AUDAX UK
long distance cycling

BMR 180410 Chair's Report

This report covers some of the business undertaken other than mentioned elsewhere in the agenda.

1. London-Edimburgh-London

Following the last meeting I realised that I had not included any report to the meeting of the agreement by the LRM President, shortly after the previous meeting, to validate LEL. My apologies for the omission. I would add that I did inform the Board through our usual channels when it happened,.

2. ACP Presentation

I attended the annual ACP Presentation in mid-January, shortly after our last meeting. Peter Lewis, who has various dealings with ACP accompanied me, and I thought it good practice for him to meet some of the people with whom he deals regarding validations and other matters.

We learned that ACP Vice President Jean-Gualbert Faburel had stepped down as Vice President of ACP following Thierry Rivet's re-election as President. Some things would change as a result, but it was not clear which, as he would probably remain heavily involved with PBP, BRM worldwide, and LRM in the interim.

Preliminary details of Paris-Brest-Paris were available and I was able to collect copies of the first publicity *plaquette* which contained preliminary details. J-GF was at pains to explain that some of the details would inevitably change. Whew I asked about how we should structure our qualification periods, he advised that we should consider our requirements and submit them to him for approval at the earliest opportunity, bearing in mind that some of the requirements for French qualifying dates were, in his opinion, unrealistic.

I was, as usual, grateful for the chance to meet with other ACP representatives., and asked about the status of the 2018 Hamburg-Berlin-Koln-Hamburg event and whether it would be approved by LRM this year. It would appear that talks reported last year have not borne fruit, as the organising club will not submit it for LRM validation, and in any case they are happy not to be recognised by the German Randonneur Federation.

3. PBP Qualifying Dates

I notified the Board via the Forum of what J-G Faburel had advised about our submitting dates for PBP qualifying. After some discussion, the Events Secretary and I agreed a timetable that extended the qualifying season one weekend further into June, something that we asked for in 2015 but were refused. This time it has been allowed by ACP. The schedule also offers more time available for 300k and 400k rides, and has been published on the website.

4. Finance Director Appointment

In all the time that we have been advertising for a new Finance Director, there has only been one expression of interest. That came from Nigel Armstrong who has an intimate knowledge of our accounts as his firm, Pi Partners of Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, has been doing the AUK book keeping since our last Finance Director took office. Nigel intends to come to the meeting

and has submitted a statement in support of his application for the post. I would be grateful if the Board would consider his appointment favourably.

5. IT Director Appointment

There have been no further applications.

I remain concerned that the workload of the IT Manager is excessive.

6. Communications Director - Vacant Post

I am grateful to John Sabine and Ged Lennox for sounding out possible prospective candidates for this post. As a result I have had a long telephone conversation with one of them. He has expressed an interest in the post and intends to join us at the meeting in order to get a taste of what's happening. I will report verbally at the meeting.

7. ARRIVEE

(a) There was a delay in the production of the most recent issue of the magazine because the designated editor for this issue did not produce the work needed for production. This resulted in a delay of about 3 weeks as the editor kept promising, and then failing, to send copy. The delay will run over into production of the next issue as much correspondence with contributors and others has resulted in order to clear up difficulties that have arisen as a result.

(b) In order to assure the next issue, which is currently moving ahead, the Board needs to formally approve its production under the current interim arrangements. I would be grateful for that.

(c) The managing editor has asked for permission to increase the pagination from 64 to 72 for the upcoming issue. I have asked him to provide details of any cost implications for printing and postage, and may be able to update at the meeting.

8. @audax.uk Email Addresses

Recent correspondence in the Delegates' part of the Forum revealed some problems encountered with these addresses, which some people are using as forwarding addresses, i.e. setting them up to redirect to a personal email address. They should not be used this way. I thought I should clarify some aspects of the audax.uk email addresses that have been raised here.

The mail server provides most things that we normally require from a mail server, e.g. an email service with multiple re-directable mail names, POP, IMAP and web based mail

These accounts were introduced in order that directors and delegates, i.e. anybody involved in officially communicating with members and others, could do so using an identifiable AUK address in a way that allows users easy access to their official emails using a variety of devices, and also provides a record of the outgoing and incoming messages.

To this end it is recommended that official users of these addresses should set them up as IMAP rather than POP3. The benefit of IMAP over POP is that besides holding a copy of all email on the corporate server – which is 'good practice' - it means that users can access all their email via desktop, mobile, webmail, etc. There are 1000 available addresses each with

10gb storage, so plenty to go around. With POP the email is downloaded from the server, so once you've downloaded a mail to, say, outlook, you cannot access it from your phone or other device, and vice versa. With IMAP you can, as actions on one client (send, receive, whatever) are replicated onto the server (which can be accessed by webmail) and thence onto any registered other email program elsewhere.

Setting up IMAP is usually easy as your email program will most likely auto-complete the server names and other necessary information for you once you've entered your email address and chosen IMAP. In contrast, and as noted on this thread different ISP's and email programs treat attempts to use forwarded email addresses for outgoing messages in a variety of changing ways that often cause problems that are not easy to get around. In some cases (it's happened to me), a mail server may not accept such outgoing mail for onward transmission. As there are many ways in which mail servers and email programs deal with this, it is not always easy to provide support and/or assistance.

I would urge all users of audax.uk addresses to set them up as IMAP rather than use them just for forwarding. If you are not using an audax.uk email address for your AUK messages, I would urge you to start doing so. In your email program you should add a new account and specify your AUK email address and password plus any other details needed. Usually your email program will offer to auto-fill the server settings and you are in business.

If it fails to do so, instructions to set up these details manually are available at
https://www.uk2.net/knowledgebase/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=1016358
As noted, you should the use the IMAP settings, but if you want you can use the IMAP with SSL settings. The SSL settings were not available when we set up these addresses, but we understood that they were due to be made available. It's possible that we will be needing to use the SSL settings soon anyway as part of our response to the GDPR.

If after all this you are still having problems, you should ask Martin Foley, Events Secretary, events@audax.uk for assistance.

Chris Crossland
April 2017