

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "HOTEL IBIS"
BIRMINGHAM ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The meeting started at 09:02

PRESENT: IH, PC, SG/KH, JH, LJ, PM, RP, PP, SS, AT, JW & MW.
There were no apologies for absence.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record. (Prop: SG, Sec: MW.

MATTERS ARISING: In the ensuing check on action points, RP agreed to resend details of an outdated entry form to PC for it to be replaced by the current version.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS: MW gave current breakdown of membership statistics showing a total of 4986 members including Barry Parslow an AUK founder who is now an Honorary Life Member. There have been some problems with non-receipt (discarding?) of loose attachments mailed with Arrivé and the same fate may befall the renewal form due with the next issue. A note in JaM was offered, but will probably be too late. Mike has done a lot of housekeeping tidying up the membership data in the hope of a smoother renewal process next year. Don Black has now left the team and there are no plans to replace him in view of the anticipated move to on-line renewals and a reduced workload. Any members who continue to underpay by Standing Order, despite many reminders will have their membership suspended until the full subscription is received. ACTION: RP

PC reported few problems apart from one involving a reallocated membership number. Little system development has been done because of pressure of other work. JW provided details of Perm validations approved totalling 2,623 broken down by distance. Approximately half of these were DIYs, 200 of which attracted AAA points which were added to the records. There were just 100 ECE rides.

JH advised having received many e-mails via the "Contact Us" facility which should have been sent to other committee members and suggested a couple of updates. With the increase in on-line entries, individual organisers are developing their own particular strategies and he suggested a review of the entry process to identify a common protocol suitable for both organisers and entrants. His priorities for the next year are to develop the Event Planner as procedures have moved on, and some significant changes are needed. He also intends to create an Events Delegates' Manual to retain a common approach after a recent high turnover of personnel.

SK noted that the total validations of 13,953 up to August showed an increase of 4.87% on the previous year. There have been no problems with late submission of results and the start/finish list generator has enabled electronic data transfer to the Recorder, saving time and postage costs. On the other hand, the error rate on the Organisers' Returns is very high, so SG/KH are having to chase 3-4 organisers each week for underpayments, as the £7 event registration fee is causing much confusion.

New distance medals have been ordered and are expected imminently. Pictures of the new designs were shown to the meeting which were favourably received and in view of the more competitive cost of these, it was agreed to sell them to riders for £2.00 each with the organisers continuing to keep 25p per medal. New Grimpeur medals are also on order and the same prices will apply once they are received. To match the 100km cloth badges ordered previously, they will shortly need to order other distance versions. These will also benefit from a price reduction, being priced at

£1.00 with the organiser retaining 20p. From the start of the 2012/13 season a new validation sticker will be used for both Calendar and Permanent events displaying the new red/blue logo.

AT noted a continuing flow of requests for various insignia. Some riders have had overseas events added to their palmars after evidence of successful completion has been provided. Relations with ACP have been good, as have their response times for validations, though the Easter Arrow ones have – as usual – been very slow. The Recorder has been added to the “Contact Us” facility on the website, but Allan echoed John H’s suggestion of additional guidance to correspondents.

RP reported an uneventful quarter then requested pre AGM details from other committee members. There was also a request to send reports etc for *Arrivée* to Maggie Lewis asap. Neither PM nor PP had anything out of the ordinary to report. LJ confirmed that a letter of acknowledgement had been received from Marie Curie Cancer Care thanking us for the donation in Rocco’s memory. She also wanted to record formally her thanks to Bill Carnaby, who has now retired, for his help over many years with the returns.

LEL UPDATE: The website is proving popular, with few queries arising, which is good. The entry system is being developed with a view to accepting entries from 5th Jan 2013. The design of the routecard is finalised, but waterproof paper is not a satisfactory option, so it will have a wallet to protect it. The jersey design is complete (apart from a LRM panel – see later discussions.) Supplies of bidons and inflatable beds have been identified. Work on controls is continuing with more handovers completed. The team are hopeful they have a full complement of controllers and another meeting is due in York in mid-October. Helpers are volunteering gradually; a second newsletter will be sent shortly with a meeting also in October. John H is intending to ride the route early on October to finalise it ahead of volunteers checking it. Event details have been sent to County Councils with varying degrees of efficiency at their end. Progress updates are being sent to *Arrivée*, the usual social media sites and on-line cycle forums. A meeting with *Cycling Plus* is scheduled and an advert with some copy for *Cycle* is under consideration. Finances are healthy with just under £4,500 in credit after anticipated payments. Two spreadsheets were included in the report showing a profit with 750 riders participating, but a small loss with just 600 riders, though the feeling at the meeting was that there would be no difficulty in reaching the higher figure. The forecast projections have been revised in several areas and fixing the level of the entry fee, given the uncertainty about the volume of entries and possible price sensitivity will be a fine judgement. Danial emphasised that the inclusive nature of that fee should be stressed in all discussions about it. Insurance is still a problem: while the AUK policy is available for an additional premium, cover for overseas riders is unavailable, necessitating a check that all such riders sign a declaration they have their own cover.

The report was very well received and praised as a model example. At this point, pictures of the proposed RM logo to appear on the jersey were shown to the meeting and the design enthusiastically approved. AUK are happy to pay for the cost of designing this as the sum involved does not warrant an argument with LRM. RP was concerned that an event organised by a Ltd Co would require a separate insurance policy and LJ was unhappy this event was being added to the events covered. RP to write to DW to request arranging a separate policy. ACTION: RP

DISTANCE MUDGUARD STICKERS: After some discussion MW agreed to investigate sourcing mudguard stickers similar to the new design badges. The post of publicity secretary is currently vacant and previous expressions of interest do not

seem likely to produce a successor. Car window stickers were suggested as an aid to increasing brand awareness of Audax as a type of cycling activity. Having stressed the importance of emphasising cycling as our core activity, PP offered to research, in tandem with JW available merchandising products and prices with a view to reporting their findings to the next meeting. ACTION: PP, JW & MW

AWARDS: Following a small number of nominations from the Club's members with some additions from the committee, the following names were approved in the ensuing discussions:

Services to AUK (Norman Booth Cup):	Steve Abraham
Helpers' Award:	Norfolk Good Nat 400 team
Male Merit:	Martin Malins
Female Merit:	Ann Marshall
Organiser's Award:	Graeme Wyllie

REGULATIONS: The proposed new regulations and appendices previously circulated were discussed in detail to eliminate problems such as incorrect cross-references, to achieve maximum clarity and, as far as possible, retain their existing intention and spirit. It was suggested that in view of the idiosyncratic nature of DIY events that blank risk assessment forms be sent to entrants.

As PM is standing down from his post of International Events Secretary and ACP Correspondant, the former part of that job is to be allowed to lapse since all of the information is now available on the Internet. The workload of the latter part (ACP Correspondant) while having diminished substantially is still required. IH is happy to add that function to his existing one as chair and will stand at the AGM for approval by the membership. He is being proposed by PM and seconded by LJ.

APPEAL AGAINST NON-VALIDATION OF A RIDE: An appeal by Mike Lane against a refusal to validate his Reservoir Triple ride which was not completed within the published time limit for that event was disallowed as there had been neither unforeseeable events nor external problems. However, as he had been part way on the recovery to full health and fitness following an accident, and had been riding a borrowed, unfamiliar machine, the meeting felt his attempt at this ride embodied the true spirit of Audax. He should therefore be commended for that aspect of the ride, but reversing the original decision would be unfair to other members who had finished out of time. ACTION: RP

MILEATER: A new supply of Mileater medals has been bought, landing the Treasurer with an unexpected bill for £1,330.00. Future expenditure of all types, other than regularly occurring items must be approved in advance of ordering. In this particular instance, the cost to the participants of a diary and medal was £8.00. This is now insufficient to recover current costs, and a break-even price is likely to cut off demand entirely, so Mileater diaries will be priced at £4.00 and medals when required are to be £10.00. The whole topic of ancillary challenges and awards, such as the FWC and AAA schemes are to be discussed at a future meeting.

AOB: LJ checked the plans for all directors to attend the AGM as there had been instances where booking was assumed to be unnecessary. KH mentioned the new validation stickers for the new season. As previously mentioned, the £7 minimum charge for Brevet cards had been unsuccessful and problematic and should be discussed further in 2013. A working party had already been set up to consider this as part of a larger review. There was another plea for the "Contact Us" facility to be improved. PP mentioned it was time to renew Brevet card design suggesting the

task be passed to either the designer of the new logo or the one used for LEL. In view of the tight time scale, she and JW will investigate and report back to the next meeting. . ACTION: PP, JW.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS: The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells on Saturday 17th November 2012 at 9:00.

The meeting closed at 14:25.