bob Bialek suggested winners retaining the trophies for their year. He also suggested the Directors read up on Company law which, he was advised, was in hand. Mike McGeever suggested organising some publicity rides and offered a

public apology to Bob Bialek for previous ill treatment. Keith Benton suggested those members who had endured Sporting Tours PBP trip write to complain about the standard of the organisation which would likely produce a refund. Jim Hopper thanked the committee and organisers for all the efforts over the past year. He also, in a very amusing speech congratulated Keith on being voted in as Vice-President of Randonneurs Mondiaux.

13) As the Racecourse Centre will be unavailable next year due to refurbishment, Pam has provisionally booked the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells for 16th – 18th Nov 2012. Price currently looks like £51.00 per night.

14) The meeting closed at 16:22.