Minutes of General Assembly of Les Randonneurs Mondiaux 23 August 2019

At the Bergerie Nationale, Ramboullet started at 12.15pm

Agenda item 1 - The President welcomed everybody and congratulated those who had successfully completed Paris-Brest-Paris, commiserated with those who had not been able to complete and welcomed those who had not even entered.

Agenda item 2 - Present :- Keith Benton (president) Rainer Paffrath (vice President) Jean-Gualbert Faburel (treasurer) LRM representatives from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada BC, Canada Ont., Canada NS, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, UK, USA, and 21 observers. (50 in total)

Agenda item 3 - Special motion – There were no amendments proposed. Ivo Miesen (Netherlands Obs.) queried the interpretation of Reg 1.4, Chris Crossland (UK rep) explained the reasons behind the wording and Keith Benton said that LRM looked to the event organiser and the LRM rep. to ensure that safety of riders was paramount.

New Constitution passed unanimously

Agenda item 4 - President's report – Keith Benton presented the President's Report:
"At the last GA I was elected to serve as President until this GA. I had been serving as interim President following the resignation of Jan Pieter Broekhoven in October 2013.
During these 6 years LRM Has steadily grown so that "Randonneurs Mondiaux" is a true reflection of the scope of long distance cycling available today.
We have witnessed new and emerging enthusiasm as new countries join us. There are now 60 countries worldwide promoting the Audax spirit and in 2018 LRM distance events were offered by 25 of them. Our calendar of events emphasises this growth. There were 25 events in 2013 and this had expanded to 64 in 2018. In 2019 we have 36 events scheduled - there is always a dip in numbers in PBP year - but even here compared to the 2015 calendar our events show a near 300% increase.

During the last 4 years I have tried to streamline the administration procedures for homologations of these events to cut down the delays in providing homologation numbers. These are now provided within 24-48 hours and thanks to AUK members Sue Gatehouse and Keith Harrison the brevet card stickers are issued within 7-10 days. Vice President Rainer Paffrath has ably performed the somewhat thankless task of issuing our medals. We introduced a system of changing the medal design every 4 years (after PBP) and I will send out 6 possible designs for the new medal shortly.

As our website had been corrupted in 2016, we took the opportunity to totally revamp it and include details of riders' achievements in a Roll of Honour. It now includes names of riders who have achieved the ISR , International Super Randonneur: Dave Thompson, Treasurer of Randonneurs Ontario and RUSA has taken the role as Administrator.

My thanks to Mark Thomas of RUSA for acting as webmaster and maintaining the site.

One difficulty in LRM administration has been the vague and sometimes absent guidance that was given by the Bylaws and Event Regulations which date back to 2003. With a great deal of help from the AUK representative, Chris Crossland, a new Constitution has been constructed and the new Event Regulations have been compiled with suggestions and advice from numerous representatives The new Constitution clarifies much of the vagueness of those bylaws and introduces the ability for representatives unable to attend a G A to have their voices and opinions heard in elections. The new Regulations hope to distil best practice in the conduct of events, clarify the standards for distances over 1400km and introduces a new standard for hilly events. For regulations regarding rider conduct, safety and disciplinary practices we have largely followed the PBP code.

The suggestions at the last GA have been formalised into the Challenge Lepertel, details of which are in Appendix 2 of the new Constitution and Regulations and could start with 2019. Carmela Pearson of the Philippines will be the administrator.

Finally, I would like to thank the treasurer, Jean-Gualbert Faburel, and Vice President, Rainer, for their advice and support during my period of office. It has been much valued. I wish the new President and Vice President every success in their posts.

Agenda item 5 - Treasurers report - Jean-Gualbert read out the figures for the 4 years since the last GA and said that in summary the reserves had increase by 10,000 € . (full details of the separate years are available from himself or the President) Accounts approved unanimously.

There were no recommendations to increase any LRM charges and perhaps he and the new president would consider possible reductions to homologation fees.

Agenda item 6 - Election of Officers

President - Mark Thomas elected by unanimous vote

Vice President – the 2 candidates were introduced. Tal Katzir was elected 18 votes to 9.

Treasurer - Jean-Gualbert Faburel elected by unanimous vote

Proposal - Challenge Lepertel

Divya Tate queried the date from which years would run. Keith Benton said that this would be the Calendar year 1 January to 31 December. Adoption of the Challenge Lepertel accepted unanimously.

Mark Thomas closed the meeting. He thanked Keith, Rainer, and Jean-Gualbert for their work over the past 4 years and looked forward to meeting and to working with the representatives over the coming 4 years.

The Assembly closed at 12.45 and lunch was then taken

ADDENDUM – during the conversations over lunch the general feeling was that the Challenge Lepertel should start from 1 January 2019 rather than a date in mid-August 2019 so that riders had a full year of events from which to choose. The Executive will clarify in note to member countries.