

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "RACECOURSE CENTRE" YORK ON 28TH
NOVEMBER 2009

Meeting started at 09:37

Present: DKB, PC, SG/KH, GG, IH, NH, PM, LMc, RP, PP, SS, RT, JW, DW & MW.

Also in attendance: Linda Johnston

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2009 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: SG/KH are now ordering badges, which after a straw poll on the Board forum, will be without loops for date bars, which have lost their former popularity. MW has contacted LEL controllers for a list of helpers which is being compiled for publication in Arrivée and is awaiting a reply from some of them. Copies of the magazine are no longer to be sent to non-members who completed LEL. No update or Accident Reports have been received for incidents during LEL and no debrief is being organised by the committee, though the feeling was that if an informal one is held, it will consist largely of complaints. DW advised there was no update on the use of tracklogs. Fees have now been received for LEL Brevet Cards and validations. The fate of the cards was discussed, and in view of the performance record, the organiser should not, it was generally felt, be sent the cards for onward transmission to the riders; rather, it would be preferable for the committee to send them out. In the case of overseas riders, the local contact for the country was suggested to distribute them, as some cards bore no address details.

NEW TREASURER: Linda Johnston has offered to stand as Treasurer to succeed RT and will give a brief address to the AGM as introduction before the vote is taken.

INSURANCE COVER: RP reported that during Audax events organised on behalf of cycling clubs, their insurance does not cover organisers or helpers on the event as it is not being run under that club's regulations. (They would, of course, be covered under AUK's policy.) A discussion on the effects and ramifications of this situation ended without any firm conclusion apart from a suggestion to include a list of helpers on returns.

BORROWED WHEEL: RP brought the Board up to date on the case where Nev Cooke had lent a wheel to an LEL rider who had suffered a mechanical failure. The borrower had not returned the wheel promptly and had gone on holiday without advising the situation, thus causing unnecessary concern. Replacement was a cheaper option than repair and after some discussion, the borrower's offer to pay for the new wheel should be accepted.

VALIDATION QUERY: Copy correspondence between Billy Weir (End to end organiser) and an event rider had previously been circulated and was now discussed. The rider had provided inadequate proof of passage at some controls, though the directors acquainted with him were confident he had ridden the necessary distance (and probably some considerable extra.) Despite being far from happy with the presentation, they did agree, exceptionally, to validate it on the understanding that future cards submitted should carry full control details. RP to include a note in JaM to maintain standards.

PBP QUOTA: PM confirmed that ACP have announced they will be instituting a quota system for PBP which may limit the number of entries available to British riders. The earliest pre-registration will be available to those completing a BRM 400 in 2010. Those finishing a BRM 300 in 2010 may register next, then those riding a BRM 200 in that year. The latest window will go to those only riding a SR series in 2011 (which remains the minimum qualification.) There are many uncertainties and unknowns in the process – even whether it will actually be needed, but if so, he suggested weeding out the excess numbers on the basis of 2010 points totals. PP suggested a lottery, while DKB suggested a SR in 2010 then a tiered lottery if still needed. IH wanted to wait until the quota basis was known (supposedly the start of 2011). Given the lack of firm data, a sensible course seemed impossible to plan, though a 2010 SR was widely recommended.

CONDUCT OF AGM: DKB advised he was intending to stand down at the next AGM and will take no part in the selection process of his successor. RT will be proposing Linda as the new Treasurer and Dave Pilbeam was suggested as seconder. PP will be holding another clothing sale and may hold a straw poll for the next venue (though the sample of respondents is obviously a self-selected group.)

AOB: LMc suggested a fliers leaflet should be updated for distribution to non-members on events. Having suggested adding a blank page for any notes needed at the time, IH volunteered to design an updated form. NH suggested differential pricing of medals in view of the different costs of newer ones. GG mentioned that Headleys had experienced a couple of problems with the latest mailing of Arrivée. Certain pages were

missing and others duplicated in some copies and in a small number (~20) the address sheet had been incorrectly inserted. RT queried whether we should continue to pay for pictures for Arrivée submitted electronically rather than on conventional film in view of the former's lower cost.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: PP advised having printed 19,700 cards – mainly for the shorter events, with the figures for the longer ones largely unchanged. JW advised his season's events total was now 2,200 rather than 2,000, which was mainly due to DIY events. At the same time he paid tribute to the organisers of these rides. SG/KH had experienced a fraught time at the end of the season, partly due to a very disorganised organiser (a verdict confirmed by another director.) Another similarly disorganised individual had sent results to his DA without sending anything for validation. They made two suggestions to automate the process: on-line invoices and Accident Report forms. SS was pleased to note a continued improvement in picture quality in Arrivée, though regretted little correspondence ("Letter to the Editor") had been received. This latter was attributed to members primarily using the Internet.

PC said the on-line renewals system was now sorted. Approximately 250 members (~ 10%) of renewals had been completed by this means. PayPal is currently available only for Calendar events, not Perms. Many of the new members, it seems, are opting to pay by PayPal. IH suggested including a facility for on-line DIY entries.

RP mentioned the case of an organiser in Scotland who had been refused a Bank Holiday slot for his 200 because of a clash with a Rally with a series of four rides already published in Arrivée. Negotiations had not produced an acceptable solution when he advised having applied to run it instead as a Permanent event. This circumvention of the spirit of the system was discussed, with LMc explaining additional background to the meeting. After a discussion exploring possible options, it was voted not to allow him to organise the Perm. RP also mentioned the case of a LEL entrant who had started the ride on a trike but had been forced by a mechanical problem onto a normal bike, on which he completed the event. The ride points were duly credited to him, but the trike points claimed for the portion ridden on that machine were disallowed on the basis that it contravened the ethos of Audax. Equally, no-one could claim points for an uncompleted ride, however much had actually been ridden. Finally, Bike Radar (part of Future Publishing) had contacted him suggesting an event finishing at their cycling festival at Brands Hatch on 10th – 11th July 2010. As minimal detail had been offered, IH volunteered to contact them to see if any co-operation was desirable.

As far as his own portfolio was concerned, IH mentioned the "advertorials" in Cycling Weekly and wanted to wait till the start of the new season for another series. An ad has also been placed in the CTT Handbook opposite the 24 hour page. He commented that he sent regular e-mails to his regional event organisers, though suspected that other Event Secs communicated differently and suggested a more unified approach.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: To be confirmed. (Subsequently arranged for 24th February 2010 at Bennett's Bar, Birmingham.)

The meeting ended at 13:57.