

Annual Reports, Accounts and Agenda for AGM 2019-20

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Chair's Report

Audax UK is the long distance cycling association for the UK, and is the regulating body for cycling events 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 cycling.

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 their report for 2019-20. This period corresponds to AUK's financial year, which ran from 1 September 2019 - 31 August 2020, although some officer reports refer to activities and figures relating to the UK Randonneur season, which usually runs from October to September. However, this time around, the season was extended by one month because measures to contain the covid-19 pandemic reduced the number of events in the randonneur season.

During the year the Board has:

- reported last year that, having compiled and submitted the pre-application for National Governing Body status covering Randonneur cycling in order to consolidate and protect our current position, we responded to Sport England's request to provide further supporting information. Changes to the way that Sport England handles such applications and covid-related constraints upon Sport England's operational capacity have led to pre-applications being held in abeyance. However, our pre-application was taken as evidence of our serious commitment and proved useful in navigating the maze of covid restrictions that we would have to navigate during 2020;
- attempted at length to navigate that maze of covid restrictions. From the start, in March 2020, as it became increasingly clear that we had to take some action, we found ourselves, in common with other sports, feeling that we had to cease activity ahead of any government direction. On 16 March we organised a Board meeting at a couple of hours' notice and agreed to suspend recognition of all permanent and calendar events. Other cycling organisations and other sporting organisations also went ahead with similar restrictions and the government implemented a lockdown a week later. There followed our attempts to keep up with differing situations between the UK and the devolved nations, and differing situations within England and the devolved nations. The General Secretary's engagement with the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) which, in turn, gave us introductions to the devolved nations' governments and sports councils, was crucial to developing our approach over the year and into 2021. This engagement enabled us to develop the approach whereby permanent events could take place classed as exercise in the conditions under which exercise was regulated. When DCMS implemented a return to organised sport we were able to join that approach based upon the conditions agreed between DCMS and British Cycling for England with suitable adaptations that recognised the differences between randonneur cycling and activities regulated by British Cycling. That same approach was then agreed and adopted between AUK and each of the devolved nations;
- continued to use the AUK Strategy for up to 2020 (available to view on the website) as an integral part of its business, while setting aside time to consider if any late term changes in the strategy would be required. It was agreed that no material changes would be necessary, and that the remaining work to do, including the IT Refresh, overhaul of the regulations and the NGB application, were still in progress. We had identified a need to consider a new strategy for 2021 onwards. However, given the degree of uncertainty resulting from measures taken to control the pandemic, it was difficult to make any realistic

estimates concerning membership numbers, finances, interest in events, etc. The recent cleaning up of the membership records had reduced the number of life members substantially, and Audax UK was slightly further than had been expected from the threshold of 10,000 members, potentially pushing back the target date at which we would need to have paid staff in place;

- managed to limit the damage caused by contraction in the insurance market when our insurer withdrew from the market and we were faced with a substantial increase in premium from £3,650 to £19,700. We managed to avoid this, settling for a still considerable increase, to £10,205, through a different broker;
- continued the essential, on-going background work of guiding organisers and members on the regulations and covid-related guidance, and acting as adjudicator on disputes;
- continued to review the levels of honoraria paid to directors and delegates to try and ensure that the system operates fairly, both to the delegates and directors receiving recognition of their work, and in the interests of Audax UK itself;
- progressed the IT Refresh project through Phase 2 (Membership). despite our contractor going into administration and being wound up, and commenced and progressed the work on Phase 3 (Events).
- continued to liaise with the organisers of London-Edinburgh-London regarding the 2021 event (now planned for 2022).
- continued to develop newly structured regulations, which were presented at the AGM for member approval.

Governance and People

Since the last AGM there have been comings and goings, including, on the way out:

- Paul Worthington, who stepped down after a productive stint as Mileator Delegate following a promotion at work;
- Russell Kesley, who stepped down from the post of Annual Awards Secretary; and
- Peter Lewis, whose final term as Events Services Director ended at the AGM in February.

Our thanks go to them for making their contributions, with best wishes for the future. If I've missed anybody out, please let me know and I will mention you next year.

We welcomed, on the way in:

- Dan Smith, who was appointed to the role of Events Services Director subsequent to the last AGM
- Andy Cox, who became Events Delegate for Wales & Southwest England

Aukweb

Francis Cooke has continued his long association with our legacy website and administration system, aukweb, ably assisted by Terry Kay. Between them they have kept aukweb going while also enhancing and improving it. Our IT manager Kevin Lake continues to have overall responsibility for aukweb,

reporting to the Board, but it is Francis and Terry who do the work on that element of our IT. Any volunteers to assist Francis and Terry would be appreciated. Please contact Kevin at it@audax.uk

audax.uk

Kevin Lake took on the role of IT Manager and with it responsibility for the delivery of Phase 2.

Phase 2 faced serious disruption when our chosen supplier commenced insolvency proceedings after commencing the work. Kevin moved quickly to arrange to place the work with an independent contractor, who had previously been part of the supplier's team, and this approach was supplemented by a huge effort on the part of Kevin and fellow volunteers Dave Allison and Caroline Fenton who, between them, undertook the mammoth task of managing the development and testing the programming. In doing so they averted a potentially costly and disruptive delay.

Financial

The accounting function within Audax UK is now firmly established.

- The accounts continue to be produced using professional accountancy software (Sage On-Line)
- The accounts continue to be produced by a book-keeper on a paid for basis.
- The Finance Director role continues to be more involved in strategic financial development of the organisation, with an overseeing and reviewing role for the accounting function.

It continues to remain likely that the cost of the outsourced book-keeping will rise when the current Finance Director chooses to retire from the company that currently employs him.

In considering the effects of covid on the company's financial situation, the Finance Director has provided the Board with detailed forecasts for different scenarios, enabling decisions to be taken on as sound a basis as possible.

More to come in 2021

1. We hope to move the IT Refresh project towards completion of Phase 3, although would not be surprised to see it continuing into 2022.
2. We still hope to be able to progress our pre-application for National Governing Body Status for randonneur cycling to the full application stage.
3. We hope to make a start on a new Board strategy for 2022-2027, a mainstay of which is likely to be the move towards employing paid staff in order to ease the volunteer workload.

Participation in Events 2019-2020

One aspect of the covid restrictions was to reduce the number of people able to take part in calendar events. Analysis of these events, collated from organiser results lists, shows some interesting figures from 183 calendar events that took place.

	50km	100km	150km	200km	300km	400km	600km	TOTALS
Entries	202	5,508	491	4,355	285	40	0	10,881
Did Not Start	36	1,681	94	1,425	76	0	0	3,312
Did Not Finish	24	362	46	240	31	0	0	703
Validations	142	3,462	351	2,655	182	40	0	6,832

In all events there were 106 Super Randonneurs (a figure comparable with the late 1980s) of which 9 were 1st-time Super Randonneurs.

313 members were identified as Randonneurs, i.e. they rode their first BR/BRM event of 200km or more.

Total distance ridden was healthier, more comparable with the mid/late 1990s.

Sources: <http://www.aukweb.net/results/statistics/detail/activitysr/>
<http://www.aukweb.net/results/statistics/detail/activitykms/>

Acknowledgements

Many people contribute to the work and success of Audax UK; the delegates who manage membership, validation, calendar events, DIY events, event services, and all the other back office functions; the organisers and all the support teams who make the events possible and enjoyable and the IT teams that are supporting our current systems and managing the move to the new.

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

Director Report: Membership

Membership at 31st December 2020 stood at 7,924. For the first time in the last few years, membership numbers fell compared with the previous year, but that was really to be expected. In fact, given a lack of events to ride, it has been heartening how many did join during 2020 and then renewed for 2021.

The main work of the year was to introduce the new membership system, which went live mid-July. It has a number of good features, several of which we have already taken advantage:

- Automatic processing of direct debit sign ups (was manual);
- Online facility to add/remove household members at any time (had to be done by administrator previously);
- Ability to vary membership fees through the year to offer a fair deal to those joining in the second half of the year;
- Discount codes – for example to be offered to non-members who have entered an event and want to join;
- Use of email for login. This has resulted in fewer former and lapsed members joining up with a new membership number instead of rejoining with their old one (saves a lot of admin);
- Messaging to members when they logon; and
- Postcode lookup for UK addresses – improves address quality and therefore reduces postal costs.

The new logon integrates with aukweb, so members are logged on to both systems in one. This happens in the background. Many thanks are due to Francis Cooke for his work on this. Interfacing of systems is never simple, but I hope that members now find it a fairly seamless process. Inevitably there is still some going backwards and forwards between old and new as a lot of data (event results, etc.) are still held on the old system, but there is a single logon and point of entry for everything. Kevin Lake also created a logon to the AUK forum with a simple button click – again, this is an improvement over the totally separate logon we had previously.

At the end of 2019 we asked life members who did not subscribe to Arrivee and were not active riders or organisers to confirm that they wanted to remain a member. Only those who did so were transferred as current members to the new system. Although this change has reduced our headline membership numbers by around 400, it does mean that we are no longer recording a lot of members with whom we have had no two-way communication for many years and for whom we probably do not have up to date details. It also avoids the wasted cost of sending their December Arrivee into a black hole. Of course, any life member who lapses but then wants to come back to us is very welcome to do so, and will again receive their one magazine copy per year.

Later in the calendar year we started to experience a few issues with payments using credit and debit cards via PayPal, most likely due to some changing algorithms on their side which tried to steer users towards setting up an account. Since the start of 2021 we have begun deploying the Stripe card payment system, which we expect to be more reliable and also has lower fees. We now have around 1,200 members paying by direct debit which is a cost effective and easy way for us to manage subscriptions.

One of the membership duties is to provide the mailing list for Arrivee and also to calculate the correct number of copies to order. This has to take into account the number of members on the list plus the likely requirement for new members joining in the subsequent three months, and then a small allowance for other purposes, including supplying members asking for extra copies. This prediction has proven quite

tricky this year as we couldn't use last year as a basis. We ended up with a lot of extra copies of the March issue – the number being calculated in mid-February before “lockdown” was even a word in the UK! We therefore ran a small promotion for members to recommend a friend who might appreciate a copy (and hopefully join at a later date). We did get some new members following this, so I think it was a cost effective exercise and nice not to have magazines go to waste.

The team of membership delegates - Peter Davis, Mike Wigley, Howard Knight, – have continued to provide invaluable support. Many thanks to them all.

Caroline Fenton
Membership Secretary

Director Report: Permanent Events

2019-20 was never going to be like other seasons. Starting through Autumn as normal and then with Covid19 cycling (*pun intended*) through periods of 'lockdown', 'Tier' rule variations and three countries not quite in step. We have tried our best to keep some, however reduced, AUK events running, although at times these have only been Permanent events and they have varied from all distances to no longer than 200km and from all riders to only validating six or two rides per route per day. With others on the AUK Board I have spent a great deal of time reading Government guidance and regulation, British Cycling's interpretation and in staring at maps of Britain with an altering pattern of 'Tier' boundaries. We invented a new category of Permanent event – 'suspended for Covid 19' and I have spent happy hours switching this on and off for all or some Permanent events.

At all times AUK has specified what may be ridden, but Permanent event organisers know their routes and local conditions better than I, so they have had discretion to temporarily withdraw their events or choose not to have them 'unsuspended' if they wished. My thanks go to the DIY team (Andy Clarkson, Julian Dyson, Martin Foley, Tony Hull, Mike Kelly and Paul Stewart) who have kept some DIY events open for entry whenever possible.

Not at all surprisingly, the total number of Permanent events ridden through the season has dropped, even with an extra month. ECEs have gone down by 50% - hardly surprising with the cancellation of Calendar events to which they could be attached.

While the total of Permanent events has dropped, the number of 600km events increased, possibly because, with Calendar events much reduced, some AUK members turned to a Permanent event in order to complete their SR series.

Long Permanent events (1,000km or more) just did not happen. Even when we were able to keep events running, for most of the season event distances were capped at 600km. Likewise with versions of 'lockdown' in force across Europe very few PProFs were ridden, although we did remain open for business with DIY event validations, including New Zealand.

There are now randonneur and tourist versions of four Super Randonnée events (mountainous Permanents of 600km (373 miles) with over 10,000m (32,800ft) of elevation gain) in the AUK calendar and two were ridden in the brief late summer period after 'lockdown 1' when more events were open.

Some new Permanent events have been submitted and some new Permanent event organisers have come forward. Perhaps frustrated at not cycling, they have turned to creating new rides for better times to come.

The increase in validation by GPS continued, as it has for the last few seasons, now almost becoming the norm for DIY events. Validation by e-brevets was trialled towards the end of the season and is now being offered for some Permanent events. Initially only available for those with Android phones, we hope to have an iPhone version available next year. The IT refresh phase covering AUK event administration commenced and I hope that we can make significant progress during the coming year, improving and extending options for Permanent event entry and validation.

Summary Permanent Event numbers for 2019-20

Fixed Route events	950	17% decrease on 2018-19
DIY events	3,664	24% decrease on 2018-19
ECE events	188	52% decrease on 2018-19
TOTAL	4,802	24% decrease on 2018-19

4,918 Permanent Events results, including AAA points awarded to DIY events, have been recorded for 2019-20.

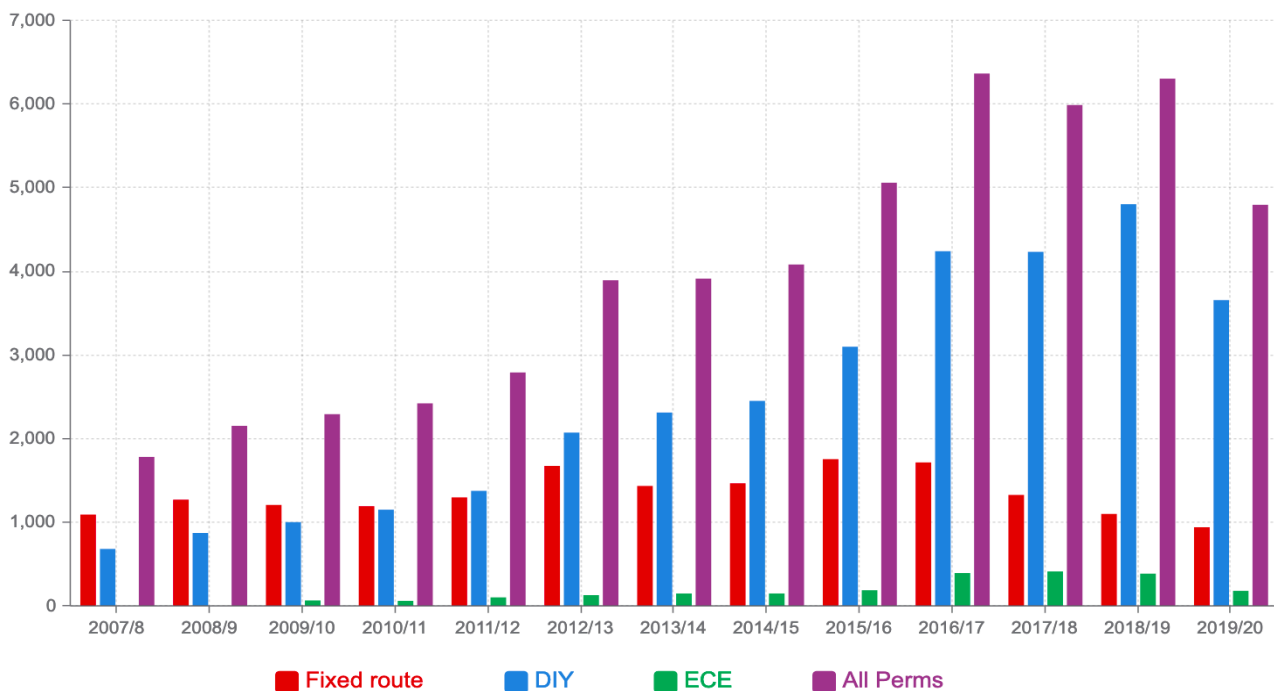
1,056 AUK members completed one or more Permanent events, which is a similar number to 2018-19.

23 Permanent events were completed by non-AUK members, much fewer than in 2018-19.

82% of Permanent events ridden were BR events, and 18% were BP events, the same proportions as 2018-19

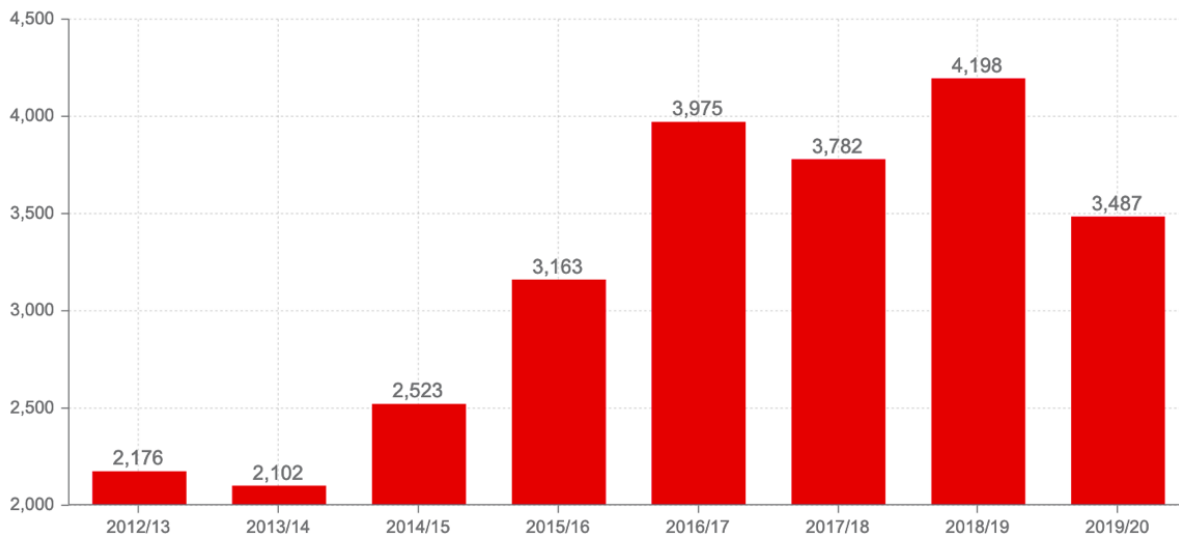
As in previous years, DIY riders follow much the same pattern as the overall Permanent events results. 84% of DIY Events ridden were BR events and 16% were BP events. 72% of all DIY events ridden were 200km.

Permanent Events Completed Compared With Previous Seasons

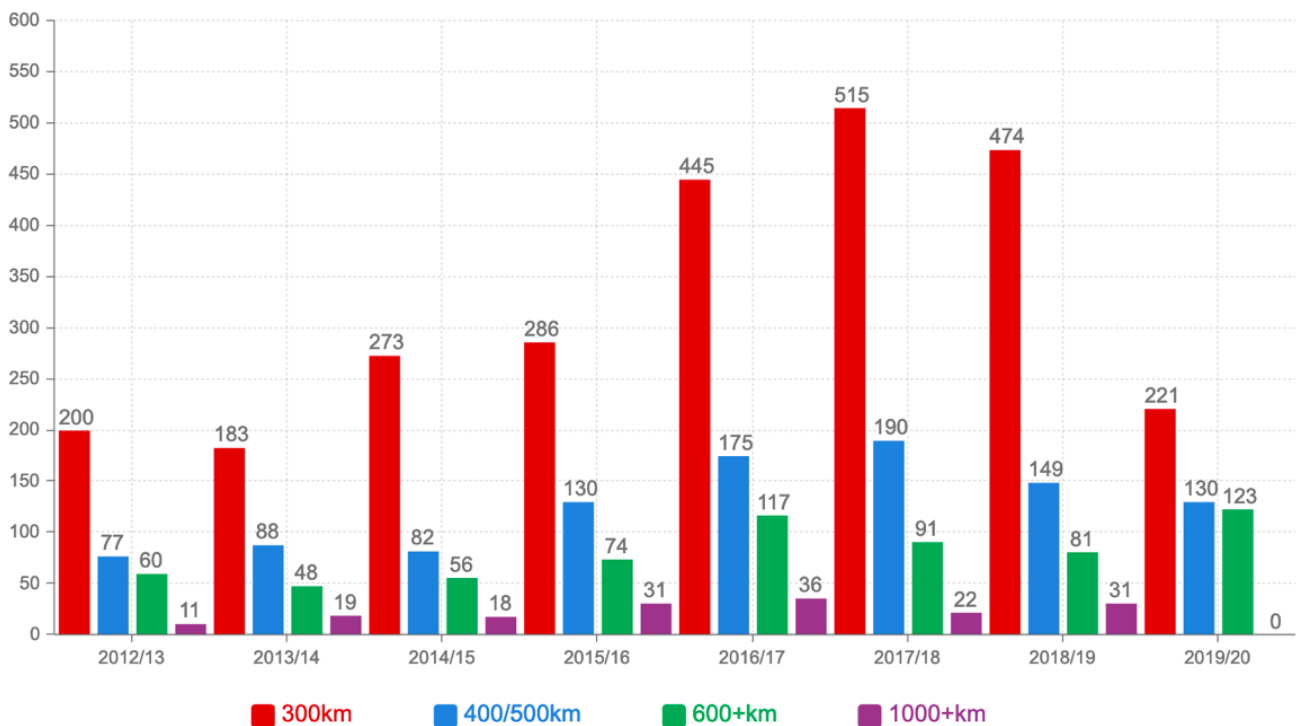


Permanent Event Totals by Distance for 200km BR Events

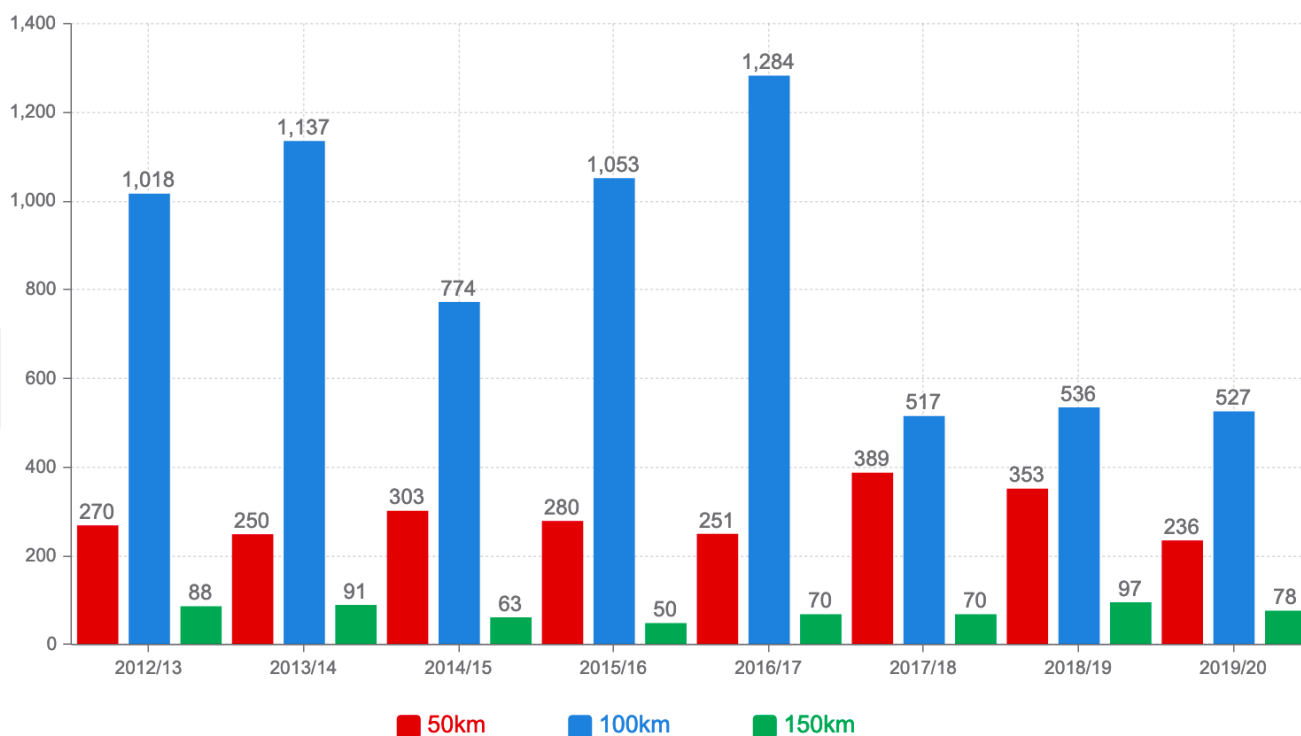
Numbers adjusted to incorporate ECEs to give total combined event distance



Permanent Event Totals by Distance for 300km, 400km, 600+km and 1,000+km+ BR Events



Permanent Event Totals by Distance for 50km, 100km and 150km BP Events



The Unofficial 2019-20 Permanent Event 'Prizes'

Organisers award for having most entrants (excluding DIY & ECE events) this year has the same organisers jostling for the top spots as in previous years with little to separate the 3rd place contenders

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| 1st | (126) | Mike Wigley – more than last year.
Mike managed to keep more Permanent events open through Covid 19 than any other organiser, while also testing the e-brevet system and then making it available on his Permanent events to help rider obtain Proof of Passage at Controls with 'no physical contact' required |
| 2nd | (69) | Steve Poulton – who, as usual, kept his score high by regularly riding his own events |
| 3rd | (59) | Martin Malins – who also looked after ECE events |

Rider podium places for most Permanent event points collected in 2019-20

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1st | (120) | Alan Rawet |
| 2nd | (113) | Andy Clarkson |
| 3rd | (108) | Ivor Peachey |

Ordre des Cols Durs (OCD)

2020 hampered cycling for OCD climbing in much the same manner as other AUK activities. One advantage of OCD is that you can cycle on your own, at your own speed and 'cycling' was seen as a permissible 'exercise'. Travel, however was often very restricted and most AUK members do not have a suitable col within reach of home.

Some cols were climbed - to quote two riders, "I only managed one trip to the mountains in 2020..." and, "This was solo cycling and therefore not affected in the way that all other Audax was..." and one AUK member with a home in Corsica had plenty of hilly days out on a bicycle.

But for others, stuck at home, it was an opportunity to review old diaries, remember past days out and compile OCD claims including trips from many years ago (OCD col claims may be made dating back to 1960 when OCD was formed). As one member said: "Creating this spreadsheet has been a great way of re-living each and every one of them, without the pain and suffering!", although OCD is a great way to enjoy great scenery without too much suffering and climbing slowly gives plenty of time for that.

Consequently the 27 OCD claims made at the end of 2020 ranged from 379m to 97,011m, with a total approaching 500,000m, but much of this was climbed before 2020.

John Ward
Permanent Events Secretary

Director Report: Calendar Events

The last season has been a most challenging one for organisers. The Coronavirus pandemic pretty much stifled the AUK season. Many events were cancelled or postponed. Those that did go ahead had to be organised in accordance with novel health & safety measures, including social distancing and strict rules governing disinfection and quarantining.

In 2018-19, 105 organisers put on 587 events resulting in 23,015 validated brevets.

In 2019-20, 47 organisers put on 182 events resulting in 6,826 validated brevets.

AUK has followed national sport governing body guidance in deciding what events at what distance can be safely run.

We offered a financial safety net to organisers in case of unrecoverable financial loss.

In this current season we are still very much in the grip of the pandemic, with full vaccination unlikely before September. Currently, many organisers are waiting to decide whether to publish their events. Whilst we hope to be able to sanction events at least up to a given distance, the situation is still uncertain. We shall be monitoring developments and keeping organisers and members informed via the forum and the website.

The events team have been assiduous in helping organisers with new requirements and the additional Covid paperwork. A big thank-you to Grant, Pat and the two Andys for coping with the unprecedented situation.

Finally, slow but steady progress is being made on updating the organisers' handbook and other guidelines.

Ian Hennessey
Calendar Events Secretary

Director Report: Event Services

The disruption to last season caused by the pandemic meant that the vast majority of events were cancelled and hence most Event Services activities were quieter than usual. The team showed great flexibility to deal with the humps in the road during this period, such as accommodating gaps in RRtY and AAARtY, validation stopping and starting, ACP deadlines and calendar changes.

In the meantime, the team has worked on a number of initiatives in the background, including working through backlog of overseas ride and brevet claims, finalisation of PBP results, and improvements to documentation and processes behind the scenes.

Like everyone, we are looking forward to getting back to normal.

Dan Smith
Event Services Director

Director Report: Communications

As with everything, COVID 19 was the most significant communications issue for AUK during 2019-20. Although the Board had been preparing for the possibility of having to limit or curtail events for a few weeks before the Government announced its first phase of lockdowns, the speed with which the measures were introduced meant that, once it had been agreed that we would have to suspend all validations with immediate effect, we needed to let members know as quickly as possible, to avoid people taking part in events on the following weekend.

We use our ability to email all members directly sparingly, so as not to bombard them with messages, but in this instance it was the most efficient option and – apart from the small number for whom we do not have email addresses – every member had received the news by the following morning. During the day, we actively contributed on various social media to answer as many questions as we could, given the very fluid nature of the circumstances.

Spare a thought, then, for the member who was already on the road on a DIY 400km when the lockdown was announced and finished his ride only to see the email from the Chair announcing the suspension. Fortunately, we were quickly able to clarify that rides that had begun before the announcement would still be validated, but the brief confusion was a harbinger of the challenges to come as each of the countries that make up the UK began to diverge in their approach to the pandemic.

All credit must go to AUK Secretary, Graeme Provan, for not only keeping abreast of the numerous variations to the rules but also for quickly assessing their implications for AUK events and publishing updates for organisers and riders. I hope that members feel that they have been kept informed as efficiently as possible.

Our main channels for communicating with members will remain the Audax UK Forum on the web site and Arrivee magazine, so that members are aware that any direct emails relate to something that is urgent or important.

There was a concern that with events being suspended we would see a fall in the number of articles being submitted to Arrivee but, if anything, the opposite has happened and both the volume and variety has increased. It was particularly pleasing to see so many positive comments about the magazine in the responses to the membership survey. Aside from the headline statistic that 46% of members rated the magazine as “good” and a further 34% as “excellent”, many members commented on how much they felt the magazine has improved, one even suggesting that it is “far, far better than any commercial magazine”. Others mentioned more articles featuring women riders, features and interviews with prominent riders and coverage of non-AUK rides by AUK members as positive aspects.

On the negative side, although fewer than 1% of respondents rated the magazine as “poor”, there were criticisms of some aspects of the design – in particular the use of coloured type on coloured backgrounds that offered poor contrast – which have now been addressed. Members would also like to see more product reviews and advice on equipment and riding techniques and more articles about Audax history – perhaps some of our long-standing members would like to share their expertise.

Some members also asked for Arrivee to be published online as well, which is now happening. Back issues have also been uploaded to the AUK web site and indexed so that specific articles are easier to find. This was a mammoth task and I’d particularly like to thank Tom Bailey, Dominic Ball, Gill Cooper, James Dennis, Robbie Fargo, Alice Ferns, Eddy Hooper, David Matthews, Paul Rainbow, Robin Stephenson, Andrew Walsh and Allister Wood, who stepped forward to make it happen.

I’d also like to thank Dave Allison for his tireless management of the AUK website and Allan Taylor for

continuing to his efficient management of our medals and badges shop. Ged and Tony Lennox, who produce Arrivee, also deserve recognition for their sustained work in producing a magazine that is at least the equal of any produced by larger and better-resourced cycling bodies and, of course, thanks are due to the many members who have contributed articles, letters and photographs.

My sincere apologies if I have inadvertently overlooked anyone else who has contributed to our work in 2019-20.

Rob McIvor
Communications Director

IT Manager's Report

The most notable event of the year was the collapse of our development partner, Intercept Services Ltd. (ISL). Due to problems with its biggest project, ISL was placed into administration at the beginning of January 2020. AUK had paid a deposit to allow work to start on our project and so was left as an unsecured creditor of the company. The administrators have subsequently wound up the company but, unfortunately, AUK did not get any of its deposit refunded. AUK lost some £23k as a result.

Under our contract with ISL, we own all intellectual property and associated products associated with the development. The ISL management provided us with access to all the information. We took copies of everything, opened our own accounts with the online services that ISL used (Confluence, Jira and Bitbucket) and uploaded the records to our own accounts. We now have all of that work product secured under AUK control and are continuing to use the same tools ourselves

We had hopes that ISL management would be able to form a new software services company and pick up those customers that it had before the collapse. Unfortunately, this proved to be impossible and we had to decide how to proceed.

The board decided to continue the development of the membership system ourselves. We engaged a contractor who had been working for ISL on our project and worked with him to finish the development. We pay the contractor on an hours worked basis.

The membership system was cut over on 12 July 2020 and has been broadly successful. All membership records are now held on the Audax.uk system, with a shadow record being held on aukweb.net to enable ride entry and other functions. The two systems are kept in step and whilst we have the capability to do a complete refresh of the aukweb.net database from the Audax.uk database, this has not been necessary. There have been some minor changes to make the administration easier, but there have not been any major issues.

We are using GoCardless to manage our Direct Debit payments, and have now introduced Stripe alongside PayPal for one-off payments. (No credit card information is held on any AUK-managed database.)

Having completed the membership management system, we have turned our attention to the event management system. We want to move from PayPal as the payment processor to Stripe. As well as being cheaper, Stripe has features that would allow us to simplify AUK's processes. We are now developing more detailed proposals to put to Organisers

We have not carried out much development work following the deployment of the membership management package. This has been principally because of the lack of available development effort. Our single developer has had childcare issues during the pandemic and has not had much time available. However, this also means we have not been spending much. We are expecting this will change as the world gets back to normal.

Being dependent on a single developer is a serious support concern and we have been looking for a way to address this. Our developer has recently started working with two other developers in a cooperative partnership, and one of those will be spending some reasonable time on our project. We are hoping this will address our concerns on lack of progress as well as support.

Separately Dave Allison has been developing an E-Brevet application. Both Android and iOS versions of this are now available. This application allows a rider to provide evidence that they have reached control points within the prescribed time window and is presented as an alternative to validation by GPX for advisory routes. So far, this has only been approved for use on some Perm rides, but reports from initial users are generally favourable.

Kevin Lake
IT Manager



ACP Correspondent / LRM Representative Report

Verifying and submitting award claims on behalf of members for ACP Randonneur 5,000 & 10,000 awards and collecting and sending on to them was a pleasant task, as was dealing with a handful of orders for BRM distance and Super Randonneur medals from 2019.

I attended the Audax Club Parisien awards presentation in Paris in early 2020, at which the 2019 Paris-Brest-Paris was reviewed. ACP were generally mindful that the Rambouillet HQ was good but that improvements would need to be made.

The 2021 presentation was cancelled because of the pandemic. However, ACP have been busy and have unveiled a newly redesigned website at the old address <https://www.audax-club-parisien.com>

I understand that a new ACP/LRM results database is in process of development. My fond wish is that this will provide access to all randonneur brevet results throughout the world.

The covid pandemic had a drastic effect on randonneur cycling all over the world in 2020, but the effects were not even, in the same way that different countries were affected differently in their rates of infection. The accompanying table shows the number of homologated brevets at the various recognised distances in Brevet des Randonneurs Mondiaux (BRM) events, and the cumulative distance in such events for each country. I have included each country's 2019 cumulative distances to show the differences.

Why just BRM events, you might ask; that's because BRM events are the staple of randonneur cycling (audax to us); a type of event originated by Audax Club Parisien (ACP) one hundred years ago, the first event taking place on 11 September 1921, with 2021 marking its centenary. ACP licences its BRM event format and specification to individuals in the rest of the world outside France, one per country applying. In turn these individuals usually delegate their duties and obligations to regulate and validate randonneur cycling to a national or regional organisation. In the UK, that's Audax UK. The BRM events that members ride to qualify for ACP awards and to qualify for Paris-Brest-Paris have their counterparts across the world and most countries ride mainly BRM events. But the UK also has BR events, run under slightly different regulations, which do not count in these figures. As a result the UK does not punch its full weight in any international comparison, but usually ends up in the top ten countries.

With covid and the way that it has affected the tables, the UK has been badly affected, falling from 6th in the table with 2,150,300 km covered in BRM events to 45th with 12,800 km. Given how the pandemic has affected the UK and the restrictions in force, this is probably no surprise. Most countries have suffered big falls in distances covered but still have comparatively higher figures. Japan dropped from 4,665,100 km in 2019 to 2,145,100 km in 2020, and Thailand from 3,709,800 km in 2019 to 2,586,800 km in 2020. There is plenty of scope for further dissection of the results if your intended event has fallen through the covid trapdoor.

BREVETS RANDONNEURS MONDIAUX 2020
Classement des Pays Organisateurs

COUNTRY	200	300	400	600	1000	Total	Km 2020	Km 2019
1 THAILAND	5326	1438	1006	788	215	8773	2,586,800	3,709,800
2 JAPAN	3963	1499	907	725	105	7199	2,145,100	4,665,100
3 INDIA	2225	1080	673	543	45	4566	1,409,000	2,990,900
4 RUSSIA	2527	827	497	338	67	4256	1,222,100	1,351,300
5 UKRAINE	1449	417	317	200	32	2415	693,700	635,600
6 GREECE	2041	263	142	86	20	2552	615,500	934,100
7 BRASIL	1628	449	157	71	3	2308	568,700	1,549,100
8 SOUTH KOREA	1065	423	308	125	1	921	538,100	1,030,300
9 MALAYSIA	814	464	198	169	31	1676	513,600	686,100
10 USA	827	246	96	29	1	198	295,000	1,903,900
11 SPAIN	1069	96	6	14	40	1225	293,400	1,278,500
12 SWEDEN	418	195	115	99	6	833	253,500	394,100
13 ROMANIA	545	152	83	69	16	865	245,200	469,700
14 TAIWAN	496	127	102	75	17	817	240,100	376,000
15 AUSTRALIA	712	125	42	47	14	940	238,900	602,800
16 BELGIUM	694	128	57	43		922	225,800	568,700
17 PHILIPPINES	746	231				977	218,500	500,300
18 HUNGARY	618	66	38	38		760	181,400	219,400
19 CANADA	361	134	74	57	3	629	179,200	404,700
20 NETHERLANDS	736	50	36			822	176,600	466,400
21 ITALIA	678	35	35	18		766	170,900	2,310,200
22 FRANCE	628	73	3	13	17	734	173,500	4,326,000
23 AUSTRIA	194	106	63	45	28	436	150,800	200,000
24 BULGARIE	384	74	22	13	5	498	120,600	145,600
25 DENMARK	206	67	49	41	9	372	114,500	222,400

26 CROATIA	325	46	27	13	7	418	104,400	200,800
27 FINLAND	168	52	35	46	3	304	93,800	146,500
28 BELARUS	189	34	47	22	11	303	91,000	75,100
29 IRELAND	237	55	24	21		337	86,100	311,100
30 SOUTH AFRICA	278	27	27	9	4	345	83,900	134,000
31 GERMANY	266	42				308	65,800	1,583,600
32 INDONESIA	230	29	18			277	61,900	68,300
33 CHINA	274	19				293	60,500	873,200
34 BOSNIA & HERZEGOV.	192	39	6	3		240	54,300	40,000
35 LITHUANIA	66	46	16	14	9	151	50,800	53,800
36 CHILE	69	61	40			170	48,100	76,300
37 SWITZERLAND	96	22	49			167	45,400	120.1
38 KAZAKHSTAN	118	17	9	6		150	35,900	12,700
39 REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	133	11	8	3		155	34,900	55,200
40 MACAO	158					158	31,600	14,400
41 SLOVENIA	45	12	20	8	2	87	27,400	95,000
42 PORTUGAL	46	25				71	16,700	57,700
43 NORWAY	40	12	7	2	1	62	16,600	38,800
44 SLOVAKIA	43	8	9			60	14,600	-
45 UNITED KINGDOM	64					64	12,800	2,150,300
46 KYRGYZSTAN	12	13	7	4	1	37	12,500	12,600
47 NEW ZEALAND	22	9	1	4		36	9,900	24,300
48 ISRAEL	14	8	4	3		29	8,600	15,700
49 SINGAPORE	26	5				31	6,700	109,400
50 HONG-KONG	30					30	6,000	56,600
51 ESTONIA	4	6	3	3		16	5,600	-
52 MEXICO	10	6				16	3,800	8,400
53 MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF	9	1				10	2,100	5,500
54 UZBEKISTAN	2					2	400	20,700

- POLAND	133,300
- BELARUS	75,100
- CZECH REPUBLIC	12,000
- LATVIA	3,000
- COLOMBIA	1,700

-
BOLIVIA 900

	33,51				50,78		
TOTAL	6	9370	5383	3807	711	7	
	67,03	28,11	21,53	22,84	711	14,662,60	38,453,50
Kilomètres	2	0	2	2	0	0	0

Why does this matter? Well, the agreement with ACP requires an obligation to ensure that BRM events do take place in each registered country; failure to establish a calendar of BRM events can affect the status of the representative and of the organisation. In the UK in 2019-20, BRM events were the main event category to suffer cancellation. ACP is aware of the difficulties and is being less strict about deadlines for announcement of events. However, we must not step back from organising BRM events just because BR events are a little less demanding. Organisers, please do consider registering your events as BRM. Members, please do consider entering events marked BRM.

And as for Les Randonneurs Mondiaux (LRM), that part of ACP consisting of the representatives of all the countries registered in the randonneur family and responsible for the administration of randonneur events of 1200 km and above. Their world-wide calendar was cut down massively with only 481 successful riders across 31 events, many of which had less than a handful of riders.

I know that Danial Webb and the London-Edinburgh-London team thought long and hard about postponing the 2021 LEL and setting a date of 2022 instead. I am sure you will join me in sending them our best wishes for a successful 2022.

Chris Crossland
ACP Correspondent / LRM Representative

Director Report: Finance

It was a grim year for Randonneurs, with periods of restricted cycling due to the covid 19 epidemic, and so our income from the administration of events, such as validations of rides, registration of new rides and printing of brevet cards, fell when compared to the previous year. The membership renewal cycle peaked before we understood what covid would do to us all and so the income from of new members also fell, but by only about 10%.

This has all meant that our income decreased by a little over 19% from the year to August 2019.

However, our costs went down even more, mostly for two reasons:

- Our activities decreased and so the associated costs also went down, such as few medals bought, not many brevet cards printed and substantially reduced validations; and
- Phase 2 of the IT project was completed using volunteers drawn from inside the membership, so the budgeted costs of using a professional organisation to develop and implement the system were not spent in full.

So, our costs went down by £51,293. Combined with the drop in income this has resulted in a larger surplus than we managed in the year to August 2019 at £17,286 and £37,764 more cash in our banks.

I am confident that this position has put Audax United Kingdom in a good place to face up to lockdowns 2 & 3 and whatever changes may come at us from society-imposed restrictions and individuals' desires and dreams of cycling long distances in the future. At this moment (February 2021) I am planning that we will be able to restart our cycling activities in May 2021 and also by August 2021 we will be well into the phase 3 of the IT project. This will reduce our reserves of cash by about £7,000 and produce a deficit in the year to August 2021 of about £12,000, leaving us with £224,000 in the banks.

Nigel P Armstrong
Finance Director

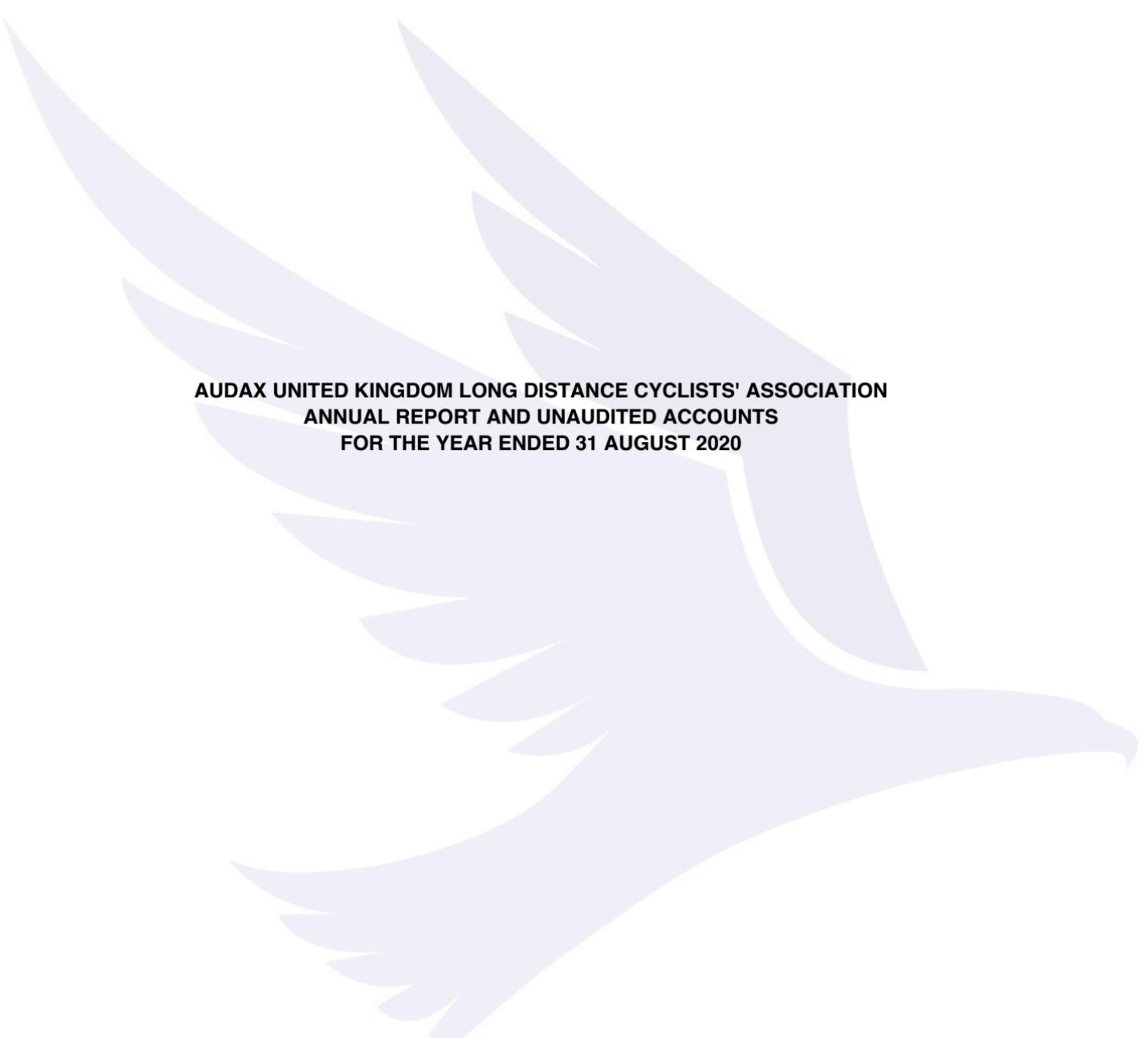
Agenda for the Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association AGM 2019-20

To be held on 15 May 2021 commencing at 12:00pm

- 1) To record the names of those present at the meeting
 - 2) To record apologies for absence
 - 3) To approve the minutes of the last AGM as a true record of that meeting
 - 4) Matters arising from the last meeting (AGM 2018-19).
 - 5) To approve the Annual Report
 - 6) To approve the Annual Accounts and the Finance Director's recommendations
 - 7) To consider resolutions
 - 8) Election of Directors
 1. Chair
 2. Permanent Events Secretary
 3. Membership Secretary
 4. Events Services Director
 5. Non-Executive Director (2 posts)
 - 9) Date and venue of next meeting
 - 10) Close of meeting
- 

Appendix 1: Annual report and unaudited accounts

Company Registration No. 5920055 (England and Wales)



**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION.

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and examiner

The Directors of Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, and have requested that an independent examination is carried out.

Having satisfied myself that the company is not subject to audit under company law and have been asked to carry out an independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts;
- (ii) review the accounting records; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Directors concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006;
- have not been met.

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Richard Alsept, Chartered Accountant
16 Burlington Terrace
Cardiff CF5 1GG

DATE 17th December 2020



**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
CONTENTS**

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**AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
COMPANY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Directors

Christopher Peter Crossland
John Matthew Sabine
William John Ward
Graeme David Provan
Nigel Peter Armstrong
Caroline Anne Fenton
Robert Alan McIvor
Ian Gerard Hennessey
Martin David Stefan
Daniel Refoy Peskett Smith

Secretary

Graeme David Provan

Company Number

5920055 (England and Wales)

Registered Office

Whitelands
Terling Road
Hatfield Peverel
Essex
CM3 2AG

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
(COMPANY NO: 5920055 ENGLAND AND WALES)
DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Directors

The following directors held office during the whole of the period:

Christopher Peter Crossland
John Matthew Sabine
William John Ward
Graeme David Provan
Nigel Peter Armstrong
Caroline Anne Fenton
Robert Alan McIvor
Ian Gerard Hennessey
Martin David Stefan

Daniel Refoy Peskett Smith was appointed on 2 March 2020.

Peter Christopher Donald Lewis resigned on 8 February 2020.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the report and accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these accounts, the directors are required to:

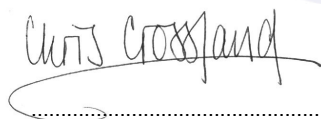
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board of directors



Christopher Peter Crossland
Director

Approved by the board on: 10 March 2021

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Turnover	151,399	187,604
Cost of sales	(91,524)	(90,797)
Gross surplus	<u>59,875</u>	<u>96,807</u>
Administrative expenses	(44,077)	(96,097)
Operating surplus	15,798	710
Interest receivable and similar income	1,490	1,521
Interest payable and similar charges	(2)	(3)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>17,286</u>	<u>2,228</u>
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities	(927)	(1,767)
Surplus for the financial year	<u><u>16,359</u></u>	<u><u>461</u></u>

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	4	918	1,224
Current assets			
Inventories		5,462	5,303
Debtors	5	10,066	17,516
Cash at bank and in hand		226,374	203,610
		<u>241,902</u>	<u>226,429</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(31,247)	(32,904)
Net current assets		<u>210,655</u>	<u>193,525</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>211,573</u>	<u>194,749</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	7	(37,627)	(37,162)
Net assets		<u>173,946</u>	<u>157,587</u>
Reserves	8		
Profit and loss account		173,946	157,587
Members' funds		<u>173,946</u>	<u>157,587</u>

For the year ending 31 August 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - Small Entities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 10 March 2021 and were signed on its behalf by

Christopher Peter Crossland
Director



Company Registration No. 5920055

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1 Statutory information

Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registration number 5920055. The registered office is Whitelands, Terling Road, Hatfield Peverel, Essex, CM3 2AG.

2 Compliance with accounting standards

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on

3 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below and have remained unchanged from the previous year, and also have been consistently applied within the same accounts.

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, except that as disclosed in the accounts certain items are shown at fair value.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are included at cost less depreciation and impairment. Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives:

Plant & machinery	25% Reducing balance method
-------------------	-----------------------------

Inventories

Finished goods inventories have been valued at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to sell and comprise stocks of medals and badges.

Tax accounting policy

The tax expense is recognised in profit and loss. The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted by the reporting date in the countries where the company operates.

Revenue Recognition

Turnover comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the sale of goods and provision of services in the ordinary course of the company's activities. Turnover is shown net of sales/value added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

The company recognises revenue when:

The amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity;
and specific criteria have been met for each of the company's activities.

Employees

Members and Directors of Audax United Kingdom Long Distance Cyclists' Association who are paid an honorarium for their services to the company are identified as employees in note 10.

Cash & cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant & machinery £
Cost or valuation	At cost
At 1 September 2019	2,900
At 31 August 2020	2,900
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2019	1,676
Charge for the year	306
At 31 August 2020	1,982
Net book value	
At 31 August 2020	918
At 31 August 2019	1,224

5 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	300	-
Accrued income and prepayments	9,766	17,516
	<u>10,066</u>	<u>17,516</u>

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,000	2,768
Taxes and social security	2,251	3,366
Other creditors	23,811	22,214
Accruals	4,185	4,556
	<u>31,247</u>	<u>32,904</u>

Other creditors above include members deferred subscriptions of £23,811.

7 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	2020	2019
	£	£
Other creditors	37,627	37,162

Other creditors above are made up of members deferred subscriptions.

8 Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

9 Average number of employees

During the year the average number of employees was 32 (2019: 31).

AUDAX UNITED KINGDOM LONG DISTANCE CYCLISTS' ASSOCIATION
DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

This schedule does not form part of the statutory accounts.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Turnover		
Fees	151,399	187,604
Cost of sales		
Other direct costs	91,524	90,797
Gross profit	59,875	96,807
Administrative expenses		
Travel and subsistence	3,819	5,851
Bank charges	4,082	3,946
Software	33,273	82,815
Depreciation	306	407
Bad debts	259	-
Sundry expenses	40	228
Accountancy fees	2,298	2,850
	44,077	96,097
Operating profit	15,798	710
Interest receivable		
Interest receivable	1,490	1,521
Interest payable		
Bank loans and overdrafts	2	3
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	17,286	2,228

Appendix 2: Minutes of the AGM 2018-19

Audax UK Long Distance Cyclists' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2018-19

Held at The James Watt Room, IBIS Hotel, 21 Ladywell Walk, Birmingham B5 4ST on 8 February 2020 at 12.00pm

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced the members of the Board and asked the members present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Board Members Attending: Chris Crossland (Chair), Graeme Provan (General Secretary), John Ward (Permanent Events Secretary and Returning Officer), Caroline Fenton (Membership Secretary), Nigel Armstrong (Finance Director), Rob McIvor (Communications Director), Peter Lewis (Events Services Director and Recorder) Ian Hennessey (Calendar Events Secretary) and John Sabine (Non-Executive Director)

Other Members attending: Kevin Lake (IT Manager), Ivan Cornell (AAA Secretary) Nick Wilkinson, Dave Hudson, Richard Painter, Mel Armstrong, Daniel Smith, Simon Woodward and Stefan Eichenhseher.

He then asked members to join him in a short period of reflection in memory of the AUK members who had passed away since the last AGM. These included:

David Pountney
Liz Creese
Jane Watson
Allan Paul
George Whyte-Venables
Jim Larkman
John Parker
Bill Flockton
Thomas Samuel
David Sill
Bryan Mockridge
John Snook
George Bickerstaffe
Harry McKechnie
Ray Kerridge
John Diffley

The Chair explained that he was holding mandated proxy votes where he had no choice but to vote in line with the direction of the appointing members and also discretionary proxy votes where members had given

him full discretion. He stated that he would listen to any debate before exercising those discretionary votes for the good of Audax UK. Voting would be conducted via poll votes.

The Chair explained to the meeting that the Board had missed the fact that the Permanent Events Secretary's term expired at this AGM and had not therefore arranged for an election for that post. He apologised on behalf of the Board and stated that an emergency board meeting had been convened immediately after the AGM to deal with the appointment of the Permanent Events Secretary.

2) TO RECORD APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from:

Jennifer Crossland

Robert Bialek

Martin Stefan

Sheila Ward

Andy Seviour

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

John Ward, as Returning Officer, explained that he had a record of all proxy votes cast in advance and would add these to the votes in the meeting before announcing the result of each vote. Save for the Chair, there were no proxies present at the meeting and those members present who had not previously voted online had been given voting cards.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

499 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

0 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

64 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

368 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 877

Against - 0

Abstain – 64

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 941

Approved

4) MATTERS ARISING from the last meeting.

None

5) TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chair asked for any questions from the floor on the individual sections of the Annual Report. Kevin Lake explained to the meeting that AUK's IT supplier for Phase II of the IT Refresh Project had entered into administration. This had happened in January 2020 and therefore outside the period covered by the Annual Report.

AUK had since contracted directly with the lead developer who had been providing services to the supplier via his own company in any event.

Caroline Fenton and Dave Allison were working extremely hard on software testing and general support for audax.uk.

He confirmed that AUK had secured all the Intellectual Property relating to the Project including passwords and source code.

Richard Painter asked about the financial impact on AUK. Kevin Lake explained that the worst case scenario was around £40,000 but there was a best case where it might result in a reduced cost overall due to the savings being made against paying the supplier for everything.

Nick Wilkinson explained that he believed that AUK had made the wrong decision in the first place with the IT Refresh Project. He believed that a simple Wordpress front end could have been designed with an updated version of the existing PHP website behind it and support from volunteers. He noted that the current situation provided an opportunity to review what had been done to date and to see if there were other options. He felt it was a positive step that AUK was now in direct control of the Project.

Kevin Lake noted that a number of requests had been made for volunteers with limited success. Stefan Eichenseher asked about the relationship between audax.uk and aukweb.net. Kevin Lake confirmed that they were both currently using the same database but that various parts of the old website content had been migrated to the new site.

Richard Painter noted the increased workload that the number of longer events being ridden brought to the Validation Secretary and thanked her and the Brevet Card Secretary for their efforts.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

519 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

0 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

45 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

364 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 894

Against - 0

Abstain – 45

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 939

6) TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

Nigel Armstrong presented the Accounts and Report to the meeting. He explained that in his view AUK was in a good position. The demise of the IT supplier would not be a major financial risk to AUK.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

489 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

2 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

54 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

382 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 882

Against - 2

Abstain – 54

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 938

Approved

7) TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

The Chair explained that the resolutions before the meeting would be decided by majority vote as none of them involved changes to the articles of association. Voting would be conducted via poll votes as the number of proxy votes held greatly exceeded the number of votes available in the room. There would be an opportunity to ask questions of the proposer of each resolution but thereafter, as this would not be discussion in committee, any debate would follow the custom and practice of AUK AGMs and generally accepted rules of debate. Each member would be able to speak once on each proposal, with the exception of proposers who would be afforded the right of reply to a debate. Members would retain the right to make points of order, information and explanation.

Resolution 1:

Resolution: To delete Regulation 4.1.2 in its entirety and replace it with the following:

4.1.2 New Members who join from the 1st October onwards shall be Members until the end of the following subscription year. Reduced membership fees may also be applied for those joining part way through the subscription year but on or before the 30th September.

Caroline Fenton explained that the current system meant an increased workload at an otherwise busy time for the membership team on the 1st of September when there would be a rush of new members. The proposed change also allowed an element of discretion moving forward.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

732 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

28 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

22 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

165 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 906

Against - 28

Abstain – 22

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 956

Resolution passed

Resolution 2:

Resolution: To delete Regulations 1 to 6 (inclusive) in their entirety, renumber the subsequent sections and replace them with new Administrative Regulations in the form annexed.

Peter Lewis introduced the reasoning behind the new format of the Regulations. He explained that the Articles had been updated two years ago and that it had taken longer than anticipated to review the Regulations. The new format would allow the administrative Regulations to be amended in the future so that the Articles and the Regulations worked together. Similarly, the Events Regulations had previously been set out as the rules for BR events and then exceptions to those rules. This structure had not been able to accommodate events that were subject to external rules.

Graeme Provan further explained that the substance of the Articles and the Regulations had not changed other than as specifically amended in this and previous AGMs. The next step would be to update AUK's administrative rules to reflect the increasing size of the Association.

Ivan Cornell asked if the new Regulations would create any changes for organisers running events in the current year.

Graeme Provan confirmed that the Administrative Regulations were substantively the same and Peter Lewis confirmed the same in respect of the Events Regulations.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

673 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

2 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

25 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

242 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 926

Against - 2

Abstain – 25

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 953

Resolution passed

Resolution 3:

Resolution: Subject to passing Resolution 2 above, to delete Regulations 7 to 12 (inclusive) in their entirety, renumber the subsequent section and replace them with new Events Regulations in the form annexed.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

680 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

2 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

19 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

237 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 928

Against - 2

Abstain – 19

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 953

Resolution passed

Resolution 4:

Resolution: Subject to passing Resolutions 2 and 3 above, delete the final Regulation, accordingly the current Regulations will then no longer apply to Audax UK, and replace that Regulation with the new Awards Regulations in the form annexed.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

672 mandated proxies to vote in favour of the resolution

3 mandated proxies to vote against the resolution

22 mandated proxies to abstain on the resolution

241 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 924

Against - 3

Abstain – 22

TOTAL VOTES CAST – 949

Resolution passed.

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Chair explained that it was his custom to abstain on elections where he held discretionary proxy votes.

1: Calendar Events Secretary

The Chair explained that Ian Hennessey had been co-opted onto the board since the last AGM. He was now subject to election in accordance with the Articles of Association.

No questions from the floor

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

788 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

5 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

16 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

134 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 10

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 798

Against - 5

Abstain – 150

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 953

Ian Hennessey was duly elected.

2: Non-executive Director – Post 1

Nick Wilkinson spoke in support of Martin Stefan.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

718 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

6 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

22 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

189 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 729

Against - 6

Abstain – 211

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 946

Martin Stefan was duly elected.

3: Non-executive Director – Post 2

John Sabine explained that it had not been his intention to stand again. However, in the absence of any other candidate, he had reluctantly agreed to do so but he hoped that other candidates would put themselves forward at the next AGM.

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

704 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

10 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

27 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

199 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 715

Against - 10

Abstain – 226

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 951

John Sabine was duly elected.

4. General Secretary

Result:

John Ward declared that the Chair had:

769 mandated proxies to vote for the candidate

4 mandated proxies to vote against the candidate

17 mandated proxies to abstain on the election

165 discretionary proxies

John Ward further declared that the votes cast at the meeting were:

For – 11

Against - 0

Abstain - 0

John Ward therefore declared the following result:

For – 780

Against - 4

Abstain – 165

TOTAL VOTES CAST - 949

Graeme Provan was duly elected.

5. Events Services Director

Chris Crossland explained that no candidates had been nominated in time for election. He had however now received some interest which would be considered further at the board meeting following the AGM.

Chris Crossland thanked Peter Lewis for all his efforts during the years he had spent as Events Services Director and Recorder.

9. Date and venue of next meeting:

To be agreed but likely to be Birmingham on 6th February 2021.

10. Close

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and thanked the board, delegates, organisers and everyone else who had contributed to AUK for their hard work.

Richard Painter, on behalf of the members, thanked the board, delegates, organisers and everyone else who gave their time to AUK for their contribution to AUK.

The meeting closed at 13.40