



UK Coach Operators Association

Little Owl Farm, Halebourne Lane, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8SL

Email: info@uk-coa.co.uk

Tel: 0333 7333 222

Members Meeting

Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

Present

Anthony Marett	Marett's Chariots - UKCOA Chair
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Chris Bell	ShuttleID
Blaine Betts	Coopers Tours
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
David Blake	Blake's Coaches
Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director
Matt Clayson	Readybus
Paul Coates	McCarron Coates
Judy Dale	Royale European
Clive Edwards	Taf Valley Coaches
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Ilir Hoxha	Big Ben Coaches
David Hull	Wrightsure
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Kevin Mayne	Mayne's Coaches
Carl McFarlane	MiX Telematics
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Rachael Nobel	Towergate Insurance
Andy Palmer	A Palmer & Associates
Sanjay Patel	Mazza Coaches
Mark Peace	Cheney Coaches
Marc Preston	SBC Coaches
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
James Vallance	Safeguard Travel
Kevin Walsh	Cheetah Travel

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Anthony Marett welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Margaret l'Anson	Chandlers Coach Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Chris Mobbs	Dawson Group
Stephen Telling	UKCOA President

2. **Minutes of last meeting 7 June 2023, and any Matters Arising**

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising.

3. **UKCOA Sub Groups – Brief Update**

PSVAR, Decarbonisation, Fuel and Drivers Hours

PSVAR: **Peter Bradley** announced that the Call for Evidence is asking 6 broad themes:

- Should PSVAR extend to vehicles under 22 seats?
- Should PSVAR include any additional features?
- Should the regulations continue to be detailed (i.e. use specific measurements) or should they be more relaxed?
- Should any change in PSVAR be aligned to zero emissions (this point was raised by the UKCOA in discussions with the DfT)?
- How should enforcement be improved?
- What needs to happen with roadside infrastructure?

The questions will be answered by a range of stakeholders, including disabled lobby groups. It is important that the coach industry gets its views across and the UKCOA will be meeting with the other trade bodies to make sure we are aligned, or if not, to understand why.

The main issues raised by members:

- Operators need flexibility with how they fit out their vehicles in order to run an effective business;
- The regulations are overly prescriptive;
- Legislation focusses too heavily on wheelchair users and not on hidden disabilities, which affect a larger group of people;
- Coaches with wheelchairs are no good if the road infrastructure is not there to support them.

It became apparent that more time was needed to fully explore members' views and it was agreed to hold a specific PSVAR Members Meeting to continue discussions. **Peter Bradley** to arrange a meeting in August. The UKCOA final submission will represent members' views whilst striking the balance between the outcome we would like to see and what we believe the DfT will accept.

Decarbonisation: The UKCOA has been invited to Abellio's Twickenham Depot to give members the opportunity to see how electric charging works and hear about some of the challenges Abellio faced. The visit will be in September and will be late morning to accommodate travel time. The date will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

Drivers Hours: This is on hold while the PSVAR Call for Evidence is the main priority. Work will pick up again from September.

Schools

The UKCOA is still trying to work with the government to get closed door services excluded from BODS. The DfT has agreed to do a review. **Peter Bradley** and **Stephen Telling** are meeting again with Minister of State for Transport, **Richard Holden MP**, and will ask for roadside checks to be paused whilst this review takes place.

Chris Bell from ShuttleID pointed out that if closed door services discover they do need to comply with BODS it will be difficult to implement during the school year.

Driver Academy

Three candidates have passed; two are already working with **Mark Anderson** and one is due to start soon with **Mayday Travel**. The other candidates are going through CPC training and are doing well.

Bonded Holidays

Andrew Day will be meeting the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT) again on Wednesday 12 July. A definitive answer from ABTOT is anticipated by the end of this week. The outcome will be shared with members as soon as possible.

4. Members Update

Laura Li reported that the membership stands at 102 with one application currently in progress. Board Member **Kevin Mayne** has supplied a list of around 30 potential members in Scotland. Emails have gone out but no response as yet.

5. Any Other Business

Kevin Mayne reported problems with coach parking in Edinburgh City Centre. **Andy Palmer** stated that parking at motorway services needs to be added to the Board's agenda. **Peter Bradley** and **Andy Palmer** to discuss. **Del Haggerty** is a local councillor in East Devon and is trying to make all of East Devon coach friendly. There have been issues with school coaches taking up all the space so that tours coaches have no place to park. Del will report back if East Devon comes up with any solutions.

David Blake mentioned one of his drivers was given a €25 fine for not having the number of seats recorded correctly on an interbus waybill. Consensus of opinion was that this may have been a local scam. **Peter Bradley** to speak with **David Blake**.

6. Date of Next Meeting

PSVAR Meeting in August – Date TBA

Regular Members Meeting Tuesday 19 September at 10.30

UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023

August (TBA) – Members PSVAR Meeting

Tuesday 19 September at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Tuesday 17 October at 10:30 – Members Meeting

Tuesday 28 November at 10:30 – Members Meeting

December (TBA) – Members Christmas Dinner