



## UK Coach Operators Association

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## Members Meeting

Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

### **Present**

Anthony Marett	UKCOA Vice Chair (Marett's Chariots) - Chair
Mark Anderson	Anderson Travel
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Ian Bishop	Alfa Travel
Jasmine Bishop	Equipmake
David Blake	Blakes Coaches
Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director
Jamie Brown	Princess Coaches
Mark Carver	Carvers Coaches
Darren Curd	Wrightsure
Alan Cooper	Coopers Tours
Graham Cooper	Coopers Tours
Judy Dale	Royale European
Peter Evans	
Paul Flisher	Ready Tours Ltd
Josef Gisslow	Volvo
Steve Griffiths	South Mimms Travel
Tom Grindle	Grindles Coaches
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Del Haggarty	DH Team Ltd
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Andrew Halliday	Safeguard Coaches
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
Ilir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Robert Marriott	Bayliss Executive Travel
Richard Matthews	Princess Coaches

Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Rachael Noble	Gallagher Insurance
Andy Palmer	A Palmer Associates
Sarah Reilly	Bliss Travel
Simon Royal	DfT (Speaker)
Ivan Shears	Chalfont Coaches of Harrow
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Justin Spiller	Arleen Coach Hire
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
Ceri Taylor	Applegates Coaches
Richard Telling	Falcon Travel (Surrey)
Ivan Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Kevin Walsh	Cheetah Travel

#### 1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

**Anthony Marett** welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from:

Andrew Day	Wrightsure
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Stephen Telling	UKCOA President
Kevin Wilde	UKCOA Chair (Mitcham Belle)

#### 2. **Presentation**

**Simon Royal**, Head of Road Safety & Local Transport Digital Data Projects DfT spoke about BODS (Bus Open Data Service). The DfT legal team is considering the written questions sent by the UKCOA before Christmas. The UKCOA is seeking clarification about closed door routes where an agent is involved and is looking for consistent application of the regulations across the UK. Simon Royal heard the concerns from members and stated the DfT is willing to work with operators to come to a satisfactory conclusion. He agreed to come back to another meeting with the results of the DfT's legal team analysis.

#### 3. **Minutes of last meeting 7 December 2022, and any Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed with no amendments. **Peter Bradley** has been challenged in finding the right contact at the DfT regarding auto-pay for Clean Air Zones. **Simon Royal** agreed to send details to Peter.

#### 4. **PSVAR Update – August 2023 deadlines**

Medium Term Exemptions (MTEs) are currently in force with increasing levels of compliance. The first step commences on 1 August 2023; from that date operators must ensure that of the fleet of coaches that are allocated for use on Rail Replacement (RR) or Home to School Transport (HtS), 25% of them must meet the PSVAR partially compliant category. In addition, for operators in Band D (ie with 30 or more RR and HTS coaches), 15% must be fully compliant with PSVAR.

A paper setting out the deadlines and levels of compliance is on the website and was linked in last week's newsletter. **Peter Bradley** will send the paper out to members.

The UKCOA is working hard on what should happen post 1 August 2026 when the final MTE expires. A special Board meeting has been convened for 27 January 2023, following which members' views will be sought; most likely at a special member meeting in the spring.

#### 5. UKCOA Sub -Groups

##### **Decarbonisation, Fuel, PSVAR and Drivers Hours – Peter Bradley**

**Decarbonisation:** - The Zero Emission Coach Taskforce (ZECT) is putting together a paper together based on the information gathered last year. Decarbonisation will also be a key topic at this year's AGM.

**Drivers Hours:** Work has slowed down while PSVAR has taken precedence. **Peter Bradley** and **Stephen Telling** are due to meet soon to move things forward.

##### **Schools – Steve Spiller**

Nothing further to report over and above the outcome of today's presentation from Simon Royal.

##### **Driver Academy – Mark Anderson and Andy Palmer**

The DWP are looking to launch this project and hold an open day in the middle of February. **Andy Palmer** to arrange a conference call between him, the DWP and **Mark Anderson** to finalise the details. The Academy will be trialled in London before moving out to other regions.

**Tina Hailstone** raised the issue of making ongoing training more accessible by replacing pass and fail exams with coursework. There is some merit in this idea as a long-term plan. Once the Driver Academy is up and running **Mark Anderson** to contact **Tina Hailstone** (and other members) for further ideas and input.

##### **Marketing – Anthony Marett**

**Anthony Marett** has been looking at Rise Digital Media's software and will report further in February when he has had a chance to meet with Rise.

##### **Bonded Holidays – David Blake**

**David Blake** reported that after a slow start progress is being made with the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT). He is due to meet with ABTOT in the middle of February and will report again as soon as he is able to.

#### 6. New Members and Membership Drive

**Peter Bradley** welcomed new member **Kevin Walsh** of Cheetah Travel. **Jasmine Bishop** of Equipmake briefly introduced herself as a new Industry Partner and agreed to speak at a future meeting,

The Board is proposing not to increase membership rates, subject to ratification at the AGM. However, in order to balance the proposed budget, the UKCOA needs to attract new members. Members were urged to recommend the UKCOA to fellow operators.

7. **Managing Director Roundup**

Work has focussed mainly on PSVAR and the AGM.

8. **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM is being held on Monday 13 March. Thanks were given to Volvo who have agreed to host the AGM at their conference centre in Warwick. The Secretary of State for Transport has been invited to open the conference and speaker's invitations have been issued to the Senior Traffic Commissioner in addition to experts on PSVAR, BODS and Zero Emission. The preceding Sunday evening an informal dinner will be held at a nearby hotel.

9. **Any Other Business**

Nothing further has been heard from Argent Energy following last month's members meeting. Members indicated they would be interested in purchasing biofuels subject to cost. **Peter Bradley** to pursue this with Colin Duke at Argent.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7 February 2023 at 10.30 – Speaker TBA

## **UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023**

**Tuesday 7 February** at 10:30 – Members Meeting

**Sunday 12 March**

Annual Dinner TBA

**Monday 13 March** – 08:45 for 09:15 Annual General Meeting and Conference; Volvo Group UK Limited, Wedgnock Lane, Warwick CV34 5YA

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April** – 67<sup>th</sup> 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