

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "BRIAR ROSE" BIRMINGHAM ON 24<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH 2009

Meeting started at 10:35

Present: DKB, PC, FC, GG, SG, KH, IH, PM, RP, SS, & JW.

Apology for absence: NH, PP, & DW.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008 were accepted as a true record, subject to the "dog-leg" on LEL route being in the Lincoln area.

MATTERS ARISING: IH confirmed he had been in touch with Norman (Hayes?) re entry forms and a meeting to discuss a joint format is to be arranged, possibly around the CTC AGM.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: FC (deputising for NH) advised things were going well with little to report. SS, as Publications Mgr said that Arrivée was short of copy, and on the events side, these were running well. A discussion followed about a hilly event in Surrey, where the route was 110KM, but the shortest distance between controls was approx 70KM. She thought that a single extra control would restore route integrity and will discuss with Andy Uttley. SG/KH said their area was generally OK despite some events having been cancelled, and some validations were down as a result of the adverse weather conditions. A virtuous circle appeared to be developing with organisers responding to quicker validations by reducing their own delays. IH has put an advertisement in the CTT handbook basically promoting LEL. He requested opinions on placing a series of ads in either Cycling Plus or Cycling Weekly. The discussion then took a tangential turn concerning possible collateral fallout after any incidents on Sportive rides. DKB admitted having long been unhappy with this prospect, though SS quoted the max speed restriction and "private excursion" declaration. FC opined that organisers of such events were blind to the risks. Although numbers on Audax rides are generally far lower, one particular ride was cited as being very popular where the riders treated it as a competitive event with the consequent risk of liability to the organiser. At the end of that discussion IH was volunteered to establish contact with the CTC for dialogue, possibly with contact assisted by DD. Back on topic, it was agreed to trial a series of advertisement in Cycling Weekly on a fortnightly basis for six months. Such ads are planned to be in an outside column with an unchanging format and location to reinforce recognition.

JW reported Perms validations at 450 were slightly up, and there is a steady stream of 200s. Some cards are now out of date, and he is changing the masters before reprinting. The system, being automated, would ensure riders receive correct points. He is also issuing a pointer to the updated website and will be liaising with IH to enable the latter to self-validate his Permanents. PM's quarter had been fairly quiet, though ACP is unhappy about the low number of BRM events. This level was attributed partly to our new system and partly to time-scale considerations. It was stressed a BRM presence should be maintained; SS is offering all her events this season as BRM and will encourage other organisers to do likewise outside PBP years. GG reported that membership was currently just under 4000 with approx 600 lapsed members and a similar no of new recruits. There has, however, been a large rise in the number of non-paying Life Members. The recent subscription increase has caused many problems with some Standing Order payments being either an incorrect amount or duplicated. Sadly, Jim Pitt, who had volunteered to help reconciling these, has had to withdraw for personal reasons. In addition to taking over Gerry's position at the next AGM, Mike Wigley will also handle that reconciliation, but will divest himself of his "New Members" role to allow a modicum of free time. An advertisement for a suitable volunteer has been prepared for Arrivée. (Sec's note: In a subsequent e-mail exchange, GG mentioned that Life Members are identified automatically by the system and requested a footnote in "Just A Minute" to alert members not to pay and therefore reduce avoidable correspondence.)

PC mentioned there had been a couple of unexplained website outages – a problem which should be cured by moving to a new server, which is expected to happen shortly. He is also intending to "wiki-fy" the website to enable various officials to access the parts of the system relevant to them. RT had little to report other than the finances were OK. RP reported having received several enquiries about missing Arrivées mislaid by the Royal Mail and a similar number from members wanting a reminder of their passwords. These latter were referred to a new "Forgotten Passwords" facility on the Members Gateway. The Sir Hubert Opperman Cup has now been received from Rocco to complete the Trophy collection. He also read a report received from PP advising the no of Brevet Cards produced was slightly up on the previous year. She has also provisionally booked the Racecourse Centre in York for

the weekend of 27-29<sup>th</sup> November 2009 for the AGM and Prize Giving weekend. It offers a wide variety of accommodation to suit different tastes and budgets, though no figures were given. Should anyone want more up-market facilities, there is also a Holiday Inn next door. Cycle storage will be no problem and she also confirmed there is a bar there. This arrangement met with general approval and she will be asked to confirm the booking should and put a suitable notice in Arrivée to maximise notice to any members considering attendance.

LEL: A written progress report from Melita Luxton giving a general overview was distributed. The budget is now apparently "well in hand" conflicting with information received at the previous Board meeting, as RT noted. He advised, despite his requests, having received no budget, other information or replies from ML. The entries for 620 riders have been accepted, and even after a 5% drop out rate, there are more riders who have been placed on a waiting list. There was much concern at the meeting about the lack of communication from ML to the volunteers including the case of one controller who learned the location of his control from a third party. There have been many requests for a list of riders, which has yet to be published. SS has put a draft route on-line compiled from a variety of sources and would like as many members as possible to ride it and pass on constructive criticism. No reply has been received to her request for update and printing deadlines (recommended that printer employed should be local.) As ML noted, the website is now largely irrelevant, and as some of the information is out of date IH has agreed to ask the webmaster to take it down, or disable it. Given the lack of a published list mentioned above, there were worries that the logistics of the scale of the event had not been addressed, and several suggestions were made to assist with the burden of the catering. A meeting for all the helpers has been arranged in York for 25<sup>th</sup> April where such things can be thrashed out and this is likely to be a very intensive session. A request for the board to send a letter of thanks to previous helpers was unanimously rejected as being totally out of time.

CORNISH EVENT CLASH: IH advised having been informed that no suitable alternative date had been found for a group of events in Cornwall which clashed with LEL and the organiser had now withdrawn them from the Calendar.

RM PRESIDENCY: PM reported that ACP/RM were keen to fill the vacancy, when it next occurred, with a British candidate, promptly ruling himself out of the running due to existing other commitments. After some discussion, and in the face of insuperable apathy, the writer was prevailed upon, despite his expressed misgivings, to be considered for the position. At least it will solve the problem of getting ISR Brevet cards endorsed.

AUK TREASURY: RT will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM because of increased work commitments. The ad in Arrivée has so far produced no volunteer successors and will be repeated. A couple of possible candidates were suggested and RT will canvass them to ascertain if they are willing to take the role on.

CAL + DIY EVENTS: Martin Malins has volunteered to take on the administration of these rides and there was much discussion on this topic and all the issues raised. There was general agreement that this should be trialled for a period, as riding, rather than driving to events should be encouraged. However, pre-entry is essential, as is punctuality at the start of the Calendar event, and all of the planned rides must be completed for validation. Proper proof of passage is required for the DIY section, and participants must adhere to BR timescales. RP to advise MM of details; he can then liaise with JW with any resulting queries, though JW wants to retain control of the update process.

CANCELLED CALENDAR EVENTS: According to ACP rules, events which have been cancelled, may be ridden subsequently, though it was queried how frequently this would actually be applicable in this country. After discussion, it was agreed to offer this option, provided the event in question was suitable for conversion to a Permanent and the route had already been checked for integrity. Some already have a stand-alone Permanent option, while others are just not suitable for conversion.

PAYPAL: PC queried whether to use PayPal for payment of new and renewed membership subscriptions in view of the transaction charges. Agreed, as there are currently charges on cheques and S/Os, and in the hope it will encourage extra members. The facility is currently under development and is expected to be available shortly.

AOB: KH requested the downloadable organisers' returns be personalised with organisers' names and addresses. RP extended this request to Accident Report form which occasionally were completely blank and unattributable. PC to investigate.

NEXT MEETING. 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the "Briar Rose", Birmingham. The time as usual is 10:00 for 10:30.

The meeting closed at 15:02.

(Sec's note: The Briar Rose is unable to accommodate us then, so an alternative date or venue will be selected after a poll of directors.)