

Yes, it's that time of year again (my, how quickly the years pass) for the Annual General Meeting of the LPCA, without question the foremost cycling association in West Lechlade (encompassing Quenington / Cirencester). 'Supremely well-organised', 'dynamic', 'innovative', 'strategically-focused on its members' needs', 'handsome' are just some of the words and phrases that have never, and will never, be used to describe it or any of its individual members.

A moment of silence was observed before the meeting got underway last night; a pause to reflect on the sad public back-drop of the recent deaths of David Bowie, Lemmy from Motorhead, Alan Rickman and Joe Alaskey (you can look him up); nonetheless, last night's meeting was instilled with the LPCA's usual sense of optimism for the rest of 2016 – '*the year can only improve*' was the general sentiment, with fewer celebrity check-outs expected, the great British public voting to stay in the EU following a dignified, civilised, and above all *honest* democratic debate, and of course, Donald Trump being roundly humiliated when losing the US Presidential election by a historic margin...lots to look forward to...

Right...to the meeting...

Ian – 'I've lost the shirt'. Yes, that's right, the meeting starts in the traditional manner, with Jim just about managing to write down one random sentence, now completely devoid of any meaningful context. This of course does not prevent me making stuff up, and I'm going to suggest that there was some shock expressed that all members of the LPCA...EXCEPT ONE (for the second year running)...had made the effort to sport the Association colours, and that this was his lame-ass excuse. It goes without saying, so we'll say it here, that the Association has been waiting at least 4 years for the 'new shirts', and that if said shirts had been supplied at the regular intervals promised many years ago, we would now all have so many of them, that it would be effectively impossible to lose one...short of basically taking them all out to the bin in one go...or offering them to the Blue Cross, where the chinchillas could appreciate them.



Andy waiting expectantly for his new T-shirt

At this point, Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth get their annual AGM argument off and running especially early by blaming each other for the loss of the pen...but...what's this?...a sudden hush descends...the Chairman HAS DONNED THE GOLDEN EAGLE, and thus has the steely, purposeful glint in the eye that has come to all those who have held this office and worn that magnificent emblem; the members bask in the golden glow emanating from...ehhhh? (*sound of stylus leaving record*)...wait a minute...'where's the Eagle, Vince?' someone asks. At this point, the Chairman rolls his eyes in an 'Oh, alright then' kind of way, delves into the top of his shirt, and pulls the Eagle from under 3 layers of clothing.

#### **7:49pm: Chairman calls meeting to order**

#### **Apologies**

Apologies once again from Matt, on the basis that he was 'going on holiday from tomorrow' and 'needed to pack'. It seems appropriate at this point to call up last year's minutes, and see why he sent his apologies then:

*Matt – 'going on holiday on Saturday', and 'was starting to pack early', as in 48 hours early. General agreement that this was a pathetic excuse, and that he really needed to try harder to justify avoiding the company of fellow-members*

Members agreed that, at the very least, Matt could be expected to have got the hang of packing by now, having been practicing for a year, or that he could be more careful to come up with a different excuse year-on-year for avoiding his fellow members.

#### **7:51pm: Steaks arrive – intermission.**

#### **7:52pm: Steaks finished – meeting resumes.**

Apologies from Darren, who clearly believes that being Best Man at a wedding is somehow more important than the LPCA AGM.

For the second year running, Paul doesn't even bother sending apologies, clearly believing that he has nothing to apologise for!!

#### **Motion #1**

Ian suggested at this point that Paul and Matt should be demoted to 'small members'. This motion was immediately carried, but clarification was sought on exactly which membership benefits would be denied to them following such a demotion. These were identified as follows:

1. Loss of voting rights at the AGM
2. Loss of access to 'kitty-debtor' facility
3. Cannot attend Holly's 21<sup>st</sup> pool party
4. First in line to have to take public transport both to and from weekend cycle rides
5. Restricted access only to 'full-member' area of website (which will include photographs from Holly's 21<sup>st</sup> pool party...)

It was decided that, if a full and explicit apology is received, in writing, by 13 April 2016 (*just as well these minutes were produced in a timely fashion eh?*), then these sanctions will be revoked, and full-member status will be restored. It was also recognised, of course, that since neither Matt nor Paul attend the AGM, then #1 wasn't much of a sanction; and since they didn't attend many Thursday evenings either, then probably #2 wouldn't bother them much; and since they didn't really join the weekend rides, then #4 was a bit of a non-starter...BUT #3 AND #5'LL LEARN THEM, oh yeah!



Paul & Matt following their demotions. Incidentally, I can now strongly advise all fellow members *against* typing 'midget twins' into an internet search engine...

### **Matters arising from previous minutes**

**"It was Portsmouth, not Plymouth"**. You want me doing these minutes?...it's where I say it was.

### **Chairman's report**

Consisted of..."Xmas dinner went down well. Do the Keepers again shall we?"

### **Statistics**

At this point, a truly historic event in the long annals of LPCA history...our grandchildren will read of this moment...songs will be sung...epic poems written...Simon admitted there was a flaw in his spreadsheet!!

Much shocked intakes of breath and outraged muttering: 'It can't be...', 'He's always so accurate...', 'Oh, the humanity...', and 'Is anybody having pudding?'



Simon finally shows us the 'spreadsheet' he's been using all these years...

Because of this flaw, the precise nature of which remains a mystery, Simon's best guess of the total mileage possible in the previous year is 'about 700'. Edit: Simon subsequently sent an e-mail giving a total 2015 figure of 716.4 miles, and that it was 'the 2014 figure that was picking up the wrong column and should have read 1001.5 miles' .....anybody...?

The year's league table is as follows:

- 562 miles - Ian
- 432 miles - Vince
- 398 miles - Simon
- 391 miles - Andy
- 338 miles - Colin

Jim was 'presented' with a target for 2016-17 of being the 'most improved member' – I'm not sure what happens to me if I fail this target, but if it's the loss of voting rights at the AGM...well...that would be devastating.

Apparently, the cumulative total mileage of LPCA weekend rides since 2007 is 2,628! Andy suggests a party when we've covered enough miles to get to the moon.

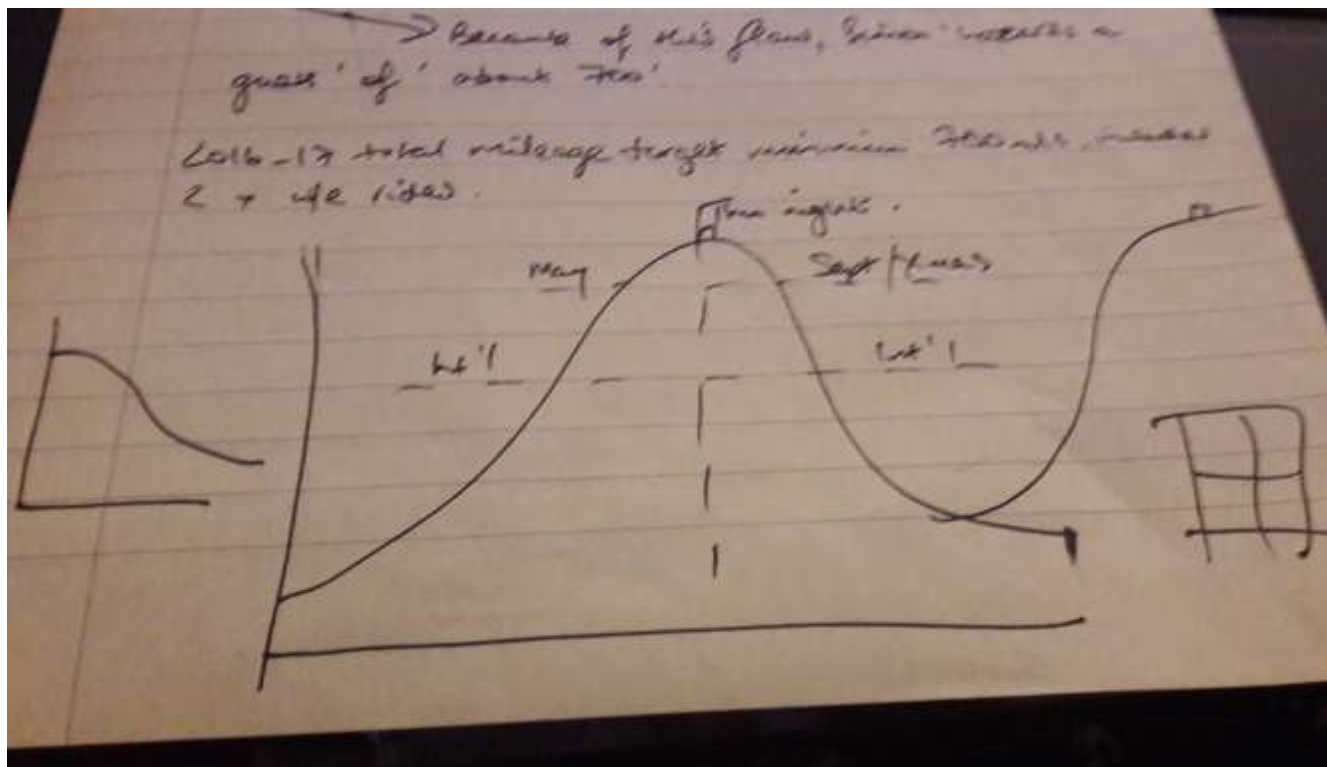
(Having checked, a one-way trip to the moon is 238,900 miles, so at our current rate, it would take us 818 years to cycle there...we can't be sure our respective partners are going to wait for us to cycle back).

A total mileage target of 700 miles MINIMUM is set for 2016.



Andy sets off for the moon...with 'friend'...

At this point, the recorded minutes include a graph, and remarkably, even though I am writing these minutes the very morning *after* the meeting, I have absolutely no recollection of what the graph is designed to show. So, I've included it below, in case any member can shed any light...



## Logistics

A new definition of 'official' LPCA ride is proposed at this point, probably by Ian, viz.: 'as long as it is open to all members and a formal invitation is made, and stats are passed to the Director of Logistics, and it's practical for all members, and at least 2 show up, and a stop at a pub must be made'...catchy, eh?

By this measurement, Colin chose this moment to say how much he would have liked to invite us all to Cuba with him on 4 May, but that he couldn't since it wouldn't be 'practical' – to his obvious surprise and delight, all members present were prepared to make an exception in this case and accepted his kind offer. He was too quick though, and stated that that was fine, but that he would be taking out temporary membership of the SW Havana running club, and that we would all be expected to get up at 3.30am every day of our visit for an 18-mile run through the salubrious suburbs of that fine city...



Colin on holiday in Cuba

Additionally, for the purposes of defining a ride as 'LPCA':

- 2 small members make 1 full
- 1 small member can ride an LPCA ride, but must be accompanied by 2 full members
- 2 small members must have 1 full member (present)

The following diagram explains it...

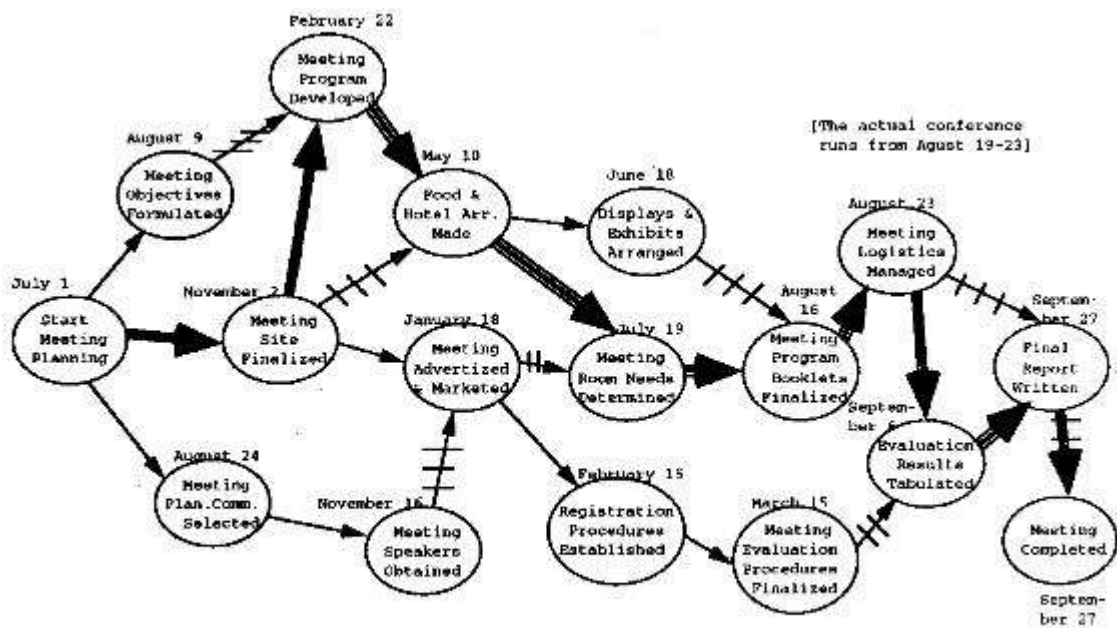


Figure 4. The CPA Network with Calendar Dates Substituted for Total Times.

**Finance:**

Ian launches with 'When I became Finance Director...' (at this, a collective groan is heard from the assembled, as they prepare to be regaled with some long-winded anecdote probably decrying falling living standards, young people nowadays, country going to the dogs, price of milk, it's all the fault of religion, etc etc...). Ian is less than impressed at this reaction, so he starts again.

'When I became Finance Director...'; at this point Ian is interrupted by the arrival of pudding. By now he is seriously pissed off at having his moment stolen, but nobody notices because, well...because it's pudding. So he starts again.

'WHEN I BECAME FINANCE DIRECTOR...(other members finally realise he's speaking) and opened the kitty for the first time, I found a note, and on that note was written: *'There's no money left!'*"

So, says Ian, from this day on, he will be instituting a policy of fiscal rectitude (*sniggers from the assembled*), responsibility (*'Ooooohs' from the assembled*), accountability (*'Aaaaahs' from the assembled*) and corporate governance (*'Oh for God's sake will you just get on with it man?'* from the assembled), all with the aim of reducing the deficit and improving the LPCA finances to the point of being £30 in credit. Once we reach a £50 surplus (*eh? Thought £30 was the target?*), the credit system will be adjusted (currently 50p per credit).

Nobody says anything, because they're all still focused on pudding and weren't listening in any case, so pretty much exactly like the House of Commons on Budget Day.

#### **Director of Non-cycling Activities report:**

Matt, and he's not here, and even if he were here, he hadn't organised any non-cycling activities.

#### **Director of Recruitment report:**

Darren, and he's not here, and even if he were here, he hadn't recruited any new members

#### **Director of Smut:**

Andy, who last year refused to accept this title. He is here, but he hasn't done anything that could justify his title (or, at least, nothing that has been publicly witnessed, recorded, or for which he has yet been questioned by the police).

#### **Director of Attendance:**

Paul, and he's not here, and even if he were here...*oh FFS, what's the point?*

#### **Motion #2**

A £10 non-refundable joining fee was proposed. It was generally agreed that this was a stupid idea, but that didn't stop it being discussed for 20 minutes.

*During drink break, Ian discovers that Arkells is planning to stop offering Kingsdown on draft; this is initially met with a wall of stony indifference, till Ian points out that Sue has 'requested' a formal complaint from the LPCA. In fear of the consequences of not doing as we're 'requested' by Sue, the members agree that Vince will action.*

#### **9:51pm: Simon tells Colin to 'Fuck off'**

The minutes record the reason for this being Colin's attempt to 'delegate' Logistics to Simon; 'delegate' is Colin's word, everybody else just thought he had been sacked.

Counselling services are proposed for small members, specifically some Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to help re-integrate 'lapsed' members such as Paul and Matt.

### 2016 tours / challenges

- **'Froggie-land'** – this is quoted verbatim from an un-named member; Andy apparently has a villa in France with 2 (TWO!) pools, and he's offering the use of it in May to interested LPCA members



Andy's sister has emphasised the need for the continued hygiene of her pool in France; here's Andy inspecting Ian's underarm hair for nits before letting him get in.



Meanwhile, Vince goes for it...and not a single f\*\*\* given.

- **Solihull / Hockley Heath** – both recorded in the minutes, no idea why
- **Scotland** – Ian and Jim planning to visit the most beautiful country in the world in 2016, specifically to experience the unmatched cuisine, and hospitality of the locals (especially towards the English...remember if we have to speak to anyone Ian, anyone at all, let me do it...)



Ian getting ready to 'fit right in'

- Colin's divorce curry night
- Colin's engagement curry night
- Colin's wedding night curry night (Obvs, Colin doesn't have to attend this one, but we'll still visit him at home after we're all finished)
- Andy's 50<sup>th</sup> curry night

### Election of Officers:

All officers are continuing in post, except Logistics and HR which are swapping; Simon is now officially Logistics (even though he never stopped), which I guess makes Colin...ehhh...HR. We can all now look forward to a..ahem...more erhm...'disciplined' approach to staffing issues in the LPCA.

### AOB



The Velodrome was mentioned for the 8<sup>th</sup> year running.

This velodrome was perfectly maintained when the LPCA first discussed visiting it

### Quote of the Week!

Vote taken on Quote of the Week from 2015:

3) 'A thatched cottage doesn't bend over and ask you to call it your majesty'

2) 'I sat in the pram with the ladies underwear on and cracked one off to the test card'

**1) PRECIOUS!!**

At this point, Ian wants the minutes to record that he thinks everyone else is a bunch of bastards and that he has other things he could be doing on a Thursday night

#### **Additional notes from Company Secretary**

- **Nowhere did the minutes show the usual 'league table' of scores for pubs visited. Either it wasn't included, or the minutes are just crap.**
- **Nor did we have the next list of 'quotes of the week'**