



UK Coach Operators Association

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Members Meeting

Tuesday 13 December 2022 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

Present

Anthony Marett	UKCOA Vice Chair (Marett's Chariots)
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Jonathan Batchelor	Golden Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Ian Bishop	Alfa Travel
David Blake	Blakes Coaches
Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director
Jamie Brown	Princess Coaches
Mark Carver	Carvers Coaches
Matt Clayson	Ready Tours Ltd
Judy Dale	Royale European
Colin Duke	Argent Energy (speaker)
Steve Griffiths	South Mimms Travel
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
Illir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Kevin Mayne	Mayne Coaches
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Andy Palmer	A Palmer Associates
Mark Peace	Cheney Coaches
Steve Price	Gallagher Insurance
Sarah Reilly	Bliss Travel
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Val Sheppard-Evans	Longmynd Travel
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Adrian Scott	Gallagher Insurance
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
Keith Stanton	Stantons of Stoke (guest)
Richard Telling	Falcon Travel (Surrey)

Robert Whelan
John Williams

Corbel of London
Williams Coaches

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Anthony Marett welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Stephen Telling	UKCOA President
Jasmine Bishop	Equipmake
Paul Flisher	Ready Tours Ltd
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
David Hull	Wrightsure
Tom James	York Pullman
Chris Mobbs	Dawson Group
Andy Repton	Repton's Coaches
Ivan Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son

2. **Presentation**

Colin Duke, Head of Sales at Argent Energy spoke about biofuels for coach operators. Argent Energy produces high quality, high blend biofuel that is compatible with existing fuel infrastructure and the new Euro VII requirements. (The UKCOA will be reporting further in due course on Euro VII). There is little to no extra cost compared to diesel. Argent is willing to work with co-operatives of UKCOA members and split minimum delivery orders across 2-3 operators. A Question and Answer session followed the presentation. Slides of the presentation will be distributed separately. There will be more follow-up of this session in 2023.

3. **Minutes of last meeting 8 November October 2022, and any Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising.

4. **PSVAR**

Last week **Stephen Telling** and **Peter Bradley** attended the DfT's workshop to begin the process of reviewing PSVAR for implementation in 2026. In early 2023 there will be a call for evidence and the Board will be seeking members' views as part of that exercise. Peter Bradley is preparing a summary paper which will be available in the new year.

5. **UKCOA Sub -Groups**

Decarbonisation, Fuel, PSVAR and Drivers Hours – Peter Bradley (covering for Stephen Telling)

Decarbonisation: **Peter Bradley** and **Stephen Telling** continue to attend the Zero Emission Coach Taskforce (ZECT) meetings led by the CPT. This is usefully identifying a number of key issues (such as training and supply) which will be incorporated into a summary document to be discussed with government. There will be a full update in the new year and Peter and Laura are arranging for a number of presentations on this subject in 2023.

Drivers Hours: Work has slowed down while PSVAR has taken precedence. It will be prioritised in the new year and a paper circulated to all members.

Schools – Steve Spiller

- The group met on 22 November 2022
- BODS remains an issue; view of DVSA is that most ‘closed door’ services are eligible for BODS and therefore should be registered. Issues around how a group is brought together (if third party such as Vectare is involved), how fares are paid, the fact that payment must not exceed the cost of travel and whether timetable is advertised (eg: on the school’s website).
- The DfT have agreed to speak at the Members meeting in January, although members of the school’s group are arranging a pre-meeting. Members were invited to let **Steve Spiller** have any questions they would like to ask the DfT.

Driver Academy – Peter Bradley (covering for Mark Anderson and Andy Palmer)

Funding from the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) has now been agreed for training prospective drivers who are currently unemployed; trial to take place in Croydon in January 2023.

Marketing – Anthony Marett

- **Anthony Marett** has been looking at options for software to manage school contract services, which UKCOA members can use. **Richard Telling** mentioned that Vectare are taking on the management of school contracts in his area. **Nathan Hadley** has been using Rise Digital Media, who use their own software but work with operators.
- **Anthony Marett** will find 2-3 third party suppliers to demo their systems at a Board meeting, and report back.

Bonded Holidays – David Blake

David Blake has met with **Andrew Day** of Wrightsure; they will be meeting the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT) shortly to explore whether they are able, in principle, to open up a relationship with the UKCOA (a planned meeting had to be postponed due to the weather). A substantive update will be provided in the new year.

6. New Members and Membership Drive

Peter Bradley welcomed guest **Stantons of Stoke** to the meeting; and new Bronze Industry Partner **Equipmake** to the UKCOA. Laura Li is following up on several new member applications.

The membership stands at around 100 combined industry partners and members. Membership forms will be sent to all members shortly for sharing with potential members.

7. Managing Director Roundup

Peter Bradley and **Stephen Telling** together with other board members have been working hard for a number of years on new set down and pick up arrangements for

coaches. Work has centred mostly on London, but membership of ATCO (Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers) should give greater insight into what needs to be done in other regions around the UK. Work has been ongoing for 2-3 years for Changing of the Guard in London. The proposed solution is to use Bomber Command. It is hoped that the new arrangements will be ready to launch later in 2023.

8. Meeting and Event Programme for 2023

Meeting dates for 2023 were sent out with the agenda (and included as an appendix to the minutes) and meeting invites will go out soon. The Board is planning an in-person event at the AGM to be held somewhere in the midlands. A range of speakers will be invited including a Traffic Commissioner. Topics include earned recognition, BODS and alternative fuels.

Peter Bradley is starting to populate speakers for next year. The summer meetings will be kept short with no speaker. The UKCOA is booking a table at the Coach Rally in Blackpool in April and members are welcome to join us there.

9. Any Other Business

Mark Carver again raised the issue of a national auto-pay system for entering Clean Air Zones. **Peter Bradley** will find out who to speak to at the DfT about this. In the meantime, a simple guide to LEZ can be put together and added to the UKCOA website.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 10.30 – Speaker - Simon Royal, Head of Road Safety & Local Transport Digital Data Projects DfT on BODs for Home to School Routes.

UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023

Tuesday 17 January at 10:30 – Members Meeting - Speaker - Simon Royal, Head of Road Safety & Local Transport Digital Data Projects DfT on BODs for Home to School Routes

Tuesday 7 February at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Sunday 12 and Monday 13 March – Annual Dinner and AGM ‘in person’ event

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April – 67th UK Coach Rally, Blackpool

Tuesday 18 April at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 May – ITT Hub, Farnborough

Wednesday 7 June at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Tuesday 11 July at 10:30 – Members Meeting (one hour round up)

Tuesday 19 September at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Tuesday 17 October at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 November - Coach and Bus UK23, NEC Birmingham

Tuesday 28 November at 10:30 – Members Meeting

December (TBA) – Members Christmas Dinner