

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT "BENNETTS" WINE
BAR, BIRMINGHAM ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2010

Meeting started at 11:10

Present: DKB, PC, SG/KH, IH, NH, LJ, PM, RP, SS, JW, DW & MW.

Apology for Absence: PP

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2009 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: IH is still considering various alternative ideas for the updated flyer leaflet and there has been little progress on the possible joint venture with Bike Radar (part of the Future Publishing group). KH suggested using a box on the current style Brevet card to record any riders' particular medical conditions but the discussions did not reveal any great wish to change the existing pattern.

GPX BREVIDENCE: DW recapped the background for this trial having circulated a written report several days before the meeting. He amplified the report explaining the effects of the software developed by PC and showing how on one of the test journeys it was obvious that he had taken the train to complete the trip. There had been many parallel validations (GPX / receipts) and it was agreed the system could be adopted for an extended trial period for those riders who wished to avail themselves of this method of submitting evidence of a completed ride, though DIY Organisers would not be forced to adopt it against their will. Before this further trial is adopted, DW to do a piece for Arrivéé, specifying the parameters for riders. This additional facility will apply only to DIY events where the route, as now, must be agreed with the organiser prior to the ride. At that juncture, the number of controls may be restricted for ease of administration. DW also wanted to embark on a second trial on a similar basis for AAA – rated events, to be conducted with the assistance of Steve Snook, with further software development by PC. Agreed. DW to canvass interested participants for their help and GPX files.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: Following an enquiry from MW commuted membership fees are to appear in future accounts on an amortised basis, reflecting a future liability. There was a long discussion concerning life members and how to deal with those opting for quarterly issues of Arrivéé. It was felt that an annual mailing was the desirable minimum and that henceforth that should be the autumn Arrive which would contain the AGM Agenda, rather than a copy of the Handbook. It was agreed unanimously that MW should propose, seconded by DW at the next AGM, that the minimum service qualification for life membership be increased to ten years. Additionally, seconded by JW, that the cost of publications for those members wishing to receive Arrivéé be increased to £9.00. RP to mention these proposals in JaM, which are, naturally, subject to approval at that AGM.

JW reported having validated 340 Permanent events of which about one third were DIYs, despite the bad weather which eventually led to just one Calendar event being offered as a Perm. DIYs have largely made Mesh type Perms redundant, and while there are no reasons to delete these from the corpus, he recommended that they should be discontinued if the Organisers retired. The organiser validation of DIY events up to and including 200KM has been a success and was recommended for permanent adoption subject to a couple of minor administrative improvements. One final point: DIY Brevet cards for completed rides MUST be received by the organiser within 14 days of the event to qualify for validation. RP to mention in JaM.

DW suggested the review of Accident Reports be copied to regional event delegates, with SS asking for the inclusion of event nos. This is to check that Risk Assessments maintain their validity. Discussion of the 1000KM ride to be postponed to the next meeting. Events in the 2011/12 season are not to be published until every aspect of the preparation is complete. KH objected, contending this was inappropriate for aspects such as information controls. It became apparent in the following discussion that individual organisers did often have a preferred modus operandi so it was agreed that regional events secretaries could be more flexible if the organiser had a previous good track record.

NH had little to report with items trickling through. PM reported another trickle, this time of enquiries about PBP entry requirements. He had also received an enquiry from Peter South wishing to organise a BRM event in Spain, but was getting no response from the Spanish ACP Correspondant. It was felt his next approach should be to ACP direct. There was also the problem – in view of the quota – of foreign riders entering PBP via AUK. An edict from ACP may (or may not) be imminent, but in any case there were misgivings how the system was to be policed.

KH/SG had little to report as the winter weather had effectively cooled riders' ardour!

PC advised the server had gone down in December, which had been resolved promptly as soon as the 9-5 cover kicked in. On-line renewal, retaining the previous membership no is possible though it was felt that re-use of dormant nos. should be kept to a minimum. Results of ECEs (Extended Calendar Events, the new incarnation of DIY Add-ons) are now available on the system, though in some cases it may be necessary to insist on results from organisers electronically.

LJ reported that the Bank was processing Standing Order payments by their faster payment option, involving unnecessary extra expense (£88 at that time). She also asked for a list of honorarium payments which RP agreed to provide.

RP read PP's report indicating another gentle tick over. Following much positive feedback about the venue after the last AGM, she has provisionally booked it again for the weekend of 26 – 28th November 2010 and requested Board approval for this to be confirmed. Duly granted amid general satisfaction with the organisation of the 2009 event. On his own patch, he advised little progress had been made concerning reimbursement for a wheel borrowed during LEL and subsequently returned in a damaged state, as the borrower was not responding to messages. Some 15 completed LEL questionnaires had been received in hard copy and are to be added to the on-line replies. Otherwise, the job was relatively quiet.

IH advised placing a different ad in the CTT Handbook, though nothing further was planned for Cycling Weekly and there had been an article in Cycling Plus. He mentioned that another magazine title had appeared on the shelves covering very similar territory with the prospect of a circulation battle.

WEBSITE UPDATE: PC had shown a new website to the Board which was intended to be "wikifiable" i.e. directors and delegates would have control over "their" areas and could update them in isolation. Initially, the system would be trialled as a beta version. The discussion identified concerns about archiving previous versions of the site and also whether a new delegate might be needed as an on-line editor. There were also concerns on ensuring all pages were covered without overlap.

EVENTS ADMINISTRATION AUTOMATION: PC is hoping to increase this and needs a process flow from the start of planning an event to eventual validation to be put on-line. After some discussion, this topic will be carried forward to the next meeting.

ARRIVÉE ON LINE: SS suggested this possibility which would apparently be very easy to do though large file sizes would result in multiple documents per issue. She also has some early issues in hard copy form only which could be scanned, if a rather lengthy task. The Data Protection Act is not considered to be a problem and it may be possible to charge higher rates for advertisements, given the extended readership. Alternatively, a delay to access copy could be imposed, which might make them stale. Another possible option is to restrict access to members by password sign on (just like their membership data.)

CLUB CHANGE CUT-OFF: The numbers allocated by ACP which they use to determine clubs' eligibility for their prizes are in urgent need of updating. Essentially, we need a new batch of numbers from them and at the same time we should check with them what their requirements actually are. Our list of clubs is woefully out of date (partly because of CTC reorganisation) and KH is to write an article for Arrivée requesting members update their club details on the membership database.

LEL 2009: Some payments for this event remain outstanding and there was an extended discussion on this and related matters. LEL 2009 Ltd has now been delisted from Companies House records and Roger Cortis was volunteered to investigate the reasons for this. During these discussions it seemed the time scale to pay organisers' fees was generally too large, and while returns should continue to be sent to Bill Carnaby, the cheques for fees should be sent direct to the Treasurer.

LEL 2013: Prior to the meeting DW had circulated a project update and proposal outlining the current status and planned work. No formal application to organise the event had been received from any other volunteers so it was agreed unanimously that that this group should, subject to contract, have the Board's backing. It was also agreed (proposed by MW, seconded by IH) nem con that LEL 2013 Ltd should be the company vehicle for the administration. The proposal was discussed at length and regular updates are promised which will be passed on as appropriate to prospective participants and volunteers. For the moment the link to the existing LEL site will be deleted as the page is no longer up to date.

PBP OVERSUBSCRIPTION: The consensus appears to be for a lottery, but at this stage we are still groping in the dark, in the absence of further information from ACP. In addition, we have no way of knowing if the potential excess of applications will actually happen.

AOB: KH has received many messages from organisers complaining of non-arrival of Brevet cards. SS commented that ACP use inserts inside blank cards, while IH's preference was for functionality over attractiveness. JW to discuss this with PP to prevail upon her to print cards earlier.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING: 16th June 2010 at Bennett's Bar, Birmingham. Meet in the "Briar Rose 10:30 for 11:00

The meeting ended at 16:05.