

1. ACP / LRM Matters

(a) I attended the annual ACP presentation in January, along with the associated LRM representative's lunch. This enabled me to hand out AUK 40th anniversary mudguard stickers to both LRM representatives and members of ACP. As usual the lunch was an opportunity to catch up with what's happening elsewhere in the world, although a small number of reps intending to join in were prevented from doing so as some trains into Paris had been cancelled because heavy falls of snow had blocked some lines. Interesting to note that the Belgian Randonneurs have introduced a randonnee round the year award very similar to one nearer home.

There were plenty of queries from both LRM reps and ACP members about London-Edinburgh-London, in which there was keen interest. I spent the evening over a few beers and some chips with new Dutch president (and long-time friend of AUK) Ivo Meisen, and German representative Walter Jungwirth. Both have keen insights into the administration of randonneur associations and are looking to sharpen up their own associations.

One issue that may be of interest regards overtures by former German representative and current vice-president of LRM, Rainer Paffrath, to Audax Club Schleswig-Holstein, with a view to bringing their long HBKH randonnee back into the LRM fold. Unfortunately Rainer was one of those whose train had been cancelled so we couldn't get to hear of progress, but Walter was confident that a deal would be done.

(b) Members will be aware of the death Audax Japan President and ACP Representative Mitsuaki (Mickey) Inagaki during a 1200 km. event in New Zealand, I sent a message of condolence on behalf of Audax UK to Audax Japan in the person of their vice president and interim ACP representative Mr. Hisanori TANAKA, also praising Mr. Inagaki for his leadership of Audax Japan

I have received an acknowledgement from Mr. TANAKA who wrote

"Hello Mr. Crossland,

We would appreciate you and Audax UK sincere condolence to Mr. Inagaki.

He has vigorously made a framework that allows Audax Japan to survive forever even if something happens to the president.

It is ironical that he practiced the result. We will take over his will and we would like to contribute to the continuous activities of Audax Japan and ACP.

We think that it is his wish and will be the greatest mourning.

Cycle jerseys, pants, shoes, socks and "reflective vest" were placed in his coffin. He will be riding a new brevet !

Kind Regards,

Hisanori TANAKA

interim ACP representative

Audax Japan"

AUK member Chris Wilby was also injured in the same traffic incident and spent some time in hospital in New Zealand. I understand that he has now returned home and is continuing his recovery.

2. Audax UK Matters

in no particular order

(a) Director access to online AUK information

It was reported at our last meeting that an email discussion about deleted data between two directors and a delegate had resulted in an unrelated suggestion that all AUK directors should have access to all online AUK information with the possible exception of that held in the membership database and not available already via the member look up facility in the Board area of the website. Our discussion of this at the last meeting revealed doubts about the integrity of such information and the potential danger of inadvertent or deliberate deletion of important data. I was asked to seek clarification of what was feasible, and the delegate concerned has written to me on the matter. I explained that

"I raised the issue at the Board meeting. It was agreed that in principle all directors should have the same levels of access. However, editing rights should only be granted on an as needed basis. I was asked to get in touch with you in order to ascertain if this can be achieved, or if not, what can be achieved.

His response was:

"I had in mind for all directors to have access to all the specialist operational areas (that are behind passwords) - with the exception of the membership team's area. (This mainly for practical reasons - this area is hosted on the secure server whereas all the others are not, so the login routines are not fully integrated.)

That access would include whatever read/write/edit ability is included in each specialist area. Bearing in mind that any edits made in these areas are traceable - data has a datestamp and an id (either a memno or a pair of initials) showing who last edited that line, plus there are separate log files of user activity.

It would simply allow people to deputise easily, or to spread the load, or to more easily understand and discuss any issues that someone is having.

*Nobody (apart from me**) has unlimited access to the raw data, each operational area only has limited access tailored to the job in hand. These areas include:*

The general 'committee' area (which is pretty much read-only)

Event Secs (that is just a fully unlocked events access within the Planner)

Brevet card printing (again mostly read-only)

Recording/validation

AAA

Outliners (new authority to upload event specifications for validation against GPS)

Permanents Sec

DIY Orgs

We do have fine-grained control over these areas at present - anyone or any number of people can be given access to any particular area or any number of areas - so another approach would be for me to give the IT Director (say) a simple way to oversee and add/remove these permissions. I'm just proposing that any Director by definition has 'access most areas' by default.

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*** when I say 'me' - technically anyone with a root-level account on the server can access/edit the raw data. Besides me, that is Terry Kay, Peter Coates and Nigel Hall. I'm fairly sure that Nigel hasn't used his access within the last 3 years (again, root logins are logged)."*

I think I have to ask if this situation meets with approval from the Board or whether any further consideration is needed.

(b) Appointment of IT Director

We advertised again for an IT Director and received two responses. One was from a non-member web developer who was looking for career advancement opportunities. While his ideas were bright and his record suggested that he would be a good team member with ideas that would be of benefit to us in a different role, his desire for career development meant that it was not the right opportunity for him. The other applicant, Otto Reinders, is an AUK member with a proven track record in IT development supervising an in house team of IT professionals and external sub-contractors for the London base of an international bank. However, he had insufficient time on his hands to also do the duties of an AUK Director. Richard Jennings and I spent some time with him after the AGM, discussing how we could involve him with Richard continuing discussions by email afterwards.

(c) IT Refresh Project Board

After a couple of weeks of intellectually challenging involvement in how the IT Refresh project should go forward, I had a conversation with Finance Director Paul Salmons about how the project should be supervised. Up to now, we have had a Project Board which, in the analysis stage included six executive directors, but the Project Board has, to my knowledge, never met formally, as effectively it would constitute a full Board meeting with added members from the IT Refresh Team. Indeed, any decisions required have been made by the Board at its normal meeting. Paul and I agreed that this structure was overblown, and as we move to the implementation stage we can slim down the structure to a maximum of three directors, an IT Consultant (Otto Reinders), and delegates as appropriate. A smaller more focussed project Board would communicate primarily through email and the AUK Forum but would be able to have the occasional face to face meeting. Paul and I firmly believe that there is value in face to face meetings from time to time. The current set up makes this impractical. I am grateful for Richard Jennings for working this up into something practical, and would ask the Board to approve it and nominate members to work on it.

(d) Approval for spend on printers

Shortly after the last meeting it became apparent that the ageing printers used to print brevet cards needed maintenance that was impractical on account of their age. The cost of the maintenance contract also seemed to be greater than justified by our use and the repairs that were possible. Replacements had been identified and a standard three year guarantee was available. However the estimated cost, in the region of £3000 was well beyond the directorial limit of £1000. It was also beyond the limit of £2000 requiring the additional approval of the Chair or Finance Director. However, it was within the ambit of the limit that could be approved by the Chair and Finance Director together. A straw poll of directors suggested support, so approval was given and the printers have been purchased. I would be grateful if the Board would give its retrospective approval for this expenditure.

Chris Crossland
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