

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "BRIAR ROSE" BIRMINGHAM ON 1<sup>ST</sup>  
JUNE 2009

Meeting started at 10:43

Present: DKB, NH, PM, RP, SS, & DW.

Apology for absence: PC, GG, SG/KH, IH, PP, & JW.

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: No confirmation of the AGM venue booking has been received, though the amount of detail in the current Arrivée seems to indicate that it has been done. The booking form for this event is due in the next issue. RP to check with PP and remind her to liaise with Tim Wainwright. Martin Malins has been advised of the agreed details for the DIY Add-ons, which subject to some IT mods should be available soon. Weekend Board Meeting dates were discussed in view of a potential new board member who claimed difficulties in weekday attendance, but received a tepid welcome. Progress on PayPal to be covered in the Systems Mgr's report.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: PM advised that ACP was quiescent and the trickle of International Events queries was diminishing as information became increasingly available on-line. NH reported his area was running smoothly and paid tribute to a rapid turnaround of BRM correspondence with ACP. SS said that Francis had automated the e-mails to organisers system resulting in automated chasing of incomplete details. Late submission of event details by one organiser, which earned him a black mark and the Board's displeasure, had been sorted out in time to produce Brevet Cards punctually. On the Publications front, she commented the pictures in the current Arrivée were the best to date – sharper and with a better colour balance. We're not sure what they are doing differently, but want them to keep on doing it!

RP read the written reports from SG/KH who have been receiving results from organisers more quickly. The numbers continue to be very buoyant except for one wet weekend in February distorting the figures. (Hard copy details were circulated.) JW confirmed in his written report the IT aspect of the DIY Add-on events had been sorted out and he would pursue it to publicise in Arrivée, the new system due to go live shortly. PC's report indicated the new member registration and PayPal payment system was almost available for final testing; details to be sent to FC, MW & GG in mid-June. Following successful tests, the system will be available on the main website with completion envisaged by the end of June. Once that is proved, the system will be extended to renewals. The server lease has been renewed, but there has been no progress on the replacement server. He has at last got access to the londonedinburghlondon.co.uk site and can now make changes if Justin is unavailable. The route on the aukweb site now has a link from the LEL site. A provisional LEL start list was added to the site, but taken down at Melita's request, and a final list will be added when available in a couple of weeks' time.

On his own patch, RP said he had now received details of a link to an on-line brochure for the Ligurian Cycle Path (<http://www.area24spa.it/media.php> for those interested). He also gave details of one member withdrawing acrimoniously from the Mileater challenge, which led to a short discussion about the problems of sourcing small batches of insignia. Steve Snook is intending to enlarge the remit of the AAA awards with an AAASR and AAARTY (any distance being eligible, providing it attracts AAA points).

In the absence of a report from PP, NH queried whether all distance medals would in future bear the season's date – something he disliked and he wondered what impact this would have on end of season residual stocks. RP to contact PP and advise.

DKB has received an official complaint from a LEL entrant concerning the lack of a response from Melita. The problem has now been solved.

MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION: DKB has been contacted by Melita asking for suspension of membership of a volunteer at the Coxwold LEL control, who, after a misunderstanding has sent an intemperate and insulting e-mail to the controller there. He has been advised his assistance there is no longer welcome – an outcome now desired by both sides - but further sanctions were requested. The prevailing view of the Board was that, intemperate and inflammatory though the message was,

and also couched in inappropriate bad language, it did not warrant withdrawal of membership at this time. RP to send a letter expressing the Board's disapproval and advising other interested parties of the upshot.

AOB: PM mentioned there appeared to be a glitch in the on-line entry system, with some entries falling short of full automation. He will raise the matter with PC after the latter's return from holiday.

LEL: Melita Luxton joined the meeting after the lunch break to discuss LEL. There are currently 620 entrants – the absence of any qualification requirements possibly boosting this level – but there is already a high drop-out rate caused by inability to arrange this time off work, illness / injury, or lack of preparation. There has been much dissatisfaction amongst controllers concerning the amount of money allocated for the running of their controls and one has resigned citing an inadequate allowance. Repeated attempts in the discussion to reinstate him were refused on the grounds that a replacement had already been appointed. An alternative, should the team be amenable, appeared to be for that team to help at another control. There was a long discussion about the subject of the allocation of funds to controls and the budget without any meaningful conclusion as Melita steadfastly refused to divulge anything more than the sketchiest of details about her intentions in this area. Despite assurances of confidentiality no figures were supplied. DKB said that these would be necessary before additional funding could be considered. Contracts between LEL2009 and helpers were dismissed as potentially damaging volunteer status – all helpers are regarded as volunteers, and for that reason hire of vans for the event is being done as individuals.

Originally, all controls were to have mobile phones, but a more reliable option seems to be to use the Internet. DW has done some research and is planning to set up a communications hub at Thorne to receive and relay messages as appropriate from all the controls.

Melita has contacted the Insurance Company to arrange cover for the helpers and is awaiting their reply. She advised they had promised early attention. (RP to monitor). Insurance requirements will be detailed in the information pack due to be sent to the riders. Non AUK/CTC riders were a source of concern re their Personal Liability cover and it was agreed that all entrants would complete a standard AUK entry form, which includes a declaration of third party insurance, at registration. Blank copies of these will be available both on the Internet and at registration itself. As an extra avenue of communication, there will also be a space on these forms for a mobile telephone no. as well as the usual next of kin details to use in case of need. These documents will be taken to Thorne for DW to use if necessary. AUK (RT) would advise our insurers of the event and approx numbers and AUK would possibly be charged an extra premium in view of the numbers of temporary members revealed by the entry forms. Non-members would be charged the normal temporary membership premium. AUK would stand any additional premium.

As an additional safety feature Melita was persuaded to include in the pack a recommendation to bring and use a reflective vest or Sam Browne belt in addition to the mandatory ankle bands which she intends to distribute at registration. Although desirable, the additional night-time reflective items will not also be compulsory, in part because of the problems in enforcing their use.

NEXT MEETING. 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 at the "Comfort Inn", Station Street, Birmingham. **Please note the change of venue.** The time as usual is 10:00 for 10:30.

The meeting closed at 15:45.