



Without our magazine *Checkpoint*, Members may be a bit unaware of Club happenings other than what is seen on social media. I thought it was time to provide an update on all the behind the scenes things the Club's tireless administrative volunteers have been working on to ensure your Club continues to be able to offer you some great riding.

As you may be aware, the National Committee for Audax Australia recently met in Sydney for a weekend long meeting. The aim of this meeting was to progress the management of the Club and work on the agenda of items outlined before the last AGM as requiring attention.

Many of the outcomes are ongoing but I am pleased to report the great progress and hard work that members of the Committee have achieved. Some things you'll notice, some you won't, but they're all critical to managing the club which is a national incorporated association.

You will find the outcomes of the Committee's deliberations in the following pages.

**Garry Wall**

President Audax Australia

July 2018



*Members of the National Committee meeting in Sydney*

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## Rules and Regulations

The Terms and Conditions we all accept when registering for Club rides are very dated and have been consolidated and updated with the help of solicitors and will be displayed used in both a short form for regular rides and long form for the signature rides conducted by the Club. This is a very dry subject however it is one of the important behind the scenes parts of running the club as it grows. The new Ts & Cs aim to better protect the Club, volunteers and ride organisers, and address issues such as refunds, use of photos and privacy which have been missing.

As the Club has grown over the last decades our Ride Rules have not been reviewed but rather added to. During the last few months Peter Donnan, Kerri Ann Smith and Russell Noble have put in an enormous amount of work to re write the rules clarifying brevet types, reflective garment regulations, lighting rules and penalties for failure to comply with the rules. External legal advice has been sought to bring clarity to what have traditionally been emotive issues, such as mandatory light checks, and, in an increasingly litigious world, liability issues for Club officials and volunteers.

We will now have one document that covers the rules for all ride types! It is anticipated that these new rules will be published in the coming month, for implementation in the Audax year starting the 1st of November 2018.

## Financial Management of the Club

The National Committee has for some time been keen to improve and simplify the financial reporting and record keeping within the Club. and with the imminent retirement of our long term National treasurer Richard Scheer to whom we owe a great deal we need to automate and simplify the financial operations of the Club. It was decided to move to a single operating bank account for the Club and a single financial accounting package to be used Club-wide. With a sub chart of accounts for each region so that they will continue to operate with the financial independence they currently experience. The ACT Region has been operating under this model for many years.

We acknowledge the large contribution made by our long term National treasurer, Richard Scheer, and thank him for his work. Richard's imminent retirement from the role adds urgency to completing this project.

## Checkpoint

For some time, the Club has sought a new editor for the Club magazine, Checkpoint, with no success. We thank retiring editor Trevor Gosbell for his work over many years in creating an interesting and informative magazine for Members. The original purpose of Checkpoint as the main avenue of communication with Club Members has changed with the advent of social media. As such we have decided to move to a more contemporary email newsletter with Checkpoint evolving into an annual publication for which the Club will need to pay for editing and production.

## Awards

The awards policy of the Club had various inconsistencies and the National Committee adopted the review conducted by Peter Donnan and others. In future all Club Awards will only be available to Members.

## Administrative Assistance

The Club has traditionally operated entirely on a voluntary basis however this is becoming increasingly difficult with the growing complexity of the Club and time pressures experienced by people with work and family responsibilities. As such the Club decided to seek paid administrative support which will allow the club to run smoothly and grow without burning out those volunteers who have made it such a great Club to belong to. This support will be limited and is within the Club's financial resources. The administrative role will assist with the production of an online newsletter, book keeping to reduce the burden on treasurers as we move to a single financial package, and limited administrative support to ride organisers with specific duties. It's a step towards removing some of the hidden administrative burden, but will not remove the need for volunteers across the Club.

## Constitution

For some time the Club's Constitution has not been fully in line with the Victorian legal requirements which have changed since the Constitution was adopted. Legal counsel has been engaged to make the minor changes necessary to ensure compliance and the Club Members will be asked to adopt these changes at the next AGM. A need for a more substantive review of the Constitution has been discussed but deferred as the National Committee already has an ambitious agenda for the current year.

## Extreme Weather Policy

For some time, the National Committee has had a draft extreme weather policy which it has not been able to agree on. At this meeting it was agreed to separate the bushfire issue from the heat issue. The National Committee agreed that all unsupported rides would be cancelled or postponed where the temperature would be in excess of 38 degrees Celsius. The risk and safety committee will recommend the policy to be adopted in regard to bushfires at a later date. The full policy will be circulated to ride organisers and posted on our web page.

## Risk Register

Work is underway to develop an appropriate risk register assessing the operational risks the Club and its officers and volunteers face and how best to mitigate them. The project is ongoing.

## Paris Brest Paris

A small group is working to ensure a great PBP for Club Members who wish to participate in this signature event. Design for a special Australian jersey is underway. Arrangements for a team hotel and bag drops are being made. Members are invited to join a mailing list for critical information about the ride, and tips for success. Check out our webpage.

## Member Survey

Work is underway to develop a survey seeking Members' views on the Club's functioning. This is expected to be finalised shortly. We ask that you respond to the survey when it comes out as the responses will help us understand a bit more about our Members and their attitudes to our offerings.

## Ride Organiser Guidelines

We recognise the need for high quality Ride Organiser Guidelines that provide comprehensive and up to date information and consistent advice for our Ride Organisers across the Regions. Various resources across the Regions will be pulled together to progress this work.