

## Minutes of a Meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 14 July 2021  
By Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in *red*)

**Present:** Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Ken, Mike, Natasha, Paul He, Richard, Simon Mr, Sophie,

**Apologies:** Pawel, Phoebe

### Minutes

(No action)

At the start of the meeting Cy reported that the First Aid Training had been successful; email certificates were being sent and paper ones would be posted.

### Whether to ride on 14 August

Cy summarised the government's rule changes from 19/7 which would allow the ride to go ahead. The majority were in favour of the ride going ahead with caveats. These included: being flexible, responsible, encouraging social distancing and masks, mitigating risk, avoiding mass meet ups, eg at Forum Magnum Square and Lincoln's Inn Fields. There was also clear agreement from the start that an after party was probably not do-able this year.

Most of the rest of the meeting was taken up with addressing the concerns expressed and how they could be addressed. The discussion was thorough and detailed and is summarised below.

### Whether to adopt the usual approach with multiple starts or fall back on an alternative format

It was agreed we should have clear communicated protocols for how the ride is to be conducted. These should be posted on line and publicised before the ride. They are not formally enforceable.

It was agreed to have multiple starts and to include all those that had confirmed ride leaders. Routes would be based on 2020 plans.

We recognised that we might need to make further adjustments in the light of changing circumstances. We could contemplate various fallback options, similar to those discussed in 2020 (refer to minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020). For example, a circular route avoiding tourist hotspots with no specified start and end locations.

Each start leader should have spare masks and hand sanitiser. Each start leader should give a clear briefing to the group they are leading. This should include safety measures during

ride and end of ride protocols. To facilitate return ride, leaders should take a headcount at the start. Riders should be encouraged to keep in sight of the return ride leader (who maybe could have a unique flag).

Riders will be encouraged to wear masks when not riding and to maintain social distance. Time spent stationary at starts, rest points and the finish should be shortened to reduce the amount of contact time and the amount of social mingling.

it was agreed that it is not a good idea to pack the whole ride into Forum Magnum Square and Lincoln Inns Fields. It is also undesirable for people to wait unnecessarily long for other groups to join up. We could have short rest breaks rather than everyone meeting up.

It was suggested that the first group that arrived at FMS could wait for the second group and they could then move off and the third and fourth etc until all groups had gone through the square. As FMS was the intended start for the accessible ride, there are some considerations to be resolved.

We do need a rest break at LIF as it is the main toilet stop on the ride; it was agreed that groups would want to stop there. Concerns were raised re overcrowding in the toilets.

**Action:** *Ken to consider our position on the accessible ride option given these changes.*

At the end of ride, we want participants to disperse quickly and maintaining social distancing. People wanting to join a return ride, may have become spaced out and separated from their return ride leader. Leaders should clearly communicate at the start where they will be waiting for their riders and to have a flag or other identifier that will help their riders find them. The need is to balance people finding each other with not having too many people bunching up at the end.

Body painting could present Covid safety issues. Suggestions for how to manage risk included: no sharing of paints or brushes; bring own materials or, if people are willing to share their paints, ask people to bring their own brushes and have paper cups to put paints in so people are not dipping brushes into same pot. Need clear communications around these activities so people are not disappointed. **Action:** *Cy and Dave to speak to bodypainters to clarify the health risks of body painting in the current climate.*

### **Police Liaison**

Concerns expressed that police should formally acknowledge that the ride is taking place. Ken confirmed that City Police have acknowledged receipt of communications. A separate request he put in for help at some difficult junctions has not been responded to. There has only been an automated response from the Met to the official form on their website that Ian submitted. **Action:** *Graeme has some contacts at the Met and will follow up and liaise with Ian.*

### **Royal Parks Liaison**

No one has responded to contact attempts. They are "out of office".

### **Afterparty – 14 August**

There was clear agreement that this should **not** go ahead. **Action:** *Dave S to contact venue and to say that we would like the venue for next year all being well.*

It was suggested that individual rides might have their own after parties when they got back to their start points. This would have to be arranged by the individuals concerned – something as simple as having a drink together in a local pub. Derek is expected to run the usual BBQ at the Croydon location. Any such activities will not be WNBR organised or sponsored.

### **Flag-making event**

A safe flag-making party could still go ahead as long as Ken can sort out appropriate arrangements. There is some interest. **Action:** *Ken to confirm details*

### **Ride leaders**

Cy and Dave S will lead Hyde Park if it goes ahead. Other start groups leaders are as previously agreed.

### **Test Ride**

There is no date that all leaders can do so we will stick with the usual arrangement to ride exactly one week before, ie 7<sup>th</sup> August at the same times and locations as planned for the main ride. Anyone not available will need to make their own arrangements to test the route. Graeme offered to ride with Ken for a test ride.

### **Announcements and actions**

We agreed to announce the main conclusions (but not any detailed planning that is yet to be determined). We will confirm the date as 14<sup>th</sup> August and all eight start locations. We will warn people there will be adjustments to reduce Covid-19 risks. We will also announce that there will not be an afterparty. Likewise we need to put out a call for marshals and confirm marshal allocations, then ensure we have enough armbands.

**Action:** *Cy.*

### **Protocols and next meeting**

We had a lot of suggestions and views about Covid precautions. It was not possible to discuss, design and agree a full set of mitigations and revised plans so:

**ACTION:** *THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL MEETING on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:30pm.* Details are below.

### **Summary of suggested Covid-19 measures**

The ideas that were generally accepted were:

- Ask people to wear masks and socially distance when not riding. Marshals should have spare masks and sanitiser.
- Extra precautions and consent required for any bodypainters. No sharing of tools or materials.
- Shorter assembly period, rest breaks and dispersion.

- Start groups should not plan or wait to join up en masse – take the short break then move on. Try to avoid larger masses of people.
  - This means all start group leaders and marshals need to know the onward route as they might not have someone to follow!
  - Potentially adjust start times to reflect those changes.
  - Any return riders should stick close to the return leader to avoid long waits at the end. (Maybe have a flag.)
  - Consider alternative contingency plan for even safer ride, eg single loop with no fixed start or stop locations or times (similar to the 2020 contingency plan).
  - No afterparty.
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