



UK Coach Operators Association

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Members Meeting

Wednesday 7 June 2022 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

Present

Stephen Telling	UKCOA President (Chair)
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Chris Bell	ShuttleID (Speaker)
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Ian Bishop	Alfa Travel
David Blake	Blake's Coaches
Pete Bovington	DJ Coaches
Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director
Jamie Brown	Princess Coaches
Paul Coates	McCarron Coates
Darren Curd	Wrightsure
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Paul Harnden	Chauffer Hire Coaches
Ilir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Danny Kenny	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Rick Martin	Coach Services Ltd
Kevin Mayne	Mayne's Coaches
Carl McFarlane	MiX Telematics
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Sanjay Patel	Mazza Coaches
Tahira Patel	Backhouse Jones (Speaker)
Mark Peace	Cheney Coaches
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Richard Slack	Slack's Coaches
Tim Southby	Heathside Travel
James Vallance	Safeguard Travel
Kevin Walsh	Cheetah Travel

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Stephen Telling welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Pete Brown	Princess Coaches
Graham Cooper	Coopers Tours
Tom James	York Pullman
Anthony Marett	Marett's Chariots
Richard Matthews	Princess Coaches
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel

2. Presentations

Tahira Patala, Senior Associate with Backhouse Jones, gave an overview of the current position regarding recruitment of overseas employees into the coaching industry. The key points were:

- A sponsor licence is usually required;
- Check if your job is suitable for sponsorship;
- Choose the type of licence you want to apply for - this will depend on what type of worker you want to sponsor.

Rick Martin had a query about workshop engineers. **Peter Bradley** to forward Rick's contact details and Tahira will investigate and respond directly.

The slides from the presentation will be circulated after the meeting.

Chris Bell, Director at ShuttleID gave a presentation on their ticketing system for school, college and work services. Essentially it can stop fraud, increase revenue, and save admin time. Key aspects of the system are:

- Mobile tickets;
- Live vehicle tracking;
- Online payments;
- Online booking;
- Upfront cost is minimal vs ETM;
- Best return for commercial services but can also be used by customers with day-rate contracts;
- Customers are increasingly looking for this type of technology on their services, so using ShuttleID can protect you from the competition;
- 90% of ShuttleID users are coach operators, including 10% of UKCOA members.

Chris Bell can be contacted for more information or a demo of the system.

Richard Slack added that Slacks have been using the system for a year. The drivers find it easy to use even if they are not tech-savvy. Going cashless has enabled them to make quite a large fare increase with no resistance.

The slides from the presentation will be circulated after the meeting.

3. **Minutes of last meeting 18 April 2023, and any Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising.

4. **UKCOA Sub -Groups**

PSVAR, Decarbonisation, Fuel and Drivers Hours – Stephen Telling

PSVAR: The Department for Transport's Call for Evidence is expected to open within the next two weeks. **Peter Bradley** and **Stephen Telling** had a very positive meeting with the Minister for Transport **Richard Holden MP** and are organising a follow-up meeting in July. The trade associations are in discussions so that an industry-wide view is put forward in the responses to the Call for Evidence.

The first Medium Term Exemption (MTE) expires at the end of July. If you are operating Home to School or Rail Replacement services a percentage of your fleet must be at least partially compliant by 1 August 2023. **Laura Li** to circulate the compliance requirements in the next weekly newsletter.

Decarbonisation: The Minister for Transport made it clear the government will not grant a reduction in fuel duty for bio-fuels. The UKCOA will take up the matter with the Chancellor of the Exchequer but is unlikely to be successful.

Drivers Hours: The EU has extended the 12-day rule to domestic drivers. The task is now to convince the DfT to adopt the same arrangement in the UK. The UKCOA will take this up in the next few weeks.

Schools – Peter Bradley for Steve Spiller

The overall objective is to agree that all closed-door services are exempt from BODS requirements and a summary paper was sent to **Simon Royal** at the DfT in early April with no substantive response as yet. **Peter Bradley** will follow up again to try and get things moving.

Driver Academy – Peter Bradley for Andy Palmer

All candidates are progressing well with no drop-outs and one driver already qualified. **Andy Palmer** and **Mark Anderson** are meeting with the candidates on Friday 9 June to stay in touch with them throughout the training process. The group has taken on responsibility for designing UKCOA specific CPC training.

Marketing – Peter Bradley for Anthony Marett

Nothing to report; a report will be given at the next meeting.

Bonded Holidays –David Blake

The group is meeting the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT) later in June to finalise the options for UKCOA members to purchase insurance. Details of any agreed scheme will be shared with members as soon as possible.

5. **Membership Renewal, New Members and Membership Drive**

New Industry Partners:

- McCarron Coates Insurance (Silver)

New Members:

- None

Laura Li welcomed **Paul Coates** of McCarron Coates.

The current membership stands at 23 Industry Partners and 79 Members: **total = 102**. We have reached our first goal of 100 members and are now focussing on reaching 100 operator members. Board Member **Kevin Mayne** has supplied a list of around 30 potential members in Scotland and **Laura Li** will send an email out to them soon.

There are still 20 membership invoices outstanding and email reminders will go out again next week.

6. **Managing Director Roundup**

Peter Bradley attended a Zemo workshop, which included a visit to Abellio's Twickenham bus depot, which was just about to be activated for electric charging. Abellio have invited a small group from the UKCOA to attend and we are looking to set a date in mid- late September. This will be a good opportunity for members to understand the process and issues involved in setting up electric charging at their own sites. Funding will be a major issue: the costs is £248,000 for just two charging points.

Stephen Telling will be attending a Zemo conference next week. The cost of new vehicles has to be added to the infrastructure costs; the bus industry is getting a 75% government grant, but nothing has been offered to coach operators. The UKCOA will take this up with the government.

7. **Any Other Business**

Peter Rice reported that the membership subscriptions are coming in steadily and the bank balance is sitting healthily at around £53,000.

Tina Hailstone mentioned that lost CPC cards can only be replaced by contacting the DVSA by telephone and it is very hard to get through. Could there be an online system? This will be added to the list of the topics for the DfT.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 11 July June at 10.30 – One hour round-up

UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023

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