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Members Meeting

Wednesday 8 December 2021 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

Present

Stephen Telling	UKCOA Chairman
Mark Anderson	Anderson Travel
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Jonathan Batchelor	Golden Tours
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibby's of Ingleton
David Blake	Blakes Coaches
Pete Bovington	D J Coaches
Peter Bradley	Managing Director – UKCOA
Peter Brown	Princess Coaches
Robert Brown	Gallaghers
Graham Cooper	Coopers Tours
Darren Curd	Wrightsure
Judy Dale	Royale European
Peter Evans	MET Coaches
Paul Flisher	Ready Tours Ltd
Mark Griffin	Binswood Media
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
Mel Holley	Binswood Media
Ilir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Tom James	York Pullman
Danny Kenny	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Laura Li	Membership and Administration Officer -UKCOA
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Anthony Marett	Marett's Chariots
Robert Marriott	Bayliss Executive Travel
Richard Matthews	Princess Coaches
Kevin Mayne	Mayne Coaches

- Looking forward to 2022 we have over 70 exhibitors already booked. We are adding in skills and careers, which is a hot topic at the moment. Our conference will focus on future technology with workshops. Issues like staff, decarbonisation, supply services, vans, are all on the agenda as we make the journey to net zero.
- From last year's feedback we want to add in more coach content. Our aim is to support the coach industry by providing year-round content on all the issues affecting your business now and for generations to come e.g., charging and fuels.
- We want to support the UKCOA by getting coach input to the market prominently wherever we can.
- Our exhibitor briefing session is on Tuesday 8 March 2022, eight weeks ahead of the show. We want to host your AGM on that morning and then from mid-morning there will be a seminar looking at the future of coach where we can get some of the suppliers and operators together to look at some of the questions and issues, such as net zero, we should be tackling over the next 20 years.
- We want to be a facilitator in this process and help operators, trade associations and suppliers. It will only work through collaboration and the industry is better placed to influence things if you get in right at the beginning before regulations are imposed.

Stephen Telling explained that the AGM will be in person, although there may be a Zoom element. There will be a UKCOA dinner on the Monday evening and the AGM will be at 09.30 Tuesday 8 March, for around 90 minutes followed by the industry seminar.

Discussion centred around:

- HVO fuel, a 100% non-mineral fuel, which cuts the carbon footprint by about 90%. Bio-diesel fuel is a better alternative to electric over longer journeys. There is not much use of this in the UK. Any Euro 5+ engine can run on it. A Scania gets around 5km to 1 litre. **Daniel Webb** will provide details to take forward.
- Infrastructure. What is needed in depots and 'out on the road' to support the different types of fuel? Electric charging only works for coaches if you are going base to base. A massive upgrade is needed across the network of chargers.
- Cost. Will there be a tax on the industry to finance the road infrastructure? The government will have to tackle this in the future, The gap in funding is currently £28 billion and increasing,
- **David West** and **Mark Watts** can help with the challenges of electric charging and planning for the future.

Stephen Telling thanked **Mark Griffin** for his presentation.

3. **Minutes of last meeting 10 November 2021, and any Matters Arising**
Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising.

4. PSVAR – Update

Stephen Telling reported on progress:

- We have not had a reply to our letter to Baroness Vere. The next step is to write again and request a meeting with her.
- Stephen Telling has written to **Sarah Bell**, the Traffic Commissioner for London and the South-East Area, who may be able to help set up a meeting with the senior Traffic Commissioner, **Richard Turfitt**. As the enforcer, the Traffic Commissioner may have some guidance on what we should do if there is no further extension to the existing derogation, which is due to expire on 31 March 2022.

5. Driver Academy – Del Haggerty and Mark Anderson

Mark Anderson has been working with **Del Haggerty** and they are very mindful of the different needs of each of our members. They have arrived at three levels of membership i:

- A. DIY. The UKCOA provide templates for how to obtain grants and how to get the training to create coach drivers for members individual business. Operators take candidates on in consultation with local job centres.
- B. Members take candidates from their business to a training centre. That will be on a regional basis and candidates will receive the theory and practical training of the driving requirements as well as the two elements of the CPC that is required afterwards.
- C. A trainer comes to member's organisations and trains onsite for the candidates they attract.

Essentially, for levels B and C members talk to the job centre; they provide candidates to interview and select. Members then decide if the trainer to come to their companies or if they want to use a training centre, which would be a member not too far from where you're based. In the first instance we only want 2-3 candidates from each member operator.

There are grants in abundance for this. **Del Haggerty** has done an analysis of the requirements and Mark clarified the six main areas:

- Candidates need to pass a medical before they start any training.
- Training starts with the theory test and how the candidate becomes a coach driver with that particular company, including customer care.
- Candidates will be in full-time employment during their training. Government grants cover the first 16 hours of each week.
- There is a shortage of staff at test centres; Del can ensure a flow of drivers coming through.
- It takes 5-6 weeks to train a candidate from the date they are taken on.
- Grants are available for retraining to PCV.

Costs now need to be estimated. Mark is meeting with Del and **Andy Palmer** next week.

Members were asked to indicate if they were supportive of this initiative, of which at least 15 said yes. **Mark Anderson** stated that this would be another reason for operators to join the UKCOA and confirmed he would move things forward.

6. **Meeting with KURA – Update**

Stephen Telling reported that he and **Peter Bradley** recently met with KURA. Stephen noted that KURA have to charge a markup so operators must be able to beat their prices. Operators need to go into schools and present a case for their businesses. We could do an A5 brochure to send to schools. **Action: UKCOA Board**

7. **New Members and Membership Drive**

We need to keep the membership growing and personal recommendation is the best way to do that. The more members (and subs) we have, the more we are able to do. We currently have around 70 members; it would be good to get that to 100 next year.

8. **2022 Meeting Programme**

Meetings have been moved from Wednesdays to Tuesdays and dates up to June have been circulated. Members should let **Peter Bradley** know if there are any speakers or topics they are interested in. Invitations to speakers are due to go out before Christmas.

The AGM is on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at the ITT Hub in Farnborough (as previously discussed), and it would be good to see as many people as possible in person.

9. **Website**

Everyone should have their password now. **Laura Li** is now working on getting the Industry Partner pages uploaded and continues to work on bringing the website up to date. **Peter Bradley** will include a link to the website in the next weekly update. Members were asked to let him or Laura know if it was thought anything is missing.

Stephen Telling also asked for news that can be put on the Facebook page.

10. **Any Other Business**

Will Bee, the lead for bus and coach at DPTAC, has replied to UKCOA's recent email sharing his concern at the slow progress with the PSVAR review announced in the National Bus Strategy. He suggests writing to your local MP requesting they ask a parliamentary question. DPTAC are proposing a steering group of stakeholders to help guide the review of PSVAR and think the UKCOA would be a useful member of the group.

Peter Bradley asked for people to contact him if they would like to write to their MP and he will help draft a letter outlining the UKCOA position.

Delays with the DVLA continue. Drivers may be able to continue driving whilst waiting for their licence under [S88 of the Road Traffic Act 1988](#) if certain conditions apply.

11. **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 10.30

Speaker TBA.