

Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Held at the Royal Festival Hall, 19:30 Wednesday 20 February 2019

(Action items in *red*)

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Graeme, Harvey, Luigi, Richard, Simon My, Simon Mr, Sophie

Apologies: Ian, Natasha, Nick

The Date

Announcements were made on social media following the decision in the previous meeting. Results were good with 7,200 reached on FaceBook and 10,400 on Twitter, aided by numerous shares and retweets.

Start Points and Leaders

Kings Cross: Harvey confirmed that Kings Cross cannot accommodate us again due to other commitments on the same day. This means Harvey can lead the Regents Park start instead.

West Norwood: We have not heard from Derek yet but Dave W reported back that he would not know whether he would host a West Norwood start until the end of February. The collective agreed we should not wait for another month to announce the agreed starts but would consider adding West Norwood if Derek indicates his willingness.

Deptford: Sophie, leading for Deptford, joined us for the first time and described the excellent facilities provided by Matchstick Piehouse. The location should be relatively safe, private and suitable for bodypainting.

Kew Bridge: Ian was unwell so there was no update at the meeting, but he had previously indicated that he plans to lead the Kew Bridge start again.

Tower Bridge Road: there is a remote possibility that this potential afterparty venue might also provide a safe start, but, to date, discussions have not been promising.

Hyde Park, Clapham Junction and Tower Hill are all proceeding as planned.

Start	Meeting Point	Gather	Ride	Leader
Clapham Junction	Grant Road, SW11 2NU	14:30	14:45	Mike
Deptford	Matchstick Piehouse, SE8 5HD	13:00	14:00	Sophie
Hyde Park	North Carriage Drive, nr Marble Arch	14:00	15:00	Luigi
Kew Bridge	North end of Kew Bridge nr W4 3NQ	13:30	13:45	Ian
Regents Park	Outer Circle, near NW1 4NA	14:20	14:50	Harvey
Tower Hill	Trinity Square Gardens, EC3N 4DJ	14:00	14:45	Natasha

(timing subject to review)

Action: *Cy to publish the planned starts plus website and FaceBook pages for Clapham Junction, Deptford, Hyde Park, Kew Bridge, Regents Park, Tower Hill.*

Funding

Cy reported the funds currently available to the Collective. There is adequate money for our essential activities this year, so the question is more about how much we would use for optional expenditure and refundable deposits. He speculated about how we might wish to use the funds, which could match or surpass the funds available. Significant sums could be required to replenish stocks of seat covers and provide deposits and/or fees for an afterparty venue, possibly along with funding for food and drink. Other expected expenditure might include road closure fees, flagmaking and armbands. We hope insurance will again be covered by WNBR UK. Note that the afterparty, seat covers and flags are intended to be sources of funding, but will require upfront investment before any net income is generated – which would be after the ride.

Bank account

Richard, Cy and Dave S were formally elected as officers of the Collective and Joint Treasurers at the previous meeting.

Derek has now closed down our Co-op bank account and transferred the funds to the safekeeping of WNBR UK. Richard was tasked with arranging a new bank account. He discovered that Co-op no longer provides accounts for unincorporated associations.

The best choice appears to be NatWest and our application is in progress. The Collective meeting approved the opening of a NatWest account and, in particular, agreed the required resolution which is as follows:

It was resolved that:

- the Cardholders (who are also Authorised Signatories to the bank account cards are being requested for) are authorised to request and be issued with Debit Card(s) and/or Debit Card details (including replacement cards, card details and security details) for use in relation to the operation and the giving instructions in relation to the bank account
- the Signing Rules contained in the mandate provided to operate the bank account cards are being requested for be supplemented (but not replaced) by the additional Card Transaction Authorisation Rules which will apply to the operation of the bank account using a Debit Card or Debit Card details. The current mandate to operate the bank account shall accordingly continue as supplemented and amended
- the Customer agrees to be bound by the Debit Card terms contained in the Business account terms and any amendments made to them from time to time.
- the Customer agrees that all transactions authorised by a duly authorised Debit Card should be debited to the bank account cards are being requested for and that the Customer accepts liability for any unarranged overdraft resulting from any such transactions that Cardholders may use their Debit Card to order cheque books and statements and to obtain details of the balance on an account
- the Bank may continue to rely upon this Resolution until it is revoked inwriting by a suitably authorised notice to the Bank.

Additional Card Transaction Authorisation Rules to be applicable to the Account cards are being requested for

The Bank may act on instructions provided, on behalf of the Customer, where a transaction on the Bank Account is authorised by the use of a Debit Card in any manner permitted under the Debit Card terms by any one of the Cardholders requested. Such transactions will be authorised even if the mandate otherwise requires two or more authorised signatories for other types of bank transactions. Cardholders may authorise card payment of unlimited amounts notwithstanding any limits imposed by the Bank on transactions associated with a Card. Accordingly, a Cardholder can request changes to any limits associated with Cards.

Liaison with Police, Royal Parks and other authorities

Simon has commenced liaison activities. He will assume the start routes are the same as last year for the purposes of registering our routes with the police and other authorities.

Action: *Sophie and Graeme need to define a probable route for the new Deptford start.*

Afterparty

Dave and Cy visited Testbed1, attached to the Doodle Bar. This venue comprises several cavernous railway arches under the lines from London Bridge Station, near where they cross Tower Bridge Road. It would be a

great location to accommodate hundreds of bikes. We found them to be enthusiastic at first but then negative because they were not guaranteed enough revenue. We are puzzled by their position as we have no doubt the afterparty would be lucrative. Dave is continuing to press them for a solution and hopes to set up another meeting. We may need to offer a sizeable deposit.

As reported last month, some other good locations (eg The Vaults and Old Paradise Yard) were supportive but unavailable. Cy also suggested Waterloo Action Centre (WAC), which has 3 halls and an outside area. Other venues were discussed but need further consideration.

Matchstick Piehouse might be a party venue but it is a long ride from the finish and is not able to permit nudity.

If these ideas fail, we should consider a return to the Magic Garden, but apply the lessons learned from last year.

Action: *Dave to seek further discussions with Testbed1 and check out WAC and Magic Garden for availability. All Collective members to think about other suggestions for venues.*

Publicity

Handout cards and posters were distributed to those present. We now have a good stock of these which should be shared with supporters before and during the ride.

Flags

We had two specific suggestions for flags. Stephen Allen provided quotes for relatively cheap flags from a flag manufacturer. These would cost us around £6 per flag and we would seek to sell them at a profit. His estimate was for 200 flags, but that quantity would be hard to afford and hard to sell. Questions were asked about the materials used – are they acceptable and sustainable.

Simon has been discussing joint flagmaking activities with XR. They would not be branded by either party. We recognised that XR's concerns about the environment are similar to ours, but their tactics are not. In particular, it is essential that WNBR rides stay within the law. We stay on the right side of legality in terms of public nudity. Behaving illegally and getting arrested while naked could easily lead to good people being wrongly demonised and could have life-changing consequences for some of our supporters. We should welcome activists with aligned objectives being involved with WNBR so long as they play by our rules on our protests.

The idea of joint flagmaking activities was well received but there was not clarity in terms of whether these would be mass-produced for sale to participants or individual flags retained for use by WNBR London. The low-cost and sustainable approach we used in the past was to create stencils of WNBR designs and screen print onto lightweight coloured fabric, which is then sewn up one side to accommodate a bamboo stick.
Action: *Simon to continue to develop this proposition.*

Last year, we agreed with Brighton that we could borrow their collection of large flags provided we could get it back to Brighton for early the next day when they needed them. We did not find a way to achieve that, but maybe it could be worth exploring again this year.

Fund-raising merchandise

The Collective considered whether we might make available any merchandise that can be sold to raise funds. This might be in the form of items to purchase on rides or the afterparty, or something that could be obtained through mail order. We would probably not want to handle mail order ourselves as there is a lot of effort and a degree of accountability involved. There are web-based services for selling items with a significant royalty to the designer. Suitable items might be caps, T Shirts or mugs etc.

The Collective was open to the idea but were concerned about whether we might infringe any intellectual property rights, and whether other sellers might pirate our designs and make money from them.

Action: *Cy to ask Ian for his views on any legal points.*

Seat covers

Last month, the Collective agreed we need to restock the seat covers using new designs (as first proposed last year). The cost could be over £1000 depending on the quantity and source. The Collective agreed we should procure these from local suppliers rather than use cheaper foreign suppliers.

A further barrier to achieving this in a cost-effective way is the amount of storage space 1,000 seat covers would take. No one present said they had space to spare. Action: *Graeme said he would see if a local university might help.*

The Collective re-considered the preferred design and formed different conclusions. If we can only afford one design it needs to be one that most people would be comfortable with. The most popular design previously had featured a cartoon of a WNBR marshal and some people might find that inappropriate to sit on or display. The suggestion was to have no people depicted but just a motto plus our name. Action: *Cy to revise the draft designs and circulate for comment.*

Meeting dates

1. Wednesday 16 January 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
2. Wednesday 20 February 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
3. Wednesday 20 March 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
4. Wednesday 17 April 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
5. Wednesday 15 May 2019 19:30 at Royal Festival Hall
6. Test Ride Saturday 1 June 2019
7. [Optional] Pre-ride finalisation and comms check (tbc)
8. The Ride Saturday 8 June 2019
9. Post-ride review (tbc)