



Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association Ltd
Annual Report and Agenda for AGM 2015

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Annual Report 2014-2015

Audax UK is the long distance cycling association for the UK, and is the regulating body for Audax rides held under the rules developed by Audax Club Parisien and developed further by Audax UK itself. It is at the same time a membership club for cyclists enthused by the concept of long distance riding.

Audax UK is a company limited by guarantee under UK company law, governed by a Board of Directors elected by and from the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Board reports back to the membership at the AGM, and this is the Board's report for 2014-15.

Summary

A year in which the quadrennial Paris-Brest-Paris 1200 km Randonnée has taken place and which, with the continuing high interest in the UK in sport cycling, has resulted in a high level of activity:

- 533 Audax UK calendar events organised, of which 102 were qualifying rides for PBP;
- a record number of 594 riders achieving a Super Randonneur series of rides;
- 494 UK riders taking part in PBP, 388 provisionally recording a successful ride;
- a continued growth of interest in self-organised 'DIY' rides, with a distinct move towards the use of GPS devices for verification;
- an increase in membership to around 6,500.
- an excellent, well-supported National 400 event in Scotland organised by CTC Highland.

During the year the Board has

- developed and introduced a policy on the participation of young people and vulnerable adults in events;
- developed and populated a new and more attractive front end to the website providing news and information to members and non-members alike;
- developed new regulations designed to facilitate DIY rides by GPS for the approval of the AGM;
- begun a review of AUK's overall strategy;
- developed and introduced new financial reports for the Board to better understand AUK's finances, and to lay the foundations for a budgetary process in the future;
- continued the essential, on-going background work of guiding organisers and members on the regulations, and acting as adjudicator on disputes;
- made a significant donation to support AUK member Steve Abraham's attempt to break the long standing annual cycling mileage record, and raised more money through a direct appeal to members and an ongoing donations scheme linked to online event entries;
- reviewed the way that honoraria are paid to directors and delegates so that there is greater understanding of and transparency around the costs involved;
- acted to develop a good working relationship with the organisers of London-Edinburgh-London 2017;
- appointed a Finance Director, Paul Salmons, who has overseen a radical overhaul of how our accounts are presented. Some details of his work will be apparent elsewhere in this document. Paul is standing formally for election to the post.
- considered the CV's of several very suitable candidates to become non-executive directors and were disappointed to note that we could only take on a maximum of three of them.

Chris Boulton, Lucy McTaggart, and John Sabine were appointed, and of these Chris and John are standing for election;

- agreed to appoint the Chair to the vacant ACP correspondent / LRM representative post, thus removing a director position.

The loss of the services of the Communications Director early in the year due to pressures in his 'day job' and the need to prepare for the 2017 London-Edinburgh-London event significantly affected the Board's capabilities, and some projects progressed more slowly than had been planned as a result. The implementation of an upgraded back office system was particularly affected by this, while the introduction of a more graphical and content-rich public facing front-end to the website has been delayed.

Any major revision of the Articles of Association to conform with modern standards will need to wait until any strategy development is completed, although minor changes such as the introduction of full proxy voting as required by law, and/or the removal of AGM standing orders to stand-alone regulations would be fairly simple and likely to be feasible.

In more detail

Events

The high level of interest in prestige events shown in the demand for LEL in 2013 continued this year with unprecedented numbers tackling PBP and the associated qualifying rides. Entries and validations were up 8.7%, and a record 594 riders achieved a Super Randonneur series. A new process of homologation for BRM events eliminated delays in getting brevet numbers back from Paris and on to the website. Subject to final validation, out of 494 entrants, 388 riders completed PBP successfully.

The total number of events on the calendar remained at about the same level as 2014, but many more of these were, inevitably in a PBP year, internationally recognised BRM events. There was a good geographical spread of these events across the UK. The number of BRM events planned for 2016 is the highest for any non-PBP year, perhaps boosted by the reduction in the validation fee.

While the number of permanent events and DIY's ridden in 2014-15 remains remarkably similar, at around 6650, there has been a shift away from 100km rides towards BR's. The overall levelling off continues a trend from the previous year, after ten years' continuous growth. There was also an increase in 50km hilly events, alongside some significantly longer hilly rides, with distances up to 1,300km and with up 18 AAA points!

Subject to AGM approval, a new type of event, a 'Trace Nationale' or Easter Trail, a team event with a more relaxed format than an Arrow, will be introduced for Easter 2016.

Membership

Membership continues to show growth, with 1369 members enrolled during the year, bringing the total to 6581 at the beginning of October. Of the current membership, males outnumber females by a ratio of 6.5:1, and we are also rather an old organisation with an average age of around 52. More recent joiners, though, show a lower average age of around 41.

Regulations

As Audax riders turn increasingly to technology, the Board has been working to try and refine the way in which events are measured, both in terms of validating distances and validating completed rides.

Changes in Google Maps, which had been the basis of ride planning for some time, caused problems, and we currently have no entirely satisfactory distance measuring tool which can be recommended to riders and organisers. This is not a simple problem and we are continuing to explore options as this report is being written.

This has particularly impacted DIY Permanents which now represent the majority of routes planned under AUK auspices. To this end a proposal is before the AGM to allow for the (re)introduction of 'mandatory' routing within AUK, as adopted by other audax organisations. This will allow for a simpler approach for route planning and validation, and for the greater use of GPS devices in particular for DIY/Permanents.

To be fully satisfactory we still need to identify a suitable tool to verify a submitted track against a defined Audax route. We are a long way from solving this at the moment, but the proposal before the AGM provides the regulatory basis to support these developments. The proposal to introduce an 'Easter Trace' event next year also required regulations, which are also before the AGM.

Communications

A 'front end' to the website, building on the work done by Danial Webb, has been populated with content designed to attract new riders and members as well as to provide a gateway into the usual website services.

Having a Communications Director next year will bring an increased focus on how we communicate with members, and ideas have already been briefly debated. We recognise the need to do much better in this area, which will bring the Board a better understanding of our members and in turn allow us to keep members in touch with what the Board is doing.

AUK Trophies

After several years in the post, Pam Pilbeam, AUK Vice President, retired as Trophy Custodian in 2013. Since then the post has remained empty despite being advertised to members. Managing the trophies which collectively have a formidable physical presence involves a significant effort and cost for those involved. Consequentially the traditional 'cabinet' of Trophies has been retired and replaced with smaller awards that can be ordered pre-engraved for presentation at the Annual Reunion dinner.

This approach has other benefits though, in that it allows for greater flexibility in the range of awards that can be made and provides a greater balance between the so called 'competitive' trophies, i.e., those for riding the furthest on a solo, tandem, trike, etc. and other awards for merit and annual achievement that might be made.

Some members would go further, and do away with the competitive awards completely, feeling that it is incongruous that Audax UK offers such awards at all. Other members would argue that there is a good case to recognise the highest seasonal achievement of members and meritorious

achievement in various areas of our activities. That debate continues. Overall though, the Board feels the move to the new award format is a very positive development. The long standing Cups and Shields will not be lost though, as the National Cycling Museum at Llandrindod Wells has graciously offered to provide a permanent home and display for them.

Members and the general public will be able to see them when visiting the museum rather than them being hidden for 361 days of each year in the darkness of a storage depot under a railway arch in Halifax.

Governance and People

Oliver Iles has taken over from Tony Greenwood on brevet card production. Tony has worked extremely hard to provide an efficient brevet card service and has also undertaken work in the development of our financial reporting. He has also stood down as Events Delegate, and Geoff Cleaver takes over those duties.

Mike Wigley's membership team of Findlay Watt, Peter Gawthorne and Allan Taylor has two new delegates, Peter Davis and Richard Jennings, who are handling the task of sending out welcome packs to new members. We welcome those members taking on new responsibilities, are grateful to all those continuing in post, and offer our thanks to those who have stepped down.

On the Board, Danial Webb stepped down from his key role as Communications Director, and we were left with a vacancy which it did not prove possible to fill during the year. Danial's enthusiasm and hard work in giving AUK a more coherent and professional look will stand us in good stead for the future.

Following changes at last year's AGM, and subsequent vacancies, the Board appointed Paul Salmons as Finance Director, and Lucy McTaggart, John Sabine and Chris Boulton as Non-Executive Directors. A new departure for AUK, the presence on the Board of Directors without specific responsibility has brought a wider perspective to debates. The non-executives have also been able to pick up some tasks following Danial's departure, and to support some wider and longer-term issues such as the development of AUK's strategy for the coming years.

We were sorry that Lucy McTaggart had to withdraw from her post for personal reasons. Lucy is a person of great experience in long distance cycling with a background that made her eminently suitable for this role. We thank her for the contribution she made and wish her well for the future.

Your Vote

This year's AGM is the second at which non-attending members are able to cast votes on business determined there. If you are not coming to the Reunion weekend - of which the AGM forms a part - or simply not planning to attend the AGM itself, then please take some time to study the agenda items, consider the issues carefully, and exercise your influence by casting your votes as you think fit, in the interests of AUK.

For members to get more information about Board discussions and the papers that inform our decisions, minutes and papers are available on the "Official" section of the AUK website for all to see. There is also much related discussion on the AUK online forum at forum.audax.uk

Development of the AGM and Reunion

The introduction of 'postal' voting had a major impact on the decision making process at AUK, as about 80% of the votes were cast by post or online. This means the role of the AGM has changed in that it is no longer the sole or even most significant channel for debate. To this end a proposal has been presented to the AGM which will facilitate running the Annual Reunion and the AGM as separate events.

This will provide space at the Annual Reunion for a less formal meeting that can be used to present and discuss policy which can then be developed and voted on at an AGM held later in the year. This will also relieve the pressure on AUK officers to prepare for the new season and deliver two major events – the Annual Reunion and AGM - in the weeks following the end of season.

Regarding the AGM itself, it has been noticeable for several years that discussions have been constrained by the meetings formal agenda. As (hopefully!) the formal meeting becomes shorter so there will be time and energy to consider other matters. To kick this off, Steve Boulton will present a short discussion paper after the AGM to address questions of strategy and identity, a.k.a., the eternal question of "what is AUK for?", as this is key to the process of developing a forward looking strategy and business plan. We hope members attending will join us in developing a common understanding and appreciation of the alternate viewpoints on this key question.

Doubtless such discussions will continue through the AUK forum. This year has seen wider use of the AUK forum in developing and refining proposals to be presented to the AGM but it is still early days for this, and we continue to look for way to engage the membership. The closed nature of the AUK forum – it is currently accessible only to 'logged in' AUK members – is recognised as a limiting factor in this, and the Board is considering ways of making the forum more accessible. This might include making parts of it publically accessible and/or integrating it with the public facing website so the two complement each other. Naturally any such developments will have to progressed in tandem with the development of the new website and AUK's overall communications strategy.

Financial

During the year the accounting function within Audax UK has undergone a review, as well as changes to some systems and functions.

- The accounts are now produced using professional accountancy software (Sage On-Line)
- The accounts are produced by a paid book-keeper who is an Audax UK member;
- The Financial Director role is now more involved in strategic financial development of the organisation with an overseeing and reviewing role for the accounting function.

The Finance Director will present the accounts, which are separate to this report, to the AGM. In brief, trading for the twelve months from 1st September 2014 to 31st August 2015 shows a surplus before tax and interest of £7,945 (£31,496 in 2014), with a total revenue of £119,413 (£113,985 in 2014), direct expenditure of £83,952 (£70,284 in 2014) and overheads of £27,245 (£12,205 in 2014). At the end of August 2015 AUK had £250,339 in the bank.

The coming year

The Board is acutely conscious of the lack of progress on the back-end functions of the website, which will need to be given greater attention in the coming year. This is a major project, and

although we have sufficient capital available, will require manpower and skills resources beyond those available within the organisation. The proper creation and management of the project will be crucial.

The Board will at the same time look at how AUK should manage the IT systems so vital to our operations in the future. We have been extremely lucky to have had dedicated people to take AUK this far, but we are at **the** point where new solutions are needed.

As mentioned above, with a new Communications Director in place, we also expect to spend time on improving our understanding of our membership and riders, and improving our communications with them.

...and of course, the normal operations of AUK, in support of the many events run under our regulations, has to continue.

Acknowledgements

Many people contribute to the work and success of Audax UK; the delegates who manage membership, validation and all the other back office functions; the Arrivéé editors and contributors; organisers and all the support teams who make the events possible and enjoyable.

All our volunteers are vital to AUK's operations, and it would be easy to take their efforts behind the scenes for granted. We are fortunate to have them, and their continuing dedication and hard work deserve our thanks.

Chris Crossland,
Chair, on behalf of the AUK Board

ACP Correspondent / LRM representative Report

There was no candidate for the director post of ACP Correspondent / LRM representative / International Secretary at the 2014 AGM, so the post remained vacant until the December 2014 Board meeting, with me substituting temporarily. At this meeting it was agreed to (again) abolish the International Secretary responsibility (it appears to have been abolished some years previously but had somehow snuck back in), and to appoint me to the residual ACP/LRM duties.

Accordingly, I attended the Audax Club Parisien awards ceremony and Paris-Brest-Paris 2015 presentation in Paris in early 2015, where I signed an agreement with Thierry Rivet, president of Audax Club Parisien, to represent ACP in the United Kingdom and to regulate BRM events in the UK. I agreed to delegate my mandate to Audax UK. (That's the formal bit that allows AUK to organise Brevet Randonneur Mondiaux events, a formula owned by ACP, in the UK.)

The PBP presentation was fascinating and so was the awards ceremony. The popularity of the Trace National, a little brother of the Flèche Velocio, of which our Easter Arrow is a cousin, was very apparent. I was delighted to find shortly after my return home that our new Events Secretary Martin Foley had thoughts of introducing a similar event, so we contacted ACP, got it sorted out, and hopefully this new (to this country) event will take place for the first time in 2016.

I was very pleased to be in the Paris area for PBP in August, although being able to ride it would have made me even more happy. It was great to see all the customary enthusiasm from riders and spectators throughout the event, although the move of the event HQ to the national velodrome may need some more thought to make it work better. Members may have noticed that of all the countries outside France, the UK provided the second highest number of participants, with only Germany having more.

After PBP I attended the quadrennial congress of Les Randonneurs Mondiaux, the group of international randonneur representatives from around the world. Our very own Keith Benton, who has been acting up in the role of LRM President for some time was formally elected to the post for the next four years. The chance to meet and speak with representatives from around the world was welcome. There is a lot going on in various countries that could radically change the look of the randonneur world in the very near future.

Finally, at the request of the Events Secretary and the LEL organiser, I was able to secure the LRM President's agreement to allow LEL 2017 to run an optional higher minimum speed requirement as well as the standard minimum of 12 k.p.h.

Chris Crossland

ACP Correspondent / LRM Representative

Director Report: Finance

As part of the Annual Report in 2014 reference was made to the continuing improvement in the way the accounts are prepared and presented. I am able to confirm that the accounts for 2014/2015 year have been prepared using Sage On-line, a web based professional accounting system. The Board considered that it would be beneficial to have up to date management accounts as part of the quarterly meetings and that this would be most efficiently provided by a paid book-keeper. This was implemented and the Board now receive this information with a commentary prior to each Board meeting.

This releases the Finance Director to perform a more strategic role including, developing a quarterly reporting pack and measures of activity. A review of the financial operation of the organisation has commenced including the process for authorising expenditure, and the Remuneration Committee has considered honorarium levels for Directors and Delegates including standardising the payment method and timing into financial years. There has been a review of how the bank accounts operate and we are developing alternatives which will assist Directors and Delegates to have access their areas of responsibilities.

It is anticipated that as the website project and strategy develop the Finance Director will work with the Board to develop key measures of performance and budgets which will be aligned to the future requirements of the organisation.

Paul Salmons

Finance Director

Director Report: Calendar Event

Analysis of Events

In the 2015 season there were 533 events and we currently have 196 organisers, 21 of whom organised events for the first time in 2015. The number of calendar events has remained fairly constant for a time now and has varied only by +/- 5% for the past 8 years. Brevets Populaire continue to account for the greatest number of calendar events.

Table 1 Breakdown of events by distance

Year	BP	BR/ BRM	200	300	400	600	>600	Total
2015	310	223	151	36	20	16	0	533
2014	311	218	158	31	15	13	2	532
2013	334	220	163	29	15	12	1	554
2012	320	215	159	27	18	10	1	535
2011	310	246	167	32	24	22	0	556
2010	322	211	148	21	25	16	1	535
2009	317	200	146	23	14	14	3	517
2008	320	195	144	25	13	12	1	515
2007	339	219	159	27	18	15	0	558
2006	364	211	151	28	18	13	1	575

Looking at regional breakdowns, each region has a comparable number of events with a fairly uniform spread of events by distance.

Table 2 Breakdown of events by region/distance

	50km	100km	200km	300km	400km	600km	Total
Scotland and North	11	61	43	8	7	6	137
East and Midlands	13	76	33	4	3	1	130
South West	17	64	39	9	5	6	136
South East	11	60	35	14	2	2	124

With Paris-Brest-Paris being held in 2015 we saw a considerable upturn in the number of BRM events and organised the highest ever number of Audax UK BRM events in a single year. It is normal for there to be a significant drop off in BRM events in the year immediately following PBP but in 2016 this has been considerably less than previous years and is in fact the highest total for any non-PBP year.

Table 3 Audax UK BRM events

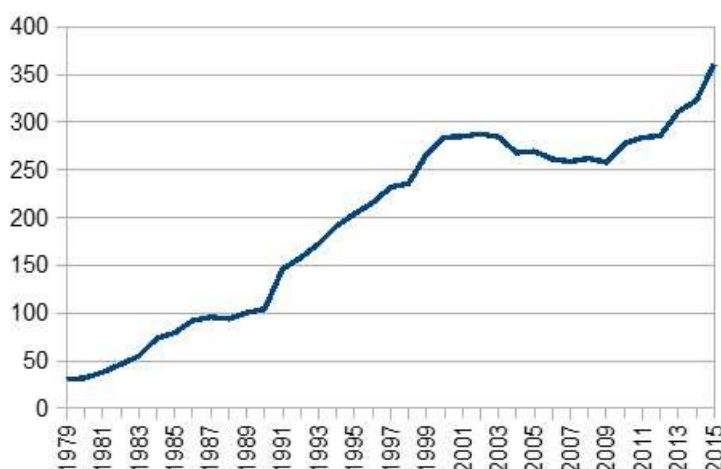
	200km	300km	400km	600km	1000km	1200km+	Total
2016	17	13	15	13	1	2	61
2015	57	21	18	14	0	0	110
2014	17	14	13	13	1	1	59
2013	12	6	7	8	0	1	34
2012	7	6	7	6	1	0	27
2011	46	22	22	17	0	0	107

The 2014/15 Season

A major focus of the 2015 season was BRM events during the spring/early summer to allow riders to qualify for Paris-Brest-Paris. We had 102 qualifying events which allowed 494 riders, 24 of whom were female, from the UK to qualify and enter PBP. The qualifying events were largely well distributed, both geographically and on the calendar, but the shorter qualifying period for 600s was a challenge and it is hoped that ACP will agree to this increasing by 1 week in future. The current provisional number of Audax UK members whose PBP ride was homologated is 388.

The National 400 was hosted by CTC Highland in July in Dingwall. The event attracted over 100 entrants with 76 riders finishing and received much praise and enthusiasm despite the far from normal sub-zero overnight temperatures. The National 400 2016 will be organised by Peak Audax CTC.

The numbers of riders taking part in and finishing all our events continues to increase. We had 33 events in 2015 in which over 100 riders finished. 594 riders obtained a Super Randonneur award this season which is a substantial increase on our previous high of 440 in 2011. This graph illustrates the growth in the number of SRs since the birth of AUK (averaged over the previous 4 year period):



Tony Greenwood stood down as Events Delegate and was succeeded by Geoff Cleaver. I would like to thank Tony for all his hard work throughout the years.

Challenges for the year ahead

A major challenge is to continue to nurture the growth in participation levels following the successes this PBP year. This can be achieved by managing the calendar so we have a wide spread of events both geographically and in distance so riders can easily access the events they want; encouraging organisers to undertake larger and more innovative events with possible technical and/or financial underwriting; and raising the profile of Audax UK and long distance cycling within the UK.

The strategy for events development contained within the Audax UK Strategy document requires a number of operational and perhaps regulatory changes and it is anticipated that significant progress will be made throughout this season.

Subject to passing of the proposal at this AGM, we will be holding a Trace Nationale or Easter Trail in Easter 2016 for the first time. This is a team event that has a more relaxed format and distance than the Easter Arrow.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to all organisers, helpers, riders and the members of the Events Team without whom there would be no events.

Martin Foley

Events Secretary and Director

[Director Report: Permanent Events](#)

2014/15 has very much been a season of no change for the range and number of Permanent events completed. When analysing the figures at first I thought I had downloaded last year's results again by mistake! The number of Permanent Events ridden grew year on year for 10 years, including an unprecedented increase during the 2012/13 season, but last year for the first time this trend levelled to be almost the same as the previous season. Again the 2014/15 events total is similar to the previous season.

DIY Events have stayed at 60% of all Permanent Events ridden, the same proportion as last year; and the number of Permanent Events to extend Calendar events is also similar to last year.

The significant change for 2014/15 has been a shift away from BP events towards BR events despite continued growth for 50km grimpeur events. There has, though, been a notable drop in the number of 100km validations.

4,690 Permanent Events results, including AAA points awarded to DIY events, have been recorded for the 2014/15 season. Events completed for the 2014/15 Season compared with previous years:

	2014/5	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
All Perms	4090	3920	3900	2800	2430	2300	2160	1790
DIY Perms	2460	2320 (60%)	2080 (53%)	1385 (49%)	1160 (47%)	1010 (44%)	880 (41%)	690 (39%)
ECE Perms	156	158	137	110	70	75	-	-

75% of Permanent events ridden were BR (or BP + ECE) events, and 25% were BP events (not enhanced by an ECE).

The spread of event **distances for BR events** (percentage of BR events total in brackets) was:

	200km	300km	400/500km	600km	600 to 1000km	1000+ km
2014/15	2523 (85%)	273 (9.2%)	82 (2.8%)	52 (1.8%)	4	18 (0.6%)
2013/14	2102 (86%)	183 (7.5%)	88 (3.5%)	47 (2.0%)	1	19 (0.8%)
2012/13	2176 (86%)	200 (7.9%)	77 (3.7%)	59 (2.3%)	1	11 (0.4%)
2011/12	1474 (83%)	131 (7.4%)	74 (4.2%)	91 (5.1%)	0	4 (0.2%)
2010/11	85%	7.1%	3.8%	2.4%	0.1%	0.5%
2009/10	87%	6.6%	2.5%	2.8%	0.2%	1.4%

The spread of event **distances for BP events** including those enhanced by ECE events (percentage of BP events total in brackets) was:

	50km	100km	150km
2014/15	303 (27%)	774 (68%)	63 (6%)
2013/14	250 (17%)	1137 (77%)	91 (6%)
2012/13	270 (20%)	1018 (74%)	88 (6%)
2011/12	203 (22%)	616 (67%)	95 (10%)
2010/11	25%	68%	7%
2009/10	17%	76%	7%

DIY riders follow much the same pattern for events ridden as the overall Permanent Events results. 76% of DIY Events ridden were BR events and 24% were BP events. 65% of all DIY Events ridden were 200km

Thanks are given to the team of seven DIY organisers - Joe Applegarth, Andy Clarkson, Julian Dyson, Martin Foley, Tony Hull, Chris Smith and Paul Stewart, and also to Steve Snook who has calculated and attached AAA points to 600 DIY Events recorded results.

Organisers award for having most entrants (excluding DIY & ECE events) this year has been contested by the same three organisers as last, but the order for this year is: Tom Fox stays in 1st this year, with Chris Keeling- Roberts coming 2nd largely by endlessly riding his own events, and Mike Wigley is 3rd.

1st	(104)	Tom Fox
2nd	(101)	Chris Keeling-Roberts
3rd	(89)	Mike Wigley

Rider podium places for most Permanent events completed this year sees a new trio with Oliver Iles on the top step, but Andy Curran in 2nd place sets a new record for Permanent kms covered in one season.

1st	(94)	Oliver Iles – 9,420km
2nd	(78)	Andy Curran – 22,200km
3rd	(72)	Colin Weaver – 3,950km

Permanents events AAA prize of the year for the most AAA points scored in a single Permanent event goes to Gareth Baines who scored 18 AAA points cycling the length of the 1,300km West Coast, Highlands and Inner Hebrides event. Mention should also be given to Martin Lucas and Justin Jones who completed lumpy 13.25 AAA points DIY events.

A total of 3,237 AAA points were gained during the year through 1,380 validated Permanent events. 28 riders completed one or more Permanent events with more than 5 AAA, with a total of 35 such events being successfully ridden. 580 DIY events had AAA points recorded with them.

Long Permanent events successfully completed were few in number this year. Those completed included: 1,300km West Coast, Highlands and Inner Hebrides, 1,300km LEJoG, 1,200km England Grand Tour and DIYs at 1,300km.

Permanent Rides Over Seas (PRoFs) have not been cycled very often this year. Nine were to the top of classic cols or mountain top Tour de France finishes. Manche to Med remains a popular cycle ride across France, and most notably the tough 1,400km of the Eiger Sanction was completed twice. Martin Lucas cycled 2,400km by completing Manche to Med and the Eiger Sanction back to back.

John Ward

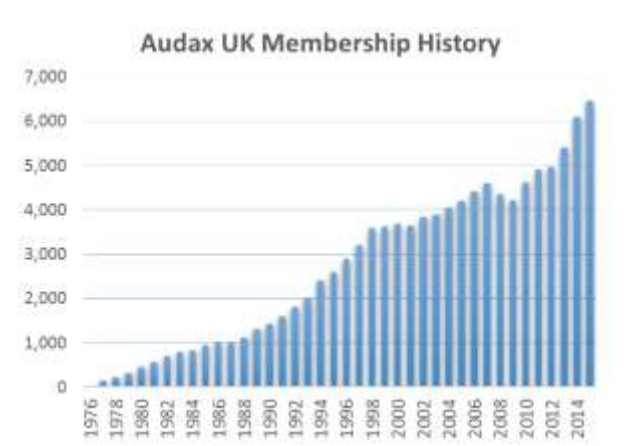
Permanents Secretary and Director

Director Report: Membership

Membership stood at 6447 members at 31st August 2015, of which

- 5321 were “main” members (including 577 Life Members subscribing for Arrivée)
- 636 were “household” members
- 499 were Life members not taking Arrivée.

This is an increase from 6028 at the same point in 2014, demonstrating a continuing interest in Long Distance Cycling over the 40 years since our formation in 1976.



Average age of current members is 51 years 3 months. Females comprise 13.3%, a f/m ratio of 2:13. Enrolments for the 12 month period gave us 1369 new members, with an average age of 42 years 5 months. In the same period we “lost” 847 who didn’t renew their membership after December 2014. I sent out a renewals reminder with the November Arrivée and an email to those who had missed the December deadline. We hope to see some of these returning to us after they’ve realised just what they are missing.

As ever, I am grateful to my team of delegates Pete Davis, Peter Gawthorne, Richard Jennings, Allan Taylor and Findlay Watt.

Mike Wigley

Membership Secretary and Director

Director Report: Events Services

The new ACP process for homologating BRM events was implemented at the start of the year. This has eliminated the delays in getting Brevet numbers back from Paris and onto the AUK website

Validation stickers are also now received more quickly from Paris, although these and transmission of BRM cards from validator to organiser and then on to riders still relies on the postal service.

Overall number of validations was up significantly:
The average number of finishers on each event was 42, and the total distance ridden on calendar events was 3,850,861km.

The figure of 22135 validations was a new record, beating last year's record of 20357 by 8.7%. As the total number of validations in the last PBP year (season 2010/11) was 17657, this represents a growth of 25.3% over the 4-year cycle. There were also new records for Super Randonneurs (593) and 388 AUK members completing PBP (subject to final validation)

Distance km	No of Events	No of rides validated
600	16	770
400	20	946
300	35	1447
200	147	6109*
150	51	1241*
100	205	10458*
50	54	1164*
	528	22135*

* provisional numbers with 5 events still not finalised

The Badge & Medal re-design is under way (designs to be ready for AGM). Brevet Card Production has been successfully transitioned from Tony Greenwood to Oliver Iles. The Board thanks Tony for excellent service in this vital role.

Peter Lewis

Events Services Director

Agenda for the Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association AGM 2015

To be held at the Holiday Inn, Peterborough West on 14th November 2015 commencing at 2:00pm

- 1) To record the names of those present at this meeting.
- 2) To record apologies for absence.
- 3) To approve the minutes of the last AGM as a true record of that meeting.
(The minutes were published in *Arrivée, winter 2015* and are on the AUK website and are reproduced in Appendix 1 of the Annual Report, i.e., this document.)
- 4) Matters arising from the last meeting (AGM 2014).
- 5) To approve the Annual Report.
- 6) To approve the Annual Accounts and the Finance Director's recommendations.
- 7) To consider special resolutions
 1. Amendment to AUK Regulation Appendix 7.1 regarding riding other organised events
 2. Amendment to AUK Regulation Appendix 7.3.1 for the 'Easter Trail' event
 3. Amendment to AUK Regulation Appendix 9.8.2 to allow for events with 'Mandatory' routes.
 4. Amendment to AUK Regulation 12.1 regarding the validation of Brevets for EAPC riders on Brevet Populaire events.
 5. Amendment to AUK Company Articles to facilitate scheduling the AUK AGM separately from the Annual Reunion Weekend.
- 8) Election of Directors
 1. Finance Director
 2. Communications Director
 3. Non-Executive Director (2 positions)
- 9) Date and venue of next meeting
- 10) Close of meeting

Annual Accounts and the Finance Director's recommendations.

Executive Summary

During the year the accounting function within Audax UK has undergone a review and change in some systems and processes.

- The accounts are now produced using professional accountancy software - Sage-On Line
- The accounts are prepared by a paid book-keeper who is an Audax UK member
- The Finance Director role is now more involved in strategic financial development of the organisation with an overseeing and reviewing role for the accounting function

The accounts are presented for the 12 months from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015. The accounts were approved by the Board on 16 October 2015 and have been independently examined by Seahouses Accountancy Services who were the organisation's previous accountants

The trading for the twelve months shows total Revenue of £119,142 (2014 £113,985) with Direct expenditure of £83,952 (2014 £70,284), overheads of £27,245 (2014 £12,205) showing a net surplus for the period of £7,945 (2014 £31,496).

At the end of August the company had £250,339 in the bank.

Results to end August 2015

During the last few years Audax UK has been changing the organisational structure and procedures in line with the corporate requirements of being a limited company; some of these changes have resulted in additional costs.

The organisation has also agreed to develop the website and database which underpins the way that Audax UK regulates events and maintains the records of riders achievements. During 2014/2015 year £6456 has been spent on upgrading the web site. This is likely to increase over the coming years as the specification and build for a new web site is developed.

As with any organisation there are changes year on year which have the effect of creating one off items either positive or negative,

- During 2014 OCD joined Audax UK bringing with them one off income of £2155,
- During 2015 the Handbook was not produced, which saved £2138 compared with the previous year.
- The Insurance charge in the 2014 accounts was understated as there was a timing adjustment at the end of 2013.
- The affiliation fee this year is £3841 lower than the previous year. This was due to an estimate in the 2014 figure being higher than actual costs, the release of the provision in 2015 resulted in a lower figure for the year

The changes in procedures and increased governance have incurred the following extra costs during the year: some of these will continue at the same level and some at a lower level.

- Last year postal voting was introduced for the AGM. Board members and team delegates (i.e. membership and events support workers etc.) were invited to attend the meeting with accommodation paid, which along with other costs associated with the venue resulted in a cost to the organisation for the AGM and Reunion of £7,426, (postal voting £4035); in previous years the income from members attending the AGM was the same as the cost. This year, the process of postal voting has been reviewed with most voters now receiving electronic ballots at a lower cost.
- Audax UK printed over 22,000 copies in the year of the quarterly Arrivée magazine which were posted to members: this was approximately 2000 more than in the previous year. One thousand extra copies of the Winter 2014 edition were produced: some are sent to life members in lieu of the handbook while others are given away to non-members to promote the organisation. This along with increase in postage resulted in additional costs in the year of £5,416 (£4243 due to postage)
- During the year the Board introduced a remunerations committee including two Non-Executive Directors and the Chairman. The Board was aware that the payment of Honoraria to Team Delegates and Board members had not been reviewed for a number of years and that payments were made at irregular intervals (sometime outside of the year of office).
- The Remuneration committee proposed revised payments for Directors reflecting the new responsibilities and increased the scope and number of Delegate honoraria. These proposals were approved by the Board. The accounts this year include some adjustments for payments which relate to previous years. Based on the current year levels the annualised payment for Directors duties will be £4,675, with payments to Team delegates and for other support services being £10,550.

Summary of Changes in Profit between 2014 and 2015

Surplus in 2014	31496
Reduction in Affiliation Costs	3841
Not producing Handbook	2138
Other saving/higher income	5172
Additional IT Costs (Website £6456)	(7626)
Higher AGM costs (voting £4035)	(7426)
Higher Honorarium (delegates £5818)	(6925)
Higher Arrivée costs (postage £4243)	(5416)
Timing adjustment for Insurance	(2618)
One off OCD income in 2014	(2155)
Other differences	(2536)
Surplus in 2015	7945

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2015

The balance sheet shows the following key figures:

- Stock of badges etc £3,436
- Cash at Bank £250,339
- Membership fees paid for one year in advance £18,171
- Membership fees paid in advance 2 to 5 years £27,508
- Other amounts due to organisation £5,143
- Insurance and other items paid in advance £3,559
- Accruals and provision for other costs £4,659

Budgets for 2015/2016

It is the intention to review the costs over the past year, and prepare budgets by responsible Director for the current year. The budgets will be prepared in conjunction with Directors and in accordance with the strategy for the organisation.

It is likely that this will include further spend on the web site but as yet nothing has been agreed

Further Financial Reporting

The Finance Director is, as part of his strategic role, reviewing the information which is available to develop further analysis for the organisation.

This will involve

- Producing key performance statistics
- reviewing the organisation's processes to maximise the benefit to members

Summary

The Accounts to August 2015 show a surplus of £7,945, with a bank balance of £250,339

A copy of the Accounts will be circulated to members with this report and published through the Official pages of the AUK website.

Special Resolutions for AGM2014

1) Amendment to AUK Regulation App7.1 regarding riding non-AUK/BRM/LRM events

Proposer: Paul Stewart, AUK Secretary, **Seconded:** The AUK Board of Directors

Rationale: The amendment enables members taking part in events not recognised by AUK directly or by affiliation with ACP/LRM which are compatible with AUK regulations and standards to have their ride recognised by AUK. Examples of such events include: the HBKH 1500km organised by Audax Club Schleswig Holstein, Germany; the Vätternrundan 300km, a mass rider event in Sweden, and the Dunwich Dynamo, an informal event in the UK.

Whilst the number of such requests is small they are important to those concerned, and the Board sees this as consistent with supporting members in achieving their long distance cycling goals within an AUK framework.

The amendment will enable members to register their ride as a AUK DIY/ Permanent according to established AUK operational processes and procedures, thereby ensuring the Brevet awarded complies with AUK standards.

Prohibitions regarding entering two concurrent Brevet events will continue to apply, as now.

Note: This amendment was adopted by the AUK Board at the Board Meeting of Sep 24, 2014 and is being presented here for approval by the AUK membership as required by the AUK Articles and Regulations. Further information can be found at: <http://aukweb.net/official/articles/app71/>

Proposed Amendment to AUK Regulations:

To amend AUK Regulation Appendix 7.1:

From: An AUK Event may not be ridden concurrently with any other organised event.

To: An AUK Event may not be ridden concurrently with any other event eligible for AUK awards.

2) Amendment to AUK Regulation App7.3.1 for the 'Easter Trail' event

Proposed by: Martin Foley AUK3207, AUK Events Secretary, Seconded by: The AUK Board

Rationale: From Easter 2016 Audax UK will be organising an Easter Trail or Trace Nationale and the rules governing this event are set by Audax Club Parisien. There are a number of rules unique to this event which will be categorised as a Brevet Populaire. This is a team event for 2 to 6 machines which finishes in York. Teams can start any time after 6am on Good Friday and must arrive in York between 8am and 11am on Saturday morning. Teams must plan a route of 201 to 360km including a mandatory overnight stop of 8 hours.

Proposed Amendment to AUK Regulations:

To add AUK Regulation Appendix 7.3.1(h) Easter Trail or Trace Nationale is a team event for 2 to 6 machines validated by and run under the rules of Audax Club Parisien.

3) Amendment to AUK Regulation App9.8.2 to allow for events with 'Mandatory' routes.

Proposed by: Paul Stewart AUK4488, AUK Secretary Seconded by: The AUK Board of Directors

Rationale: This amendment enables event organisers to select between offering riders the ability to vary their route between controls ('Advisory Routing') as now, or to set fixed (Mandatory) routes. This objective is to simplify the process of planning GPS DIY perms, supports the introduction of 'GPS Permanents', and allows Calendar Events to be organised with fixed routes, as required by the ACP/BRM standard.

Planning an 'Advisory' route is a relatively complex process requiring the use of approved planning tools and the careful placement of Controls so as to meet the Brevet specification. In contrast, planning a 'Mandatory' route is relative simple, as the route can be planned using the organiser/riders preferred route planning tool, setting Controls along the route according to AUK regulations

Under 'Advisory Routes', riders may take any path between Controls however the controls are set so that it is impossible/impractical to shortcut the event. Under 'mandatory' routing riders follow the route set by the event organiser, subject only to dealing with any eventualities that might occur such as road closures or other factors which might render sections of the route inappropriate. Riders deviating from the route will be expected to rejoin the route at the earliest available opportunity and/or make general progress in line with the route in accordance with the published guidance for the event. So for example, for a regular Permanent with AAA points riders might be expected to follow the set route exactly, whereas for DIY Permanents some minor variation might be allowed subject to the rider demonstrably progressing in accordance with the registered route.

The 'mandatory route' approach simplifies planning for GPS DIY Permanents which as a group represent the majority of routes planned each year, many as 'one off' rides, and eliminates the need to set large(r) numbers of controls to closely define complex routes (and thereby effectively rendering them 'mandatory') as practised by some members, which complicates both planning and administration.

Instead riders would submit their 'route' GPX with their Brevet application, and their 'ride' GPX will be validated against it in due course. This will confirm the rider followed the set route and fulfilled the event distance and Control schedule.

The routing mode - advisory or mandatory – will be set by the event organiser or in the case of DIY Permanents, the rider planning the route, with advisory routing the default option, as now.

The amendment similarly supports the introduction of 'GPS Permanents' with routes based on GPS tracks. Regular Permanents have been in relative decline for several years and it is expected this will help revitalise this category of events. Unlike Calendar events, (new) Permanents may not include 'info controls' which limits the routes that can be set. For example, currently a Calendar event route with information controls cannot be registered as a regular Permanent, only a GPS DIY Perm. Mandatory routes may also be set for Calendar events (as mandated by ACP/LRM regulations). Organisers may take additional/other steps to ensure mandatory routes are followed, as might be deemed appropriate.

The Board notes some members will be concerned at the wider use of GPS services in AUK events. The Board's view is that GPS services are now mainstream and it is reasonable that AUK support their wider use for DIY/Permanent events for solo or small numbers of users. However all events will continue to operate to a common set of regulations and standards as now, and there will be no special provisions for events using GPS for proof of passage/validation. In particular, if a rider has a GPS failure and has no compelling alternate proofs of progress their Brevet will be forfeit.

Proposed Amendment to AUK Regulations:

To amend AUK Regulation appendix 9.8.2:

From:

Reg 9.8.2 The controls are placed to ensure that the rider completes the validated distance.

App 9.8.2 Controls are placed at intervals of approximately 50 - 80 km at the discretion of AUK.

To:

Reg 9.8.2 The controls are placed to ensure that the rider completes the validated distance.

App 9.8.2(a) Controls are placed at intervals of approximately 50 - 80 km at the discretion of AUK.

App 9.8.2(b) Event routes set by the organiser are categorised as 'advisory' (riders may take any route between controls) or 'mandatory' (riders must follow the registered route).

App 9.8.2(c) Events with Mandatory routes may include unannounced controls and/or other measures to ensure riders follow the registered route.

4) Amendment to AUK Regulation 12.1 regarding the validation of Brevets for EAPC riders on Brevet Populaire events.

Proposed by: Dave Minter, AUK 6814, Seconded: Matt Chambers, AUK 7300

Rationale: Audax UK is the only Audax / randonneuring organisation in the world that recognises brevets ridden with power-assistance as equal to those ridden by human power alone. How did AUK end up in this place?

In 2014, the AUK Board received an enquiry regarding a disabled long-time AUK member who wished to join his friends riding Brevet Populaires, but on an EAPC/ ebike. AUK regulations mandated only human effort for all AUK brevets and there was concern about invalidating AUKs insurance if an ebike was ridden in an AUK event. Regulation 12.1 was created in response and agreed at the 2014 AGM, allowing EAPCs to be ridden in AUK Brevet Populaires and homologating successful rides on EAPCs. The vast majority of those present at the 2014 Annual General Meeting disagreed with power-assisted brevets being considered equal to human-powered brevets. The postal voters that carried the 2014 proposal were not able to consider any alternative proposals or to modify the proposal presented to them.

From next year, British law allows ebikes to output 250 Watts continuously, limited to 25 km/h. Without considering any additional power from the ebike rider, 250 Watts is roughly the same as a Tour de France racer's average power output for a flat stage. There is pressure for British law to align with other European countries, allowing ebikes limited to 45 km/h with much greater power output and battery capacity. These high performance ebikes are already sold in the UK and are the fastest-growing ebike market sector.

Any AUK regulation based on ebikes being slow, low-powered and with extremely limited battery capacity is short-sighted and it is obvious that riding even a current ebike is not the same as riding with human power alone, particularly in hilly terrain. It is not appropriate for AUK to homologate ebike brevets as equal to human power alone and no other Audax/ randonneuring country in the world does so.

On the other hand, nobody wants to stop ebike riders joining friends and loved ones enjoying AUK brevets. In any case, public roads are for all to use. The issue is to avoid invalidating AUK insurance when ebikes are ridden at AUK brevets.

This proposal allows EAPCs to be entered and ridden in AUK Brevet Populaires without compromising AUKs insurance but maintaining the distinction between riding with power assistance and achievements from human power alone.

Comment from the AUK Board:

The proposal to allow electrically assisted bikes to be ridden on Brevet Populaire events and to be eligible for the associated awards was advanced last year at the request of a disabled AUK member. It was approved without modification by 77% of those who voted.

There were two aspects to last year's proposal. The first was to explicitly allow EAPCs to be used because of insurance implications, and this year's proposal would not change that.

However the Board also believes AUK should be an inclusive organisation, encouraging wide participation, and that BPs are intended to be inclusive, welcoming – popular – events.

Part of this welcome is recording all those who have completed the challenge, so the Board felt it was reasonable that all riders should be eligible for Brevet Populaire awards, which are purely personal and limited in scope. The Board saw no good reason to withhold such recognition, especially as to do so could be seen as discriminatory.

It is unlikely that EAPC riders will, as this proposal implies, be able to cruise round events at the speed of a Tour de France rider. Apart from being anti-social, this would soon run down the battery, leaving the rider seriously disadvantaged by a heavy and inefficient bike with the rest of a long and potentially hilly route to complete.

The Board believes the arguments in this proposal are flawed and sees no reason to deny EAPC riders full participation in BP events. Following last year's large majority in favour, and with no evidence that it has caused problems, there is no need to change this rule.

Accordingly, the Board recommends rejecting this proposal.

Proposed Amendment to AUK Regulations:

To amend Regulation and Appendix 12.1 regarding Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles

From:

Regulation 12.1 Machines: Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs) may be ridden.

Appendix 12.1 Events ridden on EAPCs may be counted for AUK personal awards, but not for competitive trophies listed under Appendix 13.2

To:

Regulation 12.1 Machines: Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles (EAPCs) may be ridden but such rides are not eligible for validation.

Appendix 12.1 Deleted

5) Amendment to AUK Company Articles to facilitate scheduling the AGM separately from the Annual Reunion Weekend.

Proposed by: Paul Stewart 4488, AUK Secretary, seconded by: Martin Foley 3207, AUK Events Secretary

Rationale: Historically the AUK Annual General Meeting has been held as part of the Annual Reunion weekend. However with the introduction of postal voting at AGM2014 a (large) majority of the total votes cast were cast by non-attending members. Some members feel this undermines the purpose of holding the AGM as part of the Annual Reunion weekend; others would prefer the AGM was not held during the Annual Reunion weekend at all. It has also been noted that holding the AGM in November means that regulatory and other formal matters must be progressed during the summer months when attentions are naturally focused elsewhere, i.e., on cycling and holidays.

Consequently it is proposed the AGM be scheduled separately to the Annual Reunion weekend. This will allow for informal meetings to be held at the Annual Reunion weekend for those interested, and any regulatory matters arising to be progressed during the winter months via the AUK forum prior to being put to a formal vote at the AGM scheduled in the New Year. This requires amendments to the AUK Articles to replace set dates for submitting resolutions and for voting with dates relative to the date of the meeting. The proposed schedule specifies periods of 21 days for review of resolutions and for voting but allowance is made for this to be varied. In practice it is envisaged whole calendar months will be set for review and voting as now, i.e., longer, whilst shorter periods may be set if it is necessary to schedule an extraordinary meeting at short notice. The minimum notice period remains as 14 days.

Proposed Amendment to AUK Articles:

The AUK Articles to be amended from:

6. General Meetings

6.1 The Company shall hold a General Meeting as its Annual General Meeting in each calendar year at such date (which shall normally be between November and February), time and place as may be determined by the Board and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling such meeting

7. Notice of General Meetings

7.1 There shall be given not less than 14 clear days notice of a General Meeting (exclusive in every case both of the day on which it is served or deemed to be served and of the day for which it is given) shall be given in the manner hereinafter described to Members and to such other persons as may be determined by the Board in its absolute discretion.

7.3 Every notice calling a General Meeting shall specify the place and the day and the hour of the meeting. If other than routine business is to be transacted (namely special business), the notice shall specify the nature of such business and, if any resolution is to be proposed as an Extraordinary Resolution or as a Special Resolution, the notice shall contain a statement to that effect.

7.6.2 Resolutions must be submitted by members acting as proposer and seconder in writing to the general secretary and received by 1st September which will be deemed the date of receipt whereon they will be will advertised to members via the company website within seven days. Resolutions may be accompanied by a statement of no more than 1000 words in respect of the resolution. Members may submit amendments to resolutions. Amendments must be received by 1st October, when the amendment period ends. Amendments will be submitted and processed within the amendment period in the same manner as resolutions. Proposers of resolutions and/or amendments may in the same manner: (a) Withdraw un-amended resolutions and/or amendments, and (b) Combine, partition or otherwise redraft previously submitted resolutions and amendments.

7.6.3 Nominations, resolutions and amendments, together with supporting statements, will be included in the notice to members of the Annual General Meeting

14. Election of Directors

14.1 Details of the Director posts for election will advertised to members via the company website by 1st September preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting at which election is proposed.

14.2 Nominations with details of the members proposing and seconding the nomination and the consent of the nominated person to serve together with a statement of that person's relevant abilities or experience of no more than 1000 words shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary to be received by 1st October preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting at which election is proposed.

To:

6. General Meetings

6.1 The Company shall hold a General Meeting as its Annual General Meeting in each calendar year at such date (which shall normally be between November and March), time and place as may be determined by the Board and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling such meeting

7. Notice of General Meetings

7.1 There shall be given not less than 14 days notice of a General Meeting.

7.3 Every notice calling a General Meeting shall specify the place, time and date of the meeting, and the business and arrangements for the meeting.

7.6.2 Resolutions must be submitted by members acting as proposer and seconder in writing to the general secretary no later than 56 days prior to the date of the General Meeting or as specified in the notice for the meeting. The resolution may include a statement of no more than 1000 words excluding details of any changes to AUK Articles and Regulations. The resolutions will be advertised to members via the company website or extension thereof for review for a minimum of 21 days. During this period members may submit amendments to resolutions in the same manner as resolutions. Proposers of resolutions and/or amendments may similarly withdraw un-amended resolutions and/or amendments, or otherwise combine, partition or otherwise redraft them so long as they continue to address the resolution's original subject.

7.6.3 Members will receive notice of the resolutions for the General Meeting no later than 21 days prior to the General Meeting or as specified in the notice for the meeting.

14. Election of Directors

14.1 Details of the Director posts scheduled to fall vacant at the Annual General Meeting and to be offered for election will be advertised to members via the company website no later than 56 days preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting at which election is proposed or as specified in the notice for the meeting.

14.2 Nominations with details of the members proposing and seconding the nomination and the consent of the nominated person to serve together with a statement of that person's relevant abilities or experience of no more than 1000 words shall be sent in writing to the General Secretary to be received no later than 28 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting at which election is proposed or as specified in the notice for the meeting. Members will receive notice of the nominations no later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting or as specified in the notice for the meeting.

Nomination for Election as AUK Directors

1) Finance Director

Nominee: AUK12396 Paul Salmons

Proposed by: Paul Stewart AUK4488, AUK Secretary, Seconded by: The AUK Board of Directors

Personal Statement: I am a qualified accountant with over 30 years experience, for the last 12 years I have been Integral's Finance Director, the largest national maintenance company in the UK. In addition to experience in the commercial sector, I have been a Deacon and Treasurer for our local Baptist church for 8 years. I have only recently joined Audax but have completed an SR this year and half way through the RTTY. I believe that my passion for cycling along with my financial experience can be used to help Audax identify its strategy for the future and then implement any changes required to achieve them.

Secretary's Note: Paul Salmons was appointed to the Board as Finance Director in December 2014 and is standing for election at AGM2015 as required by Article 9.5 of the Audax UK Articles of Association.

2) Communications Director

Nominee: AUK13925 Ged Lennox

Proposed by: Paul Salmons, AUK12396, AUK Finance Director, Seconded by John Lee AUK13520

Personal Statement: A designer with four decades' experience in the industry, for the past 20 years I have been consultant to a communications agency, Pages Creative, in Cheltenham, with more than 125 industry awards to our name. I designed the first Food Lovers' Guide for the BBC; worked with the world-famous artist Kit Williams on his Engines of Ingenuity; designed and produced the entire New Syllabus for the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and lectured for many years in graphic design at the Publishing Training Centre in London. Rock climber and lifelong vegetarian, I love bikes. CTC member and Audax SR, RRTY, and booked on the Highlands 1200km next season. I believe that the bicycle is the transport of the future and that Audax UK is a wonderfully understated marque, well-placed to become a major voice in the development of cycling in the UK. The position of communications director is a great chance to become involved with the changing perception of the bicycle as it becomes ever more relevant for recreation, transport and health.

3) Non-Executive Director (2 positions)

Nominee 1: AUK5025 Chris Boulton

Proposed by: Andy Clarkson AUK1576, Seconded by: Keith Benton AUK73

Personal Statement: Appointed to the Board in December 2014, I have taken a specific interest in developing a strategy to take AUK forward. I am seeking election as a non-executive Director to help bring this to a conclusion.

As AUK continues to adjust to the newer world of incorporation and more interest in cycling, I can bring some experience of going through such transformations with other bodies. I am keen to see AUK make the most of a discipline which has a great deal to offer cycling, and would intend to use what skills I have to help us get there.

Secretary's Note: Chris Boulton was appointed to the Board as a Non-Executive Director in December 2014 and is standing for re-election at AGM2015 as required by Article 9.5 of the Audax UK Articles of Association.

Nominee 2: AUK6814 Dave Minter

Proposed by: Marcus Jackson-Baker AUK7473, Seconded by Roger Cortis AUK7244

Personal Statement I rode my first Audax in 1992 in Australia, and after moving to Britain, joined AUK in 2002. Completed events include 5 x PBPs and 2 x LELs, and other brevets up to 1600km in 10 countries. I've collected various AUK awards including Ultra Randonneur and Brevet 25000. My riding has included touring and (years ago) racing, together with UAF brevets, earning me the Aigle d'Or (equivalent to ACP's Randonneur 5000).

In Australia, I introduced Audaxing to the state of Queensland (to save locals a 1000km trip to ride with the next nearest group), and organised events from 50 to 1000km, including the local version of the York Easter Arrow. I served on the National Committee for three years and was National Calendar Coordinator for a year. My article for Audax Australia's magazine "A Little Audax History" has been republished by several randonneuring national groups.

My work has included time as a bike race team mechanic, before settling into a proper job as a civil engineer, mostly working on transportation projects large and small. This has given me plenty of experience in working with others in a practical and pragmatic manner.

I hope that my enthusiasm for long distance cycling can benefit AUK and its members.

Nominee 3: AUK3171 John Sabine

Proposed by: Martin Malins AUK2709, **Seconded by:** Pat Hurt AUK6700

Personal Statement: Although I joined the Board in December last year, I'm conscious that I'm still relatively new to audax and to AUK: I joined at the beginning of 2013 and rode perhaps half a dozen events before LEL, which I finished out of time. Since then I've ridden more, including PBP, and SRs last year and this.

I have strong memories of what it's like to be very new to audax, both what I've found difficult and helpful as a relatively inexperienced rider, and what has sparked my enthusiasm for it: I believe I've brought a reasonably fresh perspective as a non-executive director.

I see the role as being a critical friend to the Board, helping to reach decisions rather than simply discussing endlessly: I'm not afraid of challenging the status quo or other people's assumptions, though I try to do that constructively.

Professionally, I've worked as a journalist, in local government and for a couple of charities. I'm able to express ideas and proposals clearly, and enjoy working with others to make them happen.

I believe in setting a strategic direction for AUK that respects existing members and traditions, but also looks to a future where we're able to expand without diluting our uncommercialised ethos, and without an increasingly complex rulebook. I want to increase the numbers of people enjoying audaxes, not simply to see AUK get bigger.

Secretary's Note: John Sabine was appointed to the Board as a Non-Executive Director in December 2014 and is standing for re-election at AGM2015 as required by Article 9.5 of the Audax UK Articles of Association.

Appendix 1: Minutes of the AGM 2014

Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2014

Held at the *Yarnfield Park Training and Conference Centre nr Stone, Staffordshire* on 15th November 2014.

Board Members attending: Chris Crossland (Chair), Paul Stewart (Secretary), Linda Johnston (Treasurer), John Ward (Permanent Events Secretary), Peter Lewis (Recorder), Danial Webb (Publicity Secretary), Mike Wigley (Membership Secretary), Keith Harrison & Sue Gatehouse (Validation Secretary).

At 14:10, before the meeting commenced, CC greeted members present whilst modelling the new AUK jersey. The meeting appreciated the fine athletic cut of the new jersey.

CC asked members pause in remembrance of riders who have passed away since our last meeting including Bob McHardy, Les Lowe, Ron Mellor, Mrs D Hobbs, Brian Haywood, Don Black, Jim Stone, Alan Smith ('Jogler'), Barbara Holden, and last but not least, John Radford.

Helen Vecht asked also to remember Martin Pearson of Australia who rode LEL, and MW asked the meeting to inform the Board of any others who pass away during the year so they might similarly be remembered.

CC gave details of the funeral and remembrance service to be held shortly for John Radford who had recently died as result of injuries incurred when he was hit by a car.

He made some comments on the conduct of the AGM, noting that it had always been a forum for discussion and debate, sometimes for deep division but predominantly for agreement and he hoped that this could continue. The introduction of postal voting might affect the conduct of the AGM but would result in wider participation in decision-making. CC also hoped there would be opportunity to speak less formally after the meeting, should members so desire.

Background: AUK has commissioned Electoral Reform Services to manage the postal voting process, establishing a website to allow for the online recording of votes. An email with a copy of the Annual Report and Agenda document attached had been sent to circa 5000 members by email so they could submit votes directly. Another 1000 members who had not registered an email address or had otherwise opted out of electronic communications had received a ballot paper by post to be completed and returned to ERS as required (such members also had the option to record their votes online directly if they so desired), along with a printed copy of the Annual Report and Agenda. The 'AUK Annual Report and Agenda' document included the Directors reports, details of special resolutions and the AGM agenda, which included details of director posts and candidates for election. Postal voting ceased at noon on Wednesday 12th November whereon ERS provided details of those who had voted in order to enable us to deal with AGM registration, and the results of the ballot to the AUK returning officer.

CC advised that JW was acting as returning officer and that results cast for each resolution were held in confidence by him until they were needed to be added to the votes cast in the meeting room.

1) TO RECORD THE NAMES OF THOSE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.

Including the aforementioned board members a total of 77 members attended the meeting.

2) TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Sheila Simpson, John Hamilton, Judith Swallow, Chris Hopkinson, Bob Hastings

3) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM as a true record of that meeting

Joe Applegarth and others asked how those not present at the last meeting, especially those who were voting for the first time by post, could be asked to approve the minutes of a meeting that they had not attended. CC noted that this might seem an appealing notion but that all members were entitled to vote on all business of the meeting, and that included the minutes.

The resolution was passed with 503 votes for and 2 against.

4) MATTERS ARISING from the last meeting.

There were none.

5) TO CONSIDER DIRECTORS' REPORTS.

Helen Vecht asked that the emailed copy of the Directors report be titled as coming from AUK rather than ERS as she had not appreciated the email was an AUK communication, and was concerned about reports on online forums regarding members not receiving their ballot papers by email. She had also found the format of the annual report unhelpful for her preferred method of reading electronic documents

PS noted the identity of the email sender had not been considered but would be next year [Addendum: the email sender was 'Online Voting' and the email subject was 'Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association Ltd - Ballot 2014'], and that about 1 week into the three week voting period it was recognised about 100 family members sharing email addresses had been left out of the initial ballot distribution. This was resolved by sending out ballots by post, along with ballots for another 50 members for whom the email had been returned as 'undeliverable'. These were despatched on Oct 30, voting ending Nov 12.

Overall no more than a dozen queries had been received from 6000+ members and PS was confident of the integrity of the process overall.

Chris Boulton asked that in future the Annual Report might include sections looking back on the achievements of the year and looking forward to the next. CC noted the Directors were currently serving one year terms and that the proposal in a special resolution to be voted on later, which would extend terms of office of portfolio directors to three years would, if passed, encourage the

Board to think more strategically for the future and help in the development of such reporting. MW noted an update to his report, which was that membership now stood at 6288. CC observed that overall we seemed to be growing by about 100 members a month.

Keith Benton noted a comment in the Treasurer's report that the Board had yet to formally accept the accounts and whether this had been done. CC noted that at the time the document went to press we were awaiting some information but that this had now been received and the Board had formally approved the accounts.

The resolution passed with 502 votes for, 5 against.

Mel Kirkland noted that abstentions had not been recorded. CC noted that such votes were recorded by virtue of the member not exercising the option to vote, and not being included in the votes cast.

6) TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The resolution was passed, with 499 votes for, and 6 against

Linda Johnston was retiring after 5 years in post as Treasurer and the meeting offered a vote of thanks for her service.

No nominations had been received for the post of Finance Director. CC noted he was in discussion with two members who were appropriately qualified and he hoped that he would be in a position to report on progress in the near future.

8.1 Special resolution to amend Articles 1, 5, 9 & 14 of the AUK Articles.

Proposer: Paul Stewart, Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconder: Peter Lewis, Recorder

Rationale: The amendment to Article9 passed at AGM2013 removed the basis of the board structure. After due consideration the Board would reinstate the concept of an elected 'executive board' (with portfolio) albeit retaining the ability to define portfolios in accordance with operational requirements. Such 'executive directors' will be elected for a three years with overlapping terms of office to promote both continuity and commitment to the office for a specific period. Provision is also made for elected non-executive (non-portfolio) directors and for directors to be appointed to fill vacant director posts. The initial set of director posts are defined in Article 9.6.

PS introduced the resolution as a development on the amendment to Article9 passed at AGM2013.

Dave Matthews asked how the 'overlapping terms of offices' would be managed for posts elected at the same time. PS advised this would be achieved by Directors standing down and putting themselves forward for re-election.

Ashley Brown asked about the impact of longer terms on the accountability of directors. CC noted that directors would be accountable to the Board and the membership as now, and that non-executive directors would serve one-year terms.

Dave Minter noted RUSA had a broadly similar system although directors were term limited. CC noted the latter as something which might be considered in future.

The resolution was passed, with 476 votes for, 15 against.

8.2 Special resolution to amend Article 7.6 of the AUK Articles.

Proposer: Paul Stewart, Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconded: Peter Lewis, Recorder

Rationale: This general revision of Article 7.6 is intended to: (a) clarify the process for the submission, review and amendment of AGM resolutions, (B) remove references to the nominations of directors which is the subject of Article 14, and (c) move the submission and amendment period for resolutions from August to September, so the amendment phase ends on 1st October and so aligns with the traditional 'due date' for director nominations and allow for an orderly progression towards the AGM.

PS introduced the resolution as a development on the amendment to Article 7.6 passed at AGM2013.

DM noted the length of time between the submission deadline for resolutions and the AGM itself, which was ~6 weeks. PS noted this was required for collation of materials, preparation for voting and the voting process itself, and that the resolution improved on the current Article which had the submission deadline for resolutions a month earlier.

Pat Hurt queried that proposals had to be made in writing. CC confirmed this included email (electronic communications).

The resolution was passed, with 478 votes for, 11 against.

8.3 Special resolution for Sundry amendments to AUK Articles.

Proposer: Paul Stewart, Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconded: Peter Lewis, Recorder

Rationale: To perform some minor corrections to AUK Articles

PS introduced the resolution as a housekeeping exercise to correct minor inconsistencies in the Articles.

The resolution was passed, with 480 votes for, 9 against.

8.4 Special resolution to amend AUK Regulations & Appendices to allow EAPC on Brevet Populaire events

Proposer: John Hamilton, Events Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconded: Paul Stewart, Secretary (As JH was not present the motion was introduced by PS)

Rationale: Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles are becoming more widely available in the UK and their performance is defined by UK legislation (see <https://www.gov.uk/electric-bike-rules>).

PS Introduced the motion as a response from a member (Kevin Hicks, a Super Randonneur with a major physical disability (one leg) who had approached the Board to ask for the option to use an EAPC to support his riding on BP events, as these were becoming increasingly challenging over time. The Board felt this was a reasonable move as BP events are intended to be popular/accessible rather than arduous. Asked to comment, Steve Snook (AAA Secretary) expressed an initial concern but that he was happy to see how it would develop, noting that if EAPC bikes did become popular there may be a need for an EAPCAAA award.

Joe Applegarth said he was concerned this would advertise AUK rides as being for EAPC riders. Dave Matthews said he had experience of riding with EAPC riders and was quite happy on the flat but felt frustrated in the hills. Mark Rigby noted that BP rides could be longer than 100km and was concerned that there may be radical improvement in battery technology. Jim Hopper asked if EAPC's were just for disabled riders and who would decide who was permitted to ride one. CC clarified there would be no such restriction on who could ride EAPC bikes. Sonya Crawford welcomed the development as she was recovering from illness and this would enable her to continue riding with her friends and be part of the sport she loved. Aiden Hedley asked how organisers would confirm bikes comply with government regulations. Keith Benton felt that the change was a 'sledgehammer to crack a nut' and asked members to vote against the motion and for the board to devise a solution which would allow organisers to decide which specific riders could use EAPC's. Ashley Brown was concerned that novices would expect to be able to ride EAPC bikes on BR events as they would not understand the distinction between BP & BR events. David Minter said that AUK doesn't accept riders onto events, organisers do. He noted that the Mille Failte 1000km in Ireland was started by somebody who rode the route on an electric bike and was accepted onto the event but was not validated. The rider used drop bags with replacement batteries around the event. Andy Clarkson would like BPs to accept all types of vehicles including motorised skateboards so as to bury the possibility of 'points for BPs'. Louise Rigby would like to be paced up hills by EAPC riders. Peter Coulson asked about insurance for EAPC riders on events. JW noted there was no problem as long as the organiser and rider were operating within the AUK framework (there could be no 'halfway' measures). Pauline Porter would like to see organisers offer events for less able riders. Geoff Cleaver said he runs mixed distance events down to 50km, and he does get approached by EAPC riders wanting to take part and finds it difficult to refuse them, as he cannot judge what is allowed or examine bikes. Ian Hobbs asked what the current regulation was. CC confirmed it was strictly 'human powered' machines. Mark Rigby felt that the change should be delayed as he felt new technology would emerge.

PS restated the intent that the proposal only related to BP events and that the amendment was required to clarify the insurance situation. Whilst the AUK policy covers EAPC bikes, AUK regulations (currently) forbid them, so the amendment is required to 'enable' the AUK insurance for such riders, and thereby ensure that insurance is in place should an EAPC rider cause an incident leading to a claim by other riders on the event.

The resolution was passed, with 387 votes for, 116 against

8.5 Special resolution to amend AUK Regulations & Appendices regarding Awards and Trophies

Proposer: John Hamilton, Events Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconder: Paul Stewart, Secretary (As JH was not present the motion was introduced by PS)

Rationale: To revise Appendix 13.2.n to:

(a) Remove the specification of Competitive and Merit Trophies from the AUK Appendices, as these are the ambit of the AUK Board. The Trophies will be listed on the AUK website

(b) Restore the specification of the AUK Awards to the AUK Appendices, these previously having been removed to other areas of the AUK Handbook which is now being discontinued, and make it explicit that: • Distance and SR awards are open all riders and other Randonneur and Brevet awards are for subscribed AUK members only.

(c) References to ISR, an LRM award administered by AUK, to be removed from the AUK Regulations and Appendices

(d) The Randonneur Series of awards to include the Randonneur Round The Year award administered by Peak Audax.

(e) To include the AAA and FWC awards

PS introduced the resolution as a housekeeping exercise required by the discontinuation of the AUK handbook. In previous years details of awards had been removed from the AUK regulations as they were published in the handbook. As this was discontinued they should be restored to the regulations.

Keith Benton queried why it was allowed that resolutions could be submitted where the proposer was not present. CC noted this was an effect of postal voting. Pauline Porter felt that was the problem with postal voting, 'anybody could do anything'. Dave Matthew asked why it was necessary to have the debate in the AGM if matters were being decided by postal votes. CC said there was a need to give absentee voters the ability to vote to comply with company law. Richard Painter noted that the resolution to allow EAPC bikes might have been overturned by the meeting as it was passed with only 76% of the vote (75% being required) but almost half the members present had abstained, therefore it was not true to say the meeting had no power.

MW noted that the amended wording referred to 'Randonneur events within one season' and that this was not intended to exclude RRTY and Ultra Randonneur awards which cross AUK seasons.

The resolution was voted on and passed, 472 votes for, 13 against

8.6 Special resolution for sundry amendments to AUK Regulations & Appendices

Proposer: John Hamilton, Events Secretary, on behalf of the AUK Board, Seconder: Paul Stewart, Secretary (As JH was not present the motion was introduced by PS)

Rationale: To implement minor changes to AUK Regulations and Appendices for consistency with operational changes within AUK and external legislation & terminology.

PS introduced the resolution as a housekeeping measure to allow for external and operational changes.

Keith Benton again queried the absence of the proposer. Chris Boulton noted that the Resolution was being moved on behalf of the Board and so it did not really matter who proposed it at the meeting. Jim Hopper said that Board members should be present, and CC concurred.

The resolution was passed, with 466 votes for, 9 against

9. Election of Directors

Chairman: Single candidate, Chris Crossland, elected with 506 votes for, 10 against.

Secretary: Single candidate, Paul Stewart, elected with 510 votes for, 7 against.

Mel Kirkland asked who the returning officer is and whether it would be preferable for he/she to be entirely independent. JW declared himself the Returning Officer and noted that he was eligible for the role as he was not a proposer or seconder of any resolution, and that the postal voting was overseen by an independent body (ERS) which could provide scrutiny regarding the postal votes cast. A member said it had been reported on a forum that the Board knew the results of the votes ahead of time and this had been published online. JW assured the meeting this was not the case. The Board was aware of the electoral roll (those who had voted) as this was required for managing voting at the meeting, but not their votes. [Addendum: PS posted on the AUK forum shortly after voting commenced to indicate that online voting was proceeding, and that approx. 150 votes had been cast. No other comment was made then or subsequently].

Aidan Hedley noted the need for a mechanism for hosting on-line debates. Dave Minter noted there had been debate regarding the EAPC resolution and other resolutions on the AUK forum. Pauline Porter would encourage members to come to the AGM. MW reminded members there were vacancies on the Board for those who would like to directly help develop AUK policy.

Perm Events Secretary: Single candidate, John Ward, elected with 471 votes for, 0 against.

Keith Benton queried what the Events Services Director post covered and asked if it included ACP/LRM rep. PL said it included Recorder, Validations and Brevet Card Production, these roles previously being held by three separate directors.

Event Services Director, Single candidate, Peter Lewis elected with 518 votes for, 6 against.

Publicity and Publications: Single candidate, Danial Webb.

Steve Poulton noted there had been a long debate about the old new logo, and a new logo had been introduced without any debate that he could recall, and asked why the logo had been changed again. DW explained that whilst the old new logo developed with Andy Alsop had been well received, the current designer working on branding suggested it would be more economic and practical to develop a complete suite of branding and the 'Eagle & Chain wheel' logo and lettering did not fit well with this.

Dave Minter asked what would be progressed next year. DW said the main focus was the website. The layout work was advanced but there was a need to develop content. He had been holding back on publicity pending the availability of a more outward focused website. Joe Applegarth asked for a

search facility so he could find things. Jeff Cleaver asked for support to hold address details for non-members and online entry for under 18s.

Danial Webb was elected with 486 votes for, 21 against.

Calendar Events Secretary: Two candidates, Martin Foley and Tim Sollesse

Sonya Crawford introduced Martin Foley, saying she had known Martin for many years. He works as a mobile bike mechanic, was very knowledgeable and finds his events well organized.

Pat Hurt introduced Tim Sollesse, saying Tim had been active for several years within AUK, brings a lot of energy to everything he does and would provide a good service to AUK.

The meeting was invited to ask the candidates about their aims and objectives.

MF said he would like to increase the involvement of organisers in developing processes and procedures for running events and look for feedback on how the Board can support organisers. TS said he would like to incorporate longer rides in the AUK calendar, for instance 'RAIDS', the Transcontinental Race, etc., and would work with the Publicity Secretary to develop the website. He would also see more challenges developed using Strava and to develop schemes to encourage riders to ride in different areas of the UK.

Keith Benton asked if Strava would encourage riders not to ride organized events. TS described his idea of developing challenge awards similar to the RUSA 'explorer' scheme, and that Strava would encourage riders to ride further by allowing them to compare performances. Keith Benton said that's for riders, what about Organisers. TS said he would encourage Organisers to develop regional SRs. Sonya Crawford noted that TS tended to refer to Southern areas and asked if he was aware of the North, to which TS agreed he was.

Ashley Brown expressed concerns about rumours that smaller events were being discouraged in favor of larger events, and that this would mean less choice. MF said he was in favor of better not fewer events, not just putting on events for mates but encouraging wider participation. He was aware different organisers had different concerns, and felt there were regional differences and so he would survey organisers to get their feedback. TS would also include BPs as well as longer events, as BPs are important in developing new riders, and there was a need for more centralized advertising.

Joe Applegarth asked how the candidates would support Steve Abraham's record attempt. CC advised this would be considered elsewhere. Geoff Cleaver noted he organized days with a range of events 'for all the family' and would like more definitive guidance on processes and procedures for organizing events.

Asked what the term of office was for the post, CC responded that it would be for 3 years. Mark Beauchamp asked what was Strava. TS advised it

was an online website for recording and sharing challenges.

PL asked about the candidates' ability to attend Board Meetings in Birmingham. MF advised he was self-employed and so could manage his time to attend.

Martin Foley was elected with 333 votes with Tim Sollesse's 206 votes.

In response to a question from the floor, CC noted that there were no candidates for Finance Director but that he was talking with two suitably qualified candidates with a view their having a 'job share' for this essential and onerous position.

10 Close

Jim Hopper continued his tradition of closing the meeting with thanks to the Board and the members attending for their good humour. He also expressed interest in riding the Rutland SR when it was inaugurated!

The meeting closed at 16:40.
