

Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 14 April 2021

By Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in *red*)

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Elbow, Harvey, Ian, Ken, Keon, Paul He, Paul Ho, Pawel, Richard, Steve

Apologies: Adam, Mike, Sophie

Minutes

The draft minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and no change was requested. The minutes have been published on the web.

Dates

At the previous meeting we agreed revised dates and fallback plans in response to the Government's plans for relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions. We later realised that the fallback date of 11th September is the 20th anniversary of the "9/11" attacks in the US. We considered therefore that the ride might be insensitive or clash with other events planned to commemorate this. Our preference was to move the fallback date forward one week to the 4th of September. We might need to adjust the August meeting date if we opt for the fallback.

The revised schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday 13th January, Extraordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 10th February, Extraordinary Meeting
- Wednesday 10th March, Planning Meeting
- Wednesday 14th April, Planning Meeting
- Wednesday 12th May, Meeting
- Friday 4th June to Friday 11th June – #NotTheWorldNakedBikeRide activities
- Wednesday 9th June, Meeting
- Saturday 12th June, #NotTheWorldNakedBikeRide online events
- Wednesday 14th July – meeting –go/no go decision for 14th August
- Saturday 7th August, Test Ride
- Wednesday 11th August - meeting –ride prep or go/no go decision for 4th September
- Saturday 14th August – revised ride date and afterparty
- Saturday 4th September – alternative ride date
- Wednesday 8th September – debrief

Starts and Rides

iBikeLondon have informed us that they cannot help on the revised ride date (14th August) as they had a prior commitment on that day to work with a disability group to examine whether people with disabilities could be able to ride with iBikeLondon. This presents difficulties for WNBR London as iBikeLondon had previously undertaken to provide the marshalling for Hyde Park on the original date. They also provide great sound systems.

Following the news about iBikeLondon, the question of whether and how to do the **Hyde Park** start was re-visited. Although it might seem like an easy option to drop it, it was agreed that the reasons for keeping the start outweighed the reasons against it:

- It is a very popular start with a large number of riders.
- If we cancel it, probably there will still be a lot of participants who go there.
- Re-directing participants to other starts will greatly increase numbers at the smaller starts, potentially overloading them.
- The fact that we get permission from Royal Parks and pay road closure fees demonstrates the legitimacy of the ride, which helps in our interactions with other authorities.

The Hyde Park start requires two leaders and several marshals. Luigi is the only person currently expected to handle HP, but he has not been attending the meetings so we do not know what his intentions are. Richard expects to be out of London on holiday in August. Harvey said he could lead HP if someone else can will lead Regents Park. In the ensuing discussion there was agreement that people could think more flexibly about which rides they could lead this summer. Dave S can do either RP or HP as required. Steve will stay at TH. Cy can move from TH to HP if required. Keon can do Deptford, TH, or Victoria Park as needed. Pawel is coming from the North and is open to either doing RP or HP. Ian and Paul Ho will do Kew Bridge. Ken is doing Victoria Park and also planning body painting there. Altogether confidence was high that we could run the HP start without iBikeLondon.

Some of the reasons why each ride needs so many marshals are: the problem of stragglers, late starters, and people getting lost along the way. This could be addressed by having a map of each route available at the start for participants – maybe a QR code that could be scanned at the start point. We should also reconsider location tracking apps that let riders follow the leader of their ride; these could also be tracked at the hub by Barbara. We should refresh the previous evaluation.

Accessible ride option

Ken and Cy tested the accessible ride options and agreed the Forum Magnum Square to Lincoln's Inn Fields leg of the ride is the easiest with the fewest obstacles. The start and end points would be in good locations with plenty of other riders around. The route is not too long or hilly and could be done at an easy pace. We discussed whether and where body painting could be offered for this start. The need for privacy was stressed. The Leake St tunnel is a good place for painting but a bad place for people with breathing issues. Ken has had a positive response when he's talked to people about this accessible start. It was agreed to go ahead and publicise the accessible start. **Action: Ken will check the terminology with Scope. Cy will create a Facebook event. Ken and Cy will draft a press release.**

First Aid Training

As the ride date has slipped to August, Harvey has agreed a later date for the First Aid Training, which will now be Saturday 10th July at 9:30am. The training is optional for all marshals, but there should be at least one certificated first aider for each start group. It was agreed that WNBR will pick up the costs. The training will again be held at Oakwood Sun Club, which is just inside the M25 in the direction of Brentwood, Essex. The bonus is that we can stay at the club and enjoy the sunshine afterwards – bring your own towel, food and drinks. Oakwood can be reached by public transport and a modest walk – but it does take some time. People attending will be sent full details. It should be open to all marshals, although we will prioritise if too many people express an interest. **Action: Cy to send invite to all on our marshals' list.**

#NotTheWorldNakedBikeRide

The sub-group has been meeting regularly to develop the plans. For the Zoom-In on 12th June, Keon agreed to be a host for the body positive segment. Sophie and Dave will continue as anchors. Planning includes: Ken will be body painted and talk about the disability issues and the accessible start. Phoebe will be body painted and talk about younger people's perspectives on our mission. Charlotte (the rider with stoma) will be a guest on body positivity. Keon will approach Ruby Rare – body and sex positive person. Oli Lipski may volunteer to talk about body and sex positivity – her day job is sex gadgets and technology. We need to confirm guests to talk about the environment, cycling and safety. We should be ready to advertise the Zoom-In and collect sign-ups very soon – to be considered at the next sub-group meeting.

Afterparty

There has been no progress. Dave reported it will be another month before we hear from Magic Garden. Cy pointed out that their website was taking bookings. Some other suggestions were discussed. **Action: *Dave to pursue all possibilities.***

Police Liaison

City of London Police acknowledged receipt of email. Met have not been responsive. We need to open effective communication channels. **Action: *Ian & Ken***

AOB

Bike-Mag.com have included a good article about WNBR London – although it is behind a pay wall.

The new "Bike London" book includes WNBR London as an annual event. It includes photos and a write-up.

We had the offer of 2,500 free business cards so we will have a new supply. Everyone should recycle any existing cards as the contact details are no longer correct and will not work.

You may have read our blog about "Gran", who rode with WNBR for a decade from the age of 83 to 92. Gran's daughter made a significant donation to WNBR London in Gran's memory. The Collective expressed its great admiration for Gran and gratitude for the donation.
