AUDAX UK
long distance cycling

BMR 191009 Chair and ACP/LRM Report

1. General

I seem to have spent a lot of time dealing with general correspondence and other paperwork, including minutes of meetings, just moving things on, as it were.

2. Paris-Brest-Paris

I attended Paris-Brest-Paris as a volunteer at the new headquarters at the National Sheepfold in Rambouillet, to the southwest of the venue that a lot of us will know, St. Quentin-en-Yvelines.

As far as the venue goes, it was a stunningly beautiful place with grand but a little ramshackle 17th and 18th century agricultural buildings set in the grounds of the Chateau de Rambouillet. Thee is plenty of discussion online now among riders and ACP officials were keen to hear views on the venue's suitability. It seemed that the relatively late decision to move to Rambouillet had led to some obvious problems including

- Insufficient covered space in the check-in areas and bike inspection marquee that leftb many entrants exposed to heavy rain.
- Start areas for designated groups of riders being poorly organised.
- The final kilometre or so of the route entering the chateau grounds being shared with motor vehicles, pedestrians, and other cyclists, all going in all directions.
- A convoluted actual Finish area that confused many riders, who could not work out the position of the actual finish.

There are fairly obvious solutions concerning how to do these things better, which I think will probably be taken up. In my view, it's a good venue and I think it will be ACP's choice for the next time. There are certainly advantages over SQY: the town is smaller and also friendly. Riders are straight out into the country and coming back they miss out those busy urban roads that can be so unpleasant.

What's it like to be a volunteer? Lengthy, repetitive efforts with 3 hours sleep a night. A bit like long distance cycling, really.

3. LRM General Assembly

As is customary, this quadrennial event took place the day after the PBP finished. There were 29 Randonneurs Mondiaux Representatives (RMR's) in attendance. It was also the final Presidential duty of our own Keith Benton.

The draft minutes are in the dropbox and I would be grateful if Directors would read through before the meeting. The main points of the meeting were:

- The new Constitution and Event Regulations were approved. Note that there have been amendments following consultation with RMR's, and the final version presented to the meeting for approval is in the dropbox.

- Since the last Assembly meeting when it was agreed to lower LRM homologation fees from 5€ to 3€, reserves had risen by 10,000€., largely as a result of the fast growing number of LRM homologations. The Treasurer said that he and the next President would consult with a view to reducing homologations fees further.
- Mark Thomas (USA) was elected unanimously as the next LRM President.
- Tal Katzir (Israel) was elected as the next LRM Vice-President, beating Lazar Vladislavov (Bulgaria) by 18 votes to 9.
- Jean-Gualbert Faburel (ACP) was re-elected unanimously as Treasurer.
- A new award was approved, the Challenge Lepertel, which commemorates Robert Lepertel, who re-invigorated PBP and was a founder of LRM. It will be awarded for completing four LRM or PBP rides in each of four consecutive years.

I have asked for a small change in the minutes in order to better reflect what Keith Benton said in Agenda item 3.

4. LRM President's Letter

I have included in the Board dropbox Mark Thomas's LRM Presidential letter to RMR's dated September 2019 for information. The headline point is the reduction in LRM homologation fees fro 3€ to 2€, but there are other things, of which individual directors should make themselves aware.

Note that the file copies he mentions of the Constitution and Regulations posted on the LRM website were different versions to those approved at the General Assembly. I have made him aware of the error and supplied him with the definitive version.

5. London -Edinburgh - London

The Events Secretary and I had an email exchange with Danial Webb of LEL and his route maker Nick Wilkinson. Danial was unhappy about some issues arising from the new LRM event regulations and wanted a couple of other issues asking of Mark Thomas. These other issues raised some questions about interpretation of the Regulations. I do now have answers to Danial's questions from Mark and will update the Board at the meeting. Since the email exchange, followers of social media may have noticed a fusillade of posts from the directors of LEL Ltd., concerning the relationship between LEL and AUK. I am hoping that the General Secretary will be able to update us on that.

Chris Crossland
October 2019