



## UK Coach Operators Association

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

Email: [info@uk-coa.co.uk](mailto:info@uk-coa.co.uk)

Tel: 0333 7333 222

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## Members Meeting

Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 10:30 - Via ZOOM

### Minutes

#### Present

Peter Bradley	UKCOA Managing Director - Chair
Amy Baker-McCormack	Leoline Travel
Mark Ballam	Alexander Dennis
Richard Bamber	Anthony's Travel
Peter Bibby	Bibbys of Ingleton
Ian Bishop	Alfar Travel
David Blake	Blake's Coaches
Paul Coates	McCarron Coates
Mark Davies	Backhouse Jones - Speaker
Clive Edwards	Taf Valley Coaches
Tina Hailstone	Hailstone Travel
Nick Junor-Fitzpatrick	Parksafe
Laura Li	UKCOA Membership and Admin Officer
Lennox Mackie	Mackie's Coaches
Carl McFarlane	MiX Telematics
Terry McIntyre	Golden Boy Coaches
Rachael Nobel	Towergate Insurance
Steve Price	Gallagher's Insurance
Sarah Reilly	Bliss Travel
Andrew Scott	Stanley Travel
Elaine Scrivens	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Tim Southby	Heathside Travel
Steve Spiller	Centurion Travel
Ivan Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Jackie Thomas	Edward Thomas & Son
Kevin Walsh	Cheetah Travel
Chloe Whalley	Backhouse Jones - speaker

#### 1. Welcome

**Peter Bradley** welcomed members to the meeting.

## 2. Guest Speaker – Mark Davies from Backhouse Jones – New Tachograph Rules

**Mark Davies** gave a presentation covering the new tachograph rules:

- Drivers working under EU Rules must complete a full record covering 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. This onerous requirement is particularly difficult for drivers with mixed EU/domestic hours and occasional drivers
- Records can be kept by manual entry, print out, tachograph disc, and in limited circumstances, by letter of attestation
- Trade Associations are lobbying for a relaxation around the rules for record-keeping
- In future, there may be a relaxation of the need to complete the driving record on the bus, but the technology is not yet available
- There is no guidance from the DVSA as to how to comply with the new rules and Backhouse Jones have devised their own Six Point Plan covering:
  1. Training and Development
  2. Planning
  3. Driver Tachographs
  4. Data Recovery
  5. Data Analysis
  6. Follow-up with Drivers
- Backhouse Jones run a 2-hour seminar on their Six Point Plan. The next sessions are on 27 September and 22 November and more information and registration can be accessed at: [Training](#)
- Mark provided some useful links:
  - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/drivers-hours-passenger-vehicles>
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/senior-traffic-commissioners-statutory-guidance-and-statutory-directions>
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-commissioners-vocational-driver-conduct-january-2016>

## 3. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Anthony Marett	Marett's Chariots - UKCOA Chair
Mark Anderson	Anderson Travel
Jayne Byrne	Pride and Joy Clothing
Kevin Mayne	Maynes Coaches
Peter Rice	Southgate and Finchley Coaches
Richard Telling	Falcon Coaches
Stephen Telling	UKCOA President

## 4. Minutes of last meeting 11 July 2023, and any Matters Arising

Minutes agreed with no amendments. No matters arising.

## 5. Update from meeting with Richard Holden MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Roads and Local Transport). – Peter Bradley

**Stephen Telling** and **Peter Bradley** met **Minister Holden** on 12 September. The Minister acknowledged he UKCOA response to the PSVAR Call for Evidence and was

receptive to the idea of a number of working groups to ensure that any changes are workable.

The Minister was sympathetic to the difficulties experienced with drivers' hours rules. The two key issues are increasing the limit for young drivers from 50km to 100km and looking at the EU rules now that the UK is no longer part of the EU. The minister asked for a paper with proposals for changes that could be made without jeopardising safety and work will commence soon. Members will get the opportunity to comment, either at a Members Meeting or at a special Drivers Hours Meeting.

The meeting was held before the Government announcement that zero emissions targets are being delayed. Hopefully the impact of the new policy will become clear in the coming weeks. The latest round of ZEBRA funding is for buses only. **Peter Bradley** wants to ensure that coaches are included in future rounds (coaches that work on home to school routes are no different than buses) and was asked to put together a paper.

The DfT review into the UKCOA closed-door Home to School services proposal has yet to be concluded. In the meantime, the UKCOA asked whether any enforcement undertaken by DVSA on these services in regard to BODS can either be suspended or given a 'light touch'. The Minister advised this a matter for the Traffic Commissioner and **Peter Bradley** is drafting an email for Steve Spiller's input.

**Peter Bibby** commented that until driver hours are fit for purpose then nothing else matters; this should be the UKCOA top priority.

**Amy Baker-McCormack** asked if the UKCOA or Backhouse Jones could put together some short training materials on tachographs for drivers to access during on-driving periods. UKCOA to investigate the possibilities.

## 6. UKCOA Sub Groups

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

This item was covered under the meeting with Richard Holden MP.

### **Schools – Peter Bradley and Steve Spiller**

This item was covered under the meeting with Richard Holden MP.

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

**Peter Bradley** commented that some of the first applicants are now driving. **Mark Anderson** was unable to join the meeting due to technical problems and there was no further report available in his absence.

### **Bonded Holidays – David Blake**

**David Blake** is arranging a final meeting with the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT); however, it is a busy time of year with insurance renewals. David commented that the UKCOA is committed to doing everything it can to make progress and thanked Andrew Day and Wrightsure for their support.

## 7. Membership Renewal, New Members and Membership Drive

**Laura Li** reported that the membership stands at 109: 24 Industry Partners and 85 operator members. Laura welcomed **Nick Junor-Fitzpatrick** of new member **Parksafe**, who won Bronze Industry Partner membership at CoachFest.

The target is to reach 100 operators and members were encouraged to recommend the UKCOA to other operators. The application form is now online, which will make it much easier for applicants to complete.

## 8. Managing Director Round Up

CoachFest was a great event, specifically for coach, and will hopefully be held again in future.

Plans are starting for the AGM with a view to setting the date before Christmas. Suggestions were invited from members for speakers or venue.

The new Social Media Officer, **Matt Kirkham**, has started work (with thanks to Tom James and York Pullman). His remit is to increase the UKCOA media presence with posts highlighting both the UKCOA and the coach industry generally.

## 9. Any Other Business

**Peter Bibby** introduced **Bradley** who works on tachograph data. Bradley has cerebral palsy and is available to talk to anyone about travelling as a disabled passenger.

Several members expressed unhappiness with the new tachograph rules and were having extreme difficulty in complying with the legislation:

- The practicalities are too onerous;
- Older/semi-retired drivers find it particularly difficult and are leaving the industry, exacerbating the existing driver recruitment problems;
- It is a human rights infringement to be penalised for data mistakenly input incorrectly that cannot be corrected;
- Why should drivers have to prove they are not working;
- The government is forcing us to act illegally because their system doesn't work.

**Peter Bradley** reiterated that drivers hours and tachographs will be a priority.

**Mark Ballam** from **Alexander Dennis** noted that 90% of vehicles are being ordered as fully PSVAR compliant and the remaining 10% of vehicles have the provision for the lift to be easily fitted later.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 17 October at 10:30

## **UKCOA Members Event Schedule 2023**

**Tuesday 17 October** at 10:30 – Members Meeting

**Tuesday 28 November** at 10:30 – Members Meeting

**December (TBA)**