



MINUTES FOR THE AUK BOARD MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
on 7 July 2021 STARTING AT 0900.

PRESENT:

Chris Crossland (**CC**) (Chairman)
Graeme Provan (**GP**)
Caroline Fenton (**CF**)
Daniel Smith (**DS**)
Nigel Armstrong (**NA**)
Andy Yates (**AY**)
John Ward (**JW**)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Lake (**KL**) (in part)

APOLOGIES

Rob McIvor (**RM**)
Lucy McTaggart (**LM**)
Ian Hennessey (**IH**)

1. Opening

The Chairman reported that due notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present. Accordingly, the Chairman declared the meeting open.

The Chairman noticed the sad passing of Damon Peacock and played a video which he felt summed up his love of Audax.

He also noted the passing of Chris Davies who had achieved the second highest mileage in the 300k miles plus list.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

Board Meeting - 14 April 2021

AGM 2019/20 - 15 May 2021

Approved

4. Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings

4.1 Covid Restrictions

GDP noted changes would be required not just to the guidance but also on the general approach. It was agreed to defer the discussion to a later meeting when the forthcoming changes in England had been confirmed and IH was present.

4.2 2018/19 Trophies and Awards

RM had reported that all the outstanding awards and trophies had been sent out and he was not aware of any further issues.

4.3 2019/20

It was noted the Peter Tandy award for the youngest rider completing a 200 km event had been awarded to Rufus Pomeroy.

Peter Davies had now been appointed as the Awards Secretary.

DS will review the awards for the previous year and produce a list.

4.4 Board and delegate forum access

AY confirmed he now had access to the board area of the forum, dropbox and the google group.

KL and DS are the administrators for forum access.

KL is also looking generally at access to the Aukweb back office systems.

DS will review the list of those with access and refine it.

5. Business

5.1 AGM

GP confirmed the update filings had been made at Companies House following the AGM.

During the discussion after the close of the AGM interest had been expressed in a weekday evening AGM with hybrid remote and in person attendance. It was agreed that whilst this might suit those attending remotely, it would be difficult for those attending in person.

DS had attended a number of hybrid meetings of this nature and believed they were problematic with a noticeable imbalance between those attending in person and those attending remotely. He had also seen a number of technical issues arising.

It was suggested that a remote discussion forum would be a useful addition to the AGM process. The forum could take place on publication of the draft resolutions but before they were finalised. This would also address the issue of the Reunion being moved to the spring and the resultant loss of the pre-AGM board forum.

GP was asked to produce a form of introduction and questionnaire for review and circulation in the autumn.

5.2 Honoraria

The last meeting had approved no increases in honoraria for the current year but NA should have been party to the discussion on the Chair's honorarium.

NA confirmed he approved no increase for the Chair's honorarium.

5.3 Financial Mandate

NA explained there were financial limits applying to various directors which allowed them to make expenditure up to

those limits to allow them to undertake regular expenditure. There were occasional circumstances where directors need to exceed their expenditure limits.

AY questioned whether the directors and delegates were clear on their limits. The Chair stated that individual directors had a responsibility to ensure their delegates were aware of any applicable limits and that they themselves have no discretionary spending powers.

JW raised the issue of his printer which will need repair or replacement. NA confirmed he had budgeted for £1000 of capital expenditure for printers in the current year.

5.4 Management Accounts

NA reported membership income was up slightly as compared to the previous year. Other income had fallen with the continuing low levels of activity. This had also meant expenditure was lower. The IT Refresh Project was also well below budgeted expenditure for the year.

Whilst NA would prefer a return to normal income and expenditure levels, the balance sheet was in an extremely healthy position.

5.5 IT

KL joined the meeting.

KL reported slow progress with scoping Phase III.

This was due to a lack of developer time. The limited developer time available had been concentrated on bug fixes.

KL was working on payment processes and DIY events.

The payment processes related to ECE/DIY entries and the shop. KL is liaising with Alan Taylor to ensure the processes will work for the shop.

One consequence of the low activity levels was correspondingly low expenditure.

KL recognised that it might become necessary to move the development to a different developer or company but also that this was a big step. His preference was to wait a few months and see how much progress was being made.

AY asked about a roadmap for Phase III. KL explained there was currently no roadmap as such but there were a number of background documents which he would send to AY. He further explained that he and his team were working closely with the developer on an ongoing basis rather than simply handing over a spec sheet and waiting for the outcome. This was cost efficient but there was a huge amount of development time required to do, particularly for the back end functions currently on Aukweb. All of it will need to be re-written as no off the shelf products were suitable.

The current step is DIY/ECEs. KL is engaged in a consultation process to find out what is needed and fit for purpose for today rather than simply replicating the existing processes. One example is that mandatory route DIY by GPS is now the primary use whereas it did not even exist when the original process was coded.

He is producing use cases and mock-ups to present to the relevant directors and delegates.

CF noted the same principles had applied to the membership phase but it had been much easier as there were fewer stakeholders and easier use cases.

CF felt that eventually somebody may need to dictate how the process works and everyone will need to abide by that decision.

JW believes the current DIY processes arose from various different approaches and need to be resolved.

KL noted the DIY/ECE was a difficult starting point for Phase III but he thinks it will help inform other processes in time.

JW wondered if Aukweb was creaking slightly as he had needed to request more actions to resolve issues of late. KL replied that the actions required to switch on and off processes during the pandemic restrictions had created difficulties. His view was that software ages over time and has sticking plasters applied to keep it working. Small changes then lead to other issues.

JW did note that Francis Cooke was still working extremely hard on Aukweb and very efficiently. KL agreed that without Francis's continued support there would be a major problem.

6. Reports

6.1 Chair

CC, in his capacity as ACP/LRM delegate, has written to ACP's overseas brevet manager concerning the homologation of rides without brevet cards and, more particularly, the e-brevet system., and was awaiting a response.

He had also been considering validation using GPX generally. It was important to understand from first principles that "validation" is a process carried out by Audax UK to verify that the proofs of passage supplied by riders through the use of gpx were just that and did not in themselves constitute validation.

He believes that problems lie in the partial or greater incompatibility between the approaches of non-contracted suppliers who can close, alter or remove systems at will, and differences between file formats used and proliferation of new formats.

Any future approaches would need consistency across all events and organisers. At the same time they would need to facilitate simple extraction of the relevant information for organisers and validators. In this respect, the e-brevet system seems to offer the best potential in the long run.

CF mentioned the new track uploader being developed by Dave Allison which could be of use in that regard. CC agreed that could be an important part of any new system and had played its part in his thinking.. There remained work to do on development, though.

6.2 General Secretary

GP noted he was about to commence negotiations for the insurance renewal. He was concerned that LEL overlapped the forthcoming and subsequent insurance years. Given the market, there was a possibility that the cover for LEL could be at a cost which far exceeded that expected when AUK agreed the insurance position with LEL.

GP would continue to liaise with LEL and would discuss the issue direct with AUK's brokers as part of the renewal.

6.3 Finance Director

NA has managed to bring the membership paypal account under his control and is now working on the other accounts which were opened as personal accounts by delegates.

6.4 Calendar Events Secretary

N/A

6.5 Permanent Events Secretary

JW reported an increase in the number of events available for entry and of rides ridden. He particularly noted an increase in fairly long DIYs.

The recent retirement and replacement of one of the DIY organisers had brought the issues with the different approaches taken by those organisers into sharp focus. The handover to the new organiser would have been impossible if the outgoing organiser had not been available.

DIYs are now an important part of AUK and they need to be run on a consistent basis with centralised controls.

JW also noted the increased adoption of e-brevets for permanent events. He will feed back his thoughts on notification to Dave Allison.

JW believes e-brevets are a better form of PoP than GPX tracks. Whatever systems are used, they need to be used in a uniform manner and via an AUK system. We cannot have riders submitting files which some organisers can process but not others.

He also noted it was becoming increasingly difficult to check distances for new events. All of the available options seemed to have issues. If the new track uploader can be used it could greatly assist with encouraging uniformity. 1

6.6 Events Services

DS raised a particular concern about the Peter Tandy award. He was uneasy about AUK being seen to promote what could be seen as extreme events for such young people.

It was noted that AUK's policy for children and vulnerable adults was due for a review anyway.

DS will undertake some research into the current situation with young people and endurance events and report back to the October Board Meeting.

6.7 Membership

CF had been encouraged by the number of new and returning members. The discounted scheme will open shortly to be followed by the usual free membership period from October.

CF reported she had resurrected the Royal Mail account for Arrivee deliveries and that this seemed to have resolved the delivery issues with the previous edition and, in particular, the overseas deliveries.

6.8 Communications

N/A

7. Meeting Dates

Teleconference - 20 July 2021
6 October 2021

8. Any other business

- 8.1. CF noted the history section in the website is very bare. She wondered if some volunteers could be found to update it.
- 8.2. CC stated the Board needed to start thinking about a new strategy document. The major issue was likely to be the introduction of paid staff. It had been thought for some time that the likely threshold for this step was 10,000 members. Whilst the recent drop in members due to the review of life members had deferred this decision, it was vital that the Board was prepared for this change and had identified possible roles for paid staff.

9. Closure

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 15.05

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Chair

..... 2021

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The Chair reported he had been concerned about a potential issue with the AUK forum around the time of the AGM. In particular, he had suspected that messages had been posted and subsequently deleted. The messages had been posted by a member who had been involved in setting up the forum. Some boards had also disappeared.

The person he suspected of deleting posts had previously complained about the deletion policy on the forum.

The Chair, General Secretary and IT Manager had all looked into this matter.

KL confirmed he had altered the permissions temporarily on one board to allow for easier discussions on the DIY processes. Unbeknown to him at the time, the alteration had affected the whole forum. It seemed therefore that this had been an accidental result of his actions rather than anything more sinister.

The AUK forum only allows deletion or correction of posts for half an hour after posting. This was to prevent the manipulation of threads as seemed to happen on other platforms, and is thought to have occurred on the AUK Forum some years ago.