

Minutes of a meeting of the WNBR London Collective

Wednesday 9 March 2022

by Zoom Videoconference

(Action items in **RED**)

Present: Barbara, Cy, Dave S, Dave W, Graeme, Harvey, Ian, Joe, Ken, Mike, Natasha, Paul He, Pavel, Sarah, Simon Mr

Apologies: Elle, Gavin, Luigi, Richard, Sophie

Parks

Dave S, Dave W and Cy had an online meeting with the Hyde Park Manager and Assistant. The area we usually use at Hyde Park will be fenced off due to deconstruction and clearing up from the Jubilee Celebrations. Green Park and the Buckingham Palace area will also be closed. Several roads we use will also be closed including Constitution Hill and The Mall. The closure plans are not yet in the public domain so we have some gaps in our information – eg, Trafalgar Square, Wellington Arch and Park Lane. As well as impacting the Hyde Park start these closures would also affect the usual finish and third-leg route.

Realistic options for the ride would be:

1. Change date
2. Change HP start location, routes and finish point
3. Just turn up at Hyde Park and deal with it
4. Cancel HP start but send a marshal to pick up any people who turn up.

Following a vote, it was agreed to proceed with option 4, although, if we can find an alternative start for the Hyde Park area, we might subsequently announce it as a new start (ie, not called “Hyde Park”).

Various options were discussed including gathering along or inside Park Lane, using Wellington Arch as the finish, or using this as an opportunity to refresh the ride and find a finish that is more congenial whether at the afterparty venue or elsewhere.

Actions:

- *Confirm with Royal Parks*
- *Update website and Facebook event*
- *Announce on social media*
- *Do a press release*
- *Do a mailing to the mailing list*

We also need a new finish, although this is not so urgent as it does not to be advertised.

Action: *set up a WhatsApp group of start group leaders to tackle questions about locations and routes.*

It was also suggested we could have two rides this year: one on 11 June with a new route and the old route with Hyde Park start in August. No action was agreed at this time.

Police liaison

Dave W reported that police liaison is in good shape compared to previous years. The City of London Police are okay with what we are doing. Dave has spoken to two districts at the Met and all is good.

There is no one central unit so the information about the ride is being disseminated by the Met to the areas where the starts are located. Dave was asked if he'd been in contact with MO6 who deal with public order. They should be in touch with us; no contact yet.

Re Bishopsgate, Dave had worked out a workaround so we would not require a police escort.

Finish and afterparty

Dave S reported back that he has been in contact with **the Vaults**; they are a yes and the charge is closer to our budget - £4k minimum spend. We would have two tunnels; there's an option to have two more tunnels if willing to work alongside Mulan Rouge – scheduled for the same time and an 'openminded' event so would not mind sharing space with WNBR.

The event would either be tickets-only in the enclosed area, or open to all and counting on a good spend on drinks (and food?). 200 people paying £20 would raise the requisite £4k. We're not sure if the minimum spend includes food.

Forum Magnum Square, one option for the finish, is quite close to the Vaults hence there was discussion as to whether the ride could finish in the Vaults/Leake St Tunnel. This raised some issues as it is not that spacious width-wise and there is a chicane one end that means bikes would have to go out one at a time. Ken made the point that anyone with mobility or health problems might find this problematic.

Dave S is waiting to hear back from **Old Paradise Yard**, and the two venues suggested by Ken. **One Night Records** in America St SE1 is another option. They have 8 tunnels and we could fit into one or two. They have been positive but slow to respond and nothing firmed up. This could be used as the finish and also be the site of the afterparty.

Dave S would like any further suggestions for venues. **Action: all**

Wellington Arch was also suggested as a finish point.

The Croydon start that goes back to Derek's house, could have its own finish point if the agreed finish were inconvenient for their return ride.

Dave W needs a route in the next 6 weeks so he can talk to the Met and do a framework.

Action: *The start group leaders should convene in two weeks' time to begin to resolve start, route and finish (which may or may not include the afterparty venue) - Dave S and Dave W to convene.*

Rules, Guidance, Training and Behaviours

Cy has shared our several existing publications and guidance for review by the team. Written content is not fully effective as many people don't read it. To address this, we are planning two on-demand videos – one for participants to include the do's and don'ts and tips for the ride and one for briefing marshals. At last year's briefing, people who turned up were mostly the ones who already knew the stuff.

Joe has experience in this area and has agreed to produce the videos. He will write the scripts; which will focus on the positives – particularly for participants.

The video creation process will also provide an opportunity for the team to reconsider the advice and rules we publish.

One new initiative we want to promote is a “See it, Say it” approach – so that all participants feel they have a role in calling out any negative behaviours whether from participants or by-standers (provided it is safe and helpful to do so). The point was made that it would be good to have a diverse selection of marshals.

Action: *Joe to lead on videos. Pawel and Cy to assist. Other organisers to volunteer to talk to camera as required.*

Communications – social media and the web

Cy reported that there is a new volunteer for the team, Elle, a professional comedienne with good credentials. The “Fans” Twitter Account (@londonwnbr) will be taken over by Elle. The Instagram Account will be run by Paul, Elle and Cy.

Action: *We need a blast of publicity for the start locations and loss of Hyde Park.*

Our Twitter followers have been going up rapidly - we now have 10K followers. Sophie’s photo was an attention grabber achieving a new record of over 1,000 likes.

Sarah suggested reels on Instagram that can be bite sized; these could come out of the script that Joe is working on. Sarah made the point that TikTok has a very young demographic so may not be the right platform for us. **Action:** *Joe / Sarah*