

One of the difficulties faced by Francis Cooke in doing his work has been that we have spent quite some time without somebody suitably qualified to work as a system administrator. A number of people have enquired about the job but found it not quite what they expected. I was happy to let Francis have the final word regarding suitability, but we have discussed the merits of several candidates. I'm happy to say that Francis has now found somebody suitable, Terry Kay.

Francis reports that

“\* Having Terry Kay on board has been helpful and lowered my stress levels a bit - he has the same level of access as me but a very different set of skills.

\* Peter Coates has also been co-operative when necessary.

\* The season turnaround was uneventful, and membership renewals seem to be going ahead without Mike reporting any problems.

\* Peter Lewis seems to have done a good job of porting the Handbook content into the aukweb CMS.

\* In addition to the various backup procedures that were already in place when I took over, we now have scheduled nightly off-site backup of the main database.

That includes Membership, Events/Perms, Online entries, Results, and the website CMS itself - so almost everything except archived results from previous seasons, which are fairly static and don't need to be backed up so frequently.

This data backup is transmitted and stored in encrypted form (since it includes Membership data).

\* There is also scheduled off-site backup of all the files which organisers can upload to the website (route sheets, logos, gpx files etc) - again these are subject to daily change and could otherwise easily get lost in a catastrophe.

\* Regarding the new web project, I have collaborated with Matt Bradley to the extent that his draft website layout can access AUK's calendar data to display a listing similar to our own, of events and permanents, searchable and filterable as ours is.

Clicking through an event on his list dumps you back to the aukweb site for online entry purposes. He and Danial could in theory go live with this 'front end' at any time.

Data interchange on this basis could form a useful interim stage in the process of migrating from one site to the other.

\* I've had quite a lot of input to Matt Bradley's draft Specification - much more than I really wanted to, in fact. He seems to me to be very understanding and anticipating of many of the subtler points, and seemingly infinitely adaptable to arcane touches such as the 50% rule. I can't imagine what it will all cost.

\* I have given him a AUK login as a dummy Organiser, so that he can see the Planner and the Brevet card layout in action, at least from an Org's point of view.

\* I have also given him a complete data schema - that is, a blank copy of our existing database. I have also given him last year's Results data in full.

\* I note that there is no provision for OCD in any form, in the current version of the Specification.

Nor has OCD been developed to any real extent, on aukweb - for reasons I stated before, there simply is no incentive to do any development on the website as long as the new project is pending - this sad state of affairs has already been going on for well over a year, and set to continue at least until September '15."

I'm indebted to Francis for this report.

Chris Crossland  
8 December 2014