



MINUTES FOR THE AUK BOARD MEETING
HELD AT THE IBIS HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM
on 18 January 2023 STARTING AT 0900.

PRESENT:

Chris Crossland (CC) (Chairman)
Daniel Smith (DS)
Graeme Provan (GP)
Ian Hennessey (IH)
Nigel Armstrong (NA)
Andy Yates (AY)

Via Zoom:

John Ward (JW)
Caroline Fenton (CF)
Paul Haxell (PH)
Paul Renshaw (PR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Lake (“KL”) (in part)

APOLOGIES

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. Minutes of previous meetings

Board Meeting – 5 October 2022
Teleconference – 19 December 2022

Approved

4. Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings

4.1 Confidential

4.2 Board Meeting format

CC believes that, taken on the whole, in-person meetings are more productive than virtual meetings. This was not to deny the value of virtual meetings when organised appropriately as an integral part of a schedule that includes them along with in-person meetings. He also acknowledged that it was important to support those who could not attend in-person meetings for various reasons.

CF felt it was useful to be able to attend virtually and the actual experience was better than she had expected.

JW had been involved with other organisations and felt it was preferable to meet in person at least four times each year.

CC was not keen on combining the AR or AGM with a board meeting.

CF suggested moving to a virtual AGM in future. It was agreed to ask the membership for their views.

4.3 General Secretary's Role

GP referred to his notes on the subject.

He felt it had been a useful exercise and that it had made him consider which elements could realistically be outsourced. It was suggested that all executive directors should go through a similar exercise.

AY said he had been struck by just how much AUK relied on a huge amount of volunteer input from a relatively small number of people.

It was noted that the role of General Secretary would be vacant from the end of the AGM. GP offered to continue as Company Secretary if required by his successor.

5. Business

5.1 Management Accounts

NA referred the Board to the management accounts.

The Board carefully considered the contents of the management accounts.

Expenditure was down. This was mainly due to lower expenditure on IT.

There is £327k in AUK's bank accounts.

The Board considered AUK's exposure to inflation. The two major items that were most exposed were the printing and postage costs of *Arrivee* and the AR. It was felt that *Arrivee* was a vital part of AUK. AR costs would need to be monitored.

It was also noted that IT expenditure is likely to rise again.

AY asked about reserves. NA had been working on a figure of £100k but this was subject to review.

5.2 Annual Accounts

NA presented the draft annual accounts to the Board.

Having carefully considered the draft annual accounts, it was resolved to approve them and CC was authorised to sign them on behalf of the Board.

5.3 Board Awards

Paul Castle Cup, Male Merit – Steve Massey

Female Merit Trophy – Laura Pugh

Organiser – Dean Clementson

Helpers' Trophy – the volunteers of LEL

Norman Booth – Jointly to Dave Allison and Kevin Lake

5.4 NGB Application

GP had now made contact with Sport England again. He had updated and re-submitted the previous pre-application. A decision was expected within 12 weeks.

5.5 AGM

GP reported there had been an issue with delivery from the original voting site supplier. He was authorised to change supplier if necessary.

5.6 Annual Report

After careful consideration, the Annual Report was approved.

PR will produce a publishable version for the voting site.

5.7 Director Vacancies

Nominations had been received for all posts due for election at the AGM except for the post of General Secretary.

5.8 Future engagement with LEL

CC will write to the LEL board in his capacity as LRM Representative. IH will do likewise as Calendar Event Secretary.

5.9 Organiser Event Return Payments

It was noted that some event organisers have recently been paying their event returns by cheque, and the cheque subsequently bouncing.

It was agreed that if cheques were bounced on more than one occasion it would result in a review and possible further action.

5.10 IT

KL was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Reports

6.1 Chair

CC reported that he had recently attended ACP's PBP presentation in Paris. He noted the route had been altered so that there was less two-way traffic on some roads. The safety and security of all participants was uppermost in the preparations being implemented by Project Manager Jean-Pierre Chardon. Passage through the controls would be simplified to this end. There would be no formal bike check before the event, and event staff would scrutinise cycles at when opportunity arose. Full details would be available on the event website and in communications with entrants and volunteers.

He also highlighted ACP's proposal for a BRM results website. He thought it unlikely that AUK would use such a facility as we would prefer to upload from our own website.

6.2 General Secretary

GP noted the AR was still scheduled for the spring. He was waiting for the AR delegates to report back with a date and venue. They had already reported that venues were becoming harder to locate.

His preference would be for a fixed date every year which would allow early notification of approximate location and exact date.

He will continue to chase the AR delegates.

6.3 Finance Director

NA referred to his report.

6.4 Calendar Events Secretary

IH reported that Adam Young was now in post as the events delegate for the south east.

6.5 Permanent Events Secretary

JW confirmed he would change the guidance on registering permanents to include the agreed changes around alternative PoP.

He was also undertaking a wider review of permanent organisers as he believed some were no longer even members. He was considering the introduction of a renewal process for organisers

A similar process would also be applied to unriden events on a rolling basis where they had not been ridden for 5 years or more.

JW noted he had seen very little activity from OCD but he believed it was not a problem for as long as Rod Dalitz was willing to continue.

6.6 Events Services

DS reported the awards results for 2019/20 and 2020/21 had been finalised and published.

Peter Davies will write to the award recipients as soon as there is a date for the AR. He will need guidance on the purchase of trophies.

DS enquired about the possibility of using Stripe for validation payments. CF and DS will discuss.

DS noted a need to review AUK's printing capabilities.

6.7 Membership

CF reported that numbers had peaked at just over 9,000.

Renewals so far were ahead of last year but the drop-off from the year end numbers had been more pronounced.

6.8 Communications

N/A

7. Meeting Dates

AGM – 11 February 2023

19 April 2023

5 July 2023

4 October 2023

8. Any other business

8.1. Strategy Document

AY presented a series of slides with analysis of the geographical spread of membership growth, membership, participation and number of events.

It was agreed that AY and PH would produce an initial draft Strategy for consideration at the next board meeting. The resultant draft would then be presented to the membership before final approval.

CC will propose a revised remuneration policy for review.

The Strategy should also require annual reviews of AUK policies.

8.2 Non-members and historical events.

DS queried how to treat events ridden by non-members prior to joining AUK. CF noted most non-members who had entered events now had an AUK account and number. DS would like to see the automatic addition of such events to members' records.

8.3 Event Entry

IH reported he wanted organisers (except, most likely, LEL) to use the AUK system for the actual entry process for events. NOTE: In a discussion of a confidential topic later in the meeting, CF noted that she believes that

the new entry system will cope with LEL and that it would be a good test for it.

AY noted, as a related point, his concerns about potential GDPR breaches where organisers were using data from event entries to contact people about matters other than events.

8.4 Peter Tandy Award

It was noted that Mike Warren, the proposer of the AGM motion to retain this trophy for the youngest rider to complete a 200 km event at randonneur pace, had failed to present any conclusions of his proposed member consultation on the award.

In the circumstances, it was agreed that the award should once again be suspended, pending it's re-purposing.

9. Closure

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

.....
Chair

..... 2023