



## Event Services Report – Board Meeting 23 March 2016

### 1. Validation & Recording

The request for a bank account for BACS payments by organisers which would simplify the Validations Secretary's task (and allow the role to be split) is still outstanding, but the immediate clamour from organisers has been mitigated by the creation of a PayPal account into which organisers can pay.

April was a particularly strong month for validations, but May was weaker, so overall for the season to end May, the numbers are still 5.5% down on last year, following the pattern of a lull after PBP. However they are up by 7% compared with the year before, and 35% up on the previous post-PBP year (when compared across same number of months)

There have been a number of problem events. These have been especially with the larger events, and mostly it seems with those organised by London clubs.

Examples include:

- Organisers missing riders off the finish list
- Organisers of BRM events failing to enter finish times on results system
- Organisers sending cheques to Brevet Card Sec, instead of to Validation Secs
- Organisers failing to use the online system at all, and submitting their own spreadsheets
- Organisers handing cards back to riders with validation stickers attached, and then failing to record them as having completed the event (or declaring them as 'finishers' but not requiring validation)

Some of these appear to be down to carelessness on the part of experienced organisers who should know better, others are less experienced organisers who have proved themselves unequal to the task of reading and understanding the Organiser handbook, but all have involved the Validation team in large amounts of extra work.

After discussion with Events Secretary (and Regional Delegate) it was agreed that the most serious culprit will be reduced to Organiser Level 0 (after they have paid currently outstanding amount in excess of £1000) and will be very closely mentored in future.

In all fairness, however, it has to be said that some organisers are suffering at the hands of riders who:

- a) Don't enter the event but 'ride-along' anyway, putting additional pressure on commercial controls, even if they don't use the facilities laid on by the organiser.
- b) Enter the event, but fail to gain P-o-P because they are not interested in AUK validation.

There is little one can do about a) other than to complain formally to the riders' clubs (if their affiliation is evident from the jersey). Where facilities are laid on by the organiser, some organisers have found it necessary to limit their use to *bona-fide* entrants by checking brevet cards or handing out coloured wrist bands at the start.



There is probably even less one can do about b) especially as in most cases these are 'temporary members'. The system proposed by the Membership Secretary where temporary members retain a membership number may help to identify and track the activities of these riders, so that we can better determine why they did not seek to participate in the 'full Audax experience'

The other problem experienced by organisers (mentioned in Minutes of 10 Feb teleconference) is that of riders seeking to reverse Paypal payments. I've not seen further evidence of this although some Draft [guidelines for organisers](#) were prepared. These should perhaps be reviewed by our new Secretary before being issued.

## 2. Brevet Card Production

No problems.

## 3. Routevalidator.com

### a) For Mandatory routes

Development of the routevalidator tool (including the functionalities of ValidateGPX) is complete. Illustrated [documentation](#) on its features is now available in the Board dropbox.

It was evident from the, sometimes animated, forum discussions that followed a soft launch that the DIYxGPS organisers had no common process and had each 'made it up as they went along' according to their own skills & experiences.

A number of changes were made as a result of feedback received, and others were highlighted as being desirable for future enhancements to the tool.

Francis has created a system within Aukweb where riders can upload both intended and ridden tracks and have the organisers notified. This is linked to the DIY entry system (but not to the validation/results system). The notification emails provides a link that routevalidator can use directly in the manner requested by the former Secretary.

Remaining actions:

**Transfer tool to AUK-controlled servers (Richard & Francis)**

**Solicit invoice from and pay Ben T (Paul)**

### b) For Advisory route (non-DIY) perms

As indicated in the [workflows](#) prepared for the December 2015 BM, the particular way in which routevalidator does its comparison makes it suitable for use to validate the tracks of riders on traditional perms (for those Perm organisers who want to offer this as an alternative to paper P-o-P)

The Perms Sec has indicated that there is a need to overhaul the current system for Perms & DIY rides with respect to payment by organisers and reconciling numbers of validations, but this may need to wait until our long-awaited 'system refresh'. In the meantime I would like to propose a limited trial of GPS-validated Perms using the process described in [this document](#), as I believe this could revitalise a part of our traditions which is currently in decline.