



# **2022-23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
(COMPANY NUMBER: 05920055 ENGLAND AND WALES)

## 2022-23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ANNUAL REPORT

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## Introduction

Audax UK is the long distance cycling association for the UK, and is the regulating body for cycling events held under the rules developed by Audax Club Parisien and developed further in the UK by Audax UK itself. It is at the same time a membership club for cyclists enthused by the concept of long distance cycling.

Audax UK (AUK) is a company limited by guarantee under UK company law, governed by a Board of Directors elected by and from the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Board reports back to the membership at the AGM, and this is their report for 2022-23. This period corresponds to AUK's financial year which ran from 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023, although some officer reports refer to activities and figures relating to the UK Randonneur season which now runs from November to October.

During the year and in subsequent months, activities that the Board has facilitated include:

- continuing the essential, on-going background work of guiding organisers and members on the regulations and guidance, maintaining and developing our systems and services, and acting as adjudicator on disputes;
- reactivating our pre-application for National Governing Body status covering Randonneur cycling. Changes to the way that Sport England handles such applications and covid-related constraints upon Sport England's operational capacity had led to pre-applications being held in abeyance. In August 2023, a Board team met with the Recognition Officers of the four Sports Councils to seek formal approval of our pre-application. We are pleased to report that our pre-application was successful.
- updating our systems ready to implement the change in points approved at the last AGM in time for the start of the 2023-24 season.
- continuing to review the levels of honoraria paid to directors and delegates to try and ensure that the system operates fairly, both to the delegates and directors receiving recognition of their work, and in the interests of Audax UK itself;
- continuing to liaise with the London-Edinburgh-London organising team regarding the conduct of the 2022 event and plans for the 2025 event. We know that the 2022 event was a massive success for the riders and volunteers and hope that the 2025 iteration will prove to be even better.

### **Governance and People**

Since the last AGM there have been comings and goings, including on the way out

- Graeme Provan, who stepped down from being General Secretary.
- Martin Lucas and Paul Stewart who have stepped down from busy roles as DIY event organisers. Andy Clarkson will also be stepping down from his DIY Organiser role.
- Mark Gibson and Paul Rainbow have stepped down as Annual Reunion delegates.

Our thanks go to them for making their tremendous contributions, with best wishes for the future.

We welcomed on the way in

- Andy Yates, who started the year as an elected non-executive director but soon found himself installed as our General Secretary.
- Graeme Provan, who made an immediate comeback by taking on the delegate role of Company Secretary.
- Peter Davis, Laura Massey-Pugh and Lucy McTaggart, who have volunteered as Annual Reunion delegates.

At the forthcoming AGM, Chris Crossland is stepping down as Chair after 10 years in the role, as well as stepping down from organising his very popular calendar events. He has made significant contribution to the development of Audax UK including steering the organisation through some challenging times. We extend our most grateful thanks for his service and wish him all the best for the future.

### **Merit and Services Awards**

We are delighted to announce the following recipients of 2023 Merit and Service awards as follows:

- **Merit Award – Female: Rose Price**  
This year Rose successfully completed PBP at the age of 19. Alongside this she yet again competed in the National 24hr Time Trial riding a Tricycle and completed a second Super Randonneur award. Not a bad effort for a teenager who is now turning all her attention to Trike riding.
- **Merit Award – Male: Andy Clarkson**  
Andy competed his 7th PBP this year and has also completed 6x LEL. He finished 3rd overall in the AUK points table with 170 points and has been in the top 5 of the points table for the past 4 years. He has been a member of AUK for over 20 years and a very consistent performer for the majority of this time.
- **Organisers Award – Andy Berne**  
Andy has continued to put on an amazing spread of events ranging from 100k to 600k; a total of 21 events this year with great routes across the north of England. His catering is to a very high standard and often supports local businesses when he doesn't personally do the cooking. The number of entrants and the fact that they fill up quickly is a good indication of the high standard.
- **Helpers Award – Antonia Netherton**  
Antonia has been helping at various events in the South West and is really reliable and helpful – nothing is too much trouble. She has undertaken route checking, run controls, bought, cooked and served food, cleaned and generally provided excellent support for the events. A favourite quote from her was one year on a 200 km event, *“it was a nice day, so I just rode home the long way and completed the route”*.
- **Services to Audax UK – Chris Crossland**  
Chris has dedicated the past 10 years to providing tremendous service to Audax UK through his roles as Chair and ACP/LRM Representative. Alongside this, he has been a prolific organiser of extremely popular events, with over 40,000 km of calendar events organised and 22 perms offered.

## **Financial**

The year to 31st August 2023 showed a gentle increase in income and expenditure from the previous year. Income increased by 8% (in a year of inflation of the RPI between 14.2% and 9%) which resulted in an 8% increase in Operating Surplus. We received £6,185 in interest, up from £1,093 in the previous year. These have given us a surplus of income over expenditure of £41,538 after tax, being a 20% increase on the previous year, thanks to the 8% increase in our activity and interest rate rises. More details are provided in the Finance Director's report and the Annual Accounts.

## **IT**

The work on our IT development has continued to be managed by our IT Manager Kevin Lake with the able assistance of Dave Allison, Caroline Fenton and a paid external developer. Current work is based around transitioning events from the old aukweb system to the audax.uk system, with consultations with AUK delegates and directors being a crucial part of the process. Any volunteers to assist in any capacity would be appreciated; please contact Kevin at [it@audax.uk](mailto:it@audax.uk), or Andy Yates (General Secretary) at [secretary@audax.uk](mailto:secretary@audax.uk).

Francis Cooke has continued his long association with our legacy website and administration system, aukweb, ably assisted by Terry Kay. Between them they have kept aukweb going while also work is ongoing to transition over to the new audax.uk system.

Kevin would like to hand over his IT Manager duties to somebody new, although he will continue in the role until a replacement can be found. If anyone is interested in this post, please contact Andy Yates ([secretary@audax.uk](mailto:secretary@audax.uk)) who can provide more details.

## **Membership**

At the beginning of 2023 we had 7155 members and by the end 9303 members which again is a new high. There were consistently around 150 more members each month than for the same month in 2022. This is a modest increase compared to that seen from 2021 to 2022 possibly due to a "post covid bounce". We started 2024 with around 7500. This represents a slightly better renewal rate than previously. More details are provided in the Membership Secretary's report.

## **Events**

There were 565 calendar events validated during the 2022/23 season with 18082 validations, which represents an 8% increase on the previous season. 770 riders attained Super Randonneur status which is a significant increase (58%) over 2021/22 although this is broadly to be expected for a PBP year (but is higher than 2019).

Around 580 UK-registered riders qualified for 2023's Paris-Brest-Paris and took part in the event that exceeded expectations, with great weather in great places, filled with great people.

The total number of Permanent events ridden during the 2022/23 season and the distribution of events has been very similar to the previous year with 5,625 Permanent Events results, including ECE events having been recorded for 2022/23.

The increase in validation by GPS for fixed route Permanent events has continued once again. Validation by e-brevets has also grown since it was first trialled in 2019/20. By last year virtually all DIY events were being validated by GPS, and this has continued with GPS validation now established as the norm for these events.

More details are provided in the Event Services Director, the Permanents Events Secretary, the Calendar Events Secretary and the ACP/LRM Representative's reports.

### **Communications**

To start the new year we set up an Instagram account to add to our social media reach, the account has grown dramatically over the year with now almost 1300 followers.

*Arrivée* continues to be an excellent and inspiring magazine and is highly valued by the members.

During the year, we sourced special PBP shirts for the event, a fantastic shirt designed by Ged which was really well received, and also a reflective vest. We will be looking to roll out Audax UK shirts in both long and short sleeve versions **in 2024**.

More details are provided in the Communications Director's report.

### **More to come in 2024**

The key areas which the Board intends to focus on during 2024 **include**:

- continuing to move and accelerate the IT development project towards completion of transitioning events and their organisation from aukweb to audax.uk. We would not be surprised to see a continuing need for future proofing in other online areas – IT development needs to be an ongoing task.
- planning for a return of our Annual Reunion event in November 2024, to be organised by our new Reunion delegates – please look out for further information about this popular event.
- looking to improve the efficiency and cost of managing event entry fees and whether to move all payments over to Stripe.
- aiming to develop and start implementing a new strategic plan for the organisation and would welcome members' input into this.

### **Acknowledgements**

Many people contribute to the work and success of Audax UK; the delegates who manage membership, validation, calendar events, DIY events, event services, and all the other back office functions; the organisers and all the support teams who make the events possible and enjoyable and the IT teams that are supporting our current systems and managing the move to the new.

All our volunteers are vital to AUK's operations, and we must not take their efforts behind the scenes for granted. We are fortunate to have them, and their continuing dedication and hard work deserve our thanks.

We always welcome thoughts, comments, suggestions as well as offers to assist with the running of the organisation. Please contact Andy ([secretary@audax.uk](mailto:secretary@audax.uk)) in the first instance.

And finally, congratulations and thank you to all of our members. We hope you have all achieved your audax goals, enjoyed being a part of our superb community, and we thank you for your continued support.

**Chris Crossland**  
Chair

**Andy Yates**  
General Secretary

*on behalf of the AUK Board*

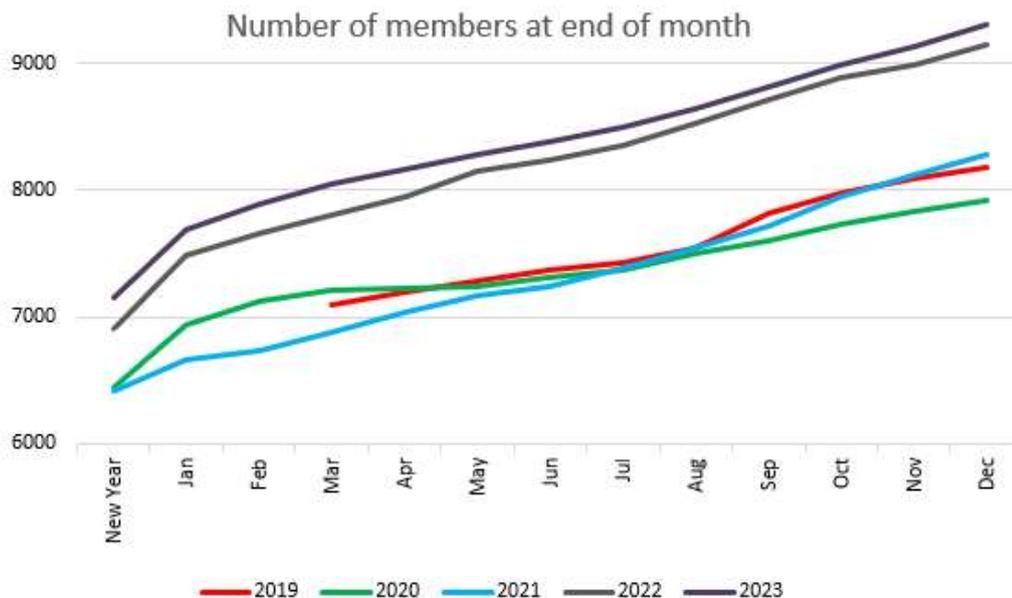
## Part A: Director Reports

### 1. Membership Secretary Report

Note – this report generally covers the period 1st Jan to Dec 31st 2023 as that is our membership year, rather than aligning with either the financial year or events season.

#### How do membership numbers for 2023 compare with previous years?

At the beginning of 2023 we had 7155 members and by the end 9303 members which again is a new high. There were consistently around 150 more members each month than for the same month in 2022. This is a modest increase compared to that seen from 2021 to 2022 as shown in the graph below. I suspect 2022 contained a “post covid bounce” when some who let their membership lapse in 2020/2021 rejoined in 2022. As always, not everyone will renew and we started 2024 with around 7500. This represents a slightly better renewal rate than previously, or maybe just more timely response driven by protecting London-Edinburgh-London guaranteed entry which required renewal by 1st January.

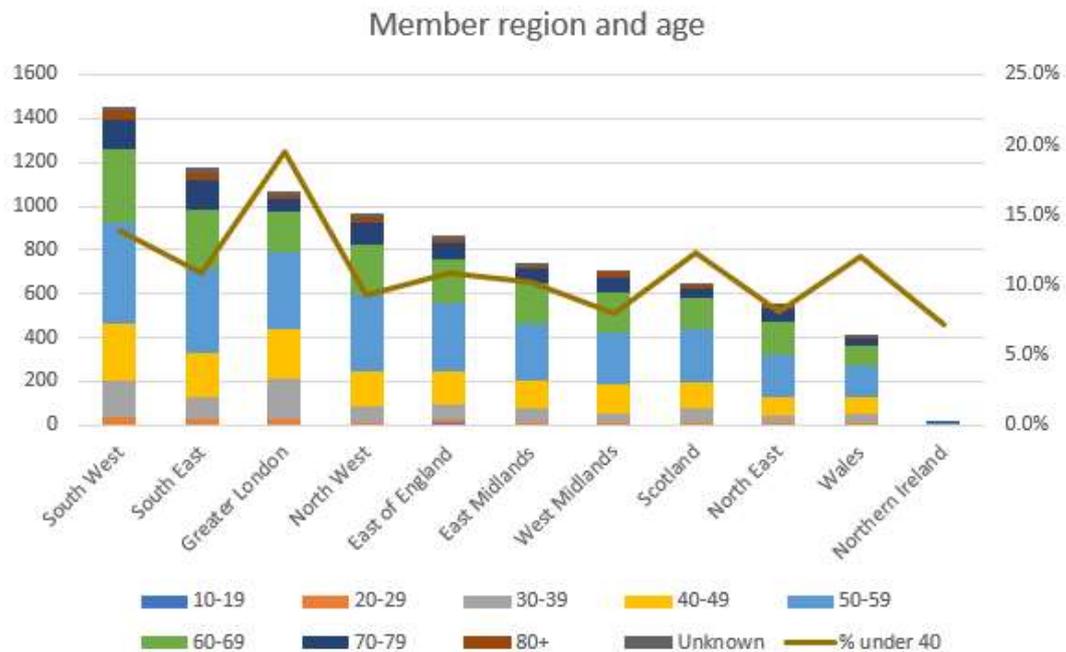


Some headline numbers from the end of 2023:

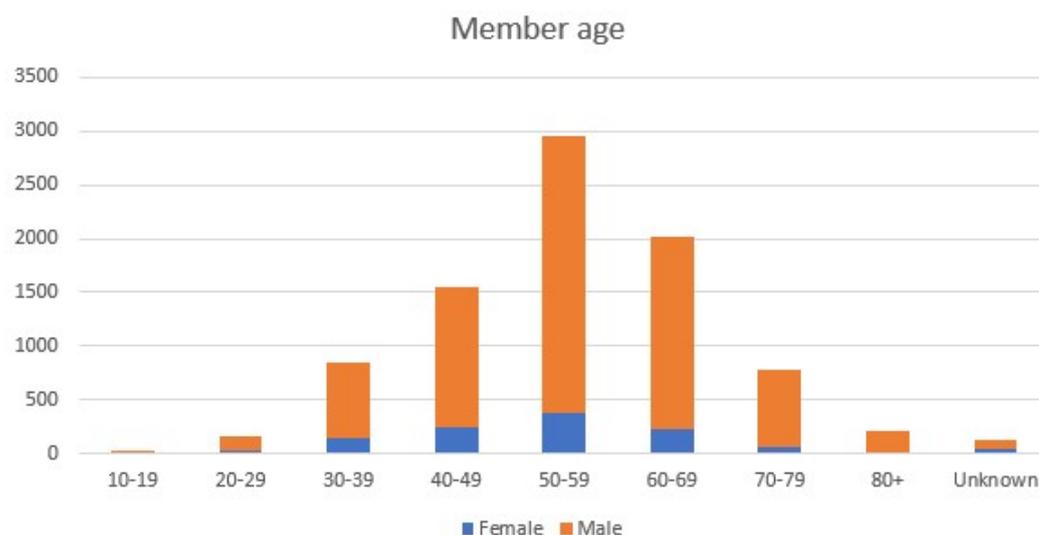
- 7573 Individual members (with no household)
- 890 Household members in 842 households (most households are only two people)
- 779 of our members qualify for life membership – approx. 70% subscribe to Arrivé
- 200 members live overseas (not including Channel Isles/Isle of Man)
- Approx 15% members are female and they do have a lower average age (51) than the men (56) – the age is hardly changed from previous years but the % has dropped from 17% at the end of 2022.

And some demographic analysis:

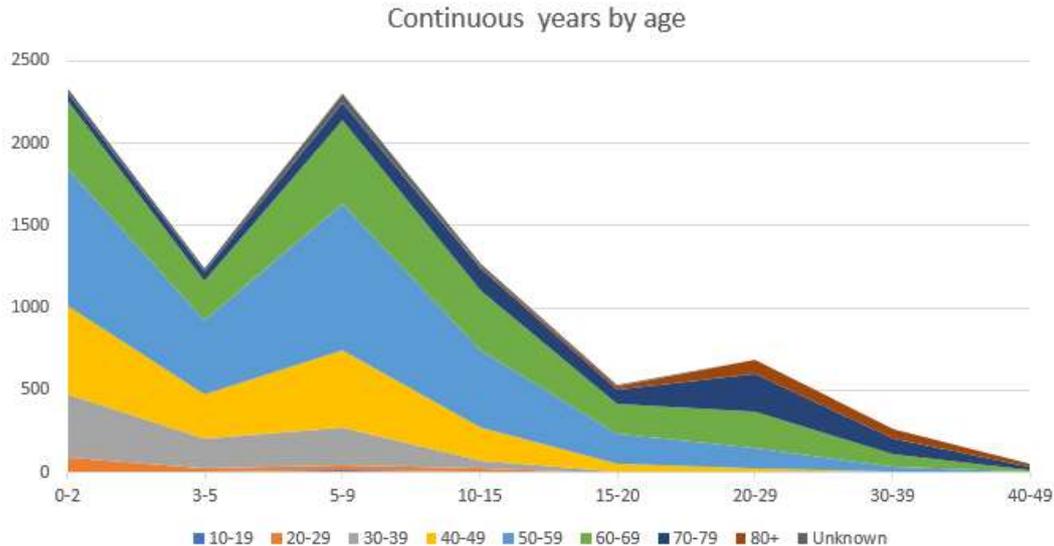
- By region, South West England still has a higher number of members than any other but London has the youngest membership (at least the highest % under 40).



- By age – again not much change, 50-59 is still the dominant age range, although this does not necessarily reflect the members actually riding events.



- By continuous years membership – obviously we would expect the longer continuous memberships to be linked to older members, however the 0-2 years is still skewed by a large number of members of all age groups who let their membership lapse during the Covid pandemic but have subsequently rejoined. Without that we would see higher numbers of 3-5 years and upwards.



### Have there been any changes to the membership system?

We have not made any significant changes to our membership system this year – it is currently fulfilling most of the functions we need and enabling “self-service” for most members’ and other users’ needs. The most frequent action requiring intervention has been creating households – where both aspiring members have registered independently to enter as non-members but now want to join as a household.

### What payment methods do we offer for membership?

We offer three methods of payment online for subscriptions – Stripe (credit/debit cards), PayPal and Direct Debit. These are used in approximately equal proportions for renewals, whereas new joiners favour Stripe over PayPal and only a small number choose to create a Direct Debit for their first year. This suggests that we should continue with all these options.

	Renewers		New joiners	
	Number	%	Number	%
Direct debit	1650	35%	157	9%
Paypal	1504	32%	622	37%
Stripe	1547	33%	921	54%
Cheque	44	1%		0%
Total	4745		1700	

### Do people who enter events as non-members go on to join as members?

We started the requirement for non-members to register with us in order to make an online entry over a year ago. We can now see that around 350 people registered with us, initially not taking a subscription but went on to join between 2 and 15 months later – suggesting in most cases that they probably tried one or more events before committing.

### Mailing our Arrivee magazine

A significant part of the membership role is to facilitate the distribution of Arrivee magazine. The main task is to provide mailing list data when requested by the printers. However, the membership secretary also has to work out the appropriate quantity for

each issue – this involves a bit of forecasting as we need to order enough to send to new joiners in the next 3 months but not so many that we are wasting lots of copies. There are usually between 30 and 50 copies left each time – these have been offered to organisers who have a large number of non-member entrants and a suitable venue as publicity handouts. Some have also been sent to members for distribution via local bike shops and cycle cafes – but more requests would be welcome.

**Thank you to our delegates**

As in previous years I would like to thank the membership delegates Peter Davis and Howard Knight for their work in mailing out magazines, letters and stickers to new members. This year they sent over 1500 packs out.

**Caroline Fenton**

Director and Membership Secretary

## 2. Calendar Events Secretary Report

2023 was another Paris-Brest-Paris year, around 580 UK riders qualified and took part in the event. The AUK calendar was the usual squeeze with longer events run earlier to meet the qualifying windows.

There were 565 events run by 89 clubs or individual organisers.

770 riders attained Super Randonneur status.

In total, including Brevet Populaire events, there were 18,082 validated brevets.

My thanks to Andy Cox, Andy Uttley, Grant Huggins and Adam Young for their hard work through the year.

Safe cycling in 2024.

**Ian Hennessey**

Director and Calendar Events Secretary

### 3. Permanent Events Secretary Report

The 2021/22 season saw us getting back to normal following the Covid 19 restrictions, with an increase in Permanent Events, although not back to the level before the pandemic. Between then and now there has been very little change. The total number of Permanent events ridden during 2022/23 and the distribution of events has been very similar to the previous year, although perhaps disappointingly the numbers are slightly down rather than there being a continued increase.

As in most years, some Permanent events have dropped out of the calendar, others have been handed on to a new organiser and some new Permanent event organisers have come forward with new event routes.

The increase in validation by GPS for fixed route Permanent events has continued as it has for the last few seasons. Validation by e-brevets has also grown since it was first trialled in 2019/20. By last year virtually all DIY events were being validated by GPS and this has continued with GPS validation now established as the norm for these events.

The new process for payment of brevet cards and validation fees using Stripe as the payment method in place of Paypal was introduced in the 2021/22 season and this has continued with more organisers switching to Stripe during 2022/23. Stripe is now the required entry fee and validation fee payment process for new Permanent Event organisers and for those wishing to introduce new routes or GPS or eBrevet.

During 2022/23 Permanent events where PoP may only be obtained by means of a GPS track or eBrevet were introduced. This has allowed organisers of Calendar events more easily to offer Permanent event versions without having to rely on Information controls to maintain the event minimum distance.

2022/23 saw the beginning of a major change in the processes for handling events as AUK moves on with a comprehensive new IT system. Permanent events have been the first to begin this change. Event information and the IT process for Permanent event entry is now in place although the validation of results remain at present within the old aukweb system. As you might imagine this has been an “interesting” process and I am grateful for the patient help given by Dave Alison helped by Caroline Fenton both to myself and some Permanent event organisers. And also to Francis Cooke who has kept all of the vital parts of the existing IT and data process on aukweb running. The intention throughout has been to maintain an uninterrupted event entry and validation process for AUK members despite what might be happening in the background. With a fair wind 2023/24 should see the fully integrated new IT system and processes in place for Permanent events along with an improved GPS validation system to make the majority of DIY event processing and validation simpler.

Once again my thanks go to all Permanent event and DIY event organisers, with a special mention to Andy Clarkson and Paul Stewart who are now stepping down as DIY organisers after a tremendous contribution until now as their DIY workload has steadily increased year by year.

## Summary Permanent Event numbers for 2022-23 compared with (2021-22)

	2022-23	(2021-22)
Fixed route events	1,009	(1,081)
DIY events	4,370	(4,713)
ECE events	247	(361)
Total	5,625	(6,155)

- 5,625 Permanent Events results, including ECE events have been recorded for 2022/23.
- 945 AUK members completed one or more Permanent events, which is slightly lower than in 2021/22.
- 20 Fixed Route Permanent Events were completed by non-AUK members.
- Overall, 75% of Permanent events ridden were BR events, and 25% were BP events, a slight shift from BR to BP events compared with 2021/22.
- 79% of DIY Events ridden were BR events and 21% were BP events. 71% of all DIY events ridden were 200km.
- 247 ECE events were recorded with 150 converting BP calendar events to BR and 97 increasing the distance of a BR calendar event. The longest ECE event ridden to reach a calendar event start was 500km with 5 cyclists travelling 300km in addition to a calendar event distance.
- 20 AUK members completed Permanent events longer than 600km. 15 cycled 1,000km or more and two managed to complete 2,600km events.

### **The Unofficial 2022/23 Permanent Event ‘Prizes’**

#### ***The organiser’s award for having most entrants (excluding DIY & ECE events):***

This year was won by Mike Wigley who was an early adopter of eBrevet for proof of passage on his events. Mike was in top spot last year with 187 entrants, but in 2022/23 Mike reached 235 validations for riders on his Permanent events.

#### ***The rider’s award for successfully completing most Permanent events***

Garry Traviss was top of the list with 126 validated events ridden, followed by Alan Steele with 107.

#### ***The rider’s award for collecting most AUK Points on Permanent events***

(2022/23 may well be the final year when this award can only be won by cycling BR events with short BP events scoring Nil Points).

Alan Rawet with 143 points topped this year’s score. Mostly from 200km events, but rounded off in style with a 1,000km event.

#### ***Super Randonnée permanent events of 600km in mountainous terrain***

This season, like 2021/22, no SR events were completed. Perhaps because they no longer count as a qualifying event for the ACP Randonneur 10,000 award? At present they remain in the AUK calendar but depending on whether any interest is shown during 2023/24 this may be reviewed.

***Ordre des Cols Durs (OCD)***

OCD events are recorded over a calendar year with claims and validations for the previous year being made during the first two months of the following year. The 2023 annual report for OCD will, be published in *Arrivée* magazine as soon as it is complete.

**John Ward**

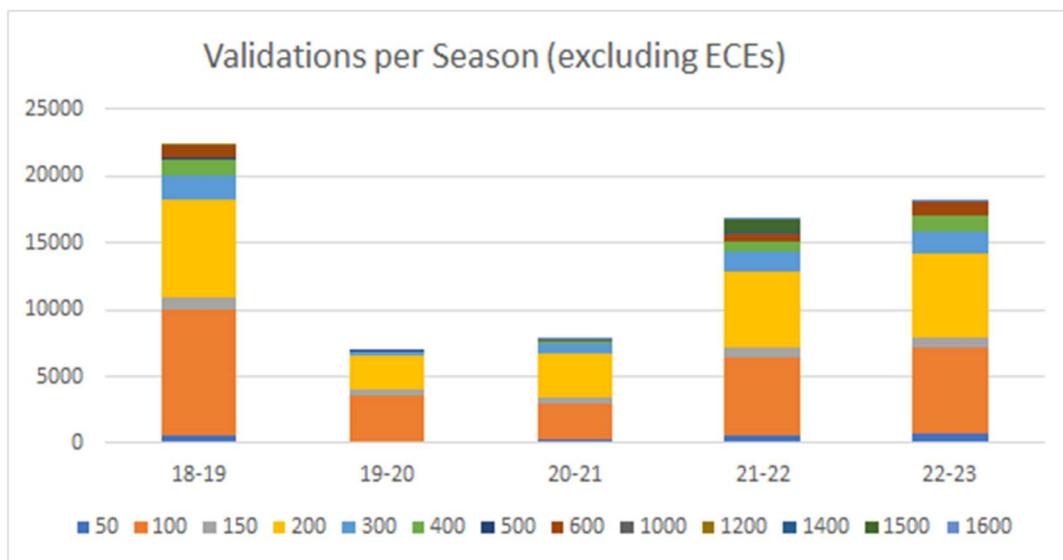
Director and Permanent Events Secretary

#### 4. Event Services and Recorder Report

##### Event Validations

There were 565 calendar events validated during the season with 18082 validations. Details are shown in the table below (excluding ECEs). This represents an 8% increase on the previous season:

Distance	50	100	150	200	300	400	500	600	1000	1200	1400	1500	1600	Total
Events	45	183	43	187	46	32	1	25	1	1	0	0	1	565
Validations	708	6424	804	6197	1704	1213	27	981	3	16	0	0	5	18082



##### Recorder and Brevet Awards

The volume of awards started to increase as riders became active again. The following awards were claimed during the past season:

- Brevet 1000: 0
- Brevet 2000: 7
- Brevet 3000: 5
- Brevet 4000: 5
- Brevet 5000: 2
- Brevet 25000: 4
- Randonneur 100000: 6

##### Overseas Rides

Riders requested 124 overseas rides be added to their records. In early January 2024, ACP finally provided results for PBP 2023. The results were extracted as best as possible although PBP does not log Audax UK membership numbers, which makes it a challenge to identify all members. To date 413 members have been identified and the ride has been added to their records. Any other members who completed the ride should contact the recorder.

**Awards**

Peter Davis has worked exceptionally hard to clear the Awards backlog, picking up the pieces and collating awards winners for 3 seasons. This led to the successful mailing in September of 19 trophies for the 2019 season, 25 trophies for 2021 season and 102 for the 2022 season.

**Brevet Cards**

After several years of intermittent issues, the Brevet Card secretary's printer has been replaced. This involved a lot more effort than expected due to issues with printer drivers and page scaling. Special thanks to Oliver for working through that on top of the excellent service he performs sending out cards for each calendar event.

**Other Delegates**

Thanks also go to Cathy Brown (Validations), Ivan Cornell (AAA) and Grant Huggins (RRtY) who keep their areas quietly and efficiently working.

**Dan Smith**

Director – Event Services and Recorder

## 5. Communications Director Report

My first full year on the Audax board and it has been a fantastic experience, I have learnt so much.

To start the new year we set up an Instagram account, this account is used to promote events and connect with the membership. The account has grown dramatically over the year with now almost 1300 followers. The account has allowed me to connect with riders who may or may not connect on other social platforms.

*Arrivée* has been a great source of enjoyment. Reading each of the stories on a quarterly basis has been inspiring. The magazine I believe now has become more diverse than ever before and we have featured more stories from under represented groups.

PBP was obviously a big focus for many last year and to be able to connect with GCN and help them (in a small way) was a great way of promoting the Audax community. We also managed to get special PBP shirts printed for the event, a fantastic shirt designed by Ged was really well received. We will be looking to role this out into 2024 into Audax shirts both long and short sleeve.

On top of the shirts we also have now for sale a high-viz vest, in collaboration with Apidura. These are a fantastic accompaniment to any cycling attire, giving you increased visibility at any time of the day.

Moving into 2024 I'd like to get Audax kit finally completed. It has been slower than I'd have liked but think it's important that we get the right fit. We are also progressing new banners for organisers to order, this should be finalised early quarter one. My main aim is to continue connecting with under represented groups, increasing their participation in Audax and promoting Audax UK to increase our membership.

**Paul Renshaw**

Communications Director

## 6. ACP/LRM Representative Report

At the time of writing I am unable to give you any news or details about BRM events the world over in 2022-23 and how Audax UK has fared in the unofficial world randonneur league. The annual ACP Presentation held in early January is usually the release date for this information. However, this was postponed and re-scheduled for 10 February. Possibly this was because there were difficulties in compiling the 2023 Paris-Brest-Paris results.

As far as I can tell from the LRM results tables, there were 1049 individual validations worldwide in the season 2022-23 from 63 events of 1200 km and above. The longest of these was the Trans Russia 10200 km., with just three finishers recorded. Overall, numbers were down, but it was of course a Paris-Brest-Paris year. And PBP exceeded expectations this year with great weather in great places, filled with great people.

Immediately after PBP there was the quadrennial Congress of Les Randonneurs Mondiaux, at which representatives of the randonneur nations meet to discuss business and elect a President, Vice President and Treasurer. In the Chair was outgoing President Mark Thomas (USA). Mark is the most prolific rider of LRM events there has ever been, having completed 69 LRM events of 1200 km and above as well as 6 PBP. His down to earth good sense and temperament have served him and LRM well. The new LRM President elected at the meeting, is Tal Katzir of Israel.

On the business side, three amendments to the LRM Event Regulations were approved. One clarified how event organisers are able to make changes to their routes at short notice if unforeseen circumstances prevent use of the intended route. A second change gave LRM and the national representatives explicit powers to impose penalties falling short of disqualification after an event has taken place, should infractions of the regulations become apparent. A third amendment allows event organisers to set opening and closing times for controls on any reasonable basis designed to keep riders moving along towards a timely finish, and not as hitherto according to the minimum and maximum speeds in force. The updated LRM event regulations are available on the Audax UK website.

**Chris Crossland**

Chair and ACP/LRM Representative

## 7. Finance Director's Report

The year to 31st August 2023 showed a gentle increase in income and expenditure from the previous year. Income increased by 8% (in a year of inflation of the RPI between 14.2% and 9%) which resulted in an 8% increase in Operating Surplus. On the other hand we received £6,185 in interest rather than the £1,093 of the previous year. This has given us a bottom line of income over expenditure of £41,538 after tax, being a 20% increase on the results from the year to 31st August 2022, thanks to the 8% increase in our activity and the Bank of England's base rate rises.

Membership renewals increased by just under 6% to £89,316. New member income on the other hand went down by 1% on the previous reporting year, down to £49,634. The biggest increase in income, came from Temporary Members (being non members who pay us to be a member for a ride and have their achievement recorded by us) who paid us over 43% more (it was up 162% more the previous year), up to £22,495.

Temporary Members are responsible for all our taxable trading income, so this increase has contributed mostly to the 45% increase of in our tax due for the year to 31st August 2023, along with the tax due on bank interest.

Income from all our events such as validations of rides, registration of new rides and printing of brevet cards decreased somewhat, after the large 221% increase last year, by 31% to £30,680.

Our costs of running Audax UK also went up by an average 8%. The largest cost reduction was in IT & Systems at just over £17,500 savings, however nearly all items of expenditure increased along with inflation. This all boils down to there being £32,547 more in our banks than at 31st August 2022, shown on the balance sheet (page 6 of the Finance annual report) standing at £348,064.

The revised forecast to 31st August 2024, version 4, was prepared in mid-December 2023 and now shows that the expected surplus from our activities will fall by 13% from this year to £37,966 which I believe is still adequate to meet the objectives of Audax UK and so I do not propose to consider any change to membership fees until the 2025 AGM.

**Nigel P Armstrong**

Finance Director

## Part B: Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration No. 5920055 (England and Wales)

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

16 Burlington Terrace Telephone: 07919 410 910  
Cardiff CF5 1GG Email: info@richardalsept.co.uk

**Richard Alsept**  
Chartered Accountant

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION.**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

**Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner**

The Directors of Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and have requested that an independent examination is carried out.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law and have been asked to carry out an independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts;
- (ii) review the accounting records; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006; have not been met.
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Richard Alsept, Chartered Accountant  
16 Burlington Terrace  
Cardiff CF5 1GG

DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024



Richard Alsept Limited, registered in England and Wales, No. 05007928  
Registered Office: 16 Burlington Terrace, Cardiff CF5 1GG

[www.richardalsept.co.uk](http://www.richardalsept.co.uk)

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
CONTENTS**

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**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
COMPANY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

**Directors** Christopher Peter Crossland  
William John Ward  
Nigel Peter Armstrong  
Caroline Anne Fenton  
Ian Gerard Hennessey  
Daniel Refoy Peskett Smith  
Andrew David Yates  
Paul Renshaw  
Paul Haxell

**Secretary** Graeme David Provan

**Company Number** 5920055 (England and Wales)

**Registered Office** Whitelands  
Terling Road  
Hatfield Peverel  
Essex  
CM3 2AG

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
(COMPANY NO: 5920055 ENGLAND AND WALES)  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

---

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023.

**Directors**

The following directors held office during the whole of the period:

Christopher Peter Crossland  
William John Ward  
Nigel Peter Armstrong  
Caroline Anne Fenton  
Ian Gerard Hennessey  
Daniel Refoy Peskett Smith  
Andrew David Yates

The following directors were appointed during the period:

Paul Haxell was appointed on 5 October 2022.  
Paul Renshaw was appointed on 17 October 2022.

Graeme David Provan resigned on 12 February 2023.

**Statement of directors' responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors

.....  
Christopher Peter Crossland  
Director

Approved by the board on:

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
(COMPANY NO: 5920055 ENGLAND AND WALES)  
DIRECTORS' REPORT**

---

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023.

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors

.....  
Christopher Peter Crossland  
Director

Approved by the board on:

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Turnover</b>	210,507	194,372
Cost of sales	(115,437)	(91,654)
<b>Gross surplus</b>	<u>95,070</u>	<u>102,718</u>
Administrative expenses	(57,580)	(67,972)
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<u>37,490</u>	<u>34,746</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	6,185	1,093
<b>Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	<u>43,675</u>	<u>35,839</u>
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	(2,137)	(1,471)
<b>Surplus for the financial year</b>	<u><u>41,538</u></u>	<u><u>34,368</u></u>

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	387	516
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories		6,887	7,083
Debtors	5	13,142	10,189
Cash at bank and in hand		348,064	315,517
		<u>367,893</u>	<u>332,789</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	6	<u>(59,974)</u>	<u>(67,928)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>307,919</u>	<u>264,861</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>308,306</u>	<u>265,377</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	7	<u>(36,330)</u>	<u>(34,939)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>271,976</u>	<u>230,438</u>
<b>Reserves</b>	8		
Profit and loss account		<u>271,976</u>	<u>230,438</u>
<b>Members' funds</b>		<u>271,976</u>	<u>230,438</u>

For the year ending 31 August 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - Small Entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by

Christopher Peter Crossland  
 Director

Company Registration No. 5920055

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	387	516
<b>Current assets</b>			
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The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on and were signed on its behalf by

Christopher Peter Crossland  
 Director

Company Registration No. 5920055

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

**1 Statutory information**

Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration number 5920055. The registered office is Whitelands, Terling Road, Hatfield Peverel, Essex, CM3 2AG.

**2 Compliance with accounting standards**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on ....

**3 Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year, and also have been consistently applied within the same accounts.

***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, except that as disclosed in the accounts certain items are shown at fair value.

***Tangible fixed assets and depreciation***

Tangible assets are included at cost less depreciation and impairment. Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:

Plant & machinery	25% Reducing balance method
-------------------	-----------------------------

***Inventories***

Finished goods inventories have been valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell and comprise stocks of medals and badges.

***Tax accounting policy***

The tax expense is recognised in profit and loss. The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted by the reporting date in the countries where the company operates.

***Revenue Recognition***

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;  
it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;  
and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

***Employees***

Members and Directors of Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association who are paid an honorarium for their services to the company are identified as employees in note 9.

***Cash & cash equivalents***

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

**Trade debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

**Trade creditors**

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

<b>4 Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>Plant &amp; machinery</b>	
	<b>£</b>	
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		<b>At cost</b>
At 1 September 2022		2,900
At 31 August 2023		2,900
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 September 2022		2,384
Charge for the year		129
At 31 August 2023		2,513
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 August 2023		387
At 31 August 2022		516
<b>5 Debtors</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	300	-
Accrued income and prepayments	12,842	10,189
	<u>13,142</u>	<u>10,189</u>

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

---

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	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	300	-
Accrued income and prepayments	12,842	10,189
	<u>13,142</u>	<u>10,189</u>

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

<b>6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	2,204	1,766
Taxes and social security	2,944	1,471
Other creditors	31,704	30,798
Accruals	23,122	33,893
	<u>59,974</u>	<u>67,928</u>

Other creditors above include members deferred subscriptions of £31,704.

<b>7 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Other creditors	36,330	34,939
	<u>36,330</u>	<u>34,939</u>

Other creditors above are made up of members deferred subscriptions.

**8 Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

**9 Average number of employees**

During the year the average number of employees was 23 (2022: 26).

**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION  
DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts.

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Turnover</b>		
Fees	210,507	194,372
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Other direct costs	115,437	91,854
<b>Gross profit</b>	95,070	102,718
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	11,140	10,275
Directors' salaries	6,100	4,885
Travel and subsistence	-	145
Rent	4,747	-
Bank charges	5,142	4,792
Software	27,424	44,536
Depreciation	129	173
Bad debts	-	300
Sundry expenses	37	16
Accountancy fees	2,850	2,850
Other legal and professional	11	-
	57,580	67,972
<b>Operating profit</b>	37,490	34,746
<b>Interest receivable</b>		
Interest receivable	6,185	1,093
<b>Profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	43,675	35,839

## Part C: AGM Agenda

### Agenda for the Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association AGM 2022/23

To be held on 15 February 2024, commencing at 19:00:

- a. To record the names of those present at the meeting
- b. To record apologies for absence
- c. To approve the minutes of the last AGM as a true record of that meeting
  - Refer to [Appendix 1: Minutes of the AGM 2021-22](#).
- d. Matters arising from the last meeting (AGM 2021/22).
- e. To approve the Annual Report
- f. To approve the Annual Accounts and the Finance Director's recommendations
- g. To consider resolutions
  - Refer to [Appendix 2: Resolution 1 – Information](#) for supporting information.

1. Resolution 1

**Proposer:** Arabella Maude (AUK 5617)

**Seconder:** Grant Huggins (AUK 6150)

**Resolution:**

That Event Regulations be amended with the addition of the following appendix to Regulation 10.1:

*"10.1.1 "When riding on a calendar event between sunset and sunrise, and during reduced visibility conditions, riders should use only lights showing a steady light to both front and rear (i.e. no flashing or pulsing lights should be used)."*

Note: Event Regulation 10.1 currently states "Riders agree that they are on a private excursion and are responsible for their own safety and conduct. Riders must follow the rules of the road and show consideration to other road users".

- h. Election of Directors
  - Refer to [Appendix 3: Election of Directors – Information](#) for supporting statements.
- 1) Chair and ACP/LRM Representative
  - Nominee:** Andy Cox (AUK 6766)
  - Proposer:** Ian Hennessey (AUK 2294)
  - Seconder:** Danial Webb (AUK 5263)

- 2) General Secretary  
**Nominee:** Andy Yates (AUK 14666)  
**Proposer:** Brian Devonshire (AUK 18968)  
**Seconded:** Ivan Cornell (AUK 2692)
  
  - 3) Director – Permanent Events Secretary  
**Nominee:** John Ward (AUK 826)  
**Proposer:** Caroline Fenton (AUK 8040)  
**Seconded:** Andy Uttley (AUK 7062)
  
  - 4) Director – Event Services and Recorder  
**Nominee:** Grant Huggins (AUK 6150)  
**Proposer:** Tom Deakins (AUK 6380)  
**Seconded:** Graeme Provan (AUK 12829)
  
  - 5) Director – Membership Secretary  
**Nominee:** Caroline Fenton (AUK 8040)  
**Proposer:** Arabella Maude (AUK 5617)  
**Seconded:** Malcolm Wills (AUK 17448)
  
  - 6) Non-Executive Director – Post 1  
**Nominee:** Darrell Whittle (AUK 5592)  
**Proposer:** Mike Wigley (AUK 1309)  
**Seconded:** Danial Webb (AUK 5263)
  
  - 7) Non-Executive Director – Post 2  
**Nominee:** Anne Young (AUK 6749)  
**Proposer:** Keith Benton (AUK 73)  
**Seconded:** Hugh Harrison (AUK 1687)
- i. Date and venue of next meeting
  
  - j. Close of meeting

## Appendix 1: Minutes of the AGM 2021-22

### Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association

#### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021/22

*Held at IBIS Birmingham New Street, 21 Ladywell Walk, Birmingham on 11 February 2023 at 12.00pm*

#### **1) TO RECORD THE NAMES OF THOSE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the members of the Board and asked the delegates and members present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

*Board Members Attending: Chris Crossland (Chair), Graeme Provan (General Secretary), John Ward (Permanent Events Secretary and Returning Officer), Caroline Fenton (Membership Secretary - via Zoom), Nigel Armstrong (Finance Director), Daniel Smith (Events Services Director and Recorder) and Ian Hennessey (Calendar Events Secretary)*

*Other Members attending: Mel Armstrong, Peter Davis (Awards Secretary), Ivan Cornell (AAA Secretary), David Hudson, Mike Walsh and Richard Painter. Kevin Hickman via Zoom.*

He then asked members to join him in a short period of reflection in memory of the AUK members who had passed away since the last AGM. These included:

Ian Napier  
Derek Noble  
Pam Almond  
Norman Danby  
Mark Blyton  
Sam Boley  
Richard Daniells  
Stuart Simons  
Peter Dale  
Peter Ford

The Chair explained that he was holding mandated proxy votes where he had no choice but to vote in accordance with the direction of the appointing members and also discretionary proxy votes where members had given him full discretion. He stated that he would listen to any debate before exercising those discretionary votes for the good of Audax UK. Voting would be conducted via poll votes.

John Ward, as Returning Officer, explained that he had a record of all proxy votes cast in advance and would add these to the votes in the meeting before announcing the result of each vote. He reminded those who had voted online not to vote again during the meeting.

**2) TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies had been received from:

Jennifer Crossland  
Rod Dalitz  
Ian Prince  
Brandon Edgeley  
Sheila Ward  
Paul Renshaw  
Andy Yates

**3) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM as a true record of that meeting**

**Result:-**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

607 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

1 mandated proxy to vote against the resolution

84 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

411 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 1024*

*Against - 1*

*Abstain - 84*

**TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1109**

*Approved*

**4) MATTERS ARISING from the last meeting.**

None

**5) TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT.**

The Chair asked for any questions from the floor on the individual sections of the Annual Report.

**Result:-**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

646 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

0 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

68 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

390 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 1042*

*Against - 0*

*Abstain - 68*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1110*

**6) TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS**

Nigel Armstrong presented the Accounts and Report to the meeting.

**Result:-**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

616 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

0 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

78 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

409 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 1031*

*Against - 0*

*Abstain - 78*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1109*

Approved

**7) TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS**

The Chair explained that the resolutions before the meeting would be decided by majority vote. Voting would be conducted via poll votes as the number of proxy votes held greatly exceeded the number of votes available in the room. There would be an opportunity to ask questions of the proposer of each resolution but thereafter, as this would not be discussion in committee, any debate would follow the custom and practice of AUK AGM's and generally

accepted rules of debate. Each member would be able to speak once on each proposal, with the exception of proposers who would be afforded the right of reply to a debate. Members would retain the right to make points of order, information and explanation.

**Resolution 1:**

Proposer: Nigel Peter Armstrong - AUK2585 - AUK Finance Director

Seconder: Graeme Provan -AUK12829 - AUK General Secretary

On behalf of the board of AUK.

That pursuant to Regulation 3.5, the fees paid for membership for 12 months are amended, effective from 1 March 2023, as set out in the accompanying note.

Ivan Cornell asked about event fees. Nigel Armstrong explained that no decision had been made as yet.

**Result:-**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

860 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

49 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

26 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

183 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 1049*

*Against - 49*

*Abstain - 26*

**TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1124**

Resolution passed

**Resolution 2:**

**Proposer** - Brandon Edgeley (AUK 8025)

**Seconder** - John Gallagher (AUK19033)

That Regulation 1.1 be deleted replaced with the following:

1.1 Points: Members shall be awarded points at a rate of 0.5 point for every 50km in BP, BR, BRM and RM events validated by Audax UK, plus PBP, Flèches Nationales, BRM and RM events validated by ACP or LRM and Audax events validated by UAF of 50km or more.

Richard Painter commented that he felt AUK was about distance not points. He was against the award of meaningless points. He believed it was better to encourage new riders by promoting distance awards. He noted there were already various awards relating to shorter distances and queried why there needed to be points as well.

Mike Walsh declared he was in favour of the proposal but accepted there was a potential issue with using large numbers of shorter riders to game the various competitive trophies. He wondered if there should be a limit on the number of shorter rides that could be used.

The Chair noted that the change would not apply to the current season. If the resolution was passed, AUK would need carefully to consider the ramifications for various matters including the IT system, awards structures and points competitions. He also noted the application of the 50% rule for championships. He believed that for many riders, their points total was a personal target rather than a championship attempt.

Kevin Hickman declared he was also in favour of the resolution. He had reached an age where he rode shorter distances and was also involved with a disability charity. Both factors had led him to reconsider his view of the points structure. He believed the resolution would help inclusivity and thanked the proposer for raising it. He noted that individual views of what constituted a long distance would vary. He felt 50k and 100k events served the dual purpose of encouraging people into the sport and eventually to longer distances but also to cater for people who would see completion of these distances as an achievement.

John Ward could not see the benefits of adopting the new structure. He believed it would increase administration. He also felt that a medal for completing a 50k event would be far more gratefully received than 0.5 points.

Richard Painter stated that if inclusivity was a key part of AUK, it should also be looking at the rules on EAPCs.

Ian Hennessey was concerned about the disparity in minimum speeds between BP and BR/BRM events. He also felt that AUK was the long distance cycling association and that other organisations could concentrate on shorter events.

Mel Armstrong agreed with Kevin Hickman's points. She also felt inclusivity was important. She was a slower rider with no ambition to ride a 200k or longer event but she would like to be awarded points for shorter events. She agreed that the rules on EAPCs needed to be reconsidered.

The Chair acknowledged there was a wider debate to be had within AUK about inclusivity. He then reminded the meeting that the Board had declared a neutral stance on this resolution. As such and having taken account of the views expressed at the meeting, he intended to use half of his discretionary votes to vote in favour of the resolution and half to vote against it.

**Result:**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

606 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

217 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

58 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

242 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 2

Against - 3

Abstain - 1

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 729*

*Against - 341*

*Abstain - 59*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1129*

Resolution passed

## **8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Chair noted it was his usual policy to abstain on elections where he had discretionary votes.

### **1: Calendar Events Secretary - Director - sole nominee Ian Hennessey**

No questions from the floor

#### **Result:**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

879 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

1 mandated proxy to vote against the candidate

0 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

235 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

#### **John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 885*

*Against - 1*

*Abstain - 235*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1121*

Ian Hennessey was duly elected.

**2: Communications Director - sole nominee Paul Renshaw**

Ian Hennessey noted the appointment was slightly unusual as the nominee did not have that much experience within AUK.

The Chair noted that the nominee had relevant experience, which made him an ideal candidate for the role.

**Result:**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

816 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

6 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

0 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

291 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 822*

*Against - 6*

*Abstain - 291*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1119*

Paul Renshaw was duly elected.

### **3. General Secretary - no nominations**

### **4. Non-executive Director - Post 1 - sole nominee Andy Yates**

The Chair noted the nominee had already made a huge contribution to AUK with his input to the new strategy document.

**Result:**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

790 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

4 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

0 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

318 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 796*

*Against - 4*

*Abstain - 318*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1118*

Andy Yates was duly elected.

**6: Non-executive Director - Post 2 - sole nominee Paul Haxell**

The Chair reminded the meeting that the nominee had been co-opted on to the Board during the previous year and was now standing for election by the members.

**Result:**

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

775 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

9 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

0 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

332 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For - 6

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

**John Ward therefore declared the following result:**

*For - 781*

*Against - 9*

*Abstain - 332*

*TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1122*

Paul Haxell was duly elected.

**9. Date and venue of next meeting:**

To be agreed but likely to be Birmingham or virtually on 10th February 2024.

## **10. Close**

Richard Painter, on behalf of the members, thanked the board, delegates, organisers and everyone else who had contributed to AUK for their hard work.

The Chair thanked everyone who had attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.50.

## Appendix 2: Resolution 1 - Information

**Proposer:** Arabella Maude (AUK 5617)

**Secunder:** Grant Huggins (AUK 6150)

(Note: the resolution also has the written support of at least 25 members of AUK)

### **Resolution:**

That Event Regulations be amended with the addition of the following appendix to Regulation 10.1:

*"10.1.1 "When riding on a calendar event between sunset and sunrise, and during reduced visibility conditions, riders should use only lights showing a steady light to both front and rear (i.e. no flashing or pulsing lights should be used)."*

Note: Event Regulation 10.1 states "Riders agree that they are on a private excursion and are responsible for their own safety and conduct. Riders must follow the rules of the road and show consideration to other road users".

### **Rationale:**

I'm proposing the change because a number of people find blinking lights problematic to follow. On an audax event 'following' a blinking light has the potential to be during a far longer period than is experienced in a motor vehicle.

It can also be found that rear lights are not optimally directed for the comfort of following cyclists, which exacerbates the problem.

The most quoted reason for using blinking lights is safety or visibility - but whose safety, and visibility to/of whom/what?

\* A study by the Dutch research institute TNO concluded a marginal increase in visibility for flashing front lights, but recommended against flashing lights because they inhibits accurately determining the cyclist's position and decreases emergency vehicle visibility.

\* With flashing, the eye and brain cannot determine by how much to adjust the iris to compensate for the brightness - not the case for a steady light. In particular, not all people find this adjustment to flashing easy and so, for them, other people's flashing lights make them less safe - Flashing .. lights at night in areas that are not brightly lit .. kill night vision.

\* Whilst photo epilepsy is rare.... Irlens Syndrome Is NOT RARE!!! almost 50% of people with dyslexia also have Irlens syndrome and flashing lights in your face can cause headaches.

\* Not only epileptic problems, but other neurological conditions are affected; light patterns may have been tested, but 20 bicycles together with strobes can have any number of frequencies when operating together.

And most telling: ".. find it almost impossible to look in the direction of a cyclist who has flashing lights on their bike, meaning that when I am driving I have to guess where they are. With steady lights I don't have this problem. Having worked in the NHS and spent time dealing with RTCs this really concerns me that cyclists actively make it hard for me to see where they are in the belief that it makes them safer."

Studies have also shown that for those concerned about a possible loss of visibility when moving to steady lights, there is the option of a steady light worn on the ankle or heel which does make you more conspicuous; colourful/reflective clothing is fine for the torso, but is even better on the lower leg for letting drivers know you're a cyclist.

There is other research about cyclist visibility available: "Improving the conspicuity and safety of pedestrians and cyclists on night-time roads" at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08164622.2023.2174001>

Similarly, what was noted on a driver questionnaire conducted by the Ford Motor Company was that pedal reflectors / reflective ankle bands give a far better perception of cyclist whereabouts and distance than any red rear lamp. But I don't have a link for it. Again, it's because motorists can associate the reciprocating action against their awareness of a bicycle crank movement.

See also: "Increasing the conspicuity of cyclists at night by using bicycle lights and clothing to highlight their biological motion to oncoming drivers" <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1369847822002017>

As above, Dutch research also found in favour of steady lights, here is a summary of the TNO study, in English: [https://web.archive.org/web/20100704234856/https://www.fietsberaad.nl/library/repository/bestanden/Eindrapport\\_Fietsverlichting.pdf#page=5](https://web.archive.org/web/20100704234856/https://www.fietsberaad.nl/library/repository/bestanden/Eindrapport_Fietsverlichting.pdf#page=5), selectively summarised below:

- For front lights we find:
  - \* In most cases flicker raises the conspicuity of front lights.
  - \* There is no clear relation between flicker frequency and conspicuity.
- For rear lights we find:
  - \* Flicker does not contribute significantly to the conspicuity of rear lights.
- Other conclusions:
  - \* There is no need to increase the conspicuity of front light by using flicker.
  - \* Visual perception suggests the following disadvantages of flickering bicycle lights:
    - \* Flickering bicycle lights make it harder for other road users to estimate the speed and trajectory of a bicycle.
    - \* Flickering bicycle lights may reduce the conspicuity of emergency services.
- Recommendations:
  - \* Bicycle lights should not flicker

Note also: what you do on your commute, DIY, ECE etc. is entirely your own business.

### **Resolution 1 - The Audax UK Board View:**

This proposed addition to the regulations would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to enforce. It also differs from what is legally required and/or allowed in the UK for pedal cycles on public highways, and therefore raises the possibility of unnecessary conflict. The Board's view is that for these reasons, AUK's Event Regulations should not be amended in this way.

The Board considers that if a rider is being affected by flashing lights during an event, then a courteous request should be made and followed. AUK Event Regulation 10.1 includes that riders must “show consideration to other road users” and this includes other riders. However, the Board will prepare a rider Code of Conduct which sets out what is expected from riders of Audax UK events, which will refer to the use of flashing lights, amongst other items.

## Appendix 3: Election of Directors - Information

### 1. Chair and ACP/LRM Representative

**Nominee:** Andy Cox (AUK 6766)  
**Proposer:** Ian Hennessey (AUK 2294)  
**Secunder:** Danial Webb (AUK 5263)

#### **Supporting Statement:**

I would like to stand as Chair of Audax UK at the upcoming AGM.

Long distance cycling is something that I am passionate about. It has provided me with some of my proudest moments, I've made many good friends and had many defining experiences. Within the broad continuum of cycling, it is the discipline with which I associate most strongly.

I have been an active member of AUK since 2006. I have clocked up SRs in 9 of those years, completed LEL once, started PBP 4 times and finished 3 of them including once in the Vedette group. I organised my first event in 2011 and last year delivered a full SR series based in Mid Wales with excellent support from my wife Siobhan. We have also provided controls for several other events, notably LEL (Thirsk in 2017, Malton in 2022), the Bryan Chapman (since 2016), all versions of the Mille Cymru and other events for John Hamilton, Mark Rigby & Edwin Hargraves. I have also been part of the AUK events team, acting as delegate for the Wales & SW region since 2019.

I have relevant experience from other arenas having previously been Chair of the Welsh Sea Rowing Association for a couple of years, served as a director on the board of Welsh Rowing and gained a PGCert in Sports Leadership & Management. I also completed tenures on the Finance Committee & Community Board of BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT. I remain involved with BCS, acting as Treasurer for the Mid-Wales Branch - a role which I have held since we formed the branch in 2010. These offices together with my day job (Social Care Team Manager) and a background in IT & Project Management give me a broad base of experience.

In terms of the Chair's role, noting the job description, I would particularly seek to:

- Support and encourage the good work being undertaken by existing board members.
- Consider new approaches to succession planning.
- Advocate for greater transparency on how AUK is managed.
- Explore where processes might be streamlined.
- Explore where user experiences might be improved.
- Critically evaluate long-running actions and whether the case for pursuing them still exists.
- Reinstate the role of ACP/LRM delegate as a separate entity to Chair.
- Develop a clear long-term strategy including:
  - Closer ties with the LEL organisers
  - Better use of technology

- Support ambitious organisers to develop exciting events.
- Support emerging specialisms e.g. Gravel events.
- Associated marketing strategy

## 2. General Secretary

**Nominee:** Andy Yates (AUK 14666)  
**Proposer:** Brian Devonshire (AUK 18968)  
**Seconder:** Ivan Cornell (AUK 2692)

### **Supporting Statement:**

I am an active member of Audax UK with several SRs, some AAAs, a few RRtYs and other achievements so far. This season I'm aiming to see even more of the UK and its cakes on my way to hopefully another SR and RRtY, and maybe even a SR2500 if I'm feeling ambitious.

I am currently acting as Audax UK's General Secretary and am keen to continue in this role. It has been a positive experience, there is a lot going on and I would welcome the opportunity to continue progressing in the role to assist with the running and development of Audax UK.

Elsewhere within Audax UK, I am a DIY organiser as well as being a calendar events and perms organiser and I especially enjoy supporting riders and helping them achieve their goals.

## 3. Director – Permanent Events Secretary

**Nominee:** John Ward (AUK 826)  
**Proposer:** Caroline Fenton (AUK 8040)  
**Seconder:** Andy Uttley (AUK 7062)

### **Supporting Statement:**

Re-discovered cycling in my fifties, then you all know the familiar Audax story: A few more 100km rides, the impossible distance of 200km, perhaps a bit further, bought some lights, cycled through the night, SR series, PBP.....and without really thinking about it 150,000m of eligible OCD climbing in the Alps (must put in a claim sometime).

Event organising:

AUK events from 50km to 1,000km organised. I ran the New Forest calendar events for 20 years and still organise a range of Permanent event versions.

AUK:

As Permanent Secretary I have seen the number of Permanent Events validated grow from 800 to more than 5,000 per season. DIY and ECE events have been introduced and new systems for creating events and validation and recording have been developed, including gpx and virtual brevet cards and more recently e-brevet validations. OCD responsibility has been taken into the AUK fold; and I liaised with ACP in Paris to introduce the confusingly named international Super Randonnée permanent events into Britain (now still in the AUK calendar but no longer validated by ACP).

I learned a lot more about the geography of Britain and county and national boundaries than I ever thought necessary for an AUK Director, suspending and unsuspending Permanent Events and trying to keep the long-distance cycling show as much on the road as possible through the Covid pandemic.

Almost inevitably over time the IT systems for Permanent Events have grown in an ad hoc way with bits bolted on and a few homemade spreadsheets of my own. We have moved from paper and postage stamps to mobile phone apps. Replacing the whole of the AUK IT system has proven to be a longer task than the AUK board would have wished, but for the creation of new events and the event entry process the current priority has been to use Permanent Events as the 'guinea pig' cohort. We are well on the way to having modernised the Permanent Event processes from new events through event entry to validation, making more information easily available and offering a better seamless experience for both organisers and riders.

If elected my personal priority will be to help complete this transition with everything tidied up and then hand over to someone else and retire gracefully rather than seeking election for a further term of office.

Other cycling roles:

Committee member CTC Wessex Cycling until 2021

Organiser Lymington Tuesday Cycling

#### **4. Director – Event Services and Recorder**

**Nominee:** Grant Huggins (AUK 6150)

**Proposer:** Tom Deakins (AUK 6380)

**Secunder:** Graeme Provan (AUK 12829)

#### **Supporting Statement:**

I am standing for the position of Event Services and Recorder Director of Audax UK.

As an active member of Audax UK since 2011, an organiser of various events and as the holder of positions of responsibility within AUK, I believe I am well-suited to this role.

Over the years, I have regularly participated in Audax UK events; completing several Super Randonneur series, two RRtY series and Paris-Brest-Paris 2015. I volunteered at the 2013 and 2017 LEL events.

Since 2015, I have been organising calendar and permanent events up to 400km within Audax Club Mid-Essex (ACME). As a founding member of ACME, I have been instrumental in its growth and success. I have had financial stewardship of ACME and gained valuable experience in event planning, logistics, and coordination, ensuring that each event runs smoothly and meets the high standards set by Audax UK.

In addition to my event organisation experience, I have served as the RRtY Secretary since 2018, working with the Events Services and Recorder Director. As RRtY Secretary, I have effectively managed the administration of the Randonneur Round the Year award; ensuring accurate record-keeping, updating the RRtY roll of honour on the AUK website and communicating with claimants. In 2020 I created a Board approved process to cope with the validation suspension periods during Covid-19.

In June 2019 I took on the role of Area Events Delegate for East of England and Midlands, with responsibility for overseeing and supporting events within my designated area and assisting the Events Team. Through this role I have developed strong relationships with other delegates and event organisers and have gained valuable experience of Audax UK's rules and systems.

While I am proud of my contributions as RRtY Secretary and Area Events Delegate, I am keen to take on the challenge of Event Services and Recorder Director. I understand this role requires a high level of organisation, attention to detail and effective communication skills. I also recognise I will need to stand down from my RRtY Secretary and Area Events Delegate roles (I have been training my successor as RRtY Secretary for several months with a view to handing over full responsibility, regardless of the success of my application for the Event Services and Recorder Director role).

In my professional life, I work for a large financial institution in an IT specialist role, most recently managing Unified Communications Engineering.

I am confident that my professional and AUK experience in event organisation, familiarity with Audax UK's processes and procedures and my ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders make me an ideal candidate for this position. If given the opportunity, I pledge to leverage my skills and experience to maintain and enhance the event services provided by Audax UK.

## 5. Director – Membership Secretary

**Nominee:** Caroline Fenton (AUK 8040)

**Proposer:** Arabella Maude (AUK 5617)

**Secunder:** Malcolm Wills (AUK 17448)

### **Supporting Statement:**

I have been the Membership Secretary of Audax UK since February 2018 and am willing to stand again to serve a third term, although I would be equally happy to support a new incumbent should someone wish to take it on and be elected!

My first three years in the role saw quite a lot of changes and improvements in the membership area. These were mostly related to the introduction of the new membership system but also some initiatives outside that such as direct debits, gift memberships and discounts for those joining after paying a non-member supplement.

The last three years have not seen so many changes, our membership system is stable and I haven't got many new ideas to implement. I have however continued to work in the role, especially corresponding with many members and prospective members. I like to think I have generally provided a prompt and helpful service, although it can be frustrating when asked questions to which answers can easily be found elsewhere (eg about LEL entry!)

A major responsibility undertaken by the membership secretary is to facilitate the mailing of Arrivee magazines. To support this, I revived our Audax UK Royal Mail account as that offers good rates via "subscription mail" – this was quite an achievement as it is not the easiest organization to deal with! We have also enabled the enrolment delegates to use the account directly for mailing new joiners – a cost saving plus reduction in admin associated with expense management.

I have continued to work outside the membership function providing website content management support, and also input to the development of the new event entry processing including registration for non-members wishing to enter online, launched in April 2022. My "specialist area" has become the Stripe payment service for events – this is now being used by a significant number of organisers and I currently manage the onboarding process for them.

If elected to serve again I will continue with the basic everyday functions of the role as before and also with the ongoing development of event planning and listing functions, plus general contribution to the activities of the board.

## 6. Non-Executive Director – Post 1

**Nominee:** Darrell Whittle (AUK 5592)

**Proposer:** Mike Wigley (AUK 1309)

**Secunder:** Danial Webb (AUK 5263)

### **Supporting Statement:**

I wish to stand for position of Non-Executive Director for Audax UK at the upcoming AGM. In addition, I am also interested in shadowing John Ward with a view to taking on the role of Permanent Secretary should that position become vacant in the future.

I have been a nurse for 30 years and work full time as an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in a busy Emergency Department. In this role I am a senior clinical decision maker, assimilating various strands of information and results to devise effective medical plans. I work autonomously as part of the wider clinical team. I also undertake safeguarding interventions and risk assessments and I am co-opted to strategic planning groups as required.

My Audax career however dates to 2011. I had been cycling to work for a couple of years and was devising my own UK mini tours. As part of my adult cycling renaissance, I had subscribed to a number of cycling blogs and stumbled upon an article about London Edinburgh London 2009. Audax was an unfamiliar concept to me but the challenge of cycling such a distance really appealed. It was eighteen months to the 2013 edition, so I signed up to AUK and became a Randonneur.

When I completed LEL in 2013, along with an SR, I was buzzing about my achievement and have been involved with Audax ever since. From the end of 2013 though, well into 2014, I had a protracted period of illness and my long-distance cycling was curtailed. I continued riding, which was a huge boost to my recovery, but hankered after longer days on the bike. As my health improved, with a slight blip in 2020/21 for a hip replacement, I have been able to resume longer distances again, combining audaxes with tours which is the pattern of cycling I continue. This year my plan is to complete an RRtY.

In 2017 I volunteered for LEL and had a fun time helping at Innerleithen experiencing another side to the event. I was very flattered after when asked to become a controller for the following edition. In 2022 I controlled at Eskdalemuir, and I have volunteered again for 2025. Danial wants me to manage the bigger, two-way, bag drop, sleep stop control at Hessle next time so I must have done something OK.

While at Eskdalemuir I took some photographs of the event and submitted them to Arrivée. One of the images made the cover and, as a keen photographer, I have been submitting photographs to Ged Lennox since. I have had a fair number published along with some text I persuade/cajole riders to provide in return for a free high resolution digital photograph file. It is nice chatting to riders on the events and it is another aspect of Audax I really enjoy.

Around 2019/20, Mike Wigley asked if I had ever considered becoming an AUK organiser. Now, with Mike's mentorship, I run several events and perms' north of Manchester around/over Bowland and the Yorkshire Dales up to 400k distance. Most of the routes are AAA heavy but still attract a fair number of entrants, many of whom enjoy the events and plan to return for more (see page 20 of the latest Arrivé edition!).

Around 2020 I became a moderator for the LEL Facebook group and later the Audax UK Facebook group. These positions allow me to see a broad range of interests, concerns and questions from non-AUK members who may be looking to ride their first 50k through to fully signed up members with multiple events under their belt. I also use the AUK group to publicize my upcoming Audax events which always results in a little flurry of entries.

In 2022 I was instrumental in effecting an AUK rule change in relation to Permanents route planning. I made contact with John Ward and, with his support, made the case to the board that it can be difficult as an organiser to offer perms' in remote areas due to lack of controls able to provide stamps, receipts or ATM slips. The board agreed such routes could be planned without the need for paper based control points and instead organisers could offer routes based on eBrevet app or GPX to provide validation.

So, you can see my interest in Audax crosses several aspects. I am a full value rider who managed to complete an SR and LEL, a willing volunteer, a competent controller, a keen organiser, an enthusiastic advocate for long distance cycling and I can argue and canvas for change. Should I be successful, I would hope to bring my enthusiasm and skills to the position offering support and hopefully an alternative view to the Executive board members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darrell Whittle RGN, MSc, BSc, DipHE

## **7. Non-Executive Director – Post 2**

**Nominee:** Anne Young (AUK 6749)

**Proposer:** Keith Benton (AUK 73)

**Secunder:** Hugh Harrison (AUK 1687)

### **Supporting Statement:**

I have been a member of AUK for around 20 years and did my first 200k in 1996. From then, I went on to complete PBP in 2003 and joined the VC167 in 2004 and have been a member since. I have completed PBP 4 times, LEL once, and have 1 x BR25,000 and not far off my R100,000. I am currently secretary and membership secretary of the VC167

and pride myself on my efficiency and reliability. I have organised a couple of 100k audaxes several years ago and helped out on a number of events since.

Outside cycling, I am a partner in a large GP practice and have experience of decision making and putting forward new suggestions and ideas to further the business. Prior to becoming a medical doctor, I was a chartered accountant so have a good understanding of figures.