

Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR Planning Collective

Held at the Royal Festival Hall, 19:30 Thursday 23 February 2017.

(Action items in *red*)

Present: Kiran, Harvey, Sheridan, Graham, Simon, Derek, Ian, Cy

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

Official approvals:

Kiran reported that she had submitted applications based on last year's routes (though we do not yet have sufficient volunteers to run all rides and cannot yet confirm all six will be possible), subject to enhancements and changes to be notified.

Naked return rides:

Kiran does not anticipate police resistance. CLJ and WN had successful return rides last year.

Body painting at home (or at assembly points):

Again, not anticipated to be a problem. Some locations are not suitable for cordoned-off painting areas, but riders who still want to can arrive early to paint themselves if they wish. Kiran suggested that each ride should plan painting sessions and the lead rider should be there to control the situation and be cautious not to offend. We want to promote the ride and our cause in a positive manner.

Student groups:

Simon was to follow up with student groups who have approached us in the past, but he needs the relevant contact details. (It was thought John might have these.) *Simon* is still happy to do so and to deal with any necessary risk assessments. Among other things, students are adept at and keen on social media and could be of assistance on that front, as well as assistance on the day of the ride itself.

Quiet finish:

This came about last year because Green Park was off limits and it was feared Wellington Arch might be overcrowded and chaotic. As it happened, Wellington Arch went relatively peacefully. About 20-30 people went to the "Quiet Finish" and it was successful, but may not be necessary this year.

Route options:

Discussion of possible routes through Elephant & Castle from Tower Hill. *Cy to discuss* with Natasha.

More volunteers are needed to lead and marshal rides.

Derek mooted a circular route with no fixed start or end points, but it was thought this would be impractical until such time as we have ample volunteers to control junctions

Forum Magnum Square. Last year's stop there was unplanned and the exit somewhat chaotic. In part the gathering there was due to fragmentation due to blockage at Parliament Square, but riders expect

to stop there and do so anyway. It is a popular and congenial rest point, except that it is too small to accommodate all riders unless we spill into the street behind (which is essentially free of cars), but if riders try to exit to the right as last year, there is a significant bottleneck. (Eventually last year, a barrier was opened to let more through, but it is not known how that came to happen.) We must also plan and control the exit better – perhaps ushering the first riders into the street behind **to the left** and then out the way they came.

Constitution:

Ian explained the reason behind his proposed amendments (chiefly to provide a reliable procedure for recording and dissemination of minutes as well as meeting notices, but also to address how meetings should be run – whether to seek consensus, have a chairman, etc.). It was agreed to discuss these issues at a future meeting after everyone has read and considered the draft. In the meantime, discussion on the Yahoo WNBR London-discuss group is encouraged. The hope was expressed that the constitution should reflect how we all want the group to operate now, and it should not be overly formal or complicated. This is an important issue for **all to consider** and comment on.

Ride Communications:

Derek reported he has obtained a quote for 12 radio sets for two weeks (to cover the test ride as well) that was in excess of our funds in hand, so we will need to encourage donations (especially as we will have other costs as well) and everyone agreed to post the PayPal donation link wherever possible. As figures for shorter hire periods were not available, no decision was taken. **Derek to get quote** for one week (as last year) as we have limited funds.

The radio sets worked reasonably well last year, but there was lack of practice before the ride. (Some of this is inevitable, as not all marshals are in London and available to practise before the day.) The sets can be programmed for multiple channels, so that for example the tail rider of each ride can talk only to lead of that ride, but lead riders can communicate with other rides. This could be useful provided it is not overly complicated.

Wiki / Web presence:

Cy has made over 80 updates to the Wiki so far but needed to clarify a few items that were not obviously obsolete. In response to queries on the section on "Events to Leaflet" it was pointed out that leafleting has only a 2% response rate and that social media was more effective. Because of the multitude of social media used by different age groups, Simon suggested we needed to point people to a web page with all of the relevant contact and social media details. Derek mentioned apparent difficulties obtaining a web page and/or an email address. We would like to have one for official WNBR London use, e.g. thanking people for donations. We were also concerned whether advertised addresses were working and being monitored. **Simon to investigate** logistics. The wiki still lists londonpress [at] wnbr.org.uk for our press officer, which is thought to go to Frank. **Cy to inquire** whether he still wishes to act as such. Other contact details for individual rides confirmed to extent leaders were present. **Other ride leaders to confirm** contact details. There was some discussion on what email addresses should be used to circulate messages but there was no decision on this.

Flags/seat covers/leaflets, etc.

Cy pointed out the wiki now shows all known flags. Some of our funding might be used to reinvigorate our use of flags, flyers, handouts (to give to curious spectators), marshals' armbands, caps etc.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Last Thursday of March (30th). Venue Royal Festival Hall lobby by stairs