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## Members Meeting

Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

### Present

Stephen Telling	UKCOA Chairman
Mark Anderson	Anderson Travel
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Jonathan Batchelor	Golden Tours
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibby's of Ingleton
Guy Billings	EVM Direct
David Blake	Blakes Coaches
Andrew Bliss	Bliss Travel
Peter Bradley	Managing Director – UKCOA
Jamie Brown	Princess Coaches
Peter Brown	Princess Coaches
Mark Carver	Carvers Coaches
Graham Cooper	Coopers Tours
Darren Curd	Wrightsure
Judy Dale	Royale European
Clive Edwards	Taf Valley Coaches
Peter Evans	MET Coaches
Paul Flisher	Ready Tours Ltd
Peter Flynn	EVM Direct
Steve Griffiths	South Mimms Travel
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Andrew Halliday	Safeguard Coaches
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
Ilir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Margaret l'Anson	Chandlers Coach Travel
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
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Racheal Noble	Gallaghers
Philip Owen	Volvo
Sanjay Patel	Mazza Coaches
Mark Peace	Cheney Travel
Marc Preston	SBC Coaches
Sarah Reilly	Bliss Travel
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Adrian Scott	Gallaghers
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Val Sheppard-Evans	Longmynd Travel
Richard Slack	Slacks Coaches
Justin Spiller	Arleen Coach Hire
Stephen Spiller	Centurion Travel
Ceri Taylor	Applegates Travel
Richard Telling	Falcon Travel (Surrey)
Ivan Thomas	Edward Thomas and Son
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas and Son
Matt Thompson	EVM Direct
David West	Westway Coaches
Robert Whelan	Corbel of London
Kevin Wilde	UKCOA Director and Vice-Chair
Andy Wing	Golden Boys Coaches
Simon Wood	Alexander Dennis

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

**Stephen Telling** welcomed everyone to the meeting including guests: **Andrew Scott** from Stanleys Travel, **Peter Flynn** and **Guy Billings** from EVM Direct, **Justin Spiller** from Arleen Coach Hire and **Andrew Halliday** from Safeguard Coaches.

Apologies were received from:

Tom James	York Pullman
Chris Mobbs	Dawson Group
Su Winch	Novadata

### 2. Minutes of last meeting 8 December 2021, and any Matters Arising

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising

### 3. **Stephen Telling** introduced **Mark Ballam**, Commercial Manager – Coach at **ADL Plaxton**. Mark gave an overview of Plaxton’s range of PSVAR compliant coach product range including, specifications and key features.

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

#### 4. PSVAR – Update

**Stephen Telling** reported on progress:

1. We had two meetings with the DfT. We originally had one meeting booked but were asked for more information on our proposals and invited to a second meeting. Stephen said that he believed that the DfT are taking our suggestions seriously.
2. The DfT will be undertaking a complete review of PSVAR, based on DPTAC's recommendation, throughout the year. It is likely to be introduced as law in 2024.
3. We will have an answer to our suggestions for "PSVAR lite" by the end of April. We are unlikely to get everything we have asked for but it is likely there will be further extensions but with some level of compliance required. The new rules should apply to the percentage of the fleet that is used for home to school transport and not the whole fleet.

#### 5. Driver Academy – Mark Anderson

**Mark Anderson** reported on the progress he and **Del Haggerty** have made as follows:

1. The template. There are three ways we will offer the scheme: A - suite of documents to help you go through the process yourself; B - provide local hubs where candidates from multiple operators are trained; or C - if you have enough candidates a trainer comes to you. We will have the suite of documents ready to be reviewed by the board shortly.
2. Trainers. **Andy Palmer** is looking at how we get qualified trainers (many have retired or gone to other professions) and the process for training new drivers and re-training applicants coming from other operators. The main issue is how we find candidates and we are working on that now.
3. Insurance. Mark passed over briefly to **Darren Curd** from Wrightsure who talked about some of the insurance issues for new and younger drivers. He also mentioned that he is talking to a couple of other insurers to see if it is possible to set up a "ghost policy" for UKCOA for learner drivers. It would not be an actual insurance policy but would allow you to insure learner drivers for specific period for a nominal fee.
4. Grants. We are working hard on how you get the grants. It is important that if we are tasking people on (especially for re-training) that the government help fund that.

**Mark Anderson** and **Del Haggerty** will present again at the AGM in March and hope to have the first candidates going through the scheme in early March.

Discussion centred around the difficulty in recruiting suitable applicants. Getting into schools was one option. RHA are running a National Coach Campaign Week in April and have also recently appointed a director to lobby government around training and skills and changing the careers ethos in schools. **Peter Bradley** will start a conversation with Andy Warrender at the RHA to see where there is scope for us to work together.

## 6. New Members and Membership Drive

**Peter Bradley** welcomed new member **Carvers Coaches** as well as our guests today. We do need to keep the membership growing and personal recommendation is the best way to do that. The more members we have, the more we are able to do, such as talking to the government on the issues that affect us all. Renewals are coming up soon; the membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 28 February. For introducing new members to the UKCOA existing members will get £100 off their renewal fee.

## 7. Future Events including arrangements for Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be in person on **Tuesday 8 March** at 08.45 for 09.30 at the ITT Hub in Farnborough International Exhibition and Conference Centre. It will start with a member's dinner at a local hotel on the Monday evening. The AGM will be held between 09.30 and 10.00. At 10.00 there will be a presentation updating members on the UKCOA Driver Academy. We will have a short break at 10.30 and then at 10.50 we will come together for a Coach Conference.

The conference will be opened by **Baroness Vere**. It will be run along the lines of Question Time with a panel of expert speakers including **Stephen Telling** and **David West** and chaired by **Leon Daniels**. The topic for discussion will be Futureproofing of Coach Operators for Zero Emission Fleets.

**Bonded Holidays Seminar**: In response to member demand, we will hold a seminar on Bonded Holidays, the following week on **Tuesday 15 March** at 10.30 on Zoom. **Andrew Day** from **Wrightsure** will be presenting and there will be a Q&A session afterwards. Members were asked to please forward any questions or comments so that they can be included in the seminar preparation.

## 8. Future Fuels - Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), and its use in diesel engines

The Neste Renewable Diesel Handbook was circulated prior to the meeting with the agenda. A copy of it can be found in the on the [UKCOA website](#).

## 9. Managing Director Roundup

**Peter Bradley** reported:

- The GLA are undertaking another review of ULEZ and the Greater London Boundary Charge. It looks as though any changes will only affect private vehicles and not public transport.
- Discussions have been ongoing with Westminster City Council about parking for Changing of the Guard. New security measures will mean Buckingham Gate is no longer available and we are looking at Piccadilly near Bomber Command as an alternative site.
- A new conversation has been started with Westminster City Council about electric charging points. Although charging points are appearing in central London, they are not suitable for coaches.
- Conversations have been ongoing with Heathrow and communication and consultation has improved.
- In response to questions from members **Peter Bradley** will research the and clarify the London airports charging for pick up and set down.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

**Peter Evans** enquired about progress with the brochure to be sent to school bursars. **Stephen Telling** explained that work on PSVAR had taken over and that it would now be prudent to put this on hold until the DfT issues its paper in April.

#### **11. Date of next Meeting**

Tuesday 8 February 2022 at 10.30 – There will be a presentation from **Gary Johns** from **Ilesbus**. We will also try and find a speaker to cover the subject of driving abroad post Brexit, which has been requested by members.