

Minutes of the ABCC Executive Meeting

Held Remotely at 09.30 27th October 2023

Attending: Steve Harrop (Chairman), Mark Gorman (Administrator), Chip Rafferty (Treasurer) Rachel McKay (CPD Coordinator), Hartmut Huebner (Media), Greg Parker (Administrator elect).

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Steve thanked everyone for giving up their time to attend and welcomed Greg to his first meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were agreed as a true and correct record.

Matters arising

The situation we faced at the previous meeting, regarding engagement and the perceived slump in cycling, appears to have changed little.

Rachel suggested that cycling challenges, as opposed to competition and organised events, were increasing in popularity.

The idea to approach global cycling governing bodies, to propose some collaboration, is going to be a long term project. This is due, in part, to our limited resources. Some research will be required, in order to target authorities, who do not currently have a coaching programme and are not protective of their home market.

Action, Greg, Mark and Hartmut to formulate an approach.

Greg suggested that directly targeting large clubs, to see if they had potential coaches, would work better than a generalised approach.

Action, Greg and Mark to formulate a campaign of direct contact using club secretary details.

Pedal Power, did not go ahead, due to the poor response level received from the survey of members. Based on this, it is unlikely that Pedal Power will return to a face to face event in the near future. The AGM will continue to be an online event.

It was thought that Rachel's suggestion of regional groups may have some benefit, at least in some areas.

CPD/Webinar

The business webinar series is now complete. All of the videos have been published and the final sessions will be covered in the upcoming journal.

Live attendance at the sessions was poor. The views on Youtube are increasing slowly but remain below 20.

The links to the business webinars are sent to all newly qualified coaches.

For most clinics, only Mark McGee is in attendance. However, the occasional student does attend, in response to the message sent with their final assignment package.

Hartmut suggested that LinkedIn may be a suitable avenue to promote our video and journal content. It was also suggested that an Instagram account may be another option, to engage with current and potential members.

Action, Hartmut to investigate setting up a suitable account.

Action, Mark, Hartmut to be set up as Admin on the Facebook account.

Administration

Steve thanked Mark for all of his efforts, in this his final meeting.

Membership

As previously reported, we are experiencing a slow decline in overall numbers.

Membership now stands at 297, which is down 12, since the last meeting. We have been contacted by Dirt School, who are likely to have 19 new mountain bike leaders, seeking membership, over the coming months.

The number of new students has gone up significantly since the last meeting, with 19 new registrations. However, current enrolment for the year is 36, which is a little over 50% of that experienced in previous years.

Examiners and assessors

We have sufficient examiners and assessors to meet our current needs. Since the last meeting Paul Winkley and Greg have undertake the training. Mark has been added to the list, now that Greg has become the arbiter in cases of dispute.

Handover

The 10th and 11th November are set for the formal handover. This will involve explaining the processes and documents.

Mark is happy to remain in contact, should any advice or guidance be required. Mark will contact the external organisations we deal with to change our contact details. Steve's address will become the registered office for Trading Standards, as they do not accept addresses outside the UK.

Finance

The figures remain, as per those recently submitted to the AGM.

Journal

A review of the proposed content for the upcoming edition was conducted. It was thought that there was a good balance of content.

Steve thanked Hartmut for his efforts and was impressed with the layout and format of the recent editions.

In addition to the journal due in early November, Hartmut is hoping to publish another addition, in time for Christmas. The focus of that edition is likely to be, reconnecting with cycling.

Long term strategic planning

Steve suggested, that the focus should be on the short term, rather than long term, based on the current challenges we face.

The most immediate issue being to halt the decline in membership numbers. One option being to produce a short video piece to inform potential coaches of the benefits.

Action, Mark to identify potential participants from within the membership.

Action, Hartmut and Rachel to liaise regarding the production and distribution of the video clip.

Any Other Business

Chip stated that as an organisation, we are losing experience, as our older, long term members become less active. It was suggested that Mark take up a co-opted post on the executive as fellows and members representative. Agreed.

Greg proposed that we move to online/digital membership cards. For the most part our newer members work entirely on smart phones and other digital devices. This would also provide an efficiency and cost saving. It was agreed that the default from January 2024 would be digital cards. However, members would be able to request a postal copy if they wish.

Mark stated that there were at least 4 members who we only communicate with by post.

Action, Mark and Greg to mailshot the members affected, to inform them of the change. A process for recording postal cards well need to be created. Some liaison with Designworks will be required to create a streamlined system.

Meeting closed at 12.24