

Minutes of the 34th Audax UK AGM

Held at the Racecourse Centre, York on 28th November 2009.

The meeting started at 15:02 with Chairman Keith Benton welcoming all members to the meeting. Unfortunately, since the last meeting we had been advised of the loss of fifteen members who were Naomi Archer, Paul Dugher, Michael Frow, Tony Leach, Bernard Mawson, Richard Miall, Andrew Montgomery, David Pearson, Laurie Pither, Mandy Sankey, Robin Smith, Phil Turner, Keith Wawman, David Woodward and Alan Young. We are sorry to lose them and extend our condolences to their friends and families.

He singled out Bernard for special mention as the Club's President d'Honneur and first organiser of London – Edinburgh – London in 1989. This event had been run again in 2009, though not organised by AUK, and he admitted with hindsight possibly the committee should have been more closely involved. Even so, it had proved successful due to the volunteers to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. A list of these helpers should appear elsewhere in this issue. He also gave notice that he would not be offering himself for re-election at the next AGM, which would be after his 70th birthday, to make way for a younger successor.

- 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 Baker, N Chanin and A Uttley.
- 3) Those present were asked to approve the minutes of the previous AGM. Proposed by Lucy McTaggart, seconded by Julian Dyson. Carried nem con.
- 4) There were no matters arising.
- 5) Officers' Reports were either published alongside the Agenda or were available at the meeting in printed or verbal forms and will be published elsewhere in Arrivé.

RP had nothing to add to the report printed in A106. PP read her report which had been distributed at the meeting. PM advised ACP had announced possible limits on PBP 2011 numbers, giving as full details as were currently known of the quotas. Much is still unknown – possibly still undecided –and he will update everyone in January when further details are due to be announced. Sonya Crawford asked whether Scotland would be separated in the national quotas. PM considered this unlikely. Ivo Miesen commented that from a wider European perspective, his impression was that AUK was the best prepared, while the Germans had been caught napping. JW read his report (not the one printed in A106) highlighting the growth in DIY Perms. IH mentioned he was continuing advertorials in Cycling Weekly to raise our profile and there was a spread in the CTT Handbook opposite the 24 hour page. SS as Publications Manager mentioned the continued improvement in picture quality in Arrivé, but bemoaned the decrease in correspondence (Letters to the Editor). Mike McGeever queried possible use of forum correspondence, and SS pointed out this presented the difficulty of obtaining writers' permission, but also such items tended to be hastily and intemperately composed. NH had nothing to add to his piece in A106. SG/KH read their report

showing the number of validated Brevets was 18,087 (the third highest ever) though the definition initiated by Bernard Mawson, only semi seriously, of “long distance” was down from 185KM in 2001 to 179.88KM now.

Approval of the reports was proposed by Chris Crossland, seconded by Pauline Porter and carried nem con.

5a) The Treasurer’s report was treated separately and Pauline Porter queried what the LEL loss represented. RT explained it was to assist with initial cash flow. John Hopper felt we had a right to know how our money was being spent. Melita Luxton explained the money had been spent on pre-event publicity, a banner for the event at the stand at PBP and her expenses to attend that event. In addition, these funds were used to establish the LEL logo. In the following discussion, it emerged that funds had been set aside for LEL over the past several years, and that no accounts had been received from previous events. Bob Harber suggested putting the item on the balance sheet as intellectual property. RT countered it was unquantifiable and after the suggestion was put again, pointed out there were no tangible assets.

Approval of the reports was proposed by Jackie Popland, seconded by Mark Brooking and carried nem con.

7) The order of the agenda was changed to discuss the two items concerning a co-operative joint venture next and as the motions were interdependent, Tommy Long first requested brief details of the proposed plans for the event. DW introduced the other members of the proposed sub-committee (Sue Gatehouse, Keith Harrison, Paul Stewart, John Hamilton and Roger Cortis.) giving a brief overview of their preliminary intentions and investigations. Bob Harber thanked Danial for the overview, and then having established it was necessary to have a company for each event rather than a continuing vehicle, withdrew the motion on behalf of Tommy and himself.

6) RT spoke on behalf of the motion which was being presented to alert the membership of the potential risks and to gain approval to organise the event. It was envisaged running the event through a wholly owned subsidiary, LEL 2013, to limit losses to AUK who would retain control through the proposed organising sub-committee. Francis Cooke was not in favour of organising the event, believing it was diverting AUK from core values. He felt that a large LEL was likely to be a financial black hole and was concerned that authorities such as the local police forces would get involved which would inevitably lead to their interference in shorter events. Aidan Hedley wanted a better, if smaller event and Damon Peacock queried how ACP handled their event. SS explained that ACP was a small club and their situation was completely different – they worked with the French Cycling Federation and the local mayors who held virtually all of the power in their area. Edwin Hargraves agreed with the suggested structure, wanting open organisation. Pauline Porter wanted to proceed under AUK’s control. As some of the discussion was tending to impose restrictions on the team, Andy Clarkson (subsequently supported by John Hopper) reminded the meeting that the motion concerned only a transfer of authority to run the event. Sonya Crawford queried why it was bad for the authorities to get involved.

The proposal, when put to the vote was overwhelmingly carried, with two against and five abstentions.

9) Chris Crossland proposed, seconded by Gerry Boswell, that all continuing directors plus the Events and Membership Secretaries be voted in en bloc.

Carried nem con.

DKB advised that at the time of printing the Agenda, negotiations for the vacant Treasurer's post had not been finalised, but there was now one candidate, Linda Johnston, who was being proposed by Ritchie Tout and seconded by Dave Pilbeam. RT introduced her to the meeting and spoke briefly in her favour before she gave a short address. FC enquired whether corporate governance was to be devolved. RT replied it was basically a box-ticking exercise, needing just fifteen minutes.

On a show of hands, the appointment was approved, nem con.

10) Pauline Porter asked if we would copy the CTC in converting to a charity. RT replied that he had investigated and it was largely a tax issue so the conversion was not suitable for AUK.

Mark Rigby suggested riders on events carried personal medical information in case of accident. Sonya Crawford thought in the light of her nursing experience that it was each individual's responsibility to make appropriate arrangements. Louise Rigby supported Mark's approach. Chris Crossland believed we should not release confidential information, while Aidan Hedley suggested reminding riders of their responsibilities with the mailed event details. Pauline Porter agreed it was personal responsibility. Keith Harrison noted that boxes were available on Brevet cards for such details, but said that when he had suffered an accident (not during an Audax event) he had been separated from his personal effects when a passer-by had taken his bike for safe-keeping and he was then unable to contact Sue.

In a section reserved for LEL 2009 Chris Bolton considered it an enjoyable event and a great success a verdict agreed by Denise Hurst. As a controller, Gerry Boswell accepted the thanks and thanked the riders in turn for keeping him awake! Pauline Porter had felt shattered after the event and had taken two weeks to recover. Edwin Hargraves thought it was generally enjoyable and praised the controls. Andy Clarkson found one aspect totally unacceptable – the weather! Ivo Miesen thanked Melita for her efforts in organising the event and Jim Hopper (no relation to John) thanked all the volunteers.

11) No venue has yet been chosen. Steve Poulton suggested other racecourses be researched as possible venues. Sonya Crawford approved of the central location and Andy Clarkson mentioned that some similar events retain the same venue year after year. Finally Pauline Porter thanked all those who had helped in any way during the year.

The meeting closed at 16:54.