



MINUTES FOR THE AUK BOARD MEETING  
HELD via TELECONFERENCE  
on 13 August 2020 STARTING AT 20.00.

**PRESENT:**

Chris Crossland (“CC”) (Chairman)  
Nigel Armstrong (“NA”)  
Graeme Provan (“GP”)  
Caroline Fenton (CF”)  
Ian Hennessey (“IH”)  
Martin Stefan (“MS”)  
Daniel Smith (“DS”)  
John Sabine (“JS”)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**APOLOGIES:**

Rob McIvor (“RM”)  
John Ward (“JW”)

**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.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None.

**3. Business**

**3.1 COVID 19 Review**

CC explained the process AUK had followed in respect of the UK Government’s published requirements for the return to organised sports. .

GP had initially contacted the Department for Culture Media and Sport to enquire about the requirements for AUK which was in stage 2 of its

application for recognised National Governing Body status. DCMS had advised AUK to stay as close as possible to British Cycling's guidance as set out in its document *The Way Forward*, with suitable adaptations for our sport, in order to be able to resume organised activities. GP had subsequently contacted Sport Wales, Sport Northern Ireland and sportsotland and each body had confirmed they were content with this approach as applied by Welsh Cycling, Ulster Cycling and Scottish Cycling respectively. AUK had now supplied the agreed form of guidance to the DCMS and each national sporting body.

The result is we now have the equivalent status to a National Governing Body with approved guidance in the places where we validate calendar events. This means that AUK is able to rely on the same rules relating to the return to organised sport as the larger national governing bodies across the UK.

AUK's permanent events fall within the wider guidance on sport and exercise generally

JW had validated over 150 permanent brevets and there were a number of social media reports from happy riders with no apparent issues. MS and IH were both in favour of increasing permitted distances for permanent rides.

MS noted that 600km events were a significant step as they would be over 24 hours' duration for most riders but he believes they are possible in the current circumstances. JS agreed, particularly as 600km could easily be achieved by riding 3 x 200km loops from home if necessary.

NA felt uncomfortable about longer events as he was living in an area subject to local restrictions including not being able to mix with people outside his own household.

CF wondered if AUK could encourage local loops where possible.

After careful consideration, it was agreed that permanent rides up to 600km nominal distance would be validated from 00.01 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. This would be subject to opening up the event entries online and to organisers' willingness to open their events. Riders should be advised to be patient with delegates and organisers and to take account of local restrictions as they arose.

CC and GP will agree and publish a suitable announcement.

GP referred to the preliminary work that IH had carried out with a sample of organisers. IH reported that there was a degree of caution amongst most organisers and that many of them were unwilling to open their events at this time. GP suggested that AUK should announce that it is

willing to resume validation of calendar events and that it would support organisers with running trial events up to a set distance. IH queried how smaller calendar events were different from permanent events in terms of permitted distances. GP felt this would be a starting point for opening further events in the spring. There were very few events above 200km until spring in any event.

CC suggested AUK offer calendar event organisers the opportunity to run calendar events up to 300km nominal distance from 1<sup>st</sup> September with the possibility of re-scheduling as necessary.

It was agreed that as a general rule, events should be limited to 30 participants or such lower number as permitted by local restrictions. Where the guidance permitted more than 30 participants and organisers were able to satisfy their regional delegate that larger events could be run safely, these would be permitted subject to the appointment of a separate COVID officer in each case.

It was agreed that ECEs taking events to a nominal distance of 600km would be permitted.

MS queried why there were still limits on the daily numbers of riders on permanent routes. CC explained that there was a difference between the organisers of permanent and calendar events, with the abilities of calendar event organisers being subject to greater scrutiny of their performance than organisers of permanent events. GP further explained that there needed to be a clear difference between permanent rides and calendar events. Calendar events would be subject to the guidance being agreed with national bodies across the UK whereas permanent rides were relying on the existing guidance for outdoor groups.

### 3.2 Season Extension

GP noted there had been a number of social media postings about the possibility of extending the 2019/20 season. He had also spoken to the Annual Reunion delegates who were in favour of moving the event to March or April 2021.

It was agreed that the season should be extended to 31 October 2020. Any permanent change to season dates would be subject to approval by the AGM.

IH suggested that, for certainty with ACP, all outstanding BRM events until the end of the ACP season should be re-classified as BR.

CC felt this was unnecessary and contrary to AUK's agreement with ACP. If the events were to take place they would take place as BRM, and if they were cancelled or re-scheduled it would be as BRMs. The process for

informing ACP was far more streamlined than previously and so it allowed for greater flexibility.

It was agreed that events should remain with their existing classifications. DS will establish which events have been cancelled or re-scheduled, mark them as appropriate and inform ACP accordingly. CC will let ACP know that the remaining BRM events in the calendar will also be subject to cancellation or postponement.

### 3.3 Other business

GP reported that the insurance renewal had been successfully completed with a new insurer. Our previous underwriter had withdrawn from the market so it was not entirely a surprise when the renewal came through at £19,700. This was compared to £3650 for the previous year. The increase had nothing to do with our claims record or anything else that related directly to AUK - it was entirely market-driven with very few underwriters willing to deal in the market. A search for an alternative resulted in a policy costing £10,205.

The next scheduled meeting will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> October as a full board meeting with the exact format to be agreed.

## 4. Closure

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

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Chair

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