Riding non-AUK/ACP/RM events as AUK Brevets by Paul Stewart

At the AUK Board Meeting in Sept 24, 2014 an amendment to AUK Regulation Appendix 7.1 was approved, changing:

An AUK Event may not be ridden concurrently with <u>any other organised event.</u>

to:

An AUK Event may not be ridden concurrently with <u>any other event eligible for AUK awards</u>.

This was in response to enquiries from members wishing to take part in non-AUK/ACP/RM homologated events which nominally comply with AUK regulations and standards and to have their rides recognised by AUK and count towards AUK awards (Randonneur 5000, Randonneur Round The Year, etc.). The amendment will come up for validation at AGM2015 and until then we are effectively operating a trial to assess the level of interest and operational implications of the change.

The amendment allows rides organised by members which incorporate participation in events organised by other bodies but otherwise comply with AUK regulations to be registered as AUK Brevets and so count towards AUK awards. Examples of such rides include: the HBKH 1500km organised by Audax Club Schleswig Holstein, Germany; the Vätternrundan 300km, a formally organised non-commercial event in Sweden, and the Dunwich Dynamo, an informal event in the UK.

Whilst the number of such requests is relatively small, they can be important to the riders concerned. The amendment is perceived as supporting these riders and promoting Audax UK's objective, which is to "*encourage, promote, develop and control the sport and pastime of non-competitive long distance cycling in all its forms amongst all sections of the community in the United Kingdom and throughout the world",* by widening the range of events eligible for AUK award schemes.

Typically the Rider will register their ride as a DIY Permanent Brevet, submitting a DIY Perm application to the DIY Organiser and subsequently 'Proofs of Passage' for validation. Where the organising body 'validates' the riders participation in the event, such validation might, with the prior agreement of the AUK such validation, be used as 'Proof of Passage' for the AUK Brevet. Otherwise riders will collect Proofs of Passage in the normal way, e.g., receipts, brevet card stamps or GPX track. In practice it is expected most such rides will be progressed as GPS DIY Perms.

This approach ensures that these rides conform to AUK standards, as, regardless of the organisation of the 'other' event, the AUK Brevet will be registered and validated by AUK using AUK's established processes and procedures. Crucially, it is the riders responsibility to register their ride as an AUK (DIY) Permanent and to certify their ride will be completed in accordance with AUK regulations. Such applications will be considered by the AUK Permanents team in the same way as for any other (DIY) Permanent Brevet application.

The factors which need to be considered in assessing whether the external event is eligible for inclusion in an AUK brevet are distance, support and competition.

Distance: the ride must conform to AUK regulations regarding controls, distance and the collection of appropriate 'Proof of Passage'.

Support: the ride must conform to AUK regulations regarding support, with no provision or use of mobile/on demand support. Simply, the rider should travel to support, whether that be at controls, local shops, whatever; support does not come to the rider.

Competition: the event must be non-competitive, as required by AUK regulations and insurance.

What next?

If there is an event you would like to register as an AUK brevet, submit a DIY Permanent application, specifying the controls as usual. Include details about the 'other' event in the additional information area of the application form (name, distance, website, etc.). This will be taken as your warranty that the ride complies with AUK requirements as described above. The Permanent organiser will then process the application in the usual way, i.e., checking to ensure that requirements regarding minimum distance between controls, etc. are satisfied. Please allow a reasonable time for this to avoid disappointment should the brevet application be rejected.

FAQ

Q1: Why do I have to provide details of controls?
A1: Because that is required by AUK regulations

Q2: How do I find out about the event controls?
A2: Ask the event organiser.

Q3: What if the event doesn't have AUK style controls or the controls do not satisfy AUK requirements?
A3: Define your own. This is straightforward for GPS DIY Permanents.

Q4: Can the 'other' event controllers simply sign my Brevet Card?
A4: No; you will need to provide some form of independently verifiable proof of passage, i.e., a receipt, GPX track or (subject to prior agreement), proof of completing the event from the 'other' event organiser.

Q5: This all seems a lot of work…
A5: Well, from AUK's perspective, it is 'business as usual', i.e., your Brevet is subject to AUK standard approval and validation procedures. Any additional effort arises from the need to obtain relevant information about the proposed ride from the 'other' event organisers to support your AUK Brevet application. If this seems like too much bother, then don't. Enter the event and enjoy your ride. It will be just as much fun; it simply will not form part of your AUK palmarès.