



## UK Coach Operators Association

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## Members Meeting

Tuesday 7 February 2022 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

### **Present**

Stephen Telling	UKCOA President
Anthony Marett	UKCOA Vice Chair (Marett's Chariots)
Mark Anderson	Anderson Travel
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Blaine Betts	Cooper's Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Ian Bishop	Alfa Travel
Andrew Bliss	Bliss Travel
Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director
Jamie Brown	Princess Coaches
Mark Carver	Carvers Coaches
Matt Clayson	Ready Tours Ltd
Judy Dale	Royale European
Robert Easton	Easton's Holidays (Guest)
Clive Edwards	Taf Valley Coaches
Josef Gisslow	Volvo
Steve Griffiths	South Mimms Travel
Nathan Hadley	Prospect Coaches
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Andy Palmer	A Palmer Associates
Mark Peace	Cheney Coaches
Mark Preston	SBC Coaches
Steve Price	Gallagher Insurance
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Val Sheppard-Evans	Longmynd Travel
Robert Smallldridge	Silvey Fleet

Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Claire Smith	Easton's Holidays (Guest)
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
Justin Stott	Airconco Ltd
Richard Telling	Falcon Travel (Surrey)
James Vallance	Safeguard Travel
Robert Whelan	Corbel of London

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

**Anthony Marett** welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

David Blake	Blake's Coaches
Pete Brown	Princess Coaches
Graham Cooper	Cooper's Tours
Richard Matthews	Princess Coaches
Kevin Mayne	Mayne's Coaches
Ivan Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son

## 2. **Presentation**

**Robert Smalldridge**, Partnership Manager at Silvey Fleet spoke about fuel cards. Silvey Fleet can offer competitively priced fuel and electric vehicle charging across the UK and Ireland. Their fuel card eliminates the need to keep receipts and submit expenses; their invoices contain detailed information about the amount of fuel drawn so reporting can be centralised; they provide updates on the fuel price in advance, to help with budgeting and managing expense; and they provide a dedicated Account Manager to provide ongoing support. Silvey Fleet is offering all UKCOA members a FREE cost comparison and Robert Smalldridge can be contacted for details.

## 3. **Minutes of last meeting 17 January 2023, and any Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising. Members' issues have not been forgotten and will be progressed just as soon as other priorities allow.

## 4. **PSVAR**

From 1 August 2026, operators will be expected to comply with PSVAR in full, subject to any changes which may be implemented as a result of the current review of PSVAR. The Board met in person on 27 February and put together a draft proposal to be presented to the DfT. **Stephen Telling** read out the draft proposal. The Board felt that it would not be appropriate to publish details of the proposal until after discussion with the DfT has commenced. Members' consent was sought to the proposal and general agreement was indicated with no dissenters.

Discussions will also be held with the CPT and RHA with the aim of presenting a united view to government. The UKCOA will meet informally with the DfT within the next month. Meeting informally provides an opportunity for the Board to consider any amendments to the proposal without risking a formal rejection.

## 5. UKCOA Sub -Groups

### **Decarbonisation, Fuel and Drivers Hours – Stephen Telling**

**Decarbonisation:** Peter Bradley and Stephen Telling continue to attend the Zero Emission Coach Taskforce (ZECT) meetings led by the CPT. ZECT has put together a summary paper, which will go before the government at the beginning of March. The focus is on electric charging, which is seen as the only real solution, but HVO should remain on the agenda for discussion as a viable alternative.

**Drivers Hours:** Work has slowed down while PSVAR and decarbonisation have taken precedence. It will be prioritised as soon as other work commitments allow, hopefully at the beginning of March.

**Fuel:** all of the fuel prices have eased, but not the differential between petrol and diesel; there is work to be done here.

### **Schools – Steve Spiller**

- BODS remains the main focus. Met with Simon Royal from the DfT after his presentation at the January members meeting where he was able to address some of the UKCOA concerns.
- The adverse effect on school services is an unintended consequence of the new regulations in conjunction with the 1985 Transport Act and the DfT is open to discussing a way forward.
- Steve Spiller is leading on drafting a detailed summary of the different types of school services together with clear supporting arguments as to why the UKCOA believes they should fall outside the scope of BODS. It will be presented to the DfT at a meeting on 20 February. An update will be given at the AGM.

### **Driver Academy – Mark Anderson**

The Open Day has been set to take place at the Territorial Army Centre in Croydon on 27 February 2023. The DWP has selected suitable candidates based on a profile supplied by the UKCOA. Route One have been invited to attend and write a piece on the Driver Academy. UKCOA members are welcome to attend. **Mark Anderson** will send an email to members with details of the day.

### **Marketing – Anthony Marett**

- The work being done by the sub-groups is gaining traction and making the UKCOA attractive to prospective members.
- **Anthony Marett** has been looking at options for software to manage school contract services, which UKCOA members can use. **Steve Spiller** is talking to Rise Digital Media (a third-party software supplier) about developing a system for Centurion Travel to use with their schools. If successful, Rise could possibly develop something for the UKCOA.

### **Bonded Holidays – Peter Bradley for David Blake**

**David Blake** and **Andrew Day** of Wrightsure 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. An update will be provided at the AGM.

## 6. **AGM**

The conference is taking place at the Volvo offices in Warwick. A dinner and overnight stay package has been negotiated with the Chesford Grange Hotel nearby in Kenilworth at prices significantly lower than last year. Guests and partners are welcome. A booking form will be sent out this week. Speakers from Backhouse Jones, Zemo and from the DVSA on Earned Recognition have been confirmed; the DfT is yet to confirm who will open the conference.

## 7. **New Members and Membership Drive**

**Peter Bradley** welcomed guest **Easton's Holidays** to the meeting.

The membership stands at around 75 members (not including industry partners) and the aim is to reach 100. Subscriptions have deliberately not been raised to keep membership attractive and members were asked to encourage fellow operators to join.

## 8. **Managing Director Roundup**

In addition to PSVAR, **Peter Bradley** has been working with a number of the sub-groups and is also in discussion with the DfT regarding a national auto-pay system for entering Clean Air Zones. Members have raised issues about Manchester and Gatwick Airports, and these will now be picked up and taken forward.

## 9. **Any Other Business**

**Steve Spiller** reported on a number of issues in the southwest:

- The Bristol Clean Air Zone is in force with a £100 penalty charge; most routes to the airport are within the zone.
- There is an 18T weight restriction on Cleveland Bridge, one of the main routes into Bath; retrofitted coaches may be 19T and should therefore use an alternative route or face a fine of £1,000.
- Consultation ends today on a proposal by Bath Council to charge HGVs over 12T (including Euro VI vehicles) £50 to enter Bath due to damage to infrastructure. There is concern that if the proposal goes ahead, it could be widened to include coaches. **Peter Bradley** will respond on behalf of the UKCOA.

## 10. **Date of Next Meeting**

AGM Sunday 12 and Monday 13 March 2023 at Volvo Conference Centre, Warwick

## **UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023**

**Sunday 12 March** at 18:30 for 19:00 – Annual Dinner and overnight stay  
Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, Nr Warwick, Warwickshire, CV8 2LD. This will consist of a three course meal with wine (sponsored by DH Team) and networking, plus overnight stay.

**Monday 13 March** at 08:45 for 09:15 – AGM and Conference  
Hosted by Volvo Group UK Limited, Wedgnoek Lane, Warwick CV34 5YA.

- 09:15 – UKCOA AGM
- 10:00 - UKCOA Conference 'The Coach - Meeting the Challenges of the next Five Years'
- 13:30 - Network Lunch supplied by Volvo
- 14:30 - Depart

**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