



MINUTES FOR THE AUK BOARD MEETING
HELD via TELECONFERENCE
on 14 APRIL 2021 STARTING AT 09.00.

PRESENT:

Chris Crossland (“CC”) (Chairman)
John Sabine (“JS”)
Graeme Provan (“GP”)
Caroline Fenton (CF”)
Ian Hennessey (“IH”)
John Ward (“JW”)
Daniel Smith (“DS”)
Rob McIvor (“RM”)
Nigel Armstrong (“NA”)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Lake (“KL”)

APOLOGIES:

Martin Stefan (“MS”)

1. Opening

The Chairman reported that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, the Chairman declared the meeting open.

CC asked all members of the Board to remember to include their delegates in consideration of those who may be experiencing difficulties during the pandemic.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The following minutes were duly approved:

13th January board meeting

10th March board meeting

4. Matters Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1 Resumption of Events

GP reported on the resumption of events during the latest easings of the lockdowns across the UK. He noted that CF had provided an update page on the website and that he and CF were trying to update this not only for actual changes but for scheduled future changes. He was aware that not every decision was coming to a formal board meeting and reminded members to check the forum for any deliberations on changes.

4.2 Brevet Cards

RM referred members to his written report. The new brevet cards designed by Ged Lennox will be appearing at events very shortly.

4.3 2018/19 Trophies

RM referred members to his written report. The outstanding trophies had now been delivered to their recipients.

4.4 Arrivee

CF reported the new overseas postage had worked well.

5. Business

5.1 2019/20 Awards

Organiser Award

Lucy McTaggart

Female Merit Award

Marcia Roberts

Male Merit Award

Not awarded

Norman Booth Award

Tony Hull

5.2 AGM

GP reported that he had received two nominations for the two non-executive vacancies. With nominations about to close, the other vacant posts were set to be uncontested with the incumbent director having agreed to stand for election in each case.

It was agreed the meeting would be held via Zoom with a short rehearsal during the week beforehand. GP and NA were authorised to arrange for AUK to subscribe to its own Zoom account.

5.3 Honoraria

The Remuneration Committee reported verbally to the meeting. They recommended no increases to the existing honoraria. It was resolved to accept their recommendation.

It was noted there were two fewer enrolment delegates.

5.4 Awards Secretary

GP reported he had received two notes of interest, both had been received from existing delegates. It was agreed Peter Davis should be appointed as the new Awards Secretary.

It was agreed he should have carte blanche to review the current physical awards. CF suggested they ought to be more portable.

5.5 Management Accounts

NA presented the latest management accounts.

Revenue from members is down but so are costs.

He still expects to break even or slightly better, based on conservative forecasting. AUK's reserves are approximately £300,000.

CC noted AUK had built up sizeable reserves partly in order to be able to fund the IT Refresh Project and deal with future expansion of the association.

5.6 Annual Report

The draft Annual Report was approved.

5.7 Delegate Forum Access

CC stated he was concerned about the number of people who had historical access rights to the confidential areas of the forum. He wants the Board to take collective responsibility for access rights.

CF suggested the default position should be removal of privileged access unless it could be demonstrated it was currently necessary.

The Board spent some time reviewing the list. CF agreed to pass the revised list on to KL.

5.8 IT Report

KL joined the meeting.

He advised that AUK's developer had not been able to devote as much time as previously to the IT Refresh Project. This explained the lack of expenditure.

The developer has, however, made some progress with expanding his operation so we have a new coder working on the project which gives us a slightly wider base.

The first part of Phase III will deal with DIYs and the move from Paypal to Stripe.

KL has posted some information in the relevant part of the forum and asked for feedback. He was disappointed with the level of engagement but what he had received to date was extremely useful.

KL is working on producing basic pages for payments. This will create huge savings on external development costs.

DS asked KL about the ownership of the code for the existing Phases. KL confirmed it was owned by AUK and that AUK was storing it using its own subscriptions. DS asked about the contract with the current developer. KL stated it was on standard terms. DS would like to see it for absolute confirmation.

KL reported AUK had exceeded the limit for free use of google maps. He is in the process of setting up a paid account. The new system will ultimately use open street maps and make a suitable donation.

The e-brevet is now available on apple and android.

IH reported they had now been used on a number of calendar events as a test but, in each case, had been backed up paper brevets.

IH had also spoken to the Validation Secretary. CF confirmed the Validation Secretary had access to view e-brevets online.

CF explained e-brevets could be used instead of paper cards or as proof of passage in conjunction with paper cards.

IH suggested CC should contact ACP to find out their view. ACP mandates brevet cards in their agreement. CC believes they should also be retained for BR events.

CC noted we charge a fee for producing brevet cards but it was not clear whether or not this generated a profit.

JW reported e-brevets are being rolled out for permanent events.

GP felt in the current climate AUK should be encouraging e-brevets as proof of passage but it was clear they could not be a mandatory requirement as some entrants will not be able to use them.

DS wondered if we should be asking members if they wanted brevet cards.

It was agreed e-brevets could be accepted by organisers as proof of passage in conjunction with brevet cards. Either the rider or the organiser would need to transcribe the information from the e-brevet to the card.

CC suggested the Board should discuss e-brevets further after he had heard from ACP.

IH will also have further discussions with the Validation Secretary and try e-brevets on one of his own events.

CF advised they were testing a new trackloader which uses control points rather than the whole track.

6 Directors' Reports

6.1 Chair & ACP/LRM

CC apologised for the lack of a written report.

The 2019 Arrow results continue to be an issue.

CC is still trying to resolve the Mileater Awards. He is currently working on the medals for 2019/20 and the backlog of submissions but the whole process is taking up a great deal of his time.

Audax Ireland have approached AUK with the suggestion of a 4 nations SR challenge with events starting in each of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. Details have still to be discussed. CC will give a positive response to the suggestion.

JW and CC had investigated a group permanent ride which was potentially in breach of COVID guidance. They had validated each of the rides on the basis it was not for AUK to investigate issues beyond the rides themselves. One issue which

had arisen was a difficulty in working out the AUK guidance which was in place at the date of the ride. CF was now specifically archiving those pages to avoid this happening again.

CC had produced an updated list of delegates to try to ensure that Arrivee was publishing the correct information. He asked each board member to check the list and pass it on to the next member on the list. RM agreed to keep Ged Lennox updated.

6.2 General Secretary

GP reported on the AGM. UK Engage had been appointed to provide the online voting platform but the Board would run the meeting itself. This provided a large saving on cost.

GP is concerned about the AUK insurance renewal and, in particular, the position with LEL in 2022 bearing in mind the number of foreign riders.

6.3 Financial Director

NA referred members to the management accounts.

6.4 Membership Secretary

CF reported there were currently 6964 members. CF had already received some response to the discount cards being issued to organisers for temporary members.

6.5 Event Services

DS reported he had been liaising with Francis Cook on the digitisation of old results but that it was very much a work in progress. There may be some scope for a volunteer delegate to take on the role.

6.6 Calendar Events Secretary

IH reported that his team of regional delegates were working collectively to consider and review COVID risk assessments. GP noted the difficulty with dealing with the various limits on numbers across the UK.

6.6 Permanent Events Secretary

JW referred to his paper on payments. Postal entries are now extremely rare. As are non-member entries (2 or 3 a year).

JW suggested brevet cards could be removed from the payment process.

He wants to see entry via the AUK portal and not by any other process. This may make postal entries impossible.

In his view, the permanent events process is broken and needs to change.

CF noted it was now possible to register temporary members on the new website.

JW feels DIYs are slightly different and can be treated more like calendar events.

He had purposely not included any recommendations as he believes it needs further consideration. He will brief KL before the commencement of Phase III with a wider discussion to follow after consideration.

6.7 Communications Director

RM reported Oliver Iles is using the old stock of brevet cards until they are finished. JW is already using the new design.

REM had received the 2018/19 trophies and sent them out to the recipients.

He noted some recent comments on Arrivee submissions. It was agreed the Board was supportive of the managing editor's stance on editing and using proper identities for contributors. At the same time, it was important to acknowledge all contributions.

7 AOB

CF enquired about the strategy review.

CC noted it had been discussed at a previous board meeting where it had been agreed that although a review was needed, the middle of a pandemic was not the time to be deciding on strategic objectives.

It was agreed a statement confirming this should be published on the website.

8 Closure

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 15.00.

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Chair

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