

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "HOTEL IBIS"
BIRMINGHAM ON 29TH FEBRUARY 2012

The meeting started at 09:05

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

Apologies for absence: JH, PM

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2011 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: PP echoed a concern mentioned in RP's report that some entrants are not using the website entry form correctly resulting in an incorrect form being generated. PC to amend the system to make this error impossible (as far as he can.) There was a query whether the new logo had been agreed; duly confirmed, though subject to some tinkering by DW. The validators mentioned their supply of insignia was dwindling and they needed the artwork urgently. ACTION: PC

OFFICERS' REPORTS: LJ has experienced a busy quarter due to all the renewals being processed. A new account has been set up with Lloyds to receive all the £7 registration fees in preparation for further automation. The existing account has now, at long last, received the balance of the Crédit Agricole account. Congratulations and thanks to Linda on this result; obviously experience of long-running challenges stood her in good stead! She also appealed for other Board members to submit large expense claims promptly and regularly for all other claims.

JH reported Nigel Hall has taken over the North & Scotland region from Sheila. He (JH) has rewritten the Organisers' Handbook to be published on the website along with the New Organiser's form. He has received a flier from British Cycling, with less than perfect timing, urging us to include our events in their Calendar and purchase cover under their insurance policy. He gave details of all the planned events for 2012 totalling just over 500, which was, as expected down on 2011 figures. As well as the full breakdown of numbers for the various distances for the last ten seasons, he provided maps for the different distances illustrating the uneven distribution across the country.

MW advised that membership now totals 4,556 (2011 = 4219). About half of them were due to renew, but the team coped with this volume easily, thanks to Standing Orders and particularly PayPal. In view of this, Don Black's workload will probably be distributed among the remaining team members after he has left the team. All organisers have renewed, three after being chased. There have been some issues with members not receiving Arrivéé after moving house, and a note of deadlines will be added to the website. Separately, a handful of Arrivéés have been distributed without the Handbook. All notified instances have had replacements sent to them. Despite an anticipated increase in postal rates, there appears to be no need to change membership subscriptions. One member complained that their partner was not advised of having won a trophy, so was unable to be presented with it at the Annual Dinner (There are other reasons to attend.) The tight schedule was explained to him, which should be easier in future years, with the change to the end of season date. His interest in trophies has extended to noting a couple of discrepancies in the current season's records, partly due to CTC DA reorganisation. MW will review the CTC portion of our records for both our and Bob Kynaston's benefit. This member also disagrees with the application of the 50% rule so will be advised to submit a proposal to the AGM to change Regulation 10.1.

SS while mentioning Arrivée continued to enjoy favourable reports also noted the Handbook distribution problems. There have also been complaints that the list of Permanents published annually does not keep pace with a continually updated website. Updates are printed in later issues, but for those (few?) requiring one, a current list may be sent on receipt of a sae. Fewer pictures for Arrivée are being submitted though articles often have pictures attached and it may lead to slimmer future issues.

SG/KH noted the change to mandatory on-line submission of results had produced punctual and more accurate returns. These are recorded on a provisional basis, and once the full process has been completed, the Finish List is amended to "Validated". Neither they, nor the Recorder, now need paper confirmation of the results. Rider numbers on events have been good until February, when there were four cancellations – the weather being responsible for both scenarios.

PC told of a problem with the server in January, slowing down response times, which was fixed promptly and he intends to upgrade the hardware, as it seems to be short of memory. A few queries from members have been resolved and there have been some detail enhancements to the system. ACTION: PC

RP mentioned having received various small queries received from members and a number of requests from venues for confirmation of our insurance (pdfs now on the website.) He mentioned having been alerted to mention of "Temporary Insurance" rather than "Temporary Membership" on the Organiser's Return form which should be changed for the sake of consistency. There have been several instances of non-member entrants completing the on-line entry page on the website, and then printing that page instead of clicking on "Submit" to produce an actual entry form. Organisers beware!

PM apologised for absence, due to work pressures, and reported his only issue was late return of PBP packs. He had reluctantly agreed to J-G Faburel's request to act as UK distributor for these, but at the time of writing nothing had been received.

LEL UPDATE: An updated budget was circulated showing an anticipated surplus of approximately £9,000, given 800 entrants and 750 riders. After a dispiriting trip to Bristol, DW has contacted Invent Partners and an initial website design has been shown to him and PC. In his report, Roger Cortis had requested a further loan amount of £6,000 to cover anticipated expenditure before entry fees were available, and DW requested an additional £2,000 to pay for the professionally designed website. This was seconded by SS and agreed unanimously. As background information, DW explained he wanted the website to be the primary means of communication between riders and organisers, and during the event, between controls, as phone links were unreliable. He has become concerned that the control planned at Eskdalemuir would not be available for the event and there was little else available in the area. PP suggested hiring a kitchen, as an alternative – something she had done previously. On enquiry, DW confirmed there would be no financial penalty if the original control was not actually used.

INSURANCE: Following the flurry of activity involved in transferring the Club's insurance policy, it has become clear the regulations need to be updated. As the conditions are largely outside AUK's control, the appropriate way forward seems to be to change the regulation to insist that riders must have third party cover for the duration of the event. AUK will employ best efforts to provide this, but is unable to

guarantee it, and if such cover becomes unavailable, it is believed that Public Liability Insurance (for organisers) will be more easily bought to enable the calendar of events to continue. It was unanimously agreed that SS and PP as proposer and seconder respectively should take a motion to the AGM to transfer insurance matters to guidelines while still retaining a regulation insisting on all riders having this insurance cover. (Overseas riders have to make their own arrangements.) ACTION: SS, PP

During the course of this discussion it became clear that regulations were in need of revision to more accurately reflect current requirements and practice. A sub-committee consisting of SS, RP, AT and JH (if happy to participate) with FC co-opted, will review the current rules to take any necessary changes to the AGM once they have been translated into Plain English. Clarification was also requested on which awards were subject to the 50% rule. (*Sec's note*: from the Minutes of the meeting of 26th Sept 2007. "RP also requested clarification of Regulation 10.1 with respect to which awards were subject to the limitation on Permanent points. It was agreed the restriction should apply to both sexes of the Individual, Junior and Veterans' awards as well as the Tandem, Tricycle and Recumbent trophies.")

ACTION: SS, RP, AT + JH

REVIEW OF RECORDING: SG/KH reported that now on-line submission of results was universal (even for previous digital refuseniks) there were few complaints and the system had now changed for the better, though some organisers seemed to be unable to complete the forms correctly. The payments system is still piecemeal and will gradually be improved and integrated.

They have trialled a new method of returning Brevet cards to successful riders at the end of an event and noted two finish controllers were required to minimise errors. (Currently it is easier to sort out problems as the cards are retained for a few days.) Only a few organisers will be allowed to join this system, although they are trustworthy, some lack sufficient competence – a totally separate matter. Obviously, this trial is in its earliest stages and mindful of possible pitfalls, they will develop it very cautiously allowing only proven organisers such freedom.

On a separate note, they are nearly out of medals and once DW has finalised the new design, they will place an order for the replacements with due attention to the differing popularity of the various distances.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING: Arranged for the Hotel Ibis, Birmingham on Thursday 14th June 2012 at 10:30 for 11:00 am.

The meeting closed at 12:48 pm.