

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "HOTEL IBIS"
BIRMINGHAM ON 14TH JUNE 2012

The meeting started at 10:31

Present: IH, SG/KH, LJ, RP, SS, AT, JW & MW.

Apologies for absence: PC, PM & PP (Apologies received from all)

The meeting was started on a sombre note by IH mentioning the very recent demise of Rocco Richardson, a previous AUK Chairman and now Vice President. A minute's silence was observed to allow those who knew him to recall privately their memories of him.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2012 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: None

OFFICERS' REPORTS: SS and PP each had little to report for the quarter. AT had experienced a few problems with lapsed members (now sorted) and had established a good liaison with ACP enabling further detail improvements to the joint validation process.

MW gave a detailed breakdown of the membership showing a current total of 4500. He showed how much the recent increase in postal charges would affect us, pointing out that overseas members' subscriptions did not cover these costs, suggesting the overseas postal supplements for back issues of *Arrivée* be increased by £1. At the same time he put forward a simplified charging structure for badges and mudguard stickers he mailed out. The question of postage costs of *Arrivée* to overseas members which are not being covered by the supplementary membership subscription was discussed, and in view of the Club's current financial position and the small number of members involved, it was decided to make no change for the moment. He is updating the list of CTC groups with some input from Bob Kynaston. Some lapsed members are causing problems by quoting MemNos as if they were current. The prefixes show as red on the start sheet and should be queried with MW for the current position.

PC has taken action to prevent improper use of the website for entry forms and has otherwise only been responding to members' problems and enquiries.

JH again had little to report, showing total number of events planned as 527 which was very similar to the same time in the previous 4-yearly cycle. He does not intend to continue in this role after the AGM as having insufficient time to devote to the task.

He mentioned in addition to his written report he had found little interest in organising a National 400 in 2013. IH thought he might be able to arrange with Jamie Andrews to offer his Avalon Sunrise 400 if he could muster a suitable team of helpers. It was felt to be important to run such an event to maintain the momentum started by SG/KH and alternative locations were mentioned for subsequent runnings; apart from Norfolk and Devon already mentioned North and West Yorkshire were possible candidates, the idea being to offer variety for the riders and spread the load for the helpers. Routes should not be excessively challenging to ensure riders were encouraged to return to enjoy other events.

SG/KH noted that validations were proceeding very much as previously, typically being processed in a week. No change, either, to a few late submissions from the usual suspects. They complained that riders on some events with postal finishes were returning cards for validation very late resulting in extra work for the Validators and sometimes ACP as well. SS cited one example received wholly outside the time limit which will have validation refused for that reason. A time limit is to be specified on the information circulated to riders (48 hrs is common, but 15 days is the regulation limit for Perms.) Whichever period is adopted for an event, it must be enforced and RP will mention in JaM to encourage punctuality. ACTION: RP

LJ also had little to report other than having received no expenses claim in the current financial year from PP.

RP likewise had experienced a routine quarter other than a complaint about rider behaviour (discussed later under its own topic.)

JW has validated 1474 rides with submissions being increasingly computerised. There are still several requested IT enhancements to be completed. ACTION: PC

LEL 2013 UPDATE: Danial's LEL report was reviewed which showed solid progress on several fronts by many people. Almost all the controls have been booked and apparently in at least one instance a reference was requested. IH suggested the CTC and SG volunteered to relay the information to Danial. A Controllers' meeting has taken place which was successful in covering a lot of topics. The route is generally in good shape, but will need tweaking as it passes through a couple of town centres. The website is now live (with a couple of foreign language versions) and is generating much interest. SS wants AUK regulations linked to it for the benefit of overseas riders who are not aware of our rules. Support vehicles are now being banned, under threat of rider disqualification from a larger portion of the route to avoid congestion. The importance of T-shirts for helpers was emphasised, partly as a gesture of thanks, but mainly so that tired riders could easily identify the crew. On the financial side, the PayPal account to receive entry fees is now open and the updated cash flow projection for the event indicates some of the previous estimates were overly conservative showing a potential increased surplus (but still subject to further change.)

REVIEW OF REGS AND INSURANCE: Following a review of parts of the Club's Regulations and Guideline updated versions were discussed in detail. The amended versions will be discussed again at the next meeting with a view to presenting them to the next AGM for adoption. The term "Guidelines" is to be replaced by "Appendices" as most of these latter expand on a Regulation, but there is no optional element involved. Currently, Guidelines may be introduced or amended by the Board without reference to the members and a standing proposal is intended to be presented at each future AGM to ratify any such amendments in the previous available year. There was a long discussion about the schizophrenic nature of the AGM now that the Club has limited liability status, necessitating a separate AGM for Company and Club business. In practice, they are likely to be run as immediately consecutive events.

A query emerged whether the R&SA insurance cover extended to the Isle of Man. RP believed it did, but promised to check (it does.) LJ complained that the system had recently not supplied the current version of the entry form (Dec 2011). This is to be investigated and updated. ACTION: RP, PC

PERSONNEL MATTERS: Danial Webb has tendered his resignation from the post of Publicity Secretary to concentrate on his LEL workload. IH is happy to cover the job on a temporary basis and an advertisement is to be placed in *Arrivée* for a full-time successor. JH has indicated he is reluctant to stand again as Events Secretary at the next AGM as he feels unable to devote the requisite amount of time to the job. Tony Greenwood has offered to take on the task and is likely to need to be mentored initially in view of his comparative lack of experience. PM has also reported he will not be standing a ACP Correspondant and International Events Secretary. IH again is happy to take on this post, which is far less busy than previously. Having attended various ACP functions he feels that club will welcome the continuity he will bring to the post. As it is envisaged the job should be combined with that of Chairman – at least for the current incumbent – a proposal to this effect is to be put to the next AGM.

RIDER COMPLAINT: A complaint received from an organiser about a rider's conduct was circulated. RP advised that Chris Crossland as CTC West Yorks chair (the rider's local group) had organised a meeting with him, pointed out his behaviour was unacceptable and produced a set of guidelines for the future. It was agreed that sanctions would not be helpful on this occasion and RP will write to the rider after liaising with Chris advising this decision and warning that no repetition would be tolerated.

ACTION: RP

STRATEGIC REVIEW: AT went through his prepared strategic plan for the next few years, starting with an introduction and brief history up to the current position where there is an annual increase in assets without any definite plan to use them to promote long-distance cycling.

SS opined we should concentrate on BRM events (essentially > 200KM) with JH agreeing the Calendar had too many events. This had the advantage of attracting more riders but leads inevitably to smaller fields on events. JW suggested a good (geographical?) spread of long Permanent events while long Calendar events were generally also seen as desirable. He had mentioned at the end of his quarterly report he thought there should be further separation between BP and BR/BRM events, with a reduced level of route integrity on the former set of shorter rides. No change is envisaged for the longer events. An additional trophy for AAA points restricted to BR and BRM events was also proposed. Generally there was agreement that we should spend the accumulated cash reserves (though not necessarily all at once!) and approval is to be sought from the AGM for authority for such expenditure, even if such approval is strictly necessary only for the sake of transparency. Some organisers will benefit from new events being financially underwritten (such a facility has long been available) and this is likely to be particularly helpful in areas not currently well served. In some instances organisers will benefit more from practical help. It was suggested that organisers talents could be pooled for some events; Windsor – Chester – Windsor, for instance was a multi-organiser event. Alternatively there could be rides or other facilities for organisers to meet in groups to develop best practice across a wider range.

Advertising for individual events is needed to increase fields with the name and logo of Audax UK given prominence to increase brand recognition. SS repeated a request to place an ad for LEL in *Cycle*. Events should be well publicised; local bike shops and cycling clubs are good targets, possibly with a degree of reciprocity and cycling forums are useful adjuncts for a generally receptive audience. Research in *Arrivée* on riders' habits should produce further suggestions for improvement. Ultimately, though, there are many factors outside our control, most obviously the weather (forecast.)

Other organisations have seen good results from an increased investment in IT. An upgraded website was suggested as a possibility to increase participation and communication with members, but it was not known whether PC would be happy to delegate and monitor progress on such a project

LINDA PERKIN: This rider has recently been in touch with KH. Having entered LEL 2009 she advised Melita of her inability to start due to injury and was promised a refund of the entry fee and payments for shirts and a DVD. This refund has not so far materialised and she was enquiring about progress on her claim. As she is intending to ride LEL 2013 instead, barring accidents, it was decided to offer her free entry to that event. Should that be unacceptable, an ex-gratia payment would be considered, subject to further discussion.

BADGES: SG/KH displayed some sample badges bearing the new logo which elicited a favourable response. They are likely to cost 50p and be sold for £1. (Price reduction!) They also showed some key rings of this design to be given to all successful riders on their National 400 event. New medals with this design are also being sourced although prices are not currently known. It was also agreed that a new supply of FWC and ISR badges needed by RP would be funded by AUK with monies received from sales being periodically refunded.

AOB: The new system of instant validation at the end of events where trialled is popular with organisers but will remain an entirely voluntary option.

As a large club we have been offered a page on the CTC website.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS: Arranged for the Hotel Ibis, Birmingham on Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 18:00 and 09:00 on 27th September.

The meeting closed at 16:48 pm.