

MINUTES OF THE AUK BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE "RACECOURSE CENTRE" YORK ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2010

The meeting started at 09:30

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

Also in attendance: John Hamilton, Lucy McTaggart and Jackie Popland

Apology for absence: PC

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2010 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING: Testing on the route planner is in progress with PC's assistance. MW now has a supply of mudguard stickers and there was a short discussion in the wake of his enquiry about a commemorative event in 2012 alongside the Olympic Games. Nothing extra has been planned, but Bill Carnaby's London Sightseer was mentioned as a possibility. PP to liaise with him.

OFFICERS' REPORTS: NH reported just two events remaining outstanding. Fortunately, neither of these is eligible for points to affect any award placings. The slow return of one was attributed to the CTC being prioritised.

DKB read PC's report (previously circulated) in the latter's absence reporting a successful server relocation with no problems on the website since the last meeting. The event start/finish list has been updated to allow Permanents to be recorded and can be rolled out once all the bugs have been sorted. There have been some changes to the automation of Brevet Card production, with more due to be implemented. He has been working on a redesigned website and hopes to release a beta version before the year end, with access currently restricted.

LJ reported receiving some £1,500 in cheques for adverts in Arrivéé but was unable to check correctness as not having any supporting documentation. This often applied to year-end accounts involving time-consuming investigations and she appealed for full details to be sent to her when funds are paid in. She is delaying a payment to Headleys until the issue of some badly collated copies is resolved. While she does try to pay claims promptly, there have been problems with the mail, so she requested prompt presentation of cheques to assure her of safe receipt. Crédit Agricole is still refusing to recognise her, though she now has full access to both of the committee mailing lists.

DW's report advised the BRM calendar was sent punctually to LRM and the team are now focussing on 2011 events to meet the 3rd Jan deadline. Currently there are 458 events planned and a large increase in ones published is expected in the next few months. There is now just one 1000KM event being planned for 2012. Following the restriction on Mark Rigby's 2011 events and his subsequent appeal to "his" riders to urge the Events team to reconsider, Phil Chadwick offered to deal with all of the post-ride administration. This arrangement was acceptable to all concerned, so the remainder of Mark's events have been reinstated.

MW's report gave a full breakdown of renewal numbers including those with commuted / Life membership. He mentioned a few copies of the latest issue of Arrivéé had been incorrectly collated (some pages missing; others duplicated) Samples of the offending copies had been sent for inspection. He queried who had

responsibility for the preparation of Headley's publishing schedule. As usual at this time he listed those Auks who had died during the year (full list given in AGM Minutes.) Moving on to the proposed changes at the AGM to increase the qualifying membership term for Life Membership and the increased subscription for those wishing to receive all publications, he confirmed that no-one already qualified under the old rules would lose the concession and there would be (surprisingly) no new Life Members in 2011. There then followed a breakdown of profitability by the various membership categories. He mentioned one member, Donald Simpkin, had resigned, but sent a £100 donation to AUK which he will acknowledge. Lastly, he has been assured by Melita Luxton that she will attend to a couple of last loose ends from LEL.

PM advised that ACP's PBP quotas are due to be publicised in January. Entry will be via the website, so his role will essentially be just to check the details

RP advised a quiet quarter, with little out of the ordinary to report.

JW noted there had been problems with DIY event date formatting, now largely resolved. He has introduced a system of organiser-validated Perms and will be monitoring progress. In addition, much development has gone into DIY Perms in conjunction with DW. Trials are underway and progress assessment has been diarised.

SG/KH reported having processed all the 2010 season results – bar the couple mentioned earlier by NH. The total of 16,948 showed a continuing decline in validated Brevets. A particular concern was mentioned of several organisers running events with single-figure fields. A long and wide-ranging debate ensued on the best way to overcome this problem, including a minimum card order per event per year, or an overall event fee. Some concern was expressed that a levy endangering the viability of such events would lead to riders opting for a DIY Perm instead. It was also noted, in passing, that entry fees for Devon CTC events are now to be payable to the local group rather than the organiser which can only increase the amount of admin required and be confusing to regular riders. The upshot was a unanimous vote to levy a £10 pre-registration fee per event per year which would include 20 free Brevet cards to take effect from the start of the 2010/11 season.

PP advised having produced nearly 18,000 cards during the year. The improved automation on the system after discussions with PC was a great benefit.

SS had nothing to add to her previously circulated report, except that samples of the mis-collated Arrivées had been returned to Headleys for inspection, though it is too soon to have had a reply. The possibility of uploading Arrivée to the website was welcomed and splitting it into two 5Mb parts rather than a single 10Mb whole which would be too unwieldy for many systems was not seen as a problem. It was suggested that issues should only be uploaded once they had ceased to be current. She also warned that the Publications team's Adobe software was in need of an upgrade.

DKB mentioned he had recently learned the Estate of Bry Ferguson, a former Brevet Card Production Secretary who had passed away in September 2005, had now been finalised and that under the terms of his will, AUK had received £2,000. Half of this sum is to be used to purchase champagne or other suitable wine for consumption at committee meetings "to assist members in their deliberations." The remaining half is to be used to purchase champagne for the winners of the individual trophies. Two bottles of champagne had accordingly been purchased for use at this meeting and the members raised a glass in a grateful toast to Bry's memory.

There was some discussion of Mark Rigby's request to insist that all riders on AUK events carry a personal medical fact sheet in case of emergency. Though felt to be a helpful measure, the consensus was that riders on a "personal excursion" should take personal responsibility for carrying such information. DW was concerned that such a document might contravene Data Protection regulations. KH recalled that in his experience personal details not carried on his person, though in his saddlebag were not even sought. RP opined that riders who did not even complete the back of a Brevet card with their details before the end of the ride would treat the medical information in the same cavalier fashion. A brief note is to be added to the guidelines for organisers to recommend carrying such details in case of need, but there should be no additional compulsory burden on organisers.

PP wanted a longer interval between the end of the season and the Prizegiving, having been embarrassed by a late change of award winner. LJ mentioned this weekend was one of York's busiest as they were holding their annual St Nicholas market. However, later in the year was not popular with members, Christmas taking overwhelming priority and the weather early in the following year is statistically at its worst (ironically, just as the country was suffering its worst late November for a generation.) The only remaining option is to change the end of the riding season, which is to be discussed informally at the end of the AGM. Meanwhile a couple of options concerning the possible change were explored equally informally.

Ensuring a route's minimum distance provoked a long and passionate discussion. Most organisers seem to be helpful, when their routes fall short, but there are a few who are disproportionately time consuming and uncooperative. DW argued for a discretionary percentage tolerance, while IH wanted a return to compulsory routes. A common standard was considered desirable with Google cited as having improved almost to AutoRoute standards. It became clear the discussion would remain inconclusive, so the topic will be taken forward to the next meeting. The topic of GPS validation was also postponed to that time.

The next meeting will be at "Bennetts" wine bar, Birmingham on Wed 23rd Feb 2011 at 11:00 am. Meet in the "Briar Rose" opposite from 10:30 onwards.

The meeting closed at 12:48 pm.