

Minutes of the 34th Audax UK AGM

Held at the Racecourse Centre, York on 27th November 2010.

The meeting started promptly at 15:00 with Chairman Keith Benton welcoming all members to this, his last meeting as a committee member since 1987. Sadly, some members had passed away during the year and he mentioned in particular Neville Chanin who had often enlivened Annual Dinners as MC and Peter Stubbs, one of the original 16 founders of AUK. The full list of such members is as follows: Albery Ayton, Brenda Carlton, Neville Chanin, John Crampton, Steve Gray, Mike Grimmer, James Haggarty, Allan Ingham, John Keenan, Bob Maitland, Ian Mashen, Theresa McHugh, Peter Stubbs & Gary Woodhead. We are sorry to lose them and extend our condolences to their friends and families. He also mentioned John Bedford, a long-time organiser of the Shenstone rides who was retiring from organising due to poor health.

Reverting to the first part of his review, DKB mentioned that Bry Ferguson, a former Brevet Card Production Secretary, who had passed away in 2005 had bequeathed £2,000.00 to AUK; £1,000 to be used to purchase champagne, or some other suitable wine for committee meetings to "assist in their deliberations." The remaining £1,000 is to be used to purchase champagne for each of the individual trophy winners.

- 1) Those present were asked to add their names to a list of attenders being circulated.
- 2) Apologies for absence had been received from P Coates, M Lewis, P Baker, P Bond, S Carroll, D Hudson, P Hutchinson, P Porter, S Poulton & A Seviour.
- 3) Those present were asked to approve the minutes of the previous AGM. Proposed by Gerry Boswell, seconded by Danial Webb. Carried nem con.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) Officers' Reports were either published alongside the Agenda in *Arrivée* 110, or were available at the meeting in printed or verbal forms and will be published elsewhere in *Arrivée*.

LJ read her report (already printed). Reid Anderson queried why payments to AUK could not be made by Direct Debit. LJ promised to investigate and revert. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Lucy M^cTaggart, seconded by Julian Dyson and approved nem con.

RP read his report also already printed, but had nothing further to add. There were no questions arising and acceptance of the report which was proposed by Roger Philo and seconded by Julian Dyson was approved nem con.

PP advised having produced nearly 18,000 Brevet cards. A new photocopier had been bought which had been a great benefit. In addition, the card ordering system had been further automated by Pete Coates to simplify the procedure and initial trials undertaken. Mark Rigby (an organiser participating in the trials) queried whether Accident Reports were not required if the appropriate box on the form had been ticked. PP confirmed this was, indeed, the case. Reid Anderson queried a difference in production costs from the previous year which PP advised was as a

result of the cost of the new copier. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Peter South, seconded by Chris Crossland and approved nem con.

PM advised having received many queries about a certain French event. Though we currently know no more now than a year ago about ACP's proposed quota limit on entries, all is due to be revealed on 15 Jan 2011. He gave details on some changes to start times and noted entry would be via the PBP website, with on-line payment being likely, so his role would be largely one of checking. Chris Davies queried whether the 4 o/c start for 80 hr riders was am or pm and the latter was confirmed. Acceptance of the report was proposed by John Radford, seconded by Rich Forrest and approved nem con.

JW's report was distributed at the meeting and is printed elsewhere in this issue. There were no queries arising, and acceptance of the report which was proposed by Jackie Popland and seconded by Gerry Boswell was approved nem con.

DW supplemented his printed report with thanks to organisers for their help in submitting details promptly for the BRM calendar. He noted a good choice of qualifying 600s while bemoaning a relative dearth of 300s. The Mille Cymru 1000 was praised as being the season's highlight with 53 finishers from 73 starters. Referring to the decline in numbers, Chris Davies suggested marketing Audax more. DW agreed, suggesting possible alternative ways. David Duffield commented he no longer subscribed to Cycling Weekly which was giving greatest prominence to Cyclo-Sportives, as these events generated most profit to the publishers. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Edwin Hargraves, seconded by Ian Hennessey and approved nem con.

IH mentioned having placed an advertisement in the CTT Handbook and noted a recent increase in cycling magazines, with much overlapping territory, causing apprehension about their longer term viability. He also advised there are plans afoot to increase AUK's profile with the help of one of our members who is employed by a PR company. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Danial Webb, seconded by Nev Holgate and approved nem con.

SS had nothing to add to her previously printed report. There was some concern that the Handbook would be discontinued in hard copy form. Reid Anderson wanted a debate with the membership whether this item should continue to be produced. SS replied it was not likely to be an imminent change and welcomed members' discussion. She then agreed with Mike M'Geever's suggestion to amend the contents to include more advice and helpful tips to rookie members on riding Audax events. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Reid Anderson, seconded by Jackie Popland and approved nem con.

PC, in his absence, provided a written report (printed elsewhere) on his activities during the year. There were no questions arising, but JW paid grateful tribute to his assistance in that period. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Don Black, seconded by Mark Beauchamp and approved nem con.

SG/KH were also grateful for PC's efforts in generating the start list generator. Their report (printed elsewhere) showed an overall decline in the annual number of events ridden. Julian Dyson requested membership statistics categorised by age, which DW offered to supply. Sonya Crawford asked for an "idiot's guide" to produce labels from the start sheet. David Duffield suggested identifying and targeting the appropriate market. Aidan Hedley, having helped with the Chevy Chase events suggested

facilitating organisers' publicity. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Roger Philo, seconded by Colin Bezant and approved nem con.

NH distributed a short report (printed elsewhere) showing no problems in his area. He also emphasised the importance of punctuality in submitting results in a PBP year. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Chris Crossland, seconded by John Ward and approved nem con.

MW added to his printed report by thanking his team – Ian Hobbs, Don Black, Dave McKenzie, Findlay Watt and Nik Windle for their hard work. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Peter South, seconded by John Radford and approved nem con.

DW gave a LEL 2013 Progress Report. It had been a busy year: the start had been booked at the Davenant school, Loughton. The route has been changed to include a crossing of the Humber Bridge and the out/back route through Scotland changed to a loop to showcase more of that country's scenery. Controls this time will be at secondary schools, rather than village halls to cater for a larger field size. Anyone with queries about the event should contact him (DW) Gerry Boswell commented that having been a Thurlby controller in 2009 and likely Spalding controller in 2013, he was delighted at the far better facilities there. Mike M^cGeever suggested a levy or advance payment to eliminate the effective subsidy previously enjoyed by LEL riders. DW replied the budget had been scrutinised several times and there was no need for such measures. On his enquiry, Edwin Hargraves was advised the limit on riders had not yet been finalised.

6) Mike Wigley spoke in support of the proposal, mentioning the average age of members when joining the club is 46, with the average age of the whole membership being 54. Jim Hopper's inclination was to scrap the concession entirely. Mark Beauchamp queried whether there was a formula for profitability. SS replied the cost was being met from subscriptions. Norman Maggs mentioned the TA had rescinded a similar concession, while Rod Dalitz noted the IET had raised their qualifying period of employment from 25 to 50 years. Edwin Hargraves pointed out members could continue to pay full price, with the excess treated as a donation. On a show of hands the meeting voted to approve the proposal, with just a single dissenter.

7) After a procedural query from the floor, DW submitted an amended proposal to change Regulation 5.8 as follows: "Brevet Cards shall be available to entrants for all AUK events. Where Brevet Cards are used, these will be issued before an event. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure the safe keeping of the card and that it is properly filled in at each control with arrival time, control stamp and the controller's initials, or with the required information in the case of Information Controls." After Reid Anderson had checked this change answered all of his previously expressed misgivings, Steve Snook spoke to second the proposal. The vote was again overwhelmingly in favour with, again, a single dissenter.

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

Subsequently, John Hamilton was elected as Events Secretary and Danial Webb who had previously held that position, was elected as Publicity Secretary, both nem con.

Reid Anderson, recalling the first election of the retiring Chairman noted that both candidates had made an address outlining their vision for the future of AUK and requested the sole candidate do likewise. IH spoke briefly stressing his commitment to core values. The meeting then elected him to his new position nem con.

9) AOB Sonya Crawford queried a decision preventing her, as an organiser, from riding another event while her own was in progress. DW didn't think any of the protocols required change, but maintained that such decisions would be taken by the Events team very much on a case by case basis. Edwin Hargraves enumerated some problems faced by rookie organisers. Paul Stewart suggested on-line assistance. With reference to inappropriately sized envelopes (one such problem) PP recalled an instance when Dave Hudson had received a wholly inadequate envelope for a 600 routesheet. This was duly despatched, having been photo-reduced well past the limit of legibility, with a polite note suggesting that a larger envelope be sent if the rider needed to rely on those instructions! Gerry Boswell cited cases of insufficient postage resulting in a Post Office penalty charge. John Hamilton invited people who wanted improvements in his area of operations to contact him direct. Sonya Crawford extolled the convenience of (organiser's) standard size envelopes, once the labels had been printed. Chris Davies suggested the Southern 24 hour Time Trial to make PBP seem like an easy ride!

10) PP was concerned that the four week period between the end of the riding season and the AGM / Dinner / Prize Presentation was too short and, as later meetings had proved unpopular, suggested that consideration should be given to bringing the riding year forward by a month to start on 1st October annually. In the ensuing informal discussions it was established that the club's financial year already ended on 31st August so would be unaffected by such a change (though would increase pressure on the Treasurer to prepare the accounts punctually.) Though no change to the current season was possible, there was general approval for change in the future. Equally, as evidenced by a straw poll there was general satisfaction with the venue (though hardly a disinterested group of members.) PP mentioned that, surprisingly, no other racecourse had similar facilities.

Following the end of the discussions, Jim Hopper proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their efforts.

11) The meeting closed at 16:55.

(Sec's note) The venue for the next AGM has provisionally been booked at the same venue for the weekend of 26/27th Nov 2011.

Although the general feelings of the meeting have hopefully been recorded accurately, as a group of some 90 members, it may not truly reflect the wishes of the approx 4,500 members as a whole. Accordingly we want to know your views on the subject of Life Members, the timings of the end of the season and the AGM, so please write to Sheila or any of the committee to enable us to gauge the overall feeling of the Club. In addition if you have any ideas about future venues, Pam is sure to welcome any suggestions for suitable places.